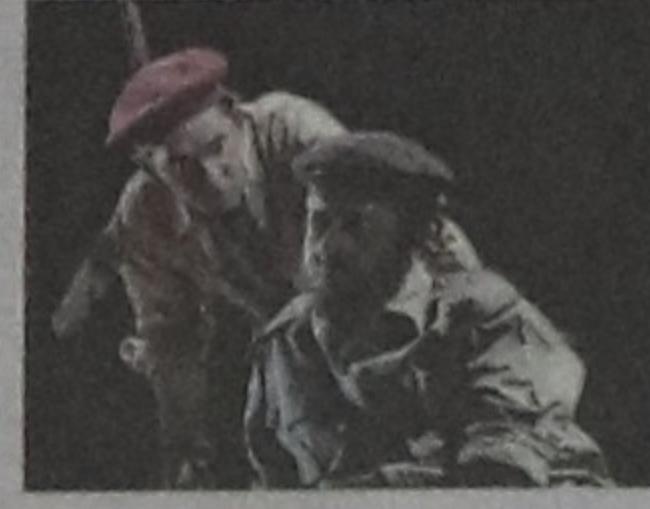


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Art Exhibition**  
Title: 18th National Art Exhibition  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 24-June 7  
Time: 11-8pm (3-8pm on Fridays)



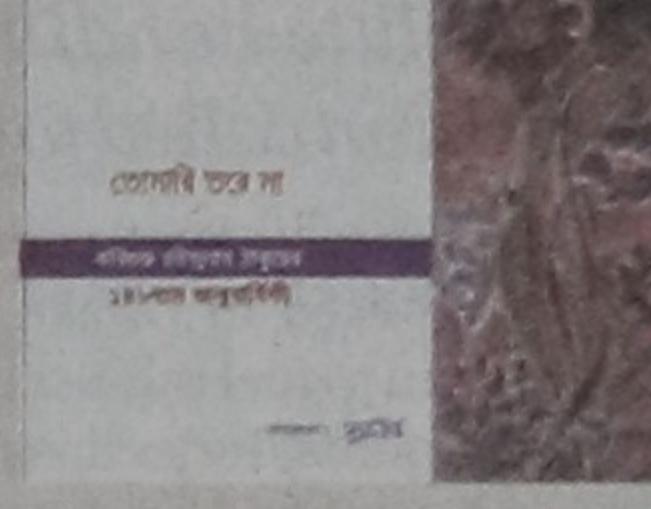
**Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Bangla Theatre  
Play: Che'r Cycle  
Venue: Studio Theatre, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 4-8  
Time: 6:30pm



**Musical Soiree**  
Title: Badol Meghe Madol Baje  
Troupe: Surer Dhara  
Organiser: High Commission of India  
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1  
Date: June 6, Time: 7pm



**Musical Soiree**  
Organiser: Sur Tirtha  
Venue: National Music & Dance Centre, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 6-7  
Time: 6:45pm



## Of dreams, past and future

SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

While many strive to get that one necessary break to make it in the domain of entertainment, most celebrities claim that a career in the media was never their first choice. "I never thought I'd be this popular," is often the common response and one wonders how luck favours those who allegedly "do not ask for it."

Two of the most popular names in the entertainment industry shared with us their initial career choices, some memorable moments, latest works, experiences with fans and more.

Jaya Ahsan: Known to be one of the most successful actresses on the small screen, and blessed with expressive eyes and a beautiful smile, Jaya said, "I started off as singer. I had always been interested in classical music and Rabindra Sangeet and even had a singing school of my own. I have a huge collection of classical music and Rabindra Sangeet. Acting just sort of happened; I never planned to become an actress.

Talking about her huge fan following she said, "Just the other day I received a 12-page letter from a fan. It was such an emotional letter that it literally made my eyes wet. While I was the brand ambassador of USAID, I visited different rural areas as part of a campaign to generate awareness on health issues. I was



Jaya Ahsan

showered with so much love and affection! It is simply amazing how through a character in a play one can get so close to so many!"

A hilarious incident: "At this event I was sitting in a stall which was surrounded by glass. This boy saw me and without looking right or left he walked straight ahead and bumped real hard against the glass pane. Apparently he failed to see the glass in front of him as all his attention was concentrated towards me."

Krishnokoli: A gifted composer, a talented lyricist and an effusive singer, Krishnokoli reminisced the long gone days and said, "The list of

what I did not want to become would be very short. I wanted to be a pilot, a doctor, a teacher, and an entrepreneur owning a chain of departmental stores. I was quite good in painting and therefore pursuing a career in art seemed logical. I also had an inclination towards politics, as only through political transition can we truly pave the road to development. I was involved in journalism for a short span of time and therefore thought of becoming a journalist or a writer too."

Smiling, the singer continued, "However, music has been an intrinsic part of my life since childhood

Krishnokoli

and that was what destiny had chalked out for me."

