

<p>WHAT'S ON</p>	<p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Truce Artist: Ata Mojlish Venue: Dwpj Gallery, Lalmatia Date: January 25 – February 1 Time: 3 pm – 9 pm (Except Mondays)</p>	<p>Workshop Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur Date: January 25, 2020 Time: 11 am – 6 pm</p>	<p>Cultural Festival Title: Bangladesh Shanskritik Utsab 2020 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: January 3- 23, 2020 Time: 4 pm - 8 pm</p>	<p>Musical Evening Title: Tondrahara Raater Gaan Organiser: Star Melodies Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave Date: January 25 Time: 6:30 pm onwards</p>	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall, Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi Date: Dec 17 – Feb 15 Time: 1 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)</p>
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Kabori and Razzak



Suchonda and Razzak

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

'Rupban' staged in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

The traditional *jatra pala*, *Rupban*, featuring the ancient elements of the art form, was staged at Mymensingh Town Hall, recently.

Lokonatya Sangstha, a popular troupe in Mymensingh, staged the production at a cultural show, marking the centenary celebrations of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Adopted and directed by Dr Hossain Ahmed Golandaj Tara, the convener of the group, the ancient elements of the *pala*, including the *dohar*, was followed, and the event drew a large audience to the venue.

The cast of the *pala* included Sonia Moni, Dipshikha Khan, Lauky Akter, Tanvir Ahmed, Dr Tara Golandaj, Saiful Islam, MA Kashem, Baul Ferdous, Nazim Uddin, Emdadul Haque, and Amirul Islam, among others.

The production was assisted by Ustad A K M Shahabuddin Khan, Sarwar Kamal Robin, Aminul Islam and Mohammad Rofiq.



PHOTO: STAR

Remembering the Nayak Raj on his 78th birthday

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

There have been a lot of great actors, or *Nayaks* as we say in Bangla, but only one Nayak Raj – Nayak Raj Razzak. The multiple-time National Award winner acted in more than 300 Urdu and Bangla films throughout his career.

Born on this day as Abdur Razzak in Kolkata, he spent his childhood in the city. He would be 78 years old today. His passion for acting bloomed early, as he would participate in annual plays of his school.

As his ambitions grew, he played small roles in films like *Shilalipi*, *Pankitalok* and *Ratan Pal Bangali*. After his attempt at shifting to Bombay (now Mumbai) and starting a Bollywood career did not work out, he came back to Kolkata. At the age of 19, he married Khairunnesa Laxmi.

In 1964, he shifted to Dhaka with his wife and son Bappa Raj. After an initial struggle, he found footing due to the help of Abdul Jabbar Khan and went on to work as an assistant director in Kamal Khan's *Ujala*. At that time, he lived with his family in Kamalapur. He kept on acting as minor characters in films like *Dak Babu*, *Kar Bou* and *13 Number Feku*



PHOTO: STAR

Ostthagar Lane.

However, the turning point in the actor's career came with the film *Behula*, directed by Zahir Raihan. His pairing with Suchanda was an instant super-hit, and Razzak became a household name at the time. Zahir Raihan took the

opportunity and created *Anowara*, based on Mohammad Nazibur Rahman's novel of the same name, with the duo. The film also saw spectacular success. He was then seen in Zahir Raihan's *Shuorani Duorani*.

With time, the man who had once struggled to find work, had become the

most sought-after actor in the country. He could make any role believable with his outstanding presence on screen. His brilliance led to him being honoured with the nickname *Nayak Raj*, coined by Ahmed Zaman Chowdhury, then editor of the magazine *Chitrali*.

He went on to win the National Award 5 times for his roles in *Ki Je Kori*, *Ashikkhito*, *Boro Bhalo Lok Chilo*, *Chandranath* and *Jogajog*. In 2015, he was given the prestigious Independence Day Award by the Government of Bangladesh.

"Even though he was such an accomplished actor, he used to treat me like his brother. I have so many memories with him in get-togethers and events, where we had so many *addas*. Wherever he is, I hope he is in peace," said another great actor, Farooque. Nayak Raj's son, Samrat, has fond memories with his father. "My father is an inspiration to me. I remember times when we used to celebrate our birthdays, he was always very enthusiastic. I still miss him dearly," he said.

