

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre
Play: Khona
Troupe: Battala
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 17
Time: 7pm



French Drama Festival
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and Natukay Theatre Group
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 15-21
Time: 5pm onward



Fatih Akin Retrospective
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Auditorium, Goethe Institut, H-10, R-9 Dhanmondi
Date: May 16-17
Time: 3.30pm onwards



Theatre
Play: Leelaboti Akhyan
Troupe: Loko Natyadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 16
Time: 7pm



Remembering Shawkat Osman

Memorial programme at Liberation War Museum



Yeafesh Osman speaks at the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ZAHANGIR ALOM
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Marking the 12th death anniversary of eminent litterateur Shawkat Osman, Shawkat Osman Smriti Parishad organised a memorial programme at the Liberation War Museum on May 14. Eminent personalities reminisced on Osman's life and works.
The programme was presided over by the Director General of Bangla Academy, Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan. Eminent artists Rafiqun Nabi and Hashem Khan, state minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman, Professor Syed Anwar Hossain, writer Andaleeb Rashdi and cultural

personality Bulbul Maholabish spoke at the event.
"To me, Shawkat Osman's study on art is the best and in-depth to date," Rafiqun Nabi said.
Hashem Khan mentioned that Shawkat Osman's work highlights the plights of down-trodden people.
"Shawkat Osman is the only writer who was equally sincere towards adolescent and adult readers. 'Pancho-shongi,' 'Katha Rachonar Katha,' 'Prize' and more are for adolescents written by Shawkat Osman," he said.
"Poet Shawkat Osman's turning into a litterateur as well as his writing under a penname still appears as a

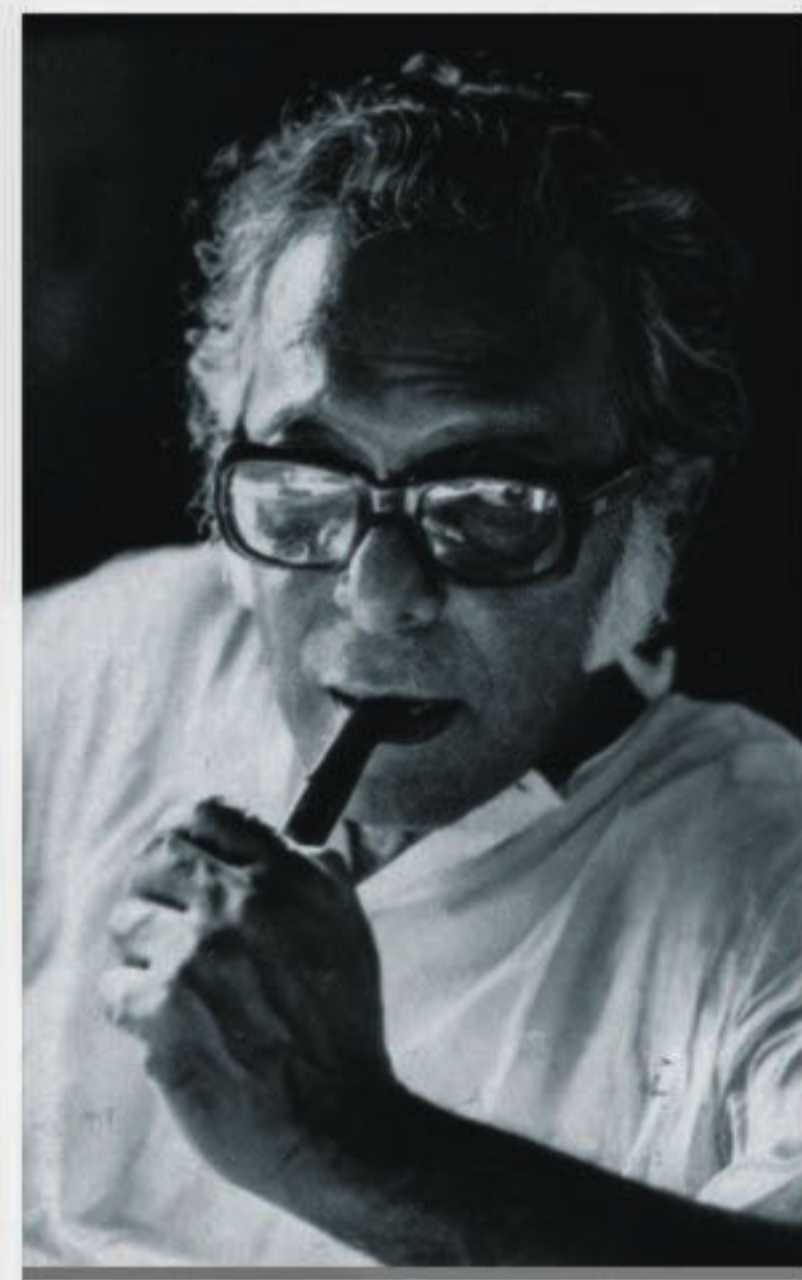
mystery to me. But I can definitely say that his self exile signifies his rebellious conscience that always craved the spirit of independence," Professor Syed Anwar Hossain said.
Andaleeb Rashdi articulated the literary genius of Shawkat Osman. His speech was full of allusions and quotes on Shawkat Osman by noted litterateurs like Hassan Azizul Haq, Humayun Azad and more.
Yeafesh Osman, son of Shawkat Osman, said his father's knowledge and interest in politics were reflected in his writings, which made him a unique kind of litterateur. He also read out several verses

