

WHAT'S ON

**Theatre**  
Play: Prakrito Purangana  
Troupe: Desh Natok  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Nov 8, Time: 6:30pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Tajuddin Ahmed  
Venue: Museum of Art and Culture R-1/A, H-2, Gulshan-1  
Date: Oct 31-Nov 10  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

**Int'l Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Theatre Art Unit  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy  
Date: November 14-24  
Time: 6:30pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Rudro Robi O Jallamwala Bagh  
Troupe: National Theatre Repertory  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: November 8

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Of Man and Earth  
Artist: Syed Jahangir  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 2-13

**81st Birth Anniversary**  
Artist: Aminul Islam  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 7  
Time: 6:30pm

**Group Fashion Exhibition**  
Title: The Designer's Color Wheel  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 6-17

Prothom Alo steps into its 15th year



Auditi Mohsin and artistes of Shurer Dhara (below) sing at the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading Bangla daily Prothom Alo arranged a celebration programme at the Rabinidra Sarobar in Dhanmondi, Dhaka on November 4 to mark its 14th anniversary. Noted personalities from different fields and artistes gathered at the venue to join the celebration.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman delivered the welcome speech, hoping that the newspaper will arrange such celebrations for many years to come.

Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud spoke about the history of Bangla newspaper, which goes back 200 years.

Internationally reputed illusionist Jewel Aich said that his days start with reading the daily.

Among others, Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University spoke at the programme. Deputy Editor of Prothom Alo and litterateur Anisul Haq anchored the programme.

After the brief wishes by eminent persons, the cultural part of the celebration commenced through rendering the National Anthem by the artistes of Shurer Dhara. Thousands in the audience sang



with the artistes, who also presented choral rendition of another Tagore song, "Jodi Tor Daak Shune Keu Na Ashey".

Soon after Auditi Mohsin's solo rendition of "O Amar Desher Mati", the November rain started suddenly that forced the organisers to make an abrupt end.

Celebrities such as Samina Chowdhury, Bipasha Hayat, Tauquir Ahmed, Asif Akbar, SI Tutul, Chanchal Chowdhury, Kona and Dinat Jahan were present at the programme.

Prothom Alo started its journey on November 4 in 1998.

Lakshyapar celebrates late autumn with classical music

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ushering in Hemanta (late autumn), a Narayanganj-based classical music organisation Lakshyapar arranged a concert, titled "Shishir Shandhya", at Narayanganj High School premises. In accordance with the spirit of the season, the opening of the programme began with Arif Bulbul's recitation of a jibananda Das poem depicting the beauty of late autumn set in the backdrop of idyllic Bangladesh.

A Chhayanaut teacher Ebadul Haque Saikat kicked off the music session with playing Raga Hemanta on his sitar. Presenting alapa, jor and jhala, the artiste beautifully tamed the mood of the raga. Sabuj Ahmed aptly accompanied Saikat on tabla.

Next was giving away the third and last phase of Haradhan-Sukhen Scholarship to the first, second and



Sheuli Bhattacharjee plays the violin at the programme.

third prize winners from the last year's classical music competition. Professor Shahjahan Mian handed over scholarships to the winners.

Sheuli Bhattacharjee was next to take the stage. She played Raga

Jhinjhint on her violin. The performance seemed to arouse a subtle sense of passion among the audience. The raga was frequently performed by maestros Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan.

Mohammad Shoeb was the lone vocalist of the evening. Shoeb, a lecturer at the Department of Music of Dhaka University, first rendered an evening raga, Shuddha Kalyan. Shoeb's improvisation earned the hearts of

many. Later, the artiste performed a famous thumri, "Yaad Piya Ki Aye", originally composed and recorded by Ustad Bade Gulam Ali Khan. Bishwajit Natta accompanied the artiste on tabla.

And last but not the least, a classical music troupe, named Sparsha, took the stage to perform in an orchestra. Sparsha is a seven-member troupe that includes a violinist, three fiddlers, a flautist, a vocalist with surmandal and a tabla artiste. Led by Sheuli Bhattacharjee, the orchestra performed Raga Mishra Kafi. The simplicity and the soul-searching melody presented by Sparsha had a touching quality that augmented the spirit of Lakshyapar's celebration of the season Hemanta.

Prior to wrapping up of the programme, Lakshyapar coordinator Asit Kumar invited a the audience to attend the fourth annual classical music conference scheduled to be held on December 26-27.

Call to uphold the culture of Jumma people

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Shahin Anam, said that the lifestyle and traditional culture of Jumma people in the hills must be protected in the interest of overall development of the community and its people.

