



Ei Shob Din Ratri



Aaj Robibar

## Ferdous asks the public to stay home and stay safe

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Four-time National Film Award winner Ferdous took up a new movie based on the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Ekhlash Abedin directorial *Hajar Bochhorer Sreshtho Bangali*, features Ferdous as a theatre artiste. "While doing the film, I had to read about Bangabandhu extensively, and I got to learn a lot about him. It was inspiring for me," says the actor. "The younger generations will know Bangabandhu more closely after the film." The filming of *Hajar Bochhorer Sreshtho Bangali* took place in Tungipara, Dhaka and Mymensingh. Most sequences of the film have already been shot.

Ferdous will be seen in *Maniker Laal Kakra*, opposite popular actor Sohana Saba. It is directed by noted artiste Afzal Hossain. Although the shooting of this project did take off, it has been suspended for the time being, owing to concerns over the coronavirus.

Ferdous was supposed to travel Australia for shooting. However, the trip has been cancelled. "I had to cancel the trip, as there is nothing more important than health," says the artiste, "also, I had to cancel all my stage shows throughout the month."

He further noted that social gatherings are very risky at this moment. "I would like to humbly request all of my fans and well-wishers to stay home as much as possible. We have to keep raising awareness and keep ourselves clean. It is the only way to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe," he adds.

# Revisit the best in Bangla content at home

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

As the worries of the coronavirus spreading amongst the masses come to a tumultuous rise, the best you can do to protect yourself and your family, is to simply stay home. However, boredom can be a big deterrent to self-quarantine. Under these circumstances, you can make your stay at home entertaining, as the best of Bangla content is simply a click away.



Panch Phoron

Bangladesh Television, in the past, was more than just a channel – it was a tradition. From the 80s and 90s, it aired some absolute classics such as *Aaj Robibar*, *Ei Shob Din Ratri*, *Rahu* and *Ami Shey Tumi Shey*. These television dramas have aged well, as the contexts and messages that they delivered still stand. Actors such as Asaduzzaman

Noor, Aly Zaker, Zahid Hasan, Ahsan Ali Sidney, Tarana Halim and Shomi Kaiser weaved their magic at that time, and they are mostly available on YouTube on BTV and other channels.

Classic Bangladeshi films like *Moynamoti*, *Titash Ekti Nodir Naam*, *Ashami*, as well as contemporary ones, such as *Bachelor* and the recent

*Dhaka Attack* are also available on YouTube.

Many streaming sites, such as Hoichoi, iflix and Bioscope, among others, are also providing top-notch content in high definition, for reasonable subscription fees. Hoichoi's *Panch Phoron*, released on Valentine's Day, is a joint effort by directors from India and Bangladesh to present love stories which are different and off-the-cuff. Giasuddin Selim's *Three Kisses* and Nurul Alam Atique's *Donor* have both been praised for their surprisingly high quality of work. *Rahasya Romancha*, *Money Honey* and *Ghorey Baire Aaj* can provide days of entertainment as well.

On the other hand, iflix provides a plethora of movies and series from both home and abroad. Licensed dubs of popular Korean shows are available on the streaming site, alongside exclusive access to films like *700 Taka, Ke?* and *Sheshta Shobai Jaane*.

The content mentioned here is just the tip of the iceberg from the volume of content you can watch. Stay safe, and enjoy it while you're at home at this time of crisis.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Money Honey

## 'Sisimpur' creates awareness on coronavirus

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The much-liked puppet show, *Sisimpur*, took an initiative to create awareness on keeping children safe from the coronavirus. The *Sisimpur* team has come up with a campaign, where famous characters from the show, Ikri, Shiku, Tuktki, Halum and a group of children raise awareness on basic hygiene and safety measures for preventing the spread of the coronavirus. The campaign is currently running on different social media platforms, digital billboards and television.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## A portrait of Bangabandhu exhibited at Uttara

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Commemorating Bangabandhu's birth centenary, the management of Uttara Kallyan Samity, Sector 4, set up a large portrait of the Father of the Nation at the playground of Sector 4, Uttara. Paddo Art Workshop organised this initiative.