Describing one of her memorable moments, she said, "One day someone knocked on my door, and I opened it only to find no one. It was only after I looked down did I see a lovely child carrying a bouquet of flowers for me. She was around two years old and her parents said that she loved my songs and was my fan. This incident truly touched me."

Talking about her current endeavours, Krishnokoli said, "I am a 'fodfordal' (ardent promoter) of poet, lyricist and singer Kafil

Ahmed's album." Moreover, she is working to raise funds for Amader Pathshala, a school for underprivileged children in Mirpur.

"My aim is to work for the development of the school and the children and to open branches of this school throughout Bangladesh."

Upcoming projects: "I hope to release an album which will hopefully come out by the end of this year. The title of the album and the songs will be based on a particular theme like my previous album."

The writer is a freelance contributor



## Fleeting moments...

Annual exhibition by BUET Photographic Society

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of its regular activities, BUET Photographic Society (BUET-PS) arranged the three-day '7th Annual Photography Exhibition' at Del Café, BUET campus. The exhibition titled "29 Seconds...in 50 Frames" was inaugurated on May 31 by the Vice Chancellor of BUET Dr. A.M.M. Saifullah.

The organisers initially invited photographs from all students of BUET. Within two weeks, over 300 photos were submitted. Of them, the organisers selected 50 photos from 33 participants for the exhibition.

Nature, festivals, architecture and the spirit of Liberation War were the major themes at the exhibition. A wide section of the participants dealt with human emotions and psyche; some images highlighted triumphant moments.

Abundance of nature -- both in rural and urban settings -- in different seasons, has been widely featured at the exhibition. Some of the photos like "Autumn in Bangladesh" by Fahim Hossain, "Before



the Horizon" by Kazi Md. Hasibur and "The Summer Run" by Azizur Rahman Apu bring to light the effortless and often overlooked opulence of nature in our country.

Students of the Department of Architecture have unsurprisingly focused on architecture; snapping photos of impressive edifices in and outside Dhaka. This project evidently gave the students an opportunity to travel to different corners of the country. Couple of photos feature moments of bliss during the 'Holi' celebration, adding splashes of colour to the collection.

BUET-PS was formed in 1997 to promote extracurricular activities among the students.

The aim of BUET-PS is to create a platform for students keen on photography and to inspire others to take it as a hobby or passion. The photographic society is an active group on campus and has been successful in producing quality photos and photographs.

Abdul Aziz Apu, president, BUET-PS informed that members of the society often take part in different competitive and non-competitive photography exhibitions and have earned several honours. BUET-PS members took three prizes (two firsts and one second) in different categories at the 8th International Inter University Photography Contest organised by NSUPC in 2008.

Proceeds from the exhibition would go to the treatment of ailing freedom fighter A.J.S.A. Khaled, a former student of BUET.

The exhibition ended on June 2.

► (Top) "Play Time" by Joy

► (Middle) "Morning Time Pleasure" by Fahim Hossain

► "Joy of Colours" by Azizur Rahman Apu

## Guillermo Del Toro talks vampires and virus

Vampires these days are sort of lovelorn and wimpy. Not Guillermo del Toro's. His will suck you dry with a stinger-tipped tentacle. It's not really the kind of stuff teen girls want to read. But del Toro, director of the Oscar-winning "Pan's Labyrinth" -- as well as "The Devil's Backbone", "Blade II" and the "Hellboy" series -- is not trying to appeal to the Stephenie Meyer set with his new novel. The first in a trilogy (co-written with author Chuck Hogan), "The Strain" opens with a plane that lands in New York City, lights off, windows drawn, everyone seemingly dead. Naturally, it gets worse from there. The director, currently in New Zealand, where he is working on the film version of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit", talked about bloodsuckers, swine flu and more.

Over the next decade, you've got about five movie projects signed up. How did you find the time to start a trilogy of vampire novels?

Guillermo: I started it actually about four years ago. The idea behind "The Strain" was to try and marry old Eastern European folklore with an urban procedural feel. Which is very much the way, back in the day, Dracula must have read to contemporary readers. It was a very now, in the moment, modern

novel. And I wanted to recapture that a little bit.

The idea of vampirism as a virus is similar to the latest version of "I Am Legend," which you were supposed to direct at one point.

Guillermo: Yes. Some of the notes about their biology actually came from me going to Warner Bros. to show them my ideas. I found it quite nice that visually the vampires in that movie had some passing similarity to those from my movie "Blade II." The way they move, the fact that they all lose their hair and become these pale creatures.

We recently saw somewhat of a panic with swine flu. Are viruses the thing that's going to wipe this planet clean, as opposed to nuclear bombs?

Guillermo: It certainly is the one threat that seems to allow us to be irrational about things. A nuclear attack requires a device, it can be intercepted, and it can only affect a certain area. There is a logic to the way it spreads. But a virus grows exponentially. Every time it expands, there's a casualty. It's closer to a panic -- closer, therefore, to a very primal fear.

Source: TIME

## Know Bangladesh Better

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