

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)



Art Exhibition
Chronology
Artist: Kazi Rakib
Venue: Galleri Kaya
Date: Jan 17-30
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Classical Music Recital
Title: Mayar Madhuri
Artists: Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar, Pt.
Uday Bhawalkar & Priyanka Gope
Venue: KIB Complex Auditorium,
Krishi Khamar Road, Farmgate
Date: January 20; Time: 6pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Different Strokes
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-
7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: January 17-22
Time: 3-8pm
Inauguration: Jan 16 at 4pm

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

NEWS bytes

No McKellen-Stewart in "X-Men: Apocalypse"



Patrick Stewart has confirmed that he and fellow first generation mutant Ian McKellen won't appear in the upcoming "X-Men: Apocalypse."

Stewart made the announcement during an interview with Larry King on "Larry King Now".

"I was learning quite a lot more about it last night, and it is going to be looking very much at the earlier lives of all our characters," Stewart said adding that "I don't think we'll be making an appearance."

The last X-Men film, "Days of Future Past", featured Stewart's Professor X and McKellen's Magneto as well as their young counterparts, James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender.

"X-Men: Apocalypse" directed by Bryan Singer, hits theatres in May 2016.

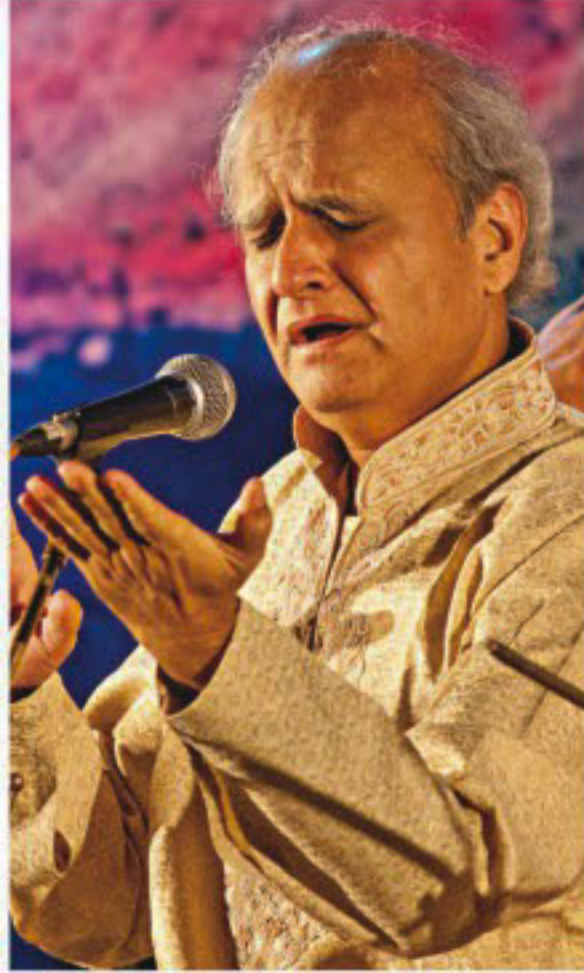
Source: Variety

IT'S TRUE!



Anushka Sharma always wished to be a world-famous model and never thought of becoming an actress. Anushka started her career as a model in Lakme Fashion Week and she was also chosen the finale model at the Spring Summer '07 Collection. Later, she signed a contract with Yash Raj Films to act in three movies, and amazingly the debut film was opposite her idol Shahrukh Khan.

Mayar Madhuri to be held today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 60th birthday of Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar, an eminent classical vocalist and the Principal of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay (BPS), Bengal Foundation is holding a classical music recital titled Mayar Madhuri at 6pm today at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) Complex auditorium, Krishi Khamar Road, Farmgate in Dhaka. Bangladeshi artiste Priyanka Gope will perform khayal while Pandit Uday Bhawalkar, a guru of BPS, will present dhrupad sangeet at the event. Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar will also perform khayal at the soiree with tabla accompaniment by Pandit Suresh Talwalkar.

Celebrating a playwright
Theatre personalities come together for Momtazuddin Ahmed's birthday



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Momtazuddin Ahmed, a luminary in the field of theatre and literature, turned 80 on January 18. To mark his birthday, noted theatre and cultural personalities gathered at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shikpakala Academy on Sunday evening and paid tribute to the playwright. Momtazuddin Ahmed Jonmo-joyonti Udjapon Parishad arranged the programme. Eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq, noted theatre personalities Ramendu Majumdar, Aatur Rahman, Ferdousi Majumdar, Keramot Maola, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) president Golam Kuddus, Cultural Affairs Secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas, media personality Abed Khan were on the stage along with Momtazuddin Ahmed. Ramendu Majumdar presided over the programme, while former FBCCI president Anisul Haq emceed it.

As Momtazuddin Ahmed came on the stage, Afroza Banu, who used to be a regular

actress in Momtazuddin's plays, read the welcome address. Meanwhile Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor arrived at the scene to surprise the playwright. Then cultural organisations and theatre troupes came on the stage one by one and wished the playwright with bouquets.

Later, guests remembered their memories with Momtazuddin. Syed Shamsul Haq said, "Momtazuddin Ahmed is indispensable from stage. Theatre connects two lives of a person. Though he was born in Maldah, British India, his heart remains with Bangladesh."

Ferdousi Majumdar walked down the memory lane: "Sir calls me sister from the very beginning of our introduction. He used to say 'I'll write plays if sister agrees to act in it.' Sir is an upbeat man incredible sense of humour. He can take everything easily and make any situation lighter. I am indebted to him."

Aatur Rahman said, "He is the most senior playwright in the country. He initiated group theatre movement in Chittagong. Momtazuddin Ahmed is a teacher who can

teach complicated things very simply. I wish him good health so that he keeps enlightening the society."

Noted Nazrul sinegr Ferdous Ara then came up on stage and sang two songs: "Pothohara Pakhi" and "Ami Chirotoey Durey Chole Jabo" for Momtazuddin Ahmed. SSI Secratry Hasan Arif also recited a poem for him.

Professor Momtazuddin Ahmed is equally adept in writing, acting and directing. His vibrant career as a professor earned him honour, but it is theatre and his acting that elevated him to an echelon of excellence. In addition to novels, he has penned more than two dozen plays, and directed several of them. He has also appeared in many television plays and films. He is still with his theatre troupe Theatre (Baily Road).

As recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of theatre and literature, Professor Momtazuddin Ahmed received Bangla Academy Award in 1976 and Ekushey Padak in 1997.

FARAH RUMA hits the silver screen



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular face on the small screen Farah Ruma made her film debut with the box office hit "Putro Ekhn Paisawala", directed by Nargis Aktar. The film was released in theatres in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country on January 16.

In a recent conversation, the celebrated actress talked about her recent film and her future plans.

Tell us about your role in the movie.

Farah Ruma: I played the role of Romana, a young girl from an affluent family who fell in love with a bright university student. The story took an unexpected twist after they got married.

How did you engage with the famed filmmaker?

Farah Ruma: One day Nargis apa offered me a role in the film when I was out of Dhaka for a shoot. I didn't get the time to think twice and finally signed up for the movie.

What was it like to work with film legend Bobita?

Farah Ruma: It was fantastic as she is my favourite actress. She portrayed the role of my mother-in-law in the film. I got important tips from her and other artistes during the shoot. She is very serious about her work.

What is it like to make a film debut?

Farah Ruma: I'm really very happy appearing on celluloid as it is a major platform for an actress and gives you an instant connection with the audience.

Will you go to a theatre hall to watch your film?

Farah Ruma: I definitely plan to watch the film with its director.

Any new film projects?

Farah Ruma: Yes. I want to appear on celluloid regularly but it will entirely depend on a strong plot, an acclaimed director and a big budget.

Are you tense in front of the camera?

Farah Ruma: No, as I have worked as a TVC model, TV plays and now films. The only difference is that a film offers a bigger platform for an actress. Besides, I got over my nervousness long ago.

I learnt a lot from Bobita on the sets...

Tirjak to stage plays in West Bengal

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Chittagong's prominent theatre troupe Tirjak Natya Dal is going to organise a three-day theatre festival at Berhampore of West Bengal in India from January 23.

In observance of its 40th founding anniversary, Tirjak, in association with Ritwik -- a Berhampore-based theatre troupe, will organise the festival titled "Natoke Chattagram" (Chittagong in theatre) at Rabindra Sadek of Berhampore of West Bengal.

The festival will feature staging of three dramas by Tirjak, a seminar on drama, exhibition displaying Tirjak's activities, reunion of drama activists and a discussion with Tirjak Chief and theatre personality Ahmed Iqbal Haider.

On the first day of the festival, Tirjak will stage Rabindranath Tagore's esteