

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition on Tajuddin Ahmad
 Venue: Gallery 21, 751 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi
 Date: July 23-August 8
 Time: 12pm-8pm




Tagore Film Week
 Organiser: EMK Center
 Venue: Midas Centre (9th Floor), House 5, Road 16 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: July 20-25
 Time: 4pm



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



Charity Art Exhibition
 Title: Fida'r Jonno
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-2
 Date: July 14-30
 Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre
 Play: Half Akhrai
 Troupe: Udichi Central Drama Section
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: July 24, Time: 7:30pm



NEWS bytes

Avengers sequel title revealed

Director Joss Whedon has revealed the title of his 2015 Avengers sequel – "Avengers: Age of Ultron" – at the Comic-Con convention in San Diego. It follows on from the hugely successful first movie, reuniting stars including Robert Downey Jr and Chris Hemsworth. Marvel villain Ultron is a rebellious artificial intelligence which creates an android that attacks the Avengers. Whedon revealed the name after footage of the latest Thor film was shown. The footage was introduced by actor Tom Hiddleston – who played villain Loki in the first "Avengers" film – in full costume. Comic-Con, which has been running since 1970, celebrates "the historic and ongoing contribution of comics to art and culture". It holds conventions and events featuring comics and related popular artforms – including films featuring comic-book characters and computer games.

Source: BBC

Bogra Lekhok Chokro recalls Humayun Ahmad

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra Lekhok Chokro (BLC) held a discussion on the first death anniversary of noted writer Humayun Ahmad at its office at Kazi Nazrul Islam Road, Bogra town on Friday evening. Presided over by the president of BLC Islam Rafiq, the discussants were secretary of the organisation Amir Khoshru Selim, Ranju Islam, Shahan-e-Jesmin Dorothi and Shafin Mahmud among others. The speakers recalled the literary genius of Humayun Ahmad. They also discussed the impact on the reader's mind of Ahmad's exceptional characterization. His writing skills, they added, touch the depth of readers' minds and helps even reluctant readers take an interest in reading. The speakers also urged the young people to read the writings of the noted Humayun Ahmad and therefore be enlightened by his philosophy of life.

Memorial meeting for Subroto Moitro

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra Sammilito Sangskritik Jote arranged a memorial meeting for late noted dramatist Subroto Kumar Moitro, also known as "Bhombol Da" at Shaheed Titu Millanayatan, in Bogra town on Saturday evening. The meeting was presided over by Bogra Sammilito Sangskritik Jote president Monowarul Islam. Among the speakers were eminent dramatist Khandakar Golam Kader, noted dramatist and theatre director Toufique Hasan Moyna and the dramatist's son Debbroto Moitro. The speakers talked about the life and works of Moitro and his role in the upliftment of theatre. They also urged the audience to take cues from his life and drama-related activities.

Preserving the past through the lens History of the hills and dales of Bengal



FAYZA HAQ

Bakshir Haat, a photo documentary, is currently on at the Dhaka Art Centre. Juboraj, a Chittagong University teacher of painting from the Department of Fine Arts, says that the group "Jog" deals with alternative art. They have a place in Chittagong called "Pahar chiragi", where journalists, intellectuals and young artists sit and exchange views and news. Once a building was broken down, and around it they had their activities, says Juboraj. The building once belonged to Shaila Sharmeen -- who has also taken part in the photo documentary. This way, those who had the same mental wavelength got together and worked towards a common aim, says Juboraj. They called their work "Jog" art. "There is a part of Chittagong called 'Bakshir Haat' where the city began. This is like Shakhari Bazaar in Dhaka, with temples side by side with mosques. Here they sell saris for weddings, along with 'shola' headgears. Here there are also old spice shops--as old as a hundred years. We thought, says Juboraj, "We will do an exhibition around this quaint area. It was this year -- when temples of the Buddhists and Hindus were being broken -- as in Afghanistan. There was chaos and destruction all around. We had a photographer called Kumar, who was trained abroad; he had a workshop of fifteen days with us, training us, to help us document our ideas and concepts. This way the attention of the viewers would fall on this place and show that Hindus and Muslims could live together in peace and that there was no need of communal riots." There were people from various disciplines and not artists alone, Juboraj informs us. Sharmeen focused on the oldest shop-owner in town -- Pitambar Shah; this sold spices, teeth of tiger and all kinds of curiosities and antiques. She has focused on this shop, with a collection of photographs to make people aware of this place.

