

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Ekushey Book Fair
Venue: Bangla Academy
Date: February 1-28
Time: 3pm-9pm



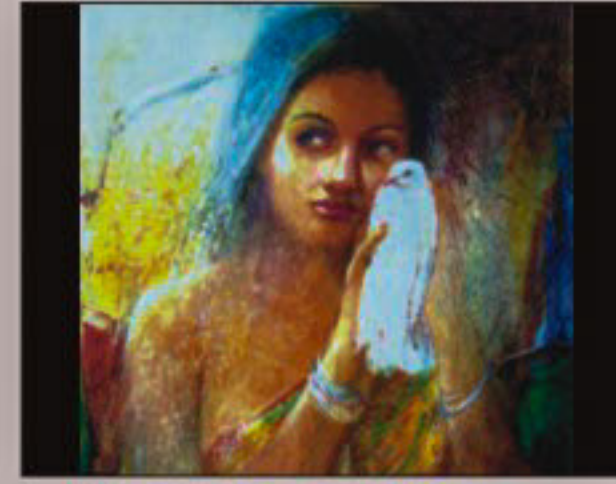
Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Rashid Amin
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi
Date: February 18-March 1
Time: 12pm-8pm



Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Haq Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2
Date: March 15-28
Time: 10am-8pm



Film Festival

Title: Amar Bashar Chalachitra
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU
Date: February 22-28
Time: 10:30am onwards



The multi-faceted world of Laila Hasan

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned choreographer-dancer Laila Hasan has earned praise for her social activism as well. Hasan has been tirelessly organising events, encouraging people and actively participating in cultural movements over the years.

As an artiste, Laila Hasan has remained dedicated to the arts -- dance, choreography, theatre, TV and more. But many would term her as a "bold organiser and cultural activist." In 1958 when the then Pakistani government banned Tagore songs, she along with other activists took a stand against it. She also participated in the Mass Uprising of 1969; was one of the organisers, news presenters and artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra; has worked with renowned cultural organisations of the country like Shammillito Sangskritik Jote, Udichi, Khelaghar and much more.

Born into a family of cultural enthusiasts in 1946, Laila Hasan completed her MA in Philosophy from Dhaka University in 1970.

Hasan had her basic dance lessons from Manibardhan Mahashay in Brahmanbaria. Later, she took lessons from Ajit

Sanyal, Babu Ram Singh, GA Mannan and Shamar Bhattacharya of Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA). Among her acclaimed choreographies are "Chitrangada", "Shyama", "Shapmochon", "Chandalika", "Runner" and "Moder Gorob Moder Asha". She has been honoured with BACHSHASH Award (2001) and Kazi Mahbub Ullah Begum Zebunnessa Trust Award (2001) for her contribution to dance.

The dancer was recently honoured with an Ekushey Padak (2010). Ekushey Padak is one of the highest civilian awards in Bangladesh, introduced in memory of the martyrs of the Language Movement (1952).

Laila Hasan is the founder of a dance school named 'Nataraj' that turned 20 this year.

Among her other accomplishments is the hugely popular TV show "Rumjhum" (aired on BTV from 1980 to '85) in which the seasoned dancer taught children the basics of the art form. Among today's well-known performers, Eshita, Tarin, Srabonti, Riya and Richi were Hasan's students on the show. Bangladesh Television Dance Choreographers and Artistes Association is the brainchild of



Hasan.

Laila Hasan has also made her presence felt in the theatre scene. Her performances in productions like "Kankabotir Ghatay", "Raktokarobi", "Chhuti", "Mayar Khela", "Raja Rani", "Tasher Desh", "Swargo

Hotey Bidaye", "Shyamol Matir Dhoratoley", "Neel Darpan", "Dutta", "Keranir Jiban", "Taming of the Shrew" and "Nakshi Kanthar Math" were much-admired. She also acted in several TV plays, drama series and films. Among her notable

works on screen are: "Mon Poboner Nao" (written and produced by Ashkar Ibne Shaikh and Abdullah Al Mamun respectively), "Kajol Rekha", "Bhelua Shundari", "Mahua", "Rani Bhabanir Path", "Ratnadwip" and "Pashapashi". Recently she has acted in a single-episode play titled "Ashcharjo Ek Raater Galpo" (directed by Chayanika Chowdhury).

