

WHAT'S ON

Art Exhibition

Reality Versus Imagination and Illusion

Artist: Samiran Chowdhury

Venue: Gallery Cosmos

Date: August 30-Sep 11

Time: 11am-7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: "Ode to Beauty" by Shama Shaom

Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Francaise De Dhaka

Date: Aug 22- Sep 4

Time: 3-9pm

Photography Exhibition

Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed

Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi

Date: July 19-September 8

Solo Exhibition

Threads of Testimony

Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly

Venue: Bengal Art Lounge

Date: August 16-Sep 4

Time: 11am-8pm

Ganga-Jamuna Theatre & Cultural Fest

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

## NEWSbytes

### Kate Bush sets new chart record

Kate Bush has followed her stage comeback by becoming the first woman to have eight albums in the charts at the same time.

Two of the singer's albums are in the top 10 of the new chart, and eight overall in the top 40. It comes after she returned for her first live concerts for 35 years last week.

The only artistes ahead of Bush are Elvis Presley, who had 12 entries in the top 40 after his death in



1977, and the Beatles -- who had 11 in 2009.

Bush's album "The Whole Story" is at number six - three places ahead of "Hounds of Love". At number 20 is "50 Words For Snow" with "The Kick Inside" - her first album - at 24, "The Sensual World" at 26, "The Dreaming" at 37, "Never For Ever" at 38 and "Lionheart" at 40.

In 1978, Bush became the first female artiste in history to go to number one on the Official Singles Chart with a song she had written herself - "Wuthering Heights".

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!



Acclaimed Indian film actor Rajpal Yadav started his career with television, in Doordarshan's television serial "Mungeri Ke Bhai Naurangilal" as the protagonist. He was picked up by director Ram Gopal Verma, first in a minor role in "Shool", and later a bigger role in "Jungle". Despite winning awards for Best Actor in a negative role for "Jungle" Rajpal preferred not to be type-cast -- and excelled in a variety of roles. Despite a strong reputation in comedy roles, he has played serious, touching roles in films like "Main Madhuri Dixit Banna Chahti Hoon" and "Main, Meri Patni Aur Woh".

## A GRAND CELEBRATION OF PERFORMING ARTS

### Ganga Jamuna Theatre and Cultural Fest opens



Nagorik's "Naamgotrohin" opened the festival.

PHOTO: SAURAV DEY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ganga Jamuna Theatre Festival has been held over the years to facilitate cultural exchange between India and Bangladesh, and to strengthen the bonds between the two countries. The eight-day festival opened on an exciting note yesterday at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), featuring 14 theatre troupes including three from India, a Jatra troupe, a dance troupe and a number of cultural organisations.

The festival was inaugurated at the National Theatre Hall, with Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzaman Noor MP as chief guest. Noted theatre personalities Ramendu Majumdar, Mamunur Rashid, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Liaquat Ali Lucky and Dolly Basu (Kolkata, India) were also present. Member secretary of the festival Akhtaruzzaman delivered the welcome address, while the session was chaired by convener of the

event, Golam Kuddus.

Fittingly, a Bangladeshi production, directed by an Indian director raised the curtains of the festival. Nagorik Natya Sampraday staged "Naamgotrohin - Manto'r Meyera" following the ceremony, scripted and directed by noted Indian theatre activist Usha Ganguly based on Urdu writer Sadat Hasan Manto's short stories. The play, segmented into three parts, delves into the lives of three marginalised women --Sultana, Neeti and Sugondhi -- who are are victimised by a patriarchal society. The theatrical work features a strong cast including Sara Zaker, Aupsee Karim and Pantho Shahriar. Meanwhile, at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Theatre and Performance Studies department of Dhaka University staged their production of Shakespeare's "Hamlet".

Today's plays at the festival are "Attiyo Swajan" by Kolkata-based troupe Chupkotha at the National Theatre Hall, and "Tipu

Sultan" by Joyjatra at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Apart from that, every day the festival will feature street plays, recitation and songs at the open premises of BSA from 5pm.

Other troupes and cultural groups participating in the festival include Nrityanchal, Agontuk, Aranyak Natya Dal, Theatre (Baily Road), Lokko Natyadal (Banani), Jugagni (from India), Prachyanat, Theatre Art Unit, Dhaka Theatre, Arindam Natya Sampraday (Chittagong), Mohakal Natya Sampraday, Anik (Kolkata, India), Nat Nandan, Wrishij Shilpi Goshthi, Universal Theatre, Konthoshilon, Nandan, Kotha Abritti Charcha Kendra, Bohnishikha, Nityadhara, Muktaadhara, Kranti Shilpi Goshthi, Natyajoddha, Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi, Chandrakala Theatre, Srot Abritti Sangsad, Swa-Bhumi Lekkhok Shilpi Kendra, Oboyob Natya Dal, Swarsruti and Udichi.

The festival ends on September 8.

## Sadarang holds classical soiree at Shilpakala



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sadarang Uchchanga Sangeet Parishad Bangladesh organised a classical music soiree along with a discussion at Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The soiree, titled "Meghmallari-e-Surobarnali", was held on August 29 and featured classical vocal, instrumental performance with a dance production, "Banshi".

Eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury attended as chief guest while theatre personality and DG, BSA Liaquat Ali Lucky was present as special guest. Among others, edu-

cationist Professor Hasina Zakaria Bela attended the event.