("Sheker Shombora"), written by him, as homage to his father.
After the discussion, singer Kabir Ahmed rendered a Rabindra Sangeet "Shudhu Tomar Bani Noygo".
Shawkat Osman's real name was Sheikh Azizur Rahman. He was one of the leading litterateurs of the last century in our country. Born in the village Shabolshinghapur, Hooghly, West Bengal in 1917, he started his professional career as a teacher by joining Chittagong Commerce College in 1947. He wrote many novels, short stories, poems, drama, stories and books for children, essays and more under the penname Shawkat Osman.
Shawkat Osman's writings predominantly highlight messages against fundamentalism and chronicle tales of the oppressed. His novel "Kritodasher Hashi" -- featuring an upsurge against dictatorship -- is considered a classic. Another Shawkat Osman classic, "Janani", was translated into English and has been acclaimed in many countries.
He received many awards and accolades including Adamji Sahitya Award in 1962, Bangla Academy Award in 1966, Ekushey Padak in 1983 and the Independence Day Award in 1997.
Shawkat Osman died on May 14, 1998.

Mrinal Sen's birthday celebrated in Faridpur



The programme included discussion on Sen's life and work.



Mrinal Sen

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

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The 87th birthday of internationally acclaimed Indian filmmaker Mrinal Sen was celebrated at his ancestral home in Jhiltuli, Faridpur.
The programme included discussion on Sen's life and work, exhibition of books and photographs, recitation and rendition of songs.

Mrinal Sen Chalochitra Charcha Kendra (MSCCK), Faridpur arranged the programme last Friday (May 14).
The discussants were of the view that Sen's contribution to Bangla cinema is unique.
Mahbubur Rahman, Vice Principal of Government Rajendra College was the chief guest at the event. Rizvi Zaman, Associate Professor of the college, attended as special guest with Professor

Altaf Hossain, convener of Sachetan Nagorik Committee (TIB), in the chair.
Among others, veteran playwright Munshi Mohammad Ali Rumi, Siraj E Kobir Khokon, Rezaul Karim (convener of MSCCK) and singer Asma Akhter Mukta spoke at the programme.
The programme concluded with recitation and rendition of songs by local artistes.

"Ironeaters" wins Adolf Grimme Award 2010

The documentary "Ironeaters" (Lohakhor) by Bangladeshi filmmaker Shaheen Dill-Riaz has recently won the Adolf Grimme Award 2010, known as Germany's 'TV Oscars', in the 'information and culture' category, says a press release.
"Ironeaters" zooms in on the living and working conditions of the workers at the ship-breaking yards in Shitakunda, Chittagong. The film is written and directed by Shaheen Dill-Riaz. Dill-Riaz is also the cinematographer of the film. Other members of the Bangladeshi team are: Shabnam Ferdousi (assistant director), Lawrence Apu Rozario (Unit-2 camera), Abdus Satter Ripon (sound recordist and sound designer), Mejbah Uddin Feroz (sound assistant) and Zahidul Karim Selim (still photographer).
The film is jointly produced by MAYALOK Bangladesh and



A scene from "Ironeaters".