Not only in Bangladesh, Laila Hasan has also been part of some international ventures.

"I acted in the film 'Gharey Bairey', directed by Sandip Roy (son of Satyajit Roy). Apart from this I've performed in the films 'Feluda' (2007), 'Tintoretto-er Jishu' and 'Ei Tho Prem'," she adds.

"Currently I'm working in the film 'Moner Manush' (Gautam Ghosh's latest project on Lalon). My character's name in the film is Giribala," says the dancer-actress.

Laila Hasan has published two books -- "Hridoye Bajey Nupur" (published from Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in 1996) on dance and "Mohonrupey" on aesthetics.

The artiste is a lifetime member of Bangla Academy and West Bengal Dance Federation. She is also a member of Asiatic Society and President of Bangladesh Nriya Shilpi Shangstha.

Shibli, Nipa in a telefilm

"Rupali Pordar Ontoraley" on BTV tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

Renowned dancers Shibli Mohammad and Shamim Ara Nipa will be seen in the telefilm "Rupali Pordar Ontoraley" tonight at 8:30 pm on BTV.

The story zooms in on the life of a filmstar, Suborna (enacted by Nipa) and a bookseller Sumon Chowdhury (played by Shibli). Fazlur Rahman Babu plays the role of Sumon's friend.

The telefilm explores the real life of the filmstar, behind the facade of fame and fake smiles.

"People usually focus on the glamour and believe that the lives of filmstars are fantastic. But the fact is that beneath the layer of fame, stars are just regular people. After the camera stops rolling, when all the fans have left, these stars go back to their normal lives and face reality which often involves personal problems," says Shibli.

"Then there are some unscrupulous reporters who are always after sensational gossips regarding these stars, making a mountain out of a molehill. This telefilm is about all of that," he adds.

The film has been directed by Robin Hyder. Music direction is by Emon



Saha.

The telefilm was shot over five years ago, but due to unavoidable circumstances it could not be aired. "Finally after all these years, this film will see the light of day," says Shibli.

"It was interesting to work with these two noted dancers," said Fazlur Rahman Babu.

Interestingly, though it features dancers in the lead roles, the film has nothing to do with dance.

Cultural programme to bridge barriers of caste

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A month-long cultural competition ended on Wednesday with a prize giving ceremony in Kushtia. The recently concluded programme aimed to pave the way for interaction between the children of the marginalised Harijan and mainstream communities.

A discussion was also arranged on the occasion.

Vice-Chancellor of Kushtia Islamic University (IU), eminent educationist Professor M. Alauddin was the chief guest at the programme held at Kushtia Public Library premises.

FAIR, a local NGO working for the development of the Harijan community in Kushtia and Pabna district with Advocacy Group (a civil society forum working for the Harijan) jointly organised the programme. Manusher Jonno Foundation, a Dhaka-based national NGO, assists FAIR in its endeavour to uplift the marginalised community.

According to the organisers, 200 children from different high and primary schools in the district took part in the competition. Of them

around 70 children were from the Harijan community. The competitors took part in eight contests, including patriotic songs, folk songs, Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet, recitation of poems and arts.

A total of 85 winners were selected by the panel of judges. Of the winners, eight were from the Harijan

community.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor Professor Alauddin said that it is frustrating that even in present day Bangladesh around 40 lakh people of a community are deprived of their rights.

He called upon the public to purge society of social and class discrimi-

nation. He urged the Harijan people not to be frustrated and work in unison to fight for their rights as the constitution guarantees equal rights for all human beings.

Other guests at the programme included Associate Professor at the Department of Law, Islamic University, Zohurul Islam; an Assistant Registrar of IU and also a PhD researcher at the University of North Bengal, Darjeeling (India) Amanur Rahman; former Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department, Nazrul Islam and Kushtia Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mamtaj Begum.