An inaugural ceremony was hosted, where President of Uttara Kalyan Samity, Major (Retd) Anisur Rahman was present with the Secretary of Uttara Kallyan Samity, Kamal Hossain and other members of Uttara Kalyan Samiti at Sector 4.

"Students of Paddo Art Workshop and different artists made this portrait of Bangabandhu. It is the largest portrait of Bangabandhu to be exhibited at Uttara. The painting was collected from archives," said artist Kauser Hossain, Director, Paddo Art Workshop. 100 canvases of 16 feet by 26 feet were used for this project. In total, the painting is 416 square feet. The colours were sponsored by Berger Paint Bangladesh. The project is supported by Honourable Additional Secretaries of Ministry of Industries Salauddin Mahmud and Sultan Mohammad Rezanur."

The portrait will be on display until March 26.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Several exhibitions delayed

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Owing to the rapidly spreading coronavirus, numerous exhibitions, events and festivals around the city have been postponed over public health concerns.

EMK Center recently announced that they will not be hosting any programmes at the moment.

A solo exhibition by Zaid Islam, titled, *Dhaka Commons: Authorised Personnel Only*, scheduled for March 20, has been rescheduled to April 3 at Dwp Gallery. Zaid Islam is a New York-based Bangladeshi artist who explores the role of documentation in social practice art. He worked for many years as a senior staff photojournalist at a national daily newspaper in Bangladesh.

A photography exhibition by Nadeem A Salam, titled *10 Years in The Making*, has been postponed for the time being. The exhibition was scheduled to launch on April 3 at Jatra Biroti, Banani. The artist, born in the United Kingdom, is a young entrepreneur and a passionate photographer.

*Noyontara Golpo*, the first solo art exhibition by Sabrina Shaheed, was scheduled to begin at Dhaka Gallery on March 27. The exhibition is now postponed indefinitely and the new date will be announced later. The exhibition, featuring one-line drawings, will portray 'Noyontara' and her love, triumphs,



Numerous exhibitions, events and festivals around the city have been postponed over public health concerns. PHOTO: STAR

uncertainties, sorrows, loneliness, happiness, her motherhood and the world that surrounds her.

Hosted by Amader Art Class, a painting exhibition, *A Thousand Tales: Chapter Three*, was scheduled to begin on

March 27 at Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts. The event has been pushed back until further notice. The exhibition will be telling its third round of tales, addressing many diverse, inspirational stories of the present world.

## Cannes Film Festival postponed

*The Cannes Film Festival, the world's largest, was forced to postpone its latest edition in May due to the spread of the coronavirus, organisers of the annual event on the French Riviera said recently. The postponement follows weeks of speculation over whether the festival, which draws thousands of filmmakers, celebrities and executives to the city, would be able to go ahead between May 12 to 23.*

"At this time of global health crisis, our thoughts go to the victims of the COVID-19 and we express our solidarity with all of those who are fighting the disease," the statement said.

France is in a lockdown aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus. Almost 11,000 cases have now been officially diagnosed and 372 people have died.

The organisers, who had announced US director Spike Lee as president of this year's

jury, said that several new dates were under consideration, including the end of June to beginning of July.

It is not the first time the festival has been postponed. Its inaugural event in 1939 was cut short after the opening screening of the "Hunchback of Notre Dame" because of Germany's invasion of Poland the next day. The prizes were eventually awarded in 2002. It was also interrupted in May 1968 amid student and labour protests sweeping across France.

The announcement is another blow to the film industry. Beyond the star-studded glitzy screenings, production and distribution firms head to the Cote d'Azur to complete deals, while executives from across the world gather to represent their nations' film industries.

SOURCE: REUTERS

