

WHAT'S ON

Theatre Festival

Title: BotTala Rongomela

Organiser: BotTala

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Oct 24-31

Time: 6:30pm



Art Exhibition

Title: Searching Myself

Artist: Monjur Rashid

Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

Date: Oct 21-Nov 3

Time: 12-8pm



Fazlul Haq Memorial Award 2014

Organiser: Fazlul Haq Memorial Committee

Venue: Ballroom, Westin Hotel, Dhaka



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Syed Hasan Mahmud

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhamondi

Date: Oct 24-Nov 15

Time: 12-8pm



Manipuri Dance Recital

Title: Nupur Beje Jaye by Shadhona

Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhamondi

Date: Oct 28

Time: 6:30pm



NEWS bytes

Knightley to make Broadway debut



British actress Keira Knightley is to make her Broadway debut next year in a stage version of a famous French novel. The "Pirates of the Caribbean" star will play the title role in "Therese Raquin", based on Emile Zola's 1867 classic.

The play will cast her as a young woman trapped in a loveless marriage who has an affair with one of her husband's friends. The Roundabout Theatre Company show opens in October 2015 in New York.

Knightley, who turns 30 next year, previously trod the boards in London in "The Misanthrope" and "The Children's Hour".

The actress has two films out next month in the UK - World War II drama "The Imitation Game" and US comedy "Say When".

"Therese Raquin" has been staged and filmed many times, most recently as the film In Secret starring Elizabeth Olsen.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



While in junior high school, US actress Renee Zellweger participated in several sports, including soccer, basketball, baseball, and football. She attended Katy High School, where she was a cheerleader, gymnast, speech team member, and drama club member. After high school, she went to the University of Texas at Austin to major in English language. At the beginning, she took a drama class because she needed a fine arts credit to complete her degree, but the experience made her appreciate how much she loved acting.



SEEKING ONE'S INNER SELF

Monjur Rashid's first solo at AFD

FAYZA HAQ

Among the recognisable figures in "Searching Myself", Monjur Rashid's first solo at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD) Gallery, is a seated girl with a "teep", and a collared dress. The background is grey so that the figure stands out. A boy is seen with mixed up colours to represent mixed up and merged ideas. This shows how the painter is trying to come to realities but fails to do so. Only the face is apparent as the body is left bare. The background is red and grey. None of the faces are totally realistic.

"There is not a 100 per cent presentation of facts. Nothing is totally explained," says the artist. "Sometimes, the orange faces are brown in parts and sometimes are lit up and appear pink and yellow. The faces are a melange of colours. There are bars of colours behind," says the artist. "Since we think of many things, there is the multiplication sign in the backdrop. At times we try to try to memorise phone numbers. At times we try to participate in number games. That is why the numerals are there. The writings are in English, Bangla and French etc. English and the Bangla we know. French and German are to help us get

better jobs etc. as these languages are in demand too. We think of different things and so there is a mixture of languages. Sometimes the mistakes take place due to our callousness and sometimes we do the evil knowingly, using money for it. Man has lost his human qualities and turned into a beast," says the artist.

What the artist depicts are faces he knows and the faces one comes across on the road. The bars of colours behind him such as blue and red set him off. There is an attempt at discovering a young woman. We see a part of her face which is coloured in different shades. Her hair and dress, including her "orna" are also drenched in colour. The eyes, face and the moustache of the other personality are dark. The attractive young woman has blue lips, with a bit of her face clear, appealing and stands out in the mixture of colours. The artist has heaped the backdrop with colours but nevertheless the face is always apparent, although portrayed only partly.

The artist is influenced by the faces of Henry Moore. The nose and eyes of some of his pieces are like the sculpted work of Moore. He applies his colours the way he knows best,

in his own manner. The individuals are seeking themselves and the artist is seeking himself too.

Like people who journey through life, some wearing earrings while some carry pistols, are seen here. The artist uses acrylic, charcoal and other mixed media to obtain his effect. He has a care for seeing minutely while he examines a situation.

Monjur, though young, is ambitious and presents his forms with care and sensitivity. He has done these paintings in four years. In one of his picture, he brings in five bottles, a crescent moon, and a girl as that is life around him. In order to highlight his figures he has played with light and shadow. There is the pulsating rhythm of life in his work.

Inaugurating the function was Nasiruddin Yousuff. He said man sees through lines and colours. Acting, painting and dancing began by seeing. Man has progressed much since he did cave art. Also present there, Manzurur Rahman, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, said the artist expresses his joie de vivre with his paints through which he has attempted to capture his time.

The exhibition runs till November 3.

Two-day Lalon festival concludes in Pabna



AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPI, Pabna

A two-day traditional Lalon Festival was held at the town hall premises in Pabna this past week, organised by Lalon Smrity Parishad, Pabna.

Discussions were held on the life, work and philosophy of Lalon Shah and his mystic music was performed on the occasion.

Prominent Lalon artiste Farida Parveen performed songs of Lalon to enrich the festival.

Earlier, tourism minister Rashed Khan Menon inaugurated the festival as the chief guest.

"Lalon focused on humanity in every step of life. Lalon's philosophy teaches us secularism," Rashed Khan Menon said, adding that the bard's philosophy must be spread among the people.

Anti Corruption Commissioner Md. Shahabuddin spoke as the chief guest in the concluding program.

Noted Lalon artiste Farida Parveen said the verses of Lalon are filled with guidelines for the human race. "We have to realize the inner meaning of his songs," Parveen added.

Among others, Tuntun Baul and local Bauls performed in the festival.

AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON scene shot in Chittagong?

Teaser trailer shows glimpse of port city ship-yard

FAHMIM FERDOUS

When Nicholas Simon, a Hollywood producer (from Indochina Productions) came to Bangladesh earlier this year and very nondescriptly shot a few scenes for a Hollywood film at the Chittagong shipyard, he told The Daily Star in he could not reveal the name of the film, because of a confidentiality clause. However, close followers of Hollywood films in Bangladesh did get air of the news that a film had scenes shot here. However, speculations remained vague as none of the major cast was in Chittagong for the shooting, which Nicholas Simon explained would be added in the chroma-key (green screen) in the

film, to maintain feasibility of such a remote shooting location.

But the release of the first teaser trailer of one of the most-hyped films of next year, Marvel's multi-superhero-starrer "Avengers: Age of Ultron" reveals a momentary shot that looks strikingly like the Chittagong shipyard, prompting a buzz among film buffs of the country. The trailer, released on October 22, had been viewed over 22 million times worldwide in the first two days.

The trailer shows the entire cast of the first "Avengers" movie: Tony Stark alias Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Steve Rogers alias Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris



Hemsworth), Bruce Banner alias Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Natasha Romanoff alias Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Clint Barton alias Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) led by S.H.I.E.L.D. boss Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson) face a stiff battle against the robotic supervillain Ultron (played by James Spader). Other Marvel Comics characters Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver are also seen momentarily, in a typically high-action larger-than-life adventure where the superheroes combine powers and defy odds to save the world.

Directed by Joss Whedon, the first of the superhero ensemble films "The Avengers" in 2012 became the fastest film

to gross \$1 billion and went on to gross over \$1.5 billion, making it the third-highest grossing film of all time, as well as winning multiple critical acclaims. The sequel has been on the radar of fans of the action, superhero, adventure and sci-fi genres, and is expected to whirl up quite a storm when it releases. Although the scene shot in Chittagong is probably a brief one (as hinted by the producer) and will not be shown as Bangladesh itself, it could still open up doors of possibilities for future Hollywood and other major films to be shot here, and that can only be good news for the Bangladeshi film fandom.



Rinku on DS Café today

DS Cafe is a great place to touch base with renowned cultural celebrities. This month, popular folk singer Rinku who features on the hot seat will respond to all your questions between 4 and 5 pm at The Daily Star Centre today.

Readers, have a field day talking to Rinku over the telephone and finding out all about him. The best question will be highlighted in the transcription.

Call 01711623915 and 01711623917 to speak to Rinku.



Info fair and cultural festival concludes in Chapainawabganj



RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

A three-day information fair and cultural festival concluded in Chapainawabganj town recently, with much festivity. Hundreds of visitors thronged the fair and cultural festival every day.

Sachetan Nagorik Committee, a unit of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the fair and cultural festival at Horimohon Government High School premises with the help of district administration on the occasion of International Right to Information Day, as part of its campaign to generate awareness on corruption.

About 46 government, non-government and socio cultural organisations of the district took part and displaying their activities through leaflets, posters and others relevant documents.

Local artistes of different cultural organisations in the district took part in the cultural festival. Other attractions at the programme included traditional gambhira performed by local gambhira troops.

The objective of the fair and cultural festival was to motivate the youth to say no to corruption, said organisers.

Kobi Sammelan begins today

A CORRESPONDENT

The sixth annual Kobi Sammelan (assembly of poets) of Kobisangsad Bangladesh is set to open today at Shawkat Osman auditorium of the Central Public Library. More than 500 poets from around the country and a number of poets from India will participate in the assembly.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu will attend the inauguration ceremony as chief guest, while Dhaka University Vice Chancellor, Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique will be the special guest. Poet Rafiq Azad will inaugurate the programme. Cultural personality Nasiruddin Yousuff, poet Subodh Sarkar, Helal Hafiz, Mohammad Nurul Huda and many other distinguished guests will also attend the assembly.

Bangladesh Boi Mela begins in Kolkata

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Boi Mela, a weeklong book fair began in Kolkata yesterday. The inauguration ceremony of the book fair took place yesterday evening at Raindra Sadan premises. Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman inaugurated the festival, while West Bengal Higher Secondary Education Minister Partho Chattopadhyay was present as the chief guest. A total of 35 publication house from Bangladesh are taking part in the fair which runs everyday till October 30.