She was speaking at a cultural programme after the inauguration of a herbal garden, named 'Murloja Daru Tarum', the first of its kind in the district, developed by Centre for Integrated Programme Development (CIPD), a local non-government development organisation, on 15-acres of land at Goboghona in Moghban union under sadar upazila of the district as chief guest.

With support from MJF, the CIPD arranged the cultural event on October 31. "The indigenous boidya (healers) in

the hills will get the opportunity to provide better treatment to the downtrodden as hundreds of species of different medicinal plants will be available from the garden," said Anam.

"The traditional healers will also get the opportunity for skill development through research work on herbal medicines and it requires a long term plan involving the people concerned," she said.

"Since time immemorial, the indigenous healers have been playing a very significant role in providing treatment to people, mostly living in rural areas. But the traditional healing community is on the decline due to lack of herbal medicines and proper practice," said Ushatan Talukder, member of CHT Regional Council.

"We have to conserve the herbal medi-

cines available in the hills. We have to give importance to growing and creating bamboo clusters too," he added.

He thanked Manusher Jonno Foundation for coming forward for the welfare of the hill people.

Nirupa Dewan, member of National Human Rights Commission, and Arun Kanti Chakma, chairman of Moghban Union Parishad, were also special guests at the function presided over by Jana Lal Chakma, executive director of CIPD.

At a cultural programme, indigenous artistes performed songs and dances including a Jhum dance performed by Chakma artistes and a bottle dance by artistes from the Tripura community.

Caption: Local artistes perform dance and songs at a cultural event in Rangamati. Shahin Anam speaking at the programme in Rangamati.



Jhum dance by Chakma artistes at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Diabetic Halle Berry refuses to put on weight for roles

Halle Berry has said that she would never pile on extra pounds for a film role, as she fears it would put her health in jeopardy.

"My heart would say yes because I feel like I would do anything for my craft, but my brain would say no because I'm diabetic and what that might do to me on a health level could be really dangerous so that's probably the real reason I wouldn't," Contactmusic quoted the 46-year-old as telling US talk show host Wendy Williams, when asked whether she would ever gain 100 pounds (45.36 kilograms) for the perfect role.

"Taking care of my health and keeping my weight at a certain level is really very much a part of taking care of myself and being healthy and because I'm a mother now, I wouldn't take risks like that," she said.

SOURCE: INTERNET



**DS CAFE**

Popular model and actor Nirob is the featured celebrity of this month at DS Cafe. He will be on the hot seat and take your calls at The Daily Star Centre TODAY (November 6), between 4 and 5pm. Readers, fire away all your questions at him! The best question will be highlighted in the transcription. Call 8126155, 01711623915 and 01711623917 to speak to Nirob.

German film looks at ties between Rommel and Hitler

A new film about Erwin Rommel has been shown on German television, depicting the general as a weak man undone by his links to Adolf Hitler.

Dubbed the "Desert Fox" when he fought the Allies in North Africa during World War II, he was admired by enemies for his skills on the battlefield.

He finally killed himself, under pressure from the Nazi leader, who suspected him of taking part in a plot.

But the TV film questions depictions of Rommel as a tragic anti-Nazi hero.

It was broadcast on German public television channel ARD on Thursday, as the 70th anniversary of the battle of El Alamein was commemorated. The battle saw the defeat of Rommel and his German army, the Afrikakorps.

On Friday morning, Rommel was the top trending topic among users of Twitter in Germany and the film has generated articles and comment in the media.

Historians say the field marshal came to be regarded as a military hero in post-war Germany, where even a warship was named after him. In the English-speaking world, he was posi-

tively portrayed by the actor James Mason in The Desert Fox (1951), which highlighted his disputed role in the July Plot to assassinate Hitler in 1944.

Nico Hofmann, who produced the new German film, told Reuters news agency: "The idea is to demystify Rommel."

"There is a lot of speculation surrounding the myth of Rommel. To some he is a brave, proud soldier, the Desert Fox.

"Some people don't know he committed suicide under pressure from Hitler and think he perished in the war and there are many questions about how close he was to the resistance."

The film leaves open to question whether Rommel was part of the 20 July Plot to assassinate Hitler with a bomb. The general's own wife Lucie denied he had played a role.

But his son Manfred, who was 15 when the general died and is now 83, wrote to the film's producers last year, protesting that the film underplayed Rommel's role in the resistance to Hitler, said Hofmann.

Some historians argue that Rommel was a loyal follower of Hitler to the end, who owed the Nazi



Erwin Rommel (foreground) is played by Ulrich Tukur in the new film.

PHOTO: REUTERS

leader his ascent through the German military, while not sharing his Nazi politics.

