

WHAT'S ON

Solo Dance Show
Production: DESH by Akram Khan Company
Organisers: British Council & Bengal Foundation
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sep 18-19, Time: 6:30pm everyday



Group Exhibition
Only Connect: Edition One
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct
Date: Sep 14-23
Time: 12-8pm



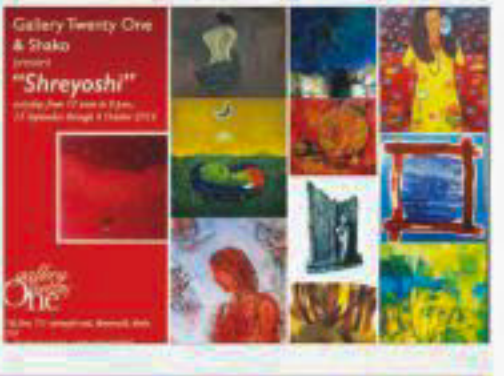
Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Murtaja Baseer
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: Sep 13-25
Time: 11am-8pm

MURTAJA BASEER
A collection of Drawings, Collages & Oil Paints 1954 - 2014

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Montage
Artist: Samarjit Roy Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 6-22
Time: 12-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Shreyoshi by 11 women artists
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 11th Floor, 751 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 12-Oct 4
Time: 12-8pm



NEWS bytes

Imitation Game tops Toronto Film Festival



Alan Turing biopic "The Imitation Game" has won the People's Choice award at the Toronto Film Festival. Sherlock star Benedict Cumberbatch stars in the drama about the British code breaker who helped decrypt the Enigma machine during World War Two.

In a message, director Morten Tyldum said it was "an amazing honour" to win the prize.

Sir Ben Kingsley's romantic comedy "Learning to Drive", in which the actor stars as a Sikh taxi driver and driving instructor alongside Patricia Clarkson, was named first runner-up at the fest.

IT'S TRUE!



There was a time when Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan was a chain smoker. He kicked the cigarette butt after reading Alan Carr's "Easy Way To Stop Smoking". And guess what? Hrithik not only quit the cancer stick, but also helped his friends do the same by distributing copies of the same book among his friends.

"Court Martial" staged in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

"Court Martial", a play based on the Liberation War, was staged for a capacity audience by Ensemble Theatre, a prominent drama troupe of Mymensingh at Muslim Institute auditorium Friday.

Adapted by SM Solaiman, the play has been directed by Md. Abul Monsur, president of Ensemble Theatre.

The cast of the play included Mustakim Billah Faruqi, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh; Asaduzzaman Sarker, Joy Saha, Md. Asaduzzaman Rubel, Tanjina Piyash Misti, Ashik Mahmud and Abul Monsur. Amol Basak, Shaibal Das Bappi, Mosharraf Hossain and Arefin Shuvo assisted the production.

Earlier, a discussion was held, where speakers hailed the troupe's endeavour to keep theatre alive. The Deputy Commissioner -- who played the role of an army chief in the play -- said the group had offered him the opportunity to act in the play after a long period.

The audience also thanked the chief of the district administration for his commendable role in the play and many said that when such notables display their cultural talent, it will serve to encourage other artistes.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just three days in the countdown to his grand show, internationally acclaimed dancer/choreographer Akram Khan, at a press conference, said, "DESH belongs to Bangladesh."

A press conference focusing on DESH was held yesterday at Bengal Shilpalaya in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The British Council, in partnership with the Bengal Foundation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) worked together to invite and host DESH onto the Bangladeshi stage.

Robin Davies, Director of Programme and Partnership, British Council; Luva Nahid Choudhury, Director General of Bengal Foundation; Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA; noted cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff and Akram Khan were present at the press conference.

Akram's relationship with Bangladesh is special. He said, "Performing in Bangladesh is a great pleasure for me as well as my mother. I was born and brought up in London but my parents are from Bangladesh. I am connected to Bangladesh through them. The country comes alive to me through the



From left: Nasiruddin Yousuff, Robin Davies, Akram Khan, Liaquat Ali Lucky and Luva Nahid Choudhury at the press meet.

stories and memories shared by them.

"In my childhood my mother never talked to me in English and it was when I was in grade 10 that I learnt that my mother spoke English. Thus my parents forced me to learn Bangla. Bangladeshis carry their memories and culture wherever they go. None of my childhood heroes belonged to Bangladesh and I was brought up as British person, but I ended up becoming the person I never wanted to be. Now I teach my daughter Bangla. DESH is a query,

which leads to many more queries. It is a drama that belongs here."

Luva Nahid Choudhury also spoke about their initiative to bring the show in Bangladesh, saying, "Practicing arts and culture gives one an opportunity to discover their inner selves. Akram Khan is a Bangladeshi, though he is a British citizen, he will uphold his identity as a Bangladeshi through his performance. We had to work hard to prepare for the show in Bangladesh since this is a highly technical performance. We had to change and

upgrade many things so that we could host the show. We have a lot to learn from this performance. Bengal Foundation is happy to be a part of the initiative."

Liaquat Ali Lucky said, "Shilpakala Academy is glad that it is hosting Akram's first ever show in Bangladesh. For DESH, we made the best preparations despite our limitations. We cannot hold such a high quality performance often and DESH will definitely have a positive impact on our cultural arena. Many young activists also took part in the workshops on DESH and this will tremendously inspire them. We hope Akram will work as a cultural ambassador to place our culture on the global stage."

