

WHAT'S ON

20th National Art Exhibition
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 22-July 12
Time: 11am-8pm

Group Photography Exhibition
Title: Limbo
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, H-60, R-31, Gulshan-1
Date: June 14-30

Group Exhibition
Marking Ten-Year Journey of Galleri Kaya
Title: Glimpses
Venue: H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: June 21-July 20
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Shakti
Title: Feminist Dance Theatre
Organiser: Shadhona
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: June 26
Time: 6:30pm

Painting Exhibition
Title: Book is Light
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
Venue: Café Gallery, R-72, H-3A, Gulshan-2
Date: June 1-July 24
Time: 10am-10pm

NEWSbytes

Richard Matheson dies aged 87

"I Am Legend" author passes away in Los Angeles

Renowned sci-fi author Richard Matheson has passed away on Sunday in Los Angeles at the age of 87. He was regarded as a landmark author in the science fiction and horror genres, with his 1954 novel 'I Am Legend' having been adapted for the big screen no fewer than three times, the latest of which arrived in 2007.

"Hell House", "What Dreams May Come" and "A Stir Of Echoes" were also among the author's other stories to have been converted into feature films, while Matheson was also responsible for the screenplay for "Duel" -- Steven Spielberg's first directorial outing.

In an official statement, Spielberg said "His ironic and iconic imagination created seminal science-fiction stories and gave me my first break when he wrote the short story and screenplay for Duel."

Matheson had been scheduled to receive the visionary award at the Academy of Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy Films' Saturn Awards Today.

It's True!



Hoagy Carmichael wrote a song in 1943 titled "I'm a Cranky Old Yank in a Clanky Old Tank on the Streets of Yokohama with my Honolulu Mama Doin' Those Beat-o, Beat-o Flat-On-My-Seat-o, Hirohito Blues", making it the song with the longest title ever. He later claimed the song title ended with "Yank" and the rest was a joke.

Documentary and TV drama serial launched

A launching programme of a documentary, a short TV play "Phul Hoyo Shob Uthhuk Phuti" and a 78-episode television serial "Bonophul-er Gaan" on working and out of school children under the Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children Project (Phase II) was held recently at the Carnival Hall of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre with the support of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and Unicef, says a press release.

Md. Motahar Hossain MP, State Minister, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education launched the event as the chief guest. Quazi Akhtar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and Pascal Villeneuve, country representative, Unicef were present as special guests.

Mojibur Rahman, Project Director, BNFE delivered the welcome speech. "Bonophul-er Gaan" will be aired from June 26 at 7pm on BTV.

The man behind the cam

In conversation with Giasuddin Selim

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

One of the leading TV directors of our times, Giasuddin Selim has been dazzling the audience with his craftsmanship throughout his career. Although he is best known for his work in television, he has also gained success on the silver screen, winning the National Film Award for his work on "Monpura". The man behind the cam recently spoke to *The Daily Star* about his humming career.

Tell us about the plans for your next film "Kajol Rekha".

Selim: Hopefully the shooting for "Kajol Rekha" will begin this year. This is a huge project, so I'm taking my time. There is a possibility that this might be a joint venture.

Have you found your Kajol Rekha?

Selim: Not yet, but hopefully soon.

What about your new drama that is set to go on air soon?

Selim: I've directed a new 24 -episode serial titled "Roud". It was shot in Feni. Channel 24 will be airing it soon.

What's the story about?

Selim: "Roud" is based on events that occur at a district town; that's why it was shot in Feni. The protagonist struggles to become a farmer; it is a story about coming out in the sunlight instead of hiding in the shadows.

Why does the number your dramas seem to be on the decline?

Selim: I'm more inclined to make films than TV dramas.

Is there a particular reason?

Selim: There are many reasons, most of which I cannot talk about. Even if I state the troubles, the hurdles are unlikely to change. We don't have any unity. Who will solve the problem? The first priority should be for the artistes, crew, directors, playwrights and the channel authorities to unite.

It's said that the budget for making TV plays is going downhill. Why is that?

Selim: This lies totally in the hands of the advertisers. The commercials they air on TV channels are made on a slim budget, unprecedented anywhere else in the world. The channels are busy fighting a financial race, but they are unwilling to compete for quality. So, they are not concerned about the shrinking budget.

Why did you choose to become a director?

Selim: I was involved with theatre from my university days. I was



PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

also a part of Desh Natok. I became a director to make a living. My bigger dreams led me to the seat of a movie director.

To what extent do you think films can help in the progress of a nation?

Selim: A lot. Take Zahir Raihan's "Jibon Theke Neya" as an example; it played a huge role in our independence. The film was a cultural revolution for us. Plenty of changes can be brought about by films but they have to be of topnotch quality.

The Daily Star-Standard Chartered join hands

Celebrating Life film screening-photography exhibition held

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The "Celebrating Life" photography exhibition and film festival, organised by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank, was held at Shahid Abdus Sattar auditorium in Pabna Edward College on June 23.

Apart from a photography exhibition

four short films by the young participants were screened: "TV Virus", "Kath Golap", "Kana Masud" and "Joker Tel".

Vice principal of Pabna Edward College Professor Bazlur Rahman inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest.

"The competition is a launching pad for young talent. With proper sponsorship many young people can realise their aspira-

tions," said Rafi Hossain, editor of Star Insight.

Among the speakers on the occasion were Professor ATM Fakhrul Islam Suza; agriculturist Zafar Sadek; secretary of Sammilito Sanskritik Jote, Mahabubul Alam Liton; theatre artistes Gonesh Ghosh; Rajiur Rahman Rumi; Mostafizur Rahman Russel and Sarwar Ullash.