Juboraj discovered an orphanage of the Muslims with Temples about it. It had quaint ways and rule about the young inhabitants with their caps and "lungis". Their life was strange. They had to stay up till up till eight, and get up again at three in the morning, to have their breakfast. "They had to eat, pray and sleep a bit. In the afternoon, they were free. He discovered all this, while living within this place that this was a very isolated area indeed in Bakshibazaar. Their rules were their own, he said. Their ultimate aim was peace on earth--like Buddhism, Christianity and Hinduism. Each religion has its prayer for harmony and goodwill to men. Juboraj or Zahid Ali Chowdhury, tried to mix and mingle the ideas of this place and those around. He wished to depict unity, where feelings and emotions were growing apart, and where religions were different. "This story that I depict are about the 'Jharudaars' (cleaners) of 'Bakshirhaat'", says Shuchayan Pal who is also from the Chittagong University-- like also the video show of 55 minutes, with Dhali Al Mamoon, as the crème de la crème with also the display of the recent mishap that killed over 116 people in a factory called "Nazreennama". This was to focus on the recent tragedy so that such an incident would not be repeated again. The video part of the photography show drew Dhaka artists like Manzare Haseen, Wakilur Rahman and Nisar Hussain. Dadaism also entered the show. At one time different types of profession existed here. This was due to the mixing and mingling of cultures and lifestyles. To have a witness to the past and to have the fine blend of living --with different religions and languages this photo show is an anthropological study of the past. It is like preserving history of temples and mosques -- before they vanish in the rush for making the modern cement jungle of high rises.

Photography exhibition on Rana Plaza victims



Three months have gone by since the Rana Plaza Collapse. More than 1,100 workers died under the rubble and 379 workers are still missing. In memory of Rana Plaza victims, Drik Gallery has organised a photography exhibition, featuring images by Abir Abdullah, Ayon Rehal, Shuvo Das and Taslima Akhter, according to a press release. The exhibition focuses on brutality, inhumanity and varied painful memories of garment workers. The exhibition begins today in front of Rana Plaza. Mother of missing worker Shantona will inaugurate the exhibition. Abdul Aziz, father of deceased worker Shawon; and Khadija, wife of late worker Khokon and many other victims will also be present in the exhibition.

... And your host is Samia Afreen

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Samia Afreen first came into the limelight while co-hosting the 2006 edition of "Closeup 1" with Debashish Bishwash. Samia says that the prestigious offer exceeded her dreams. After getting a sudden call for the show, Samia found herself at the FDC among a large crowd, with her knees shaking. But the journey tested her mettle and helped her reveal her true potential.

Asked about her experience of hosting such a huge event, Samia says those were fun and exciting times. An event on such a titanic scale, viewed by both the local and international audience, helped Samia gather much experience.

She terms the opportunity to co-host "Closeup 1 2006", as the first and so far the best turning point of her career. The second turning point came later when she hosted the "Super Hero Super Heroine competition". The show gained much popularity and had many good moments, says Samia. Meanwhile, Samia also hosted an ntv reality show called "The Challenge", and co-hosted the grand finale of "Marks All-rounder" with Munmun.

On her media stint, Samia says, during the primary stages of Banglavisation, she signed up for a news presentation course by Shamsuddin Haider Dalim. Despite submitting her CV for the post of a TV news presenter, the channel chose and groomed her for the programme section. During the grooming session, she was taught how to interact with the camera and speak eloquently. After a brief spell at Banglavisation, she received a job offer from ntv. The channel also wanted her as a host, rather than a news presenter. So she ended up hosting the game show "Hip Hip Hurray" for a long period. Beside her stint as a host, Samia has also acted in several TV plays. She appeared in a couple of episodes of

Golam Sohrab Dodul's serial "Poroshpor", along with featuring in Ferdous Hasan's "Ekushey February" special drama "Opur Paathshala". Last Eid also saw Samia garner much acclaim for her role opposite Partho Barua in the drama "Dhulor Manush, Manusher Ghran".

Although Samia likes to act at times, she says being a host is closest to her heart. Hosting a unique and fresh programme is her dream. "The Challenge" and a Channel i programme called "Fashion Dot Com" were different from her other shows, and Samia looks forward to hosting more such programmes.



The Last Word Grand Finale of The Daily Star Spelling Bee



SHAHNOOR RABBANI

The Grand Finale of The Daily Star Spelling Bee will air on Channel i tonight at 7:50 pm. A journey that started on January 15th with over two lakh participants and close to 300 schools throughout the country comes to a close. It's down to the six finalists -- Atiqul

Haque (Class IX, Anandaniketan School, Sylhet), Sunjack Jesun (Class X, St. Joseph School, Dhaka), Arshiyam Alam Laaj (Class VI, Sunnydale Dhaka), Saif Rahman (Class VIII, The City School Int, Dhaka), Raisa Rownak (Class X, Tulip Intl. School, Dinajpur) and Sakib Aleem (Class IX, Academia, Dhaka) to compete in front of a capacity audience at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

ALL-TIME-GREATS Audrey Hepburn: Mystique and magic

KAVITA, New Delhi

Legendary actor Audrey Hepburn was renowned for her elfin-beauty and charm. Who can forget her magnetic persona in "Roman Holiday", "Breakfast at Tiffany's" or "My Fair Lady"? But Hepburn was also a highly sensitive and socially conscious human being. As UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador from 1988 to her death in January 1993, she travelled through much of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Soon after her appointment she went on a mission to conflict-ridden Ethiopia racked by famine. Later, she visited Turkey, Venezuela, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador on UNICEF field trips. She came and conquered hearts in Bangladesh as well. Cole Dodge, then UNICEF representative in Bangladesh, recalled how she joined UNICEF representatives in a field trip to a village. Walking through a village, she smiled as a group of children came forward to stroke her arm and hold her hands. At a path ahead, she noticed a small girl by herself. Audrey questioned why the little girl hadn't joined the others. "Walking over,

Audrey knelt down and spoke with her. Then picking her up, she hugged her close. The child's legs, crippled by polio, dangled uselessly. Carrying the little one, Audrey walked towards us, her eyes filled with tears. None of us had taken notice of the child," said Dodge, quoted on the UNICEF website. Another anecdote related by John Isaac, UNICEF photographer shows up her popularity as an actor as well. Isaac said that Audrey travelled to every little corner of Bangladesh. In one town Isaac heard one man point out to another and say that he thought that the lady was Miss Hepburn. "When I told her that, she turned around and asked, 'Do you know me?' The guy said, 'I have seen Roman Holiday ten times! Right here in Bangladesh!'" "Roman Holiday" (1953) was the Belgian-born actor's first film in America where she headed from London, after playing small parts in films. "Roman Holiday" was the defining moment in her film career. She won immense popularity—and an Oscar as Best Actress—for her role as a bored princess who falls in love with a newsman (Gregory Peck).



More great roles came her way: "Sabrina" (1954), for which she received another Oscar nomination. "Funny Face" (1957), "Love in the Afternoon" (1957) and "Gigi" too got rave reviews. In 1959 she was nominated for her role in "The Nun's Story". Her tour de force was of course "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (1961), where she played the capricious and endearing Holly Golightly. Audrey's role as Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" (1964) was another great performance. Her co-star in "My Fair Lady", Rex Harrison later described Audrey as his favourite leading lady. Among Audrey's last films was Oscar winning "Wait Until Dark" (1967). By the end of the '60s while still at her peak she decided to opt out of film. She did the occasional appearance: "Robin and Marian" (1976) opposite Sean Connery and her last film "Always" (1989). Audrey died on January 20, 1993 in Switzerland from appendicular cancer. She reigns in film history as one of the greatest movie stars of all times.