

WHAT'S ON

Syed Shamsul Haq
Natyas Utsab
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Apr 19-27
Time: 6pm

An Evening of Rock Music
Band: LRB (Love Runs Blind) led by Ayub Bachchu
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-24, Rd-2, Dhanmondi

Musical Soiree
Artists: Nayyer Chowdhury & Joyita
Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayansai, Dhanmondi
Date: April 27; Time: 7pm
Tickets: Available @ Shada Kalo & Meena Bazar

Solo Drawing Exhibition
Artist: Syed Jahangir
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: May 1-7
Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: April 12-20
Time: 3pm-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Bangla Shekore Swagato
Artist: Raghunath Chakraborty
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, 8-4, H-115, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: April 19-28
Time: 11am-7pm

Group Art Exhibition & Inauguration of the Gallery
Gallery 21
Venue: Setmashjid Road, Dhanmondi
Date: April 5-30



Mogwai performing at a concert.

DID YOU KNOW?

Post-Rock

- Post-rock is a subgenre of rock music, characterised by influence and use of instruments commonly associated with rock, but using rhythms and "guitars as facilitators of timbre and textures", a feature not traditionally found in rock.
- Post-rock bands are often without vocals.
- Although firmly rooted in the indie or underground scene of the '80s and early '90s, post-rock's style often bears little resemblance musically to that of contemporary indie rock.
- Don Caballero and Tortoise were among the more prominent bands described as post-rock in the 1990s, but their styles are very different, despite being instrumental bands centred on guitars and drums.
- Math-rock band Slint's 1991 album "Spiderland" and prog-rock band Talk Talk's 1988-"Spirit of Eden" are credited as giving birth to post-rock.
- Post-rock sounds incorporate characteristics from a variety of musical genres, including ambient, jazz, electronica and experimental.
- Mogwai, God is an Astronaut, Do Make Say Think, Sigur Rós and Explosions in the Sky are some of the most-known post-rock bands of today.

Fazlur Rahman Babu @DS Café



ILLUSTRATION: SADAT

With decades of theatre experience behind him, Fazlur Rahman Babu embarked on a successful career in TV dramas. Equipped with his masterful acting skills, he also ventured into the world of films and collected a National Film award for his work in the movie "Shonkhonad". His talents do not end there. Fazlur Rahman Babu has also captivated listeners in recent years with his singing. The multi-talented star recently came to DS Café to talk to his eager fans, on the phone.

Sabuj, Dhaka: Do you have plans to take on singing as a profession?

Babu: No, I never considered myself a singer. I am an actor and I intend to continue acting.

Rana, Rangpur: Does Fazlur Rahman Babu have another identity besides actor-singer?

Babu: I used to work at the Agrani Bank, but I ended that phase of my life a long time ago.

Munni, Savar: Did you always intend to work in TV plays?

Babu: No. I was involved with theatre for a long time and wanted to keep acting on stage for the rest of my life. I had no intention of shifting to TV.

Sagar Chowdhury, Sylhet: What qualities do one require to become an actor?

Babu: First of all, I think the skill of acting is God-gifted. Still, one has to practice and hone that skill by sticking to the craft for years. This is a form of art, and like all others, it doesn't jump in to your grasp so easily. A lot of dedication is

required.
Karim, Comilla: Do you consider anyone a rival in your profession?

Babu: I never think of anyone as my rival. One has to survive in this industry with skills.

Shirin, Chittagong: Do you face difficulties when switching between roles?

Babu: Not always, although it is sometimes challenging -- especially in case of serious roles.

Jamal, Dhaka: What do you consider your greatest achievements as an artiste?

Babu: The love of people that I have been blessed with. I believe this is the greatest achievement of my life. I also consider the National Film Award as a big achievement.

Selim, Gazipur: Any advice for newcomers?

Babu: You have to learn the craft first. It's not only applicable to acting, but for all professions. There is no alternative to learning.

The Daily Star (TDS): How do you manage to master the different dialects for TV dramas?

Babu: It is a challenge no doubt, but an actor has to accomplish that. During my years in the theatre circuit, I had to deliver dialogues in different dialects on stage. The Noakhali dialect is particularly difficult to master. It took a lot of effort to master the Pabna dialect as well, while the dialect of Chittagong is even tougher.

Apel, Tangail: When did people start recognising you as an actor?

Babu: A long time ago. I worked in a serial called "Itikotha". My character was called Poran Majhi. "Itikotha" brought me wide recognition.

Jinnat, Dhaka: Would you say you are living your dream?

Babu: No artiste can realise all his dreams, and neither have I.

Tamanna, Sylhet: Is there any artiste you consciously try to emulate?

Babu: No, I don't blindly follow anyone. I believe in uniqueness.

TDS: It's no news that the glory days of Bangla cinema are behind us. What do you think can be done to bring it back?

Babu: We need a lot of multiplexes, instead of having just a couple. The existing cinema halls also need a facelift. Bengalis are always drawn to quality movies.

Jewel, Chittagong: Would we see you as a director in near future?

Babu: No. I want to keep on acting. I consider myself a "player", not a "coach".

Sheuly, Rangpur: Which was your first acting performance?

Babu: I first performed on stage in a drama called "Taleb Master-er Haalkhata". It was staged in Faridpur.

Riya, Dhaka: Can you manage time for vacations?

Babu: I manage to squeeze out time from my work. I travel with my family during these breaks.

Transcribed by Shah Alam Shazu

Chayanika Chowdhury strikes double century

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Director Chayanika Chowdhury recently stood behind the lens for her 200th TV drama, which has been written by Giasuddin Selim. The play, titled "Juari", has been produced by actress Tarin's production house, A New Tree Entertainment. Shot in various locations in Nepal, the drama has a cast that includes Tarin, Mahfuz Ahmed and Apurba.

Chayanika informed that she had been directing TV dramas since 2001. "I made my first drama on September 18 that year. It feels great to be making my 200th drama in such a short time," she added.

"Chayanika Chowdhury has gained much popularity among TV audiences with her works.



I worked in her 100th drama, and it also feels good to be in the drama that marks her 200th work", said Mahfuz Ahmed.

Tarin added that she is very enthusiastic about "Juari", which is why she produced the play herself.

Apurba said, "It feels great to be working in Didi's (Chayanika) 200th drama."

Asked about the story of the play, Chayanika Chowdhury replied that she wants to keep it a surprise for the audience. The viewers, however, will surely be entertained by the drama, she added.

"Juari" is likely to be aired by Channel i this coming Eid.



NOSTALGIA

Mahfuz Ahmed Diehard movie buff

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Watching films was a craze -- right from my school days, and I often teamed up with my friend Khorshed Alam, whom I used to call "Kalu", to go to the movies. He hated the nickname, but I called him Kalu anyway.

Kalu and I would to sneak out at night to watch a movie. When we returned, the doors and windows were all shut. It was hard finding a way to get into the house again. As soon as I was in, I sneaked into bed and went to sleep.

I usually bought third class tickets; the seats were on a *chatai* or a floor mat. It was difficult to get money for the tickets, so I would sell little items

for that.

My father often scolded me for watching films. I think no other child had received so many beatings from his father -- all for the "crime" of watching films.

I am from Lakkhipur, where the oldest movie theatre is Bulbul Cinema Hall. The distance from my house to the movie theatre is around 17 miles. I had to make long round trips, for the sole purpose of watching a movie.

On many occasions, I watched a morning show at Lakkhipur's Majidi, then caught a matinee show at Choumohoni, and later went back to Lakkhipur to sit in an afternoon show. I also have the experience of

watching five movies in a single day.

One night, Kalu and I were returning home from a night show. We were very tired and the distance seemed endless. Suddenly a storm began, and the two of us were forced to seek shelter inside a mosque where we fell asleep.

When I returned home in the morning, I came face to face with my father. He didn't say a single word to me. The day passed without any punishment. I was so afraid that night that I went to sleep in the kitchen instead of my room. But the following morning, I was punished by my enraged father.

However, even that did not deter me from watching films.

An infinite song

ASSOCIATED PRESS, Miami

The song Jorge Drexler is singing has no specific end or beginning.

"You were sleeping and I was watching you," it might start. Or he might sing, "In came the daylight and the window showed a new season."

Two strangers meet in hotel room 316. And what happens there, the listener decides. They may kiss and set sail into the unknown or gaze at each other and never touch.

The Oscar-winning Uruguayan musician has created a song with more possibilities than the estimated number of stars in the universe.

It's all devisable through "n by Jorge Drexler", a mobile phone application he created with Wake App designers that

debuts three new songs. He presented the project at the Billboard Latino Music Conference this week in Miami.

In the first song, "Room 316," the user chooses what Drexler will sing from rotating circles of phrases. All of the combinations make sense and no two are the same.

That's followed by, "Driftwood," in which Drexler sings and the user decides on the instruments in the background: A string quartet, a choir or perhaps a sole guitar. The app detects the user's location and gives the listener access to different instruments depending on their location.

The final song, "Decima to the power of ten," is a tribute to the centuries-old Spanish-language poetic structure with 10 lines and a calculated syllable and

rhythmic count. Drexler spent nine months labouring over ten decimas in which all the lines could be fluidly interchanged.

The concept behind the work is infinity, an idea that has long enchanted Drexler and which he has written about, without having composed an infinite song itself.

The Grammy-nominated artist, however, said he has his doubts about whether listeners are ready to embrace a new way of interacting with music.

Drexler was trained as a doctor before becoming a musician and frequently intertwines themes of love and displacement with ideas from math and science. The "n" in the name of the mobile phone app comes is a mathematical reference to the symbol that represents a series of



PHOTO COUNTRY AP

natural numbers.

Despite the fact there are many songs within one, and users of the free mobile app can essentially create their own ballads, Drexler said still feels the composition is his.

"It's a song that's like a living being," he says. "I don't create it as a statue. I create it as a living being and I know that it's changing and evolving all the time."

Syed Shamsul Haq THEATRE FEST '13

Nagorik's Norwegian crossover

SAURAV DEY

Theatre troupe Nagorik Natya Sampraday staged "Opekkhoman" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday, evening as part of the ongoing Syed Shamsul Haq Theatre fest.

Noted author-playwright, Syed Shamsul Haq has scripted the play, merging his "Irsha" with famous Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's plays -- "An Enemy of the People" and "A Doll's House". Theatre veteran Ataur Rahman has directed the production.

The play features long conversations



PHOTO: SAURAV DEY

among the protagonists of the three plays at a railway station. Though the protagonists are alienated, they are not frustrated; they strive to find newer meanings of life.

Ataur Rahman played the role of Dr. Stockman from "An Enemy of the People". Pantho Shahrier appeared as the elderly man from "Irsha", while Nayla Tarannum Kakoli enacted the character of Nora from "A Doll's House".

Organisers of the festival, theatre troupe Prangone Mor will stage "Irsha" today at the National Theatre Hall as part of the festival.

Shwapnil Shojib to perform at IGCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India in Dhaka, is organising an evening of Rabindra Sangeet featuring promising artiste Shwapnil Shojib at 6:30pm today at IGCC in Gulshan-1.

Shojib is a young singer, specialising in Rabindra Sangeet, having won the 'Prothom Maan' award in the competition organised by the Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shammelan Parishad in 2007, 2009 and 2011, and awards from prominent cultural organisations like Rabindra Bengal Foundation (Kolkata), Kelaghor and Nirnoy.

Shojib has trained in Rabindra Sangeet under eminent artistes like Rezwana Chowdhuri Bannya, the late Waheedul Haque, Lily Islam, Sraboni Sen and Poroma Banerjee. He is also trained in Hindustani classical vocal music and Loghu Sangeet from Ustad Ali Imam Chowdhury.



BEAUTY OF MOTHERLAND at Drik Gallery



An exhibition by photographers' group "Rong", titled "Beauty of Motherland", begins today at Dhanmondi's Drik Gallery, and will continue till April 29. Seventy young photographers' works, capturing the rich, pristine natural beauties of Bangladesh, are being featured in the exhibit.

PHOTO COURTESY: RONG



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