Sudip Chakroborthy receives Tanushree Padak '13



Sudip Chakroborthy (R) receives the award from Ferdousi Majumdar.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Srijonshil Natyatarun Tanushree Padak '13 was conferred on young theatre director Sudip Chakroborthy. Renowned theatre personality Ferdousi Majumdar, who graced the programme as chief guest, handed over the award to Sudip. The award comprised a crest, Uttariya and cash prize of Taka 10,000. The award ceremony was held at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on June 22.

Theatre activist Lucky Enam and writer Nasrin Jahan were present as special guests at the programme presided over by Masud Parvez Miju, president of the theatre troupe Natyadhara. Alok Basu, convener of Srijonshil Natyatarun Tanushri Padak delivered the welcome speech in which he discussed several aspects of Tanushree Padak.

Sudip is the 13th recipient of the award. The award was introduced by Natyadhara in 2001 in memory of its late member Tanusree Gayen who died in 2000 from leukemia.

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

Shajal crowned winner of "Power Voice 2012"



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The glamorous grand finale of musical reality show "Power Voice 2012" on Saturday saw Shajal emerge as the victor, leaving behind five other finalists. The programme was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, and was telecast live by Channel 9.

Shajal took home Taka 10 lac and a brand new Mitsubishi car, while joint first runners-up Eva and Kornia won Taka 5 lac. Second runner-up Raju won Taka three lac. The other two contestants - Shamim and Beli - were awarded Taka 50,000 each. The top five contestants will also receive gift hampers from Diamond World, and an album deal with G-Series, one of the leading record labels of the country.

The top 11 contestants of the show performed songs at the programme, while dancers of Eagle group danced to it. Judges of the competition Bappa Mazumdar and Emon Saha were present at the event -emceed by singer Akhi Alamgir. Tanvir Khan directed the programme.

Private TV station Channel 9, in association with Pran-RFL organised the musical talent hunt.

National Nazrul Conference ends

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The two-day long divisional level National Nazrul Conference ended in Barisal on Saturday night at Ashwini Kumar Hall of the city. Participants called for collective initiatives to popularise Nazrul songs and more study on the life and works of the poet.

The programme was organised by Nazrul Institute under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Shahidul Alam, DC, Barisal presided over the programme on the concluding day, divided into three training sessions for 40 local artistes on Nazrul songs. Besides, there were discussions on poetry of Bangladesh and Nazrul, songs of Nazrul in Bangladesh, recitations, songs, dances based on the works of the poet and certificate distribution among the trained Nazrul artistes.

The sessions were addressed among others by Professor Rafiqul Islam, Professor Emeritus and chairman Nazrul Institute Trustee Board; Professor Soumitra Shekhar of Dhaka University; Abdus Sobhan Sikdar, Secretary Public Administration Ministry; Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, Secretary Cultural Ministry; Rashid Haider, executive director, Nazrul Institute(NI); Farid Ahmed Bhuiyan, secretary, NI and Khikhil Kazi, granddaughter of Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Talking to this correspondent at Barisal Circuit House, Professor Rafiqul Islam said that Nazrul enriched the music industry with his 4,000 plus songs. His mastery extended to almost every genre of Bangla music such as ghazal, kirtan (devotional songs), romantic and revolutionary songs.

"The popularity of Nazrul Sangeet reached its peak in the 1920s and 1930s. The 1940s were a testing time as Nazrul Islam became ill and Nazrul sangeet was practiced and promoted in the garb of modern songs in Kolkata. The political scenario became very turbulent because of the Partition of Bengal, communal conflicts and war, flawed presentation, reluctance of production houses and media to promote Nazrul Sangeet, aggression of western music and many other factors," Professor Rafiqul Islam said.

The speakers made the point that the message of secularism, humanity and dignity that resonated in Nazrul's poetry and songs is relevant in our world brimming with violence, fundamentalism and bigotry.

Noted singers Khalid Hossain, Yaqub Ali Khan, Dr. Lina Taposhi Khan, Selina Hossain, Shahid Kabir Palash; recitation artiste Shima Islam and singers of Nazrul Institute, participated in the cultural performance.

Kumar Biswajit's musical soiree at IGCC



Celebrated singer Kumar Biswajit recently performed at a musical evening at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Gulshan, says a press release.

Biswajit held the audience spellbound with his rendition of popular numbers like "Jodi Tor Daak Shune", "Jekthane Simanto", "Tumi Jodi Bolo", "Chandana Go", "Mera Jivan Kora Kagaz", "Mago Ma" and "Bosonto Chuyechhe Amakey".

Biswajit is one of the most popular contemporary singers of the country. He has been entertaining music-lovers at home and abroad for the last 30 years.

IGCC, in association with the State Bank of India in Bangladesh, organised the event as part of its regular cultural programmes.

Theatre in need of promotion

Shabda Natya Charcha Kendra stages two plays

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Shabda Natya Charcha Kendra staged two plays at Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Friday evening.

Written by Amit Chanda and directed by Khorsedul Alam, "The Rifle", a drama based on the Liberation War and "Darpon Sakhi", a comedy, written and directed by Chandan Sen and Khorsedul Alam respectively enthralled the audience.

Ensemble Theatre, a prominent theatre group in Mymensingh organised the event. Earlier, a discussion was held marking the programme.

Eminent theatre artiste Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, president of Ensemble Theatre Abul Mansur and its adviser Kajal Rahman were the discussants.

The speakers said, that such events would promote theatre at the district level and urged the government to patronise theatre groups, especially at the district level so that this traditional art form could reach newer heights.