"Because of space limitations, Akram Khan couldn't bring his entire team. The show is highly technical and cannot even be held in India since they don't have the necessary infrastructure. We are happy that Akram's technical director approved BSA for the show," said Nasiruddin Yousuff.

DESH is set to be staged on September 18 and 19 at the National Theatre Hall of Shilpakala Academy.

The Daily Star, The Daily Prothom Alo and Channel i are media partners of the event.

Pipra Bidya at Asian Screen Award and Busan

A CORRESPONDENT

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's latest venture "Pipra Bidya" has been nominated for two international festivals. The film received a nomination for Asia Pacific Screen Award Competition. This is the second time Farooki will attend the festival. His last film "Television" won a grand jury award at the festival.

"Pipra Bidya" has also been nominated for Busan International Film Festival under "Windows on Asian Cinema". The festival is set to begin from October 2.

The film casts Sheena Chohan, Noor Imran Mithu, Mukit Jakaria, Mou Debnath RJ Sabbir and others.

"Pipra Bidya" will release on October 24.



"Purno Doirgho Prem Kahini" to premiere on ATN Bangla



A CORRESPONDENT

Romantic drama film "Purno Doirgho Prem Kahini" will premiere on television this Eid-ul-Azha. The film will go on air on ATN Bangla as part of the Eid special programmes.

Plot: Shakib goes to Malaysia in search of his missing aunt and uncle. There he meets Joya. They come closer as Joya helps Shakib find his relatives. They gradually fall for each other without knowing that they are cousins. Meanwhile, Arefin Shuvo who loves Joya appears on the scene.

Shakib Khan, Joya Ahsan and Arefin Shuvo have played lead roles in the film, directed by Safiuddin Safi.

Pandit Tushar Dutta fascinates audience at IGCC

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh organised an evening of classical music by Pandit Tushar Dutta on September 12 at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Gulshan.

Pandit Tushar Dutta started off his kheyal performance set on an evening raga Puria Dhanashree. His vilambit bandish "E Bali Bali Jaoon" (on vilambit ektal) evoked Radha's excitement and pining for a tryst with Krishna, while his drut bandish "Payelia Jhankar" (on teentaal) performance had a similar theme.

Pandit Tushar Dutta beautified his rendition with styling exquisite bol, batt, bistar, 16-guna speedy a-kar taan, soulful pukar, meend and murki. What made his performance unique is his fashioning melodic game with a combination of several notes. The way the artiste presented



the musical phrases aptly expressed Radha's emotive plea.

Tushar Dutta next performed a soothing teentaal bandish "Dasan Motiyan Ki Lagi", set on Raga Abhogi. Romance coupled with melodic sweetness reigned supreme

in his performance. And last not but the least the Pandit performed a Nazrul Sangeet "Shawon Asilo Phirey" on kaharba taal. Goutam Sarker on tabla, Aloke Kumar Sen on Harmonium and Dr. Jagodananda Roy and Tasaouf Islam on Tanpura

accompanied the Pandit.

The distinct and mellifluous blend of Kirana and Agra Gharana in his renditions is indeed remarkable. A perfect balance between emotional and technical qualities characterises his musical creations. He was awarded the National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India. Tushar is the "Top Grade" artiste in the All India Radio.

Pandit Tushar Dutta is among the most celebrated vocalists of Kolkata. Born in a musical family of Natore, Bangladesh, Tushar started learning the fundamentals of Indian Classical music from Pt. Bimal Mitra of Durgapur at an early age. Groomed at the famous ITC-Sangeet Research Academy, as a scholar, he took lessons from Pt. A Kanan and Pt. Arun Bhaduri, Pt. Sunil Bose, Pt. K.G. Ginde of Agra Ghrana.

He has performed at almost every prestigious music conference all over the India. He has over 50 recorded discs in his repertoire published from different companies.



TV WATCH

Latest episode of the Lux-Channel i Superstars

A CORRESPONDENT

The latest episode of the Lux-Channel i Superstars, to be aired on Channel i tonight a 9:35pm, will see the contestants attired in floral theme, unveiling new Lux.

Singer Tahsan and actress Aupee Karim will be the guests on tonight's episode, the eighth of this year's series.

Suborna Mostafa, Shakila Zafar and Shomi Kaiser will also share their experiences as the brand ambassador of Lux.

Fame's "Omritter Sandhane" pulls full house in Chittagong

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

The play "Omritter Sandhane" was staged by Chittagong's high-flying theatre troupe Fame, for a full house at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) in the port city on Saturday evening.

On the second day of the two-day festival titled "Chhonde Natye Sharod Abahan", Fame staged the play based on eminent German writer Franz Kafka's "The Metamorphosis". The drama "Omritter Sandhane" has been adapted from two drama fictions -- "Poka" and "Bikar" written by Buddhadeb Bhattacharya and Shakti Sengupta respectively.

Fame chief Asim Das, a teacher of Chittagong University Dramatics Department designed and directed the play.

The play is the story of a beloved and hard working son of a family who one fateful morning discovers that he has been turned into a large insect. Later, he has to face ruthless



reality which leads him to his death.

This was the 13th staging of the drama which was first staged at Rabindra Sadan of West Bengal, India.

Talking to The Daily Star, Fame chief Asim Das said, "I have used expressionist form in both music and lighting in domestic ambience to contextualize the reality," said Asim Das who also designed the music and costumes of the play.

Mubidur Rahman Sujat played the key role which received praise from audience.

Jishu Das, Tapos Chakraborty, Poly Chowdhury, Hasibul Alam and Manisa Orchi also played important roles.