"I don't accept that Rommel was a Nazi but I do believe that Rommel was a man who used the Nazi apparatus to secure a military rank which he would not otherwise have got," British military historian Robert Lyman told BBC Radio 4's World

Tonight programme.

"He was a brilliant field tactician but he was always on the outside of the main aristocracy of the German army. Nazism gave him an opportunity because Hitler fundamentally liked winners."

SOURCE: BBC

Solo exhibition of Italian artist at Bengal Art Lounge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Under the titled "The Dormancy of the Seed", a solo art show of Italian artist Sabrina Mezzaqui is now on at Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan in Dhaka.

Human rights activist and Nijera Kori coordinator Khushi Kabir inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Reverend Joseph Marino, Vatican Ambassador to Dhaka, and Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Giorgio Guglielmino also spoke on the occasion.

A total of 20 selected artworks are on display at the exhibition. Sabrina Mezzaqui was born in Bologna (Italy) in 1964. She



Visitors at the exhibition.

lives and works in Marzabotto, near Bologna. She undertook her artistic training first at the Istituto Statale d'Arte in

Bologna and then at the city's Academy of Fine Arts, from which she graduated in 1993. Her artistic debut dates back to

Kabi Gaan to celebrate Laxmi Puja

HOSAIN SERAI, Magura

Inspiring Kabi Gaan (light songs in the form of questions and answers between dueling bards) was held last Thursday (November 1) night at Botiakhal bazaar premises in Sreepur upazila of Magura district.

Botiakhal Puja Celebration Committee arranged the performances on the occasion of 'Laxmi Puja', a religious festival which the Hindu community observes for good harvest.

"The event has been organised here on the occasion of Laxmi Puja for the last 70 years," Shushanto Kumar, one of the organisers of the event, said.

A team led by Shyamol Biswas from Hurka village in Rampal upazila of Bagherhat district and another led by Arup Biswas from Pulbaria village in the same upazila took part in the event which exceedingly continued till about 1 am of Friday from afternoon of Thursday.

The event in questions and counter-questions with answers enthralled several hundred music enthusiasts who thronged there to enjoy the traditional event.

A mela (fair) was also held at the same venue.



PHOTO: STAR

The performances in questions and counter-questions with answers enthralled several hundred music enthusiasts.

11:30 Ekushey-er Business	08:05 Drama Serial: Bagha Sher
05:25 Binodoner Bidwa	09:35 Straight Line
06:30 Desh Jurey Shanglep	
07:50 Taal	
	Fox Movies
	01:55 Hancock
12:15 The Business Show	03:30 The Double
04:15 Shorashori Doctor	05:10 The Omen
08:35 Boro Bhalobashi Gaan	09:25 The Ideas of March
11:00 Reporters Dairy	11:10 Casino Jack and the United States of Money

01:05 Bangla Feature Film	
05:20 Porikha Prostuti	
06:30 Shoundarjo Kotha	
11:25 Raat Biratey	
	HBO
	01:35 Red Riding Hood
	03:38 Van Wilder
	05:38 Freshman Year
	05:22 Exit Wounds
	09:30 From Paris with Love
	11:40 Pitch Black
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	
09:05 Drama Serial: Boyra	
Paribar	
09:50 Look at Me	
12:05 Business Talk	
	StarWorld
	02:30 Grey's Anatomy
	04:30 Once Upon A Time
	09:30 Junior Master Chef Australia
	11:30 Two And A Half Men
Desh TV	
03:00 Gaan R Gaan	
05:00 Durpath	
07:45 Drama Serial: Sat Kahon	
11:45 Shojha Kotha	
	Discovery Channel
	02:30 Tattoo Hunter
	04:30 Deception with Keith Barry

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	Next Dot
08:40pm Jhalanta Babura	Rtv
CHANNEL i	08:15pm Side Effect
11:30pm Roshni	Desh TV
ntv	09:45pm Radio Chocolate
09:45pm Ochna	Maazanga Television
Prothombo	08:40pm Monikaly
ETV	CHANNEL 9
09:30pm Kamini	08:40pm Nagark
BANGLAVISION	CHANNEL 24
08:15pm Generation	09:30pm Jadur Shahar

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.	News (English) at 9am, 6pm.
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
CHANNEL i	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
ntv	Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
ETV	Maazanga Television
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.

TALK SHOW	
BTV	Rtv
10:25pm Shombhabonar	11:30pm Our Democracy
Bangladesh	Desh TV
12:30pm Taroka Kothon	09:45pm Chuchhi Tomar Bonbhura
ntv	Maazanga Television
12:00am Ei Shomoy	12:02am Shampokti
ETV	CHANNEL 24
12:02am Ekushey-er Raat	12:05am Modhyarater Multabak
Banglakh TV	
12:00am Zero Hour	Gtv