Even though Razzak passed away in August 21, 2017, his legacy as one of the greatest names in Bangladesh's film industry still inspires millions today.



Guests, patrons and organisers at the press conference.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Registration for 'Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid' underway

Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid, one of the most popular TV reality shows of Bangladesh, has begun its fourth season, with the promise of spreading our language, Bangla, to a wider scale, according to a press release. Registration for the contest is underway and will continue till February 21.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Ispahani Mirzapore, one of the country's most popular tea brands, organises the event every year to promote the proper use of Bangla to the young generation with the slogan, 'Banglay Jago Bhorpur'.

On the occasion of launching the new season, a press conference was arranged at the office premises of Channel i, recently. Chaired by Faridur Reza Sagar, Managing Director of Channel i, Professor Emeritus Dr Sirajul Islam attended the press meet as the chief guest. Habibullah Sirajee, Director General of Bangla Academy, Zahida Ispahani, Emaad Ispahani and Mirza Ahmed Ispahani, Directors of M M Ispahani Ltd and Omar Hannan, G M of Ispahani Tea Limited, among others, were present at the event.

This year, the show is going to be organised in a larger scale, as new games and challenges will be added. It is expected that the number of total registrations will surpass a hundred thousand.

The first three winners will receive BDT 10 lakh, 3 lakh and 2 lakh,

respectively. Each of the first 10 winners will receive a laptop, along with Bengali books and a bookshelf worth BDT 50,000.

Initially, students of classes 6 to 10 from different parts of the country will take part in the competition. After the primary round, selected participants will be brought to Dhaka for the studio round, and they will compete against each other. Later, the contest will be aired on Channel i.

Final winners will be selected after 20 different episodes of exciting competitions. An experienced judges' panel, consisting of representatives from the Bangla Department of University of Dhaka and language experts, will be actively involved in the selection process. *Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid* is honoured to have renowned Professor Dr Soumitra Shekhar, Bangla Department, University of Dhaka and media personality Tropa Majumder as judges of the show.

Ispahani Mirzapore Banglabid started its first season in 2017.

TRESemme Bangladesh Fashion Week 2020 kicks off today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Internationally renowned haircare brand TRESemme's flagship programme, TRESemme Bangladesh Fashion Week 2020, starts today. It will be held at International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) till January 25.

21 local and 9 foreign designers will showcase their collection in the three-day event. On the first day, Anuj Sharma and Riddhi Jain from India, and Ajay Gurung from Nepal will present their collection, alongside talented Bangladeshi designers. On the second day of the event, Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh (FDCB) President Maheen Khan, will be joined by Emdad Hoque, Shaibal Saha, Farah Anjum Bari, Soumitra Mandal from India, along with Sonali Dharmawardena from Sri Lanka to display their works. The third day will feature designs by Chandan Dewan, Kuhu, Lipi Khandaker, along with Alka Sharma and Asif Shaikh from India, and Chandrika Tamang from Bhutan.

FDCB is the event partner, while Le Meridien is the hospitality partner of the programme.



PHOTO: UNB

Fulki's children-youth cultural festival begins today

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, from Chattogram

Fulki, a cultural and educational institution of the port city, has organised a three-day children-youth cultural festival, which begins today.

The festival will be inaugurated at Shilpakala Academy, Chattogram.

Shila Momen, Principal of Fulki School, announced the details of the festival during

a press conference at the school auditorium recently.

The last two days of the festival will be dedicated to Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "Young people must know Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's role in framing the Bangla letters and his relentless efforts to spread education among the masses, as well as Bangabandhu's contribution in the Liberation War," said Shila.

The festival will include karate sessions, musical performances, dance recitals, terracotta lessons, plays, art events, autobiography readings, a digital presentation of the Liberation War and an English learning session, titled 'Let's play with English'.

Abul Momen, President, Omar Kaisar, Secretary and Mubidur Rahman Sujat, Executive Secretary of the Fulki School Trusty Board were present, in the press conference, among others.



PHOTO: STAR