Lemme Film Hamburg. Members of the German Team are: Kathrin Lemme (producer), Andreas Zitzmann (editor) and Michael Wehrauch (dra-

tics adviser).
Other prestigious awards won by the film are: the Grand Prix at the Paris International Environmental Film Festival

2007, First Prize at the One-World-Award NRW, Köln in September 2007 and the First Prize at Film South Asia in Kathmandu in October 2007.

The Rolling Stones shine a light on "Exile on Main St." reissue



Mick Jagger and Keith Richards during the "Exile" sessions.

Keith Richards remembers the period in the early 1970s when the Rolling Stones were working on "Exile on Main St." as a fairly down time. The parts he remembers at all, that is.
That's partly due to the fact that the recording sessions took place as the Stones guitarist and songwriter's substance abuse took hold in a big way, a habit that took him nearly a decade to shake. But it wasn't strictly the drugs he was referring to when he spoke recently about that fabled phase in his and the group's life.
It's a period he and Mick Jagger have been revisiting in depth while preparing an elaborate new reissue of the landmark "Exile" double

album as well as a new documentary of that period, "Stones in Exile," being released simultaneously.
There was a siege mentality to the making of "Exile," recorded as it was mostly in a foreign environment after the band members relocated to the South of France to avoid paying massive income tax bills back home in England. Richards rented Villa Nellcote, a 19th century mansion in Villefranche-sur-Mer, Nice, that had been used by the Gestapo during World War II, which added to the dark undercurrent.
By the time the band decamped for Los Angeles to put finishing touches on the basic tracks recorded in the mansion's basement, the band felt relief. "It was a joy

to get to L.A. after being locked down in that bunker for months," Richards says. In fact, the "Main St." of the title refers to the downtown Los Angeles thoroughfare.
Most of the Stones' catalogue has been remastered and reissued at various times over the years. But the arrival of an expanded reissue of "Exile on Main St.," including 10 bonus tracks recorded around the same time, constitutes a Big Event in any Stones fan's book.
When Rolling Stone published its list of the 500 greatest albums of all time in 2003, "Exile" ranked No. 7.
Jagger has dissed "Exile" periodically, grouching at various times about the way his vocals were buried in the sonic mix, the ramshackle

manner in which much of it was recorded and the retro feel of many of the songs at a time when the singer was pushing for greater musical experimentation.
But after spending a good chunk of the last year revisiting the period, the vocalist who defined rock swagger calls it "a special album."
"I don't really have a favourite Stones album, to be honest," Jagger, 66, says. "You have songs you like one day, songs you like on another day ... but there's not one [album] I treasure above all others. It depends on what you're in the mood for. But 'Exile' is very good ... It's got a lot to offer, there's a lot of depth in it and it holds up."
By some accounts, "Exile" reflects more of Richards' stick-to-the-basics musical aesthetic. The album's signature songs, such as "Rocks Off," "Rip This Joint," "All Down the Line," "Sweet Virginia" and "Torn and Frayed," tap his deep affection for American roots music. It also included "Happy," which at the time was virtually unprecedented in featuring the tight-lipped guitarist taking on a lead vocal.
Despite well-chronicled clashes between Jagger and Richards over the years, the creative chemistry that's allowed the team to endure for nearly half a century was undeniable to those who witnessed it in action.
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Source: Los Angeles Times



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Central theatre department of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi staged its 15th production "Half Akhrai" at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala academy on May 14. Based on the historic conflict between Ramnidhi Gupta -- popularly known as 'Nidhu Gupta', the originator of Bengali tappa songs -- and his once-favourite disciple Mohan Chand, the play is written by Ratan Siddiqui and directed by Azad Abul Kalam. Ratan Dev, Anwarul Haque and Fahmida Haque Koli were in the lead roles.