

WHAT'S ON
Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Jamal Ahmed
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts,
AJ Heights, Cha 72/1/D, Progoti
Shorani, Uttar Badda
Date: Jan 9-31
Time: 10am-8pm (Closed on
Mondays)



SD Burman Music
Festival
Organiser: Bohnishikha
Venue: Shawkat Osman
Memorial Auditorium
Date: Jan 13-14; Time: 6pm



Classical Concert
Raaga & Rhythm
Organiser: Peshkar Cultural
Forum
Venue: Chhayanaut
Date: Jan 16; Time: 6:30pm



Art Exhibition
Alluvial Return
Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala
Academy
Date: Jan 4-16; Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
In Motion
Artist: Bishwajit Goswami
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
Date: Jan 11-24
Time: 12-8pm



NEWS
bytes

TAKEN 3

overtakes The Hobbit at US box office



The Hobbit has been overtaken by Taken 3 at the top of the North American box office chart after spending three weeks in the top spot. Liam Neeson's thriller sequel took \$40.4 million over the weekend, according to studio estimates. Civil rights drama Selma came second with \$11.2 million. Disney's Into the Woods was third with \$9.7 million.

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies dropped from first to fourth place.

The Taken franchise has seen Neeson, 62, become one of Hollywood's most successful action heroes.

He plays a former CIA agent Bryan Mills, who has the famous line: "I will look for you, I will find you and I will kill you."

Source: **BBC**

TRIBUTE

SELIM AL DEEN
A Lighthouse of Bangla Theatre



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Selim Al-Deen, perhaps the most celebrated name of Bangladeshi theatre in post-Rabindranath era, breathed his last on this day in 2008. The playwright, fondly called Natyacharya, is credited as ushering in a new era in our theatre scene through his plays and extensive research in the field.

Selim Al-Deen was born on August 18, 1949 in Sonagazi Upazila of Feni. He was attracted to Bangla literature at a young age, and wrote a few poems. But later, with encouragement from Munier Chowdhury, he focused on theatre.

His plays strive to connect with the roots of traditional theatrical forms. Selim Al-Deen's most important contribution to Bangla theatre is his research into its roots. He was of the view that the history of Bengali drama is older than that of European drama.

He wrote his first drama in 1968 while still a university student. His first radio play "Biporit Tomosay" was broadcast in 1969, and the next year his play aired on Bangladesh Television.

He introduced epic realism in Bengali literature, and several of his works including "Bashon", "Atotayi", "Keramat Mangal", "Hat Hodai" and "Chaka" follow this pattern. He also brought out the folklore tradition called Katha-naty in his dramas "Joiboti Koinnar Mon" and "Hargaj". Selim Al-Deen also revived Mymensingh Geetika, and penned a few plays following the pattern.

To pursue his love of theatre, he founded the Drama and Dramatics Department at Jahangirnagar University.

He was one of the founding members of Dhaka Theatre that played a vital role in the progressive theatre movement of post-Liberation Bangladesh.

To observe his death anniversary, Selim Al-Deen Foundation is holding a two-day programme at Jahangirnagar University and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The programme includes placing wreaths at his grave at JU, a collage of his plays and a seminar at BSA.

Nandan Mancha
inaugurated at
Shilpakala Academy



Asaduzzaman Noor, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas and Liaquat Ali Lucky at the inauguration ceremony.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day (January 12-14) colourful cultural programme, featuring solo and choral songs, group dances, musicals, dance by the indigenous community, songjatra, qawwali and instrumental fusion, is on at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

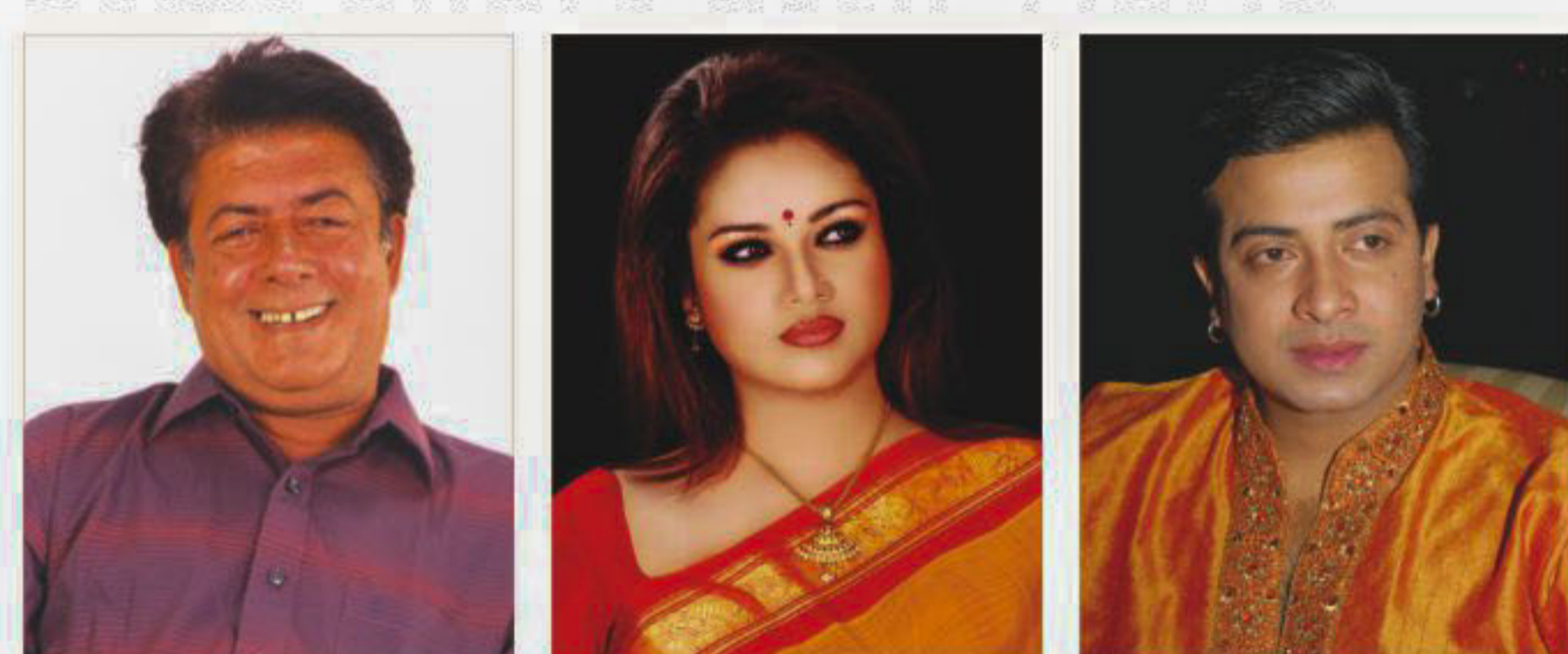
Marking the opening of Nandan Mancha at the academy premises, BSA has arranged the event. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the Nandan Mancha as chief guest on January 12. Secretary to the same ministry Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc attended the event as special guest. Sohrab Uddin, director of Music, Dance and Recitation Department of BSA, delivered the welcome address while BSA DG Liaquat Ali Lucky presided over the programme.

Back in 2012, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina instructed BSA authority to build an aesthetic open stage on the premises of the BSA. A beautiful fountain circles the stage along with underwater colourful lights. About a thousand and a half seating arrangements for the audience have been built around the Mancha and lake around it. Fifteen water fountains have been installed under the stage.

A vibrant cultural programme was held, following the opening of Nandan Mancha on January 12. The event set off with the rendition of Bhawaiya songs by BSA artistes. Enamul Haque Omar on mridanga, Bishwajit Natta on pakhawaj, Goutam Sanker and Zakir Hossain on tabla and Basudeb on harmonium took part in instrumental recital. Samir Qawwal and his troupe presented qawwali while a musical, directed by MR Wasek, followed. Noted singer Subir Nandi, Fakir Alamgir, Khairul Anam Shakil, Krishnakoli, Shayan rendered solos. Directed by Sharmila Banerjee and Anik Bose, artistes presented group dances; members of Dhaka Sangskritik Dol and Boinhishikha performed choral songs. Artistes of indigenous Chakma and Tanchanga communities danced at the event. A cultural programme was also held yesterday (January 13) and will feature today at the venue.

The Daily Star at 24

Stars share their views



STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Inching ever so close to a quarter of a century of publication, The Daily Star proudly turns 24 today. In this period, the Arts & Entertainment page has grown from a black and white half-page daily publication to a full page published six days a week and a full-blown two-page centre fold on weekends.

Over the course of nearly two and a half decades, we have streamlined our page to bring you deep insights into the arts and entertainment scene of Bangladesh. This was only possible because of the tremendous interest and response from our valued readers who have time and time again guided us and responded to our increased coverage in the cultural field. At this special milestone, we can only thank the readers and our cultural personalities by running a series on our cultural personalities that encompass what they like about our page and where we could do better.

Mamunur Rashid, thespian

The coverage that Arts & Entertainment gives us is really helpful. It would have been even more effective if there was a wider readership of English newspapers. A section of A&E, "Celebrity Footprints", which is focused on university students and brings celebrities close to them is really amazing. It should continue since

it brings together youths and celebrities under one platform.

Sharmila Banerjee, dancer-choreographer

I am always happy to read this page. Everything is so precisely detailed that it makes a person feel that the particular event is still going on. One thing that should be taken into consideration is that international events should also be included to make the page more joyful and inclusive.

Aditya Mohsin, singer

First of all, I wish a very Happy Birthday to The Daily Star. Sadly, due to time constraints, I do not get much time to read but whenever I do I often find the page amazing. I am happy that Star Melodies holds a regular programme on musical greats of Bangla songs.

Shakib Khan, actor

The Daily Star is the finest English daily in our country. When people from abroad want to know about me, they read the Arts & Entertainment page. The A&E page is very organised, and has helped me a lot from the beginning of my career. I earnestly thank the team. However, I expect more showbiz news on the page.



IT'S TRUE!

Amy Adams never dreamed of the silver screen since she wanted to be a ballerina during her school days. She worked as a hostess in a branch of notorious US chain Hooters as her first full-time job. She earned \$7-an-hour, but admitted that she wasn't fully aware of the sexualised nature of her work.

Adams worked at a Gap in Atlanta before her acting



career took off. She claims to have served Whitney Houston during her time at the store, and alleges that she performed the "Gap Act" for the pop legend. When Adams received her Oscar nomination for "Best Supporting Actress" in 2006 for "Junebug", her mother was still working at a Starbucks.

Grand finale of Dettol Shera Ami Shonge Maa held



The grand finale of the third season of "Dettol Shera Ami Shonge Maa" took place on January 8. The gala featured the last performance by the finalists along with celebrity performances, says a press release.

Afifa Antara Jhilik and Nahida Parvin Panna were crowned as the best mom-child pair. Syed Arbin Ayan-Khadija Khanam, and Ahad Sultan Alif-Salma Akter bagged the 1st and 2nd runner up awards respectively.

Reckitt Benckiser's flagship brand Dettol was the initiator of this reality show where mom-child pairs showcased their talents on stage.

Mahbub Baset, Marketing Director of RB Bangladesh-Sri Lanka Cluster; Nayan Mukherjee, COO & Finance Director, RB Bangladesh-Sri Lanka Cluster, and CEO of RIV Ashik Rahman handed over prize to the winners.

ALL TIME GREATS

Agatha Christie: The Queen of Mystery

Agatha Christie, known as the "Queen of Mystery" was one of the world's most popular authors with her combined works selling more than 2 billion copies worldwide.

Christie was born Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller on September 15, 1890, in Torquay, England. The youngest of three siblings, she was educated at home by her mother, who encouraged her daughter to write.

Christie published her first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, in 1920. Subsequently, she went on to become one of the most famous writers in history, with mysteries like *Murder at the Vicarage*, *Partners in Crime* and *Sad Cypress*.

Poirot and Marple are Christie's most well-known detectives, with the two featured in dozens of novels and short stories. Other notable Christie characters include Tuppence and Tommy Beresford, Colonel Race, Parker Pyne and Ariadne Oliver.

Christie wrote more than 70 detective novels as well as short fiction.

Though she also wrote a few romance novels under the name Mary Westmacott, Christie's success as an author of sleuth stories has earned her titles like the "Queen of Crime".

The queen of all publishing genres holds a Guinness World Record of the best-selling novelist of all time.

Christie was a playwright as

well. Her play *The Mousetrap* opened in 1952 at the Ambassador Theatre and at more than 25,000 showings till 2012 holds the record for the longest unbroken run in a London theatre.

The illustrious author breathed her last on January 12, 1976.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



Sonam Kapoor
to play Neerja

Sonam Kapoor is all set to portray Neerja Bhanot, a young airhostess of the ill-fated Pan Am flight 73 who died fighting terrorists and saving lives in 1986.

The plane was flying from Bombay (now Mumbai) to Frankfurt, and was hijacked when it landed in Karachi airport. Neerja took charge and resisted the hijackers' demand to collect the passports of all Americans on board. She hid them. Exasperated after a 17-hour wait, the terrorists opened fire and set off explosives that forced Neerja to open the doors and help the passengers get out. Neerja sacrificed her life while trying to protect the children on board.

She became the heroine of the hijack and was awarded the prestigious Ashoka Chakra by the Indian government.

"Neerja", helmed by Ram Madhvani, will start rolling in a couple of months.

Source: **Hindustan Times**