

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed
Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi
Date: July 19-September 8
Time: 12pm-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: "Ode to Beauty" by Shama Shalom
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Française De Dhaka
Date: Aug 22- Sep 4
Time: 3-9pm

Solo Watercolour Exhibition

Title: "Jol Chobi" by Shahanoor Mamun
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française De Dhaka

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: "Momentary History" by Niamul Bari
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: August 12-30
Time: 12-8pm

Photo Exhibition

Images of Caring Men
Venue: Dhaka Art Center
Date: August 23-28
Time: 3pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

Jen Lawrence could join "The Hateful Eight"



Jennifer Lawrence could be in line to join the cast of Quentin Tarantino's "The Hateful Eight", with entertainment website Collider reporting that the star is currently in talks for an undisclosed role.

The primary female role in the film is Daisy Domergue AKA "The Prisoner", as played by Amber Tamblyn during the live table-read, although it's possible that Tarantino has written in another part since then.

The new film will follow the steadily growing tensions between a group of stagecoach passengers, after a freak snowstorm diverts them from their route, forcing them to hole up in an isolated saloon. With the group containing the aforementioned prisoner alongside a pair of rival bounty hunters and a renegade Confederate soldier, it's something of a tinder box just waiting to explode. Kurt Russell, Samuel L Jackson and Michael Madsen are all expected to star, although the official cast list has yet to be officially confirmed.

Source: **TotalFilm**

IT'S TRUE!

US actress Gillian Anderson, best known for portraying agent Dana Scully in the TV series "X Files", is an honorary spokesperson for the Neurofibromatosis Network. Her brother Aaron died from the disease and was diagnosed when Gillian was just a teenager. She also supports Children with Tumours, a UK group devoted to helping



children with NF. She is also a member of the board of directors for Artists for a New South Africa and a campaigner for Action for Southern Africa. Anderson is an active member of PETA, and supports animal rights. She also supports tribal rights charity Survival International, leading to her performance in a London stage fundraiser in early 2010.

Tanvir Mokammel's fight for Dhaleshwari 'Activist film' planned to save a river

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Director Tanvir Mokammel's love affair with rivers is nothing new. He has made two feature films whose stories set against the backdrop of the country's liberation war unfold on the banks of river Chitra and Modhumati. He has also made a couple of documentaries on the river Karnaphuli and Jamuna, and about the plight of people living on their banks.

But with his next project -- a documentary titled "Dhaleshwari Kotha" (The Last River of Dhaka Basin)--Tanvir says he wants to go beyond film-making and launch a social movement to save the river from pollution.

"The rivers of Dhaka basin--Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakhya and Balu -- all are now extremely polluted. Only the Dhaleshwari, a river with lot of history and culture, has managed to remain relatively pollution-free. But the way factories, brick kilns and unplanned residential areas are growing up beside the river and the way river-beds are being occupied illegally by the rich and the powerful, it will not be long for the Dhaleshwari to lose its navigability and become just another polluted river of the Dhaka basin," Tanvir told The Daily Star.

Tanvir said his one-hour research-based documentary will try to explore the pros and cons of how to save the river and this is where he wants to go beyond film-making and venture into the role of an activist-director by organising all stake-holders: farmers, boatmen, fishermen, weavers and local politicians and authorities-- along the banks of the river for a social movement, to save Dhaleshwari so that the river does not meet the same fate as the other rivers of Dhaka basin.

According to the director, he would prefer



PHOTO: DARSHAN CHAKMA

Rivers in and around Dhaka are gradually being encroached by urbanisation.

to call "Dhaleshwari Kotha" an 'activist film'. "This venture will not just be a documentary film per se. To save the river with the help of the fishermen, farmers, boatmen and other stake-holders of Manikganj and Munshiganj region and with the teachers and students of the Bangladesh Film Institute, my unit members will try to mobilise a social movement around the Dhaleshwari river area to save the river. The documentary film will be part of that movement," said Tanvir.

The research of the film is completed and the shooting of the documentary will begin in November, he said, adding it will take at least six months to make the documentary.

