


**WHAT'S ON**


**Theatre**  
Play: Bhager Manush by Shomoy Natyadal  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Nov 4  
Time: 7pm



**Art Exhibition**  
Title: Searching Myself  
Artist: Monjur Rashid  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka  
Date: Oct 21-Nov 3  
Time: 12-8pm



**Kathak Recital**  
Organiser: Nityanchal  
Venue: Music & Dance Centre auditorium, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Nov 2  
Time: 7pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Syed Hasan Mahmud  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi  
Date: Oct 24-Nov 15  
Time: 12-8pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
The Dhaka Print Club Show  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan Avenue  
Date: October 25- November 8  
Time: 12pm-8pm



# Shomi Kaiser

## back as TV judge

A CORRESPONDENT

Shomi Kaiser, the immensely popular actress of the nineties, is now appearing on ntv as the judge of a reality show Marks All Rounder. This is the first time Shomi is in the jury of any reality show. She had earlier appeared as a guest judge on Lux-Channel i Superstar contest. In her reaction, the actress replied "The work of judging and scoring is difficult. It takes a lot of attention."

Starting her career with TV play "Joto Durey Jai", Shomi won the hearts of many -- throughout her illustrious career. The actress has also appeared in numerous TV advertisements and has acted in a handful of cinema. Nowadays, she is not regular in television. Last time she acted in a play was a year back.



# PROFESSIONALISM IN THEATRE: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

BGTF HOLDS ROUNDTABLE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), an organisation of theatre troupes from across the country, organised a roundtable yesterday (November 1) at the seminar room of the national theatre hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), on "Professionalism in group theatre practice". A number of notable cultural and media personalities were present at the discussion, along with top theatre personalities.

Thespian Mamunur Rashid conducted the discussion, and interjected between the speakers. Speaking there, Syed Dulal, an avid activist running a theatre studio at district level, said many theatre activists come to Dhaka from the district-level troupes, adding that the financial limitations must be overcome to continue the pipeline of theatre practitioners to Dhaka from the district levels.

Theatre veteran Lucky Inam spoke about the crisis of women theatre activists, citing familial and social pressure. She also said all the troupes are continu-

ing the struggle for professionalism, and BGTF and BSA must come up with a complete plan and place it to the government.

Thespian Ataur Rahman raised the point that even if the shows are houseful, it cannot support theatre artistes and activists. He said apart from Broadway (in the US), theatre receives grants from the government in every country, adding that the government has to play the key role in turning it into a professional sector.

Tauquir Ahmed shed light on the dearth of youths coming into theatre, joking that it was students and unemployed who have driven theatre. He noted that many established theatre artistes of today had to forego job offers outside Dhaka to continue passion, but many had also had to leave the arena for it. He further observed that theatre may have failed to establish its importance to viewers, causing them to shy away from it despite the menial ticket prices.

On the issue of integration of students of theatre as an academic subject, Dr. Israfil Shahin, professor at the department of



Theatre artists and activists at the event.

theatre and performance studies at Dhaka University, called on theatre leaders to incorporate the departments in their movements and ensure stronger participation of the departments and its students.

Sadya Afreen Mallick, Editor of Star Arts & Entertainment, cited the example of the Bengal Classical Music Festival and theatre at London's West End that is thronged by audiences who have gradually

developed interest and are enjoying the high arts. She said the troupes should also look to avail the CSR funds by all banks, made mandatory by Bangladesh Bank.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA presided over the session, and concluded by saying that BSA will sit in talks with the government about the legal and technical matters regarding a proposed salary grant and other related issues.



## IT'S TRUE!

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan had no plans to get into acting. While on David Letterman's show, Ash said, "I first went into modeling which happened by accident." The actress apparently wanted to pursue medicine and her favourite subject was Zoology. However, in an interview she said, "This is something that I always wanted to do. This was the career choice I made; it wasn't a whim or fancy that I followed." Aishwarya, who turned 41 yesterday, bagged the second place in Miss India pageant in 1994, and went on to be crowned as Miss World at the age of 21.

## NEWS bytes

### Bangladeshi troupe at World Puppet Carnival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Puppet Theatre Troupe of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) premiered their latest production "Bedkonya" at Studio Theatre Hall of BSA on October 29 and 30. Focusing on gypsy life, the production will take part in World Puppet Carnival 2014 at Bangkok, Thailand to be held from November 1-10. The nine-member troupe left Dhaka on October 31. A total of 140 troupes from 80 countries including Bangladesh will take part in the carnival. It is notable that Bangladesh Puppet Theatre Troupe became champions in last year's (2013) carnival.

### Reminiscing Rajanikanta

Poet commemorated at Chhayanaut on 150th birth anniversary

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad (Dhaka City) organised a celebration programme marking 150th birth anniversary of Rajanikanta Sen, one of the Panchokobi (five illustrious poets). The event, featuring discussion and musical soiree was held at Chhayanaut auditorium on October 31.

Eminent singer-musician and grandson of Rajanikanta Sen, Dilip Kumar Roy along with one of his illustrious disciples Archana Bhowmik graced the occasion as chief guest. Dilip, a chemist by profession, single-handedly established the Kantageeti (songs of Rajanikanta Sen) in All India



Dilip Kumar Roy speaks at the programme.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

Radio. He formulated swaralipi for 150 songs of the bard. Paschimbanga State Government published them in textbook curriculum. The event, titled "Moromo Porosh-e Taar-i Gaan", started with the rendition of a choral song. Focusing on the life and works of Rajanikanta Sen and Dilip Kumar Roy, Kajal Bandopadhyay read out an essay. A documentary featuring life and musical contributions of Dilip Kumar Roy was also screened. The veteran singer also performed a song "Kutil Kupoth Dhoriya". Archana Bhowmik then rendered songs at the event.

"Music is my passion, like my grandfather. It is very close to my

heart. I have written and composed songs for radio, formulated swaralipi and given musical lessons to many," said Dilip Kumar Roy.

The 98-year old singer shared many unknown stories of his life along with the rich musical legacy of his family. Dilip Kumar Roy's disciples include legendary Hemanta Mukherjee, Pannalal Bhattacharya, Juthika Roy, Krishna Chattopadhyay, Argha Sen and Geetashree Chhobi.

The programme also featured musical offerings with dance choreographed by Sharmila Banerjee. Among others, Sumon Chowdhury earned accolades with the song "Kobe Trishito E Moru" while Swati Sarkar sang "Sakha

Tomarey Pailley". Saida Hossen Papri did justice to the number "Sakhi Moromo Poroshi"; Suma Rani Roy rendered "Keno Bonchito Hobo Choroney"; Elora Ahmed Shukla offered "Tumi Nirmol Koro" and Shahed Imam performed "Ami Akriti Adhom" at the programme. Noted singer Iffat Ara Dewan wrapped up the music performance.

Bhashwar Bandopadhyay and Krishti Hefaz emceed the event planned by Partha Sarathi Shikkar, Alomoy Biswas and Saida Hossen.

In protest of Bongobhongo [of 1905], the poet had composed the famous Swadeshi song "Mayer Deya Mota Kapor" that stirred the movement.

### Raima Sen to play sex worker in Bollywood Diaries

Bollywood actress Raima Sen is excited about the character she will play in "Bollywood Diaries". The actress is playing a Sonagachi sex worker, Imli, in KD Satyam's film.

Director KD Satyam said "Bollywood Diaries is a film about different unknown, yet passionate and talented characters whose life is all about Bollywood. Raima plays Imli, a sex worker who copies all Bollywood actresses and thinks that one day, she will be a star."

Raima, too, is excited about the role. "When I heard Imli's character, I immediately felt that as an actress, I can experiment with it," she said.

Source: TOI



### AMERICAN HUSTLE in \$1 Million libel suit

It's a very brief exchange in "American Hustle": Jennifer Lawrence's character Roslyn tells her husband, Irving, played by Christian Bale, that microwaves take the nutrition out of food. When Irving dismisses it, his wife shows him a magazine and says, "It's not rubbish. I read it in an article. Look, by Paul Brodeur."

Paul Brodeur is a science journalist who was a staff writer at The New Yorker for nearly 40 years. He's even written books (such as "The Zapping of America") about the dangers of microwave radiation. But he's never said that they take the nutrition out of food, he claims in a new lawsuit against the companies that produced and distributed it, Columbia Pictures, Atlas Entertainment and Annapurna Pictures.

"American Hustle" is an interesting target for a libel lawsuit, because while it was loosely based on true events, the filmmakers purposefully maintained the film's distance from truth. Its opening title card was vague: "Some of this actually happened." Libel claims typically depend on the defendant presenting as true a statement that he or she knows or should know is false.

The film, which starred Bale, Lawrence, Bradley Cooper and Amy Adams, was nominated for 10 Academy Awards in 2013, including Best Picture. It took in more than \$150 million at the domestic box office.

Source: THR

### Gambit spinoff is happening, officially

The X-Men film franchise has introduced many characters over the past 14 years, but aside from Wolverine, none have gotten the chance to shine in their own movie... until now. After months of rumors and speculation, the Gambit spinoff is officially happening, with Channing Tatum playing the card-throwing mutant. The studio 20th Century Fox has hired "Robocop" (the reboot) writer Josh Zetumer to pen the script, and Tatum will be producing the movie with Reid Carolin, Lauren Shuler Donner and Simon Kinberg.

Deadline broke the story, and revealed that the story will be based on a treatment by X-Men writer Chris Claremont, who created Gambit with artist Jim Lee. Gambit is the newest entry in the upcoming X-Men film slate, which includes "Deadpool", "X-Men: Apocalypse" a third "Wolverine" film and "X-Force". If you're not familiar with the character, Gambit has been a prominent member of the X-Men since 1990. He is able to charge objects with kinetic energy, which causes said objects to explode upon impact. He uses playing cards and a staff as

his weapons of choice when in battle, and he can also use his power to temporarily give himself enhanced physical abilities.

After being left out of the first three X-Men films, Gambit appeared in live-action in 2009's "X-Men Origins: Wolverine", played by Taylor Kitsch. With the film franchise experiencing a revitalisation with "X-Men: First Class", "The Wolverine" and "X-Men: Days of Future Past", it makes sense that they're bring back the Ragin' Cajun now.

Source: CinemaBlend

