

WHAT'S ON

Book Fair  
Organiser: Adorn Publication  
Venue: Seminar Room,  
Central Public Library,  
Shahbagh  
Date: June 1-15  
Time: 9am-8pm

Adorn  
BOOKS

Album Launch  
Album: Benuka (Nazrul  
Sangeet)  
Artist: Khairul Anam Shakil  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-  
42, Rd-16 (New), Dhanmondi  
Date: June 7; Time: 7pm

Duet Musical Soiree  
Artists: Salma Akbar & Sajed  
Akbar  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural  
Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: June 7  
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Drawing Exhibition  
Artist: Mainuddin  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre,  
H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 31-June 12  
Time: 3pm-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition  
Title: Fata Morgana  
Artist: Rokya Sultana  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge,  
Gulshan-1  
Date: May 17-June 11  
Time: 5pm-8pm

# NEWS bytes

## Tribute to Nazrul

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A discussion and rendition of songs were the high- lights at the district Shilpakala academy in Jhenidah recently, in obse- vance of the birth anniver- sary of Kazi Nazrul Islam. Deputy Commissioner Shafikul Islam was chief guest, while the chief dis- cussant was Dr. BM Rezaul Karim, principal of Meherpur Government College. The special guests were actor and dramatist Khairul Alam Sabuj and Additional DC Sheikh Rafikul Islam. The meeting was chaired by president of Gonoshilpi Shangstha of Jhenidah, Abdus Salam.

## It's True!



Sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar was one of the first people to come up with the idea of "The Concert for Bangladesh" in 1971, and with the help of George Harrison, successfully staged the first magnus effort in fundraising. At the begin- ning of the concert, the musicians tuned up for a minute, and the audience broke into applause. An amused Shankar said "If you like our tuning so much, I hope you will enjoy the playing more."

# THEATRE "Muktodhara" and "Binodini" staged



A scene from *Muktodhara* (top); Shimul Yousuff in a scene from *Binodini*.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON



SAURAV DEY

Renowned troupe Theatre staged its much- acclaimed production "Muktodhara" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on June 2. Penned by Rabindranath Tagore and directed by Naila Azad, "Muktodhara" (The Waterfall) articu- lates Tagore's philosophical analysis of the interaction between man and machine, the greed and exploitation that machines gener-

ate among human beings and how they are linked to the spirit of nationalism and imper- ialism. The plot is based on the idea that human arrogance and misuse of technological power leads to the sufferings of mankind. "Muktodhara" contains elements of spiritual- ism as well as records a protest against mechanisation of human intellect. The play depicts king Ranajit's building of a dam to domi- nate the indomitable denizens of Shibtorai by blocking the free flow of Muktodhara. Tagore,

through his outstanding narrative prowess, depicted a universal theme-- how the dam on the waterfall becomes a barrier for the freedom of humanity and how humanity becomes free through its demolition. According to the director, "The theme of the play fits well into the present context, as blind corporatisation and commodification of nature are waging a war between Mother Nature and its creation, human beings. The issue has become universal across the globe and it is human beings, who are responsible for unleashing the fierce face of nature." A brilliant stage design, striking costumes, powerful dialogues and moving music -- all blend together to bring out the essence of a Tagore play and present it to the audience. Thespian Ferdousi Majumdar appeared as Bibhuti, while Tropa Majumdar excelled as Amba. The director also designed stage, cos- tumes and props. Meanwhile at Shilpakala at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Dhaka Theatre staged its production, "Binodini", a monodrama based on the life sketch of Binodini Dasi, a pioneering theatre actress who had a huge role in shaping the theatre scenario of Bengal in the 19th century. The play has been directed by noted theatre per- sonality Nasiruddin Yousuff, while Saimon Zakaria has scripted it, compiling "Amar Kotha" and "Amar Obhinoy Jibon"—two autobiographies by Binodini Dasi. Shimul Yousuff appeared as Binodini Dasi in the play.

# Chanchal's challenges

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

It's been a while since Humayun Ahmed's TV play "Nimful" aired on TV. The drama is being reprised under the direction of Meher Afroze Shaon, while the role of Mona Dakaat-- originally played by Asaduzzaman Noor --will now be played by Chanchal Chowdhury. On this new challenge, Chanchal Chowdhury says, "I was a part of Humayun Ahmed's serial "Kala Koitor" a few years back. This time around, I have the opportunity to act in another one of his popular plays; it's a great feeling to be portraying the role of Mona Dakaat." Meanwhile, the actor is also set to work for the silver screen in a new Kolkata film -- "Shimante" by Dhritish Kumar Roy. The movie is being made under the National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDCI) grant, and will be based on life in the border regions between Bangladesh and India. "I will be playing the role of a smuggler in the film." Chanchal informed.

The actor also went to the US recently, where he joined an award ceremony and acted in a stage play by Brindaban Das.

Chanchal, who is now busy working in Eid drama, informed, "I'm busy everyday shooting one-hour plays sheduled to be aired during Eid. I am also committed to several serials."

The stage and TV veteran has only worked in a handful of films till date. Making his debut with "Rupkothar Golpo", Chanchal seized the spotlight with his perfor- mance in "Monpura".

He followed up his popular feature "Manush" by which earned Bangladesh and film projects, "I'm getting offers, but I any project Serials by are currently "Bagha 'Jhulo and

success with another film "Moner Goutam Ghosh -- acclaim in both India. On his the actor said, many movie won't agree to that I dislike." Chanchal which being aired include Sher", "Idiot", nto Babura "Haar Kipta".



# Three-day Indian film festival held 100 years of Indian cinema

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

A three-day Indian film festival concluded at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) in the port city on June 1. To mark the milestone of 100 years of Indian cin- ema, Chittagong Film Centre (CFC) in association with the Indian Assistant High Commission, Chittagong organised the festival. Indian cinema started its journey on May 3, 1913 with the release of silent film "Raja Harishchandra", directed by Dadasaheb Phalke. A total of 17 Indian films were screened at the festival in two halls of TIC and all shows attracted full houses. Kallol Barua, a viewer, said that urbanites have scant opportunity to enjoy offbeat and good films in auditor- iums. Indian Assistant High Commissioner to Chittagong Somnath Ghosh inaugurated the festival. Poet Abul Momen addressed the programme with writer Mustari Shafi in chair.



A scene from *Dutta vs Dutta*.

Somnath Ghosh in his speech said, many Bengali actors, and directors played significant roles in putting India firmly on the world film map. At the festival, films of famous directors like Ritwik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen, Shyam Benegal, Anjan Dutt and Satyajit Ray were screened.



# Bollywood actor Jiah Khan ends her life

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood actor Jiah Khan (25), who acted along- side Amitabh Bachchan and Aamir Khan in two separate films, allegedly committed suicide by hang- ing herself at her house in a plush locality in India's entertainment capital Mumbai late on Monday night, police said. Jiah's mother and sister had gone out and she was alone at the house in Juhu locality when the incident happened, police said. Police said they have registered a case of acciden- tal death. Police are yet to record the statement of the actor's mother as she is in shock. The 25-year-old actor made her acting debut in director Ram Gopal Varma's controversial film "Nishabd" opposite veteran Amitabh Bachchan in March 2007. The film received mixed reviews but Jiah made a mark with her confidence and sex appeal. She also got a Filmfare Best Debutant nomination. Jiah, whose real name was Nafisa Khan, then appeared alongside Aamir Khan in the action film "Ghajini" (2008), the Hindi remake of a Tamil lan- guage and in a supporting role in Sajid Khan's multi- starer comedy "Houseful" (2010), her last film.

# Fast & Furious 6 holds US box office

"Fast & Furious 6" has fought off competition to stay atop the North American box office. The action movie starring Vin Diesel earned \$34.5m ahead of "Now You See Me" with Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine, which debuted with \$28.1m. Will Smith's sci-fi After Earth was a close third, opening with \$27m. The Hangover Part III fell from second to fifth place with \$15.9m - a drop from \$52m last week. The final film in the comedy series, starring Bradley Cooper and Zach Galifianakis, faired better internationally, taking \$82.3m. In a season of sequels, three original films were among the most popular with cinema-goers at the weekend. "Ordinarily, summer and sequels go together," said Paul Dergarabedian, analyst at box officer tracker Hollywood.com. "This is a step in the direction of originality," he said. "Now You See Me", which



follows illusionists who rob banks and share the spoils with their audience, exceeded expectations to land in second place. Elsewhere in the chart, "Star Trek: Into Darkness" and the com- puter animated fantasy adventure "Epic" both earned \$16.4m to share fourth place. "Iron Man 3" added another \$8m to its tally to take the sixth spot, followed by Baz Luhrmann's adaptation of "The Great Gatsby", which earned \$6.3m.

Also edging into the top 10 was the Indian film "Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani". It made \$1.6m from 162 cinemas to land at number eight. "It's very unusual, but Bollywood films sometimes do crack into the top 20 or top 15 (domestically)," Dergarabedian said. "They're usually not in that many theatres, but they make a big splash," he added.

Source: BBC

# Call for a cause "TV Bachao, Onushthhan Bachao"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rally with a call for saving Bangladeshi television programmes was held this Friday at the Press Club Auditorium. Under the banner of Television Peshajibi Oikko Parishad, a couple of hundred people turned out to support the cause, including TV directors, producers, actors, and TV show staff. Several individuals delivered speeches support- ing the call 'TV Bachao, Onushthhan Bachao'. The event's keynote speaker was the convener of the organisation, Tarik Anam Khan. Eminent media personalities present were Mamunur Rashid, Zahid Hasan, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Tauquir Ahmed, Mahfuz Ahmed, Mosharraf Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Tarin, Banna Mirza, Mohon Khan and Arannya Anwar. In his speech, Tarik Anam Khan placed forward several demands, including a call for appropriate measures to attract viewers to Bangladeshi TV chan- nels, weaning the audience away from the grip of foreign channels, emphasis on better shows, and a call for stopping the airing of shows made by for- eign producers, directors and artists.

# TV WATCH Documentary "Dhakaye Thaki" on Boishakhi TV

A CORRESPONDENT

A recent study reveals that the environmental pollution in Dhaka is many times higher than that of other capitals of third world countries. Aptly Boishakhi TV has created a documentary titled "Dhakaye Thaki" marking 'World Environment Day' (June 5)) that will go on air today at 5:20pm. Produced by Ranjan Mallik, the documentary will fea- ture the present abysmal conditions of four rivers circling Dhaka city; rampant sound, air and water pollution; the ugly face of the concrete jungle; lack of places for children's entertainment and the capital's vulnerability to natural calamities including earthquake, cyclone and flood.