Replying to a question, Tanvir said while in his earlier feature films like "Chitra Nadir Parey" and "Nadir Naam Modhumati", the rivers were a part of the setting, in documentary "Karnaphulir Kanna", the river was more

symbolic of the predicament of the tribal populace of Chittagong Hill Tracts. In another documentary "Oyi Jamuna", Tanvir's focus was on erosion of banks along the river and how it affects the lives of the people by portraying the life and carrying their views.

"Dhaleshwari Kotha" will be different from those films in the sense the film will deal with the threat of river pollution and encroachment of land on the river-bed and along the river by the high and the mighty flouting laws, said Tanvir. Naturally, the picturesque countryside of Bangladesh will be in plenty in the documentary, he added.

The documentary will have extensive interviews with the ordinary people whose lives are entwined with that of Dhaleshwari, but most of all, what the director wants his effort to be is to see a film being born out of a social movement to save a river.

Lalon festival in Manikganj



PHOTO: STAR

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Manikganj Achin Pakhi Lalon Sangathan (APLS) organised a Lalon festival at Manikganj Government High School play ground on Friday.

Renowned Lalon singers -- Tuntun Baul, Abdur Rouf Fakir, Tokkel Fakir and Barek Pagol of Kushtia, Nazim Uddin of Manikganj, Rubel Pagol of Rajshahi, Selina Parvin and Ankhi Dewan of Rajbari rendered some 40 popular Lalon songs at the function, that concluded at midnight.

Earlier, Md. Ramzan Ali, mayor of Manikganj municipality, formally inaugurated the function where Md. Nazim Uddin, director of Manikganj

APLS, Shah Mozammel Hossain and Shahadat Hossain Tipu addressed the gathering.

They said Lalon Shai enlightened people through his philosophy. Many people have been carrying out research of his life and works at home and abroad.

Neel Akasher Kalo Rong on Boishakhi Television



A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Neel Akasher Kalo Rong" airs every Tuesday and Wednesday at 8pm on Boishakhi Television. Written by Rupantor and directed by Masud Mohiuddin, the play involves two women corporates Madhobi and Sadika who run advertising agencies. Once close friends, over a passage of time they turn business rivals due to personal enmity.

The play casts Mamunur Rashid, Al-Mamun, Bonna Mirza, Intekhab Dinar, Jenny, Aparna Ghosh and others.

"I like assignments that offer a challenge"

Tête-à-tête with Ishana

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Lux Superstar Ishana is busy shooting several drama serials. She has also appeared in a number of TVCs and made a hit of her Grameenphone commercial. The Daily Star recently interviewed the talented artiste. Tell us about your daily soap on Masranga TV? Ishana: Directed by Rahmatullah Tuhin, the hugely popular mega serial "Khanikaloy" where I play a character named Narmita has been on air for over two years. I'll really miss the entire unit after the completion of the series that is to end soon.

What other plays have you worked in? Ishana: Directors Alvi Mahmud's series "Sunno Theke Suru", Lutfur Nahar Moushumi's daily soap "Sathi Bhalobasa Kare Koy", a drama serial of Irani Biswas and Kaiser Ahmed's comedy-based serial "Grihojuddho". Besides, I have played the role of an actress in a play "Sangsar Japon", directed by Jahangir, on Asian TV. You've also been active in TVCs.

Ishana: An ad of Grameenphone is being aired on different TV channels. I also appeared in TVCs for Tibbat and RFL of late.

Do you watch your TV plays when they air? Ishana: As much as I want to, I haven't been able to do so, due to a busy shooting schedule. However, my mother gives me great inputs as she follows almost all my plays. What's your favourite thing to do on leisure? Ishana: I love sleeping, and usually wake up late on weekends.

Who would you like to share credit with for your successful career? Ishana: My mother is a great critic of my works. I couldn't have reached where I am today without my mother's support and inspiration.

What are your future plans? Ishana: Nothing set in stone, actually. I'm not greatly worried on this front. I believe that I can win million hearts through outstanding performances.

Do you plan to appear on the silver screen? Ishana: I would like to appear on celluloid, but only after thorough preparation. I am taking lessons to equip myself in fulfilling this dream.

What kind of work attracts you the most? Ishana: Those which offer a challenge. I don't feel very comfortable with run-of-the-mill assignments.



A children's art competition was held on Friday at the Ahsan Manzil Museum premises in the capital, to mark the National Mourning Day. Nearly 500 contestants participated in the competition, organised jointly by Bangladesh National Museum and Ahsan Manzil Museum. Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Jagannath University was present at the competition as chief guest. Apart from Dhaka, the event simultaneously took place in Sylhet, Chittagong and Mymensingh.

Actor-director Richard Attenborough dies at 90

Oscar-winning British film director Richard Attenborough has died at the age of 90, his son has said. Lord Attenborough was one of Britain's leading actors, before becoming a highly successful director.

In a career that spanned six decades, he appeared in films including "Brighton Rock", World War Two thriller "The Great Escape" and later in dinosaur blockbuster "Jurassic Park".

As a director he was perhaps best known for "Gandhi", which won him two Oscars.

Sir Ben Kingsley, who played the title role in that film, said he would "miss him dearly".

"Richard Attenborough trusted me with the crucial and central task of bringing to life a dream it took him 20 years to bring to fruition. When he gave me the part of Gandhi it was with great grace and joy. He placed in me an absolute trust and in turn I placed an absolute trust in him and grew to love him," he said.

Jurassic Park director Steven Spielberg said Lord Attenborough was passionate about everything in his life.



"He made a gift to the world with his emotional epic 'Gandhi' and he was the perfect ringmaster to bring the dinosaurs back to life as John Hammond in Jurassic Park," he said. "He was a dear friend and I am standing in an endless line of those who completely adored him."

Lord Attenborough had been in a nursing home with his wife for a number of years. He had also been in a wheelchair since falling down stairs six years ago.

Paying tribute, Prime Minister David Cameron tweeted: "His acting in 'Brighton Rock' was brilliant, his directing of 'Gandhi' was stunning - Richard Attenborough was one of the greats of cinema."

Lord Attenborough was also a life president of Chelsea Football Club, which said it was "deeply saddened" to learn of his death.

Along with his naturalist brother David, Lord Attenborough was one of Britain's best-known screen celebrities. He was hailed for his 1947 chilling portrayal of teenage hoodlum and murderer Pinkie in "Brighton Rock". On stage he was a member of the original cast of Agatha Christie's long-running whodunnit, "The Mousetrap".

Born in Cambridge in 1923, he started acting at the age of just 12, making his professional stage debut aged 18. He was appointed a CBE in 1967 and knighted nine years later in 1976, before being made a life peer in 1993.

He married actress Sheila Sim in 1945. His son Michael was born in 1949, followed by two daughters, Jane and Charlotte. Michael is a theatre director and former artistic director of the Almeida Theatre in Islington, north London, and Charlotte is an actress. His family faced tragedy in 2004 when his elder daughter Jane Holland, her daughter, Lucy, and her mother-in-law, also named Jane, were killed in the south Asian tsunami on Boxing Day.

Source: **BBC**

Children portray Liberation War

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A painting competition for children marking the 39th martyrdom of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was held at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) premises at Shaheb Quarter of the town recently.

The art gallery authority organised the competition. The subjects of the competitions were - "Bangladesh and Muktiuddho". Some 150 children of different educational institutions from class one to ten took part in the competition in four groups.

The judges of the competition were - Mohammad Abdur Rouf, a lecturer of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Fine Arts Institute and Abu Zafar Md. Saifur Rahman Nahid, senior art teacher of Cantonment Public School and College.

Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik, deputy keeper of the art gallery, inaugurated the competition earlier as chief guest.

The keeper in his inaugural speech said that children should be oriented with the true history of the country and the nine-month bloody struggle in 1971 that led to Independence.

The young artistes of today will lead the fine arts arena tomorrow and without an adequate knowledge of the history and tradition of the country, they could be misled, said the deputy keeper.



PHOTO: STAR