Dewan Akhtaruzzaman, director of FAIR, delivered the welcome address. The programme was presided over by Assistant Public Prosecutor of Kushtia judge court Advocate Rajib Ahsan Ranju.

The programme was conducted by project coordinator of FAIR, Sahana Ahmed Talukdar, and assistant project officer Saiful Islam.

A congregation of parents of Harijan and the mainstream children also created a hope of purging social and class discrimination among the people.



A young singer performs at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Technical theatre workshop in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAI, Magura

A daylong technical theatre workshop was held at the auditorium of Magura Shilpakala Academy last Tuesday.

The workshop was organ-

ised by Peoples Theatre Association, in cooperation with 'Rakhal' (an NGO working on cultural activities).

President of Group Theatre Federation, Liaquat Ali Lucky was the chief trainer at the workshop. Ali Ahmed

Mukul and Mohammad Jasimuddin were the others trainers at the workshop attended by 70 performers of 35 theatre organisations from nine districts of Khulna, and one district of Dhaka division. Organising secretary of Khulna divisional wing of Group Theatre Federation, Mohammad Nazimuddin Julius, coordinated the workshop.

The organisations that took part in the workshop were Theatre Unit, Ananya Theatre and Children's Theatre of Magura; Ankur of Jhenaidah; Diamond of Jessore; Natyalok of Khulna; Chitra of Narail; Arindom of Chuadanga; Keya, Shahid Sufi Natyachakra and Children's Theatre of Faridpur.



Liaquat Ali Lucky was the chief trainer at the workshop.

PHOTO: STAR

Matt Damon set to play Bobby Kennedy in new RFK biopic



Is it time for Matt Damon to practice a distinctive New England manner of speaking?

Deadline.com is reporting that Matt Damon will possibly play Robert Kennedy in an upcoming movie based on the book "His Life" by Evan Thomas. Gary Ross will direct from a script to be written by Steven Knight.

According to the site, the movie "will trace RFK's transformation from the younger brother in the shadow of President John F. Kennedy to a strong national leader in his own

right before he was gunned down in 1968." Sounds like an interesting fit. Damon has both the look and the accent to play the role. And, it would be interesting to see a theatrical RFK biopic. There was the TV movie based on his life, but as far as the big screen goes, he's pretty much been relegated to the supporting character -- much like he must have in real life up until the JFK assassination. Most recently there was the Emilio Estevez-directed "Bobby" -- but even that featured Kennedy as more of a plot device than an actual character.

Damon's star turns as a killer spy in the "Bourne Identity" have made the actor bankable in Hollywood. The switch to a playing real-life legend could make for a colourful challenge for Damon.

But Damon still hasn't signed on the dotted line.

Damon's ultimate decision will hinge on the still unwritten final script.

Source: Internet

Freida Pinto to play Greek priestess in epic movie

After Woody Allen's "You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger", Freida Pinto has now been reportedly picked up for epic "Dawn of War".

For this Montreal based fantasy-action-drama film, she will reportedly play Phaedra, an oracle priestess who joins Greek mythic warrior hero Theseus (portrayed by "The Tudors" star Henry Cavill) who heads a successful war against imprisoned Titans.

Studio executives of this anticipated project -- packed with special effects -- about ancient Greek myths directed by Tarsem Singh Dhandwar ("The Fall") are reportedly looking into the prospect of filming it in 3D.

Written by Charley Parlapanides ("Everything for a Reason") and Vlas Parlapanides ("Across the Sea"), and edited by Robert Duffy ("Ambush"), it is reportedly slated for a 2011 release with production starting in April.

Tarsem has been quoted as describing "Dawn of War" as: "a hardcore action film done in Renaissance painting style."

Pinto, 25, besides Allen's film, is also working as lead in "Miral" (story of a girl raised in a Jerusalem orphanage in 1950s, directed by Julian Schnabel).

She reportedly unsuccessfully auditioned for Bond Girl Camille Montes in "Quantum of Solace".



Nicknamed "Fro", the Mumbai girl has also appeared on People Magazine's "Most Beautiful People List".

Compiled by Correspondent

চলছে ব্যস্ত মেয়েদের লড়াই

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