Noted vocalist and GS of Sadarang, Swarnamoy Chakraborty set off the soiree with a kheyal performance set on raga Megh. Later, he rendered a thumri on raga Shivrangjani.

Santoor artiste Salahuddin Santanu was the next to take the stage. He presented a dhun based on raga Desh and Mishra Tilang. Sabuj Ahmed accompanied the performers on tabla. Dancers of Parampara, (Kolkata, India) also performed their musical production titled "Banshi" at the programme, directed by Rajdeep Banerjee.

## The Hundred-Foot Journey: Great fare

KAVITA, New Delhi

Fiery Tandoori chicken versus some pallid, measly portioned French culinary fare. The loud, in-your-face eatery Maison Mumbai versus sophisticated upscale Michelin restaurant Le Saule Pleureur, just across the road. Earthy, pugnacious Papa Kadam (Om Puri), Indian restaurateur versus the snooty, ruthless French restaurant proprietor Madame Mallory (Helen Mirren) who clearly is not a great believer in some healthy competition. That in sum is the plot of comedy film "The Hundred-Foot Journey".

At the heart of the film is Papa's son, Hassan who makes food that is to die for--a skill he picked up from his mother (Juhi Chawla), killed in an arson attack at their family restaurant in Mumbai Seeking asylum in London which the family finds inhospitable and bleak, they eventually arrive at a tiny hamlet Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val in the south of France. Papa Kadam decides that the place is a good location for a restaurant. Meanwhile the family meets

Madame Mallory's beautiful sous-chef Marguerite (Charlotte Le Bon). Hassan is instantly attracted to the young woman who helps him develop a knack for French haute cuisine, goes fishing with him or samples his dishes.

To say any more would make me a spoilsport but just a glimpse: Hassan perfects his skills for turning out French food that is to change the lives of all the characters and much mellow the formidable, yet vulnerable Madame Mallory.

Needless to say Om Puri and Helen Mirren are a perfect foil for each other. Whether they are snarling at each other or romancing, their relationship is delightful as is Hassan and Margurite's growing attraction that is tested when professional jealousy creeps in and Hassan departs for Paris to become a chef for fusion cuisine in a fancy restaurant.

If you are willing to suspend all disbelief and just sit back and enjoy a unique film outing that makes food seem an almost sensual experience, then rest assured, "The Hundred -Foot Journey" turns out great fare.



The Rickshaw at Buchhiem

The Bangladeshi-German couple Aneela Haque and Michael Schuermann has taken the Rickshaw art of Dhaka and put on the European art map, when they donated a life-size rickshaw to the prestigious Buchhiem Museum in Munich, Germany. Michael, an engineer by profession, fell in love with the vibrant colours and motifs of the rickshaw during his stay in Dhaka as the CEO of Siemens Bangladesh, and the couple has since looked for opportunities to put a piece of Bangladesh in a museum in Germany. The Buchhiem museum was founded by the late artist-photographer Lothar-Guenther Buchhiem, who collected unusual art across the globe for his museum.

## Lalon Sandha in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A performance of bauls on spiritual Lalon songs enthralled a large audience gathered at Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy auditorium recently.

Subash Rozerio and Hamida Baulani from the Lalon Akhra in Kushtia performed at the programme titled "Lalon Sandha Barir Pashe Arshi Nagar, Shethaye Ek Porshi Basat Kore".

Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy organised the programme.

A performance of more than 15 Lalon songs in over two-hour long programme left the audience spellbound.

The artistes rendered -- "Tin Pagoler Holo Mela", "Jaat Gelo", "Milon Hobo Koto Dine", "Elahi Al-Amin O Allah", "Khome Oporadh" and more.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqi, also president of zila shilpakla academy delivered the welcome speech. He said Lalon artistes spread spiritual knowledge to people irrespective of cast, creed and religion.

He also said we must bear the spirit of both patriotic and love for humanity inscribed in Lalon songs for building up a society congenial for all.

The DC also informed that a three-day "Lalon and Folklore Utsab" will be organised by Shilpakala Academy involving artistes from three districts-Mymensingh, Jamalpur and Netrokona next month.



PHOTO: STAR

## TV WATCH

### Drama serial "Nari" on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Nari" will air tonight at 8pm on Maasranga television. Written and directed by Mostafa Monon, the drama's protagonist is a woman who overcomes many social obstacles. Sumaiya Shimu, Hasin Rowshan, Saberi Alam, Shatabdi Wadud, Lutfar Rahman George, Pori Moni and others don the main roles in the drama. "Nari" airs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8pm.



## Salauddin Ahmed performs at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) organised an evening of Nazrul Sangeet by Salauddin Ahmed, an exponent of Nazrul songs on August 29, at its Gulshan premises.

Salauddin Ahmed performed Nazrul songs such as "Mrityu Nai, Nai Dukkho", "They Chole Gecche Boley", "Ami Jedin", "Ami Chirotoe Durey Chole Jabo", "Bheshey Aashe Shudur Smritir Shurobhi" and more.

After training under several stalwarts, Salauddin Ahmed has taught at the Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts, Dhaka International Music School and Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts.

He has done several music albums, most notably, "Ek Jonomer Nohe", and "Allah'te Jar Purno Imaan". He has also published two notation books aimed at restoring the original notations of Nazrul songs approved by the Nazrul Institute of Bangladesh.

The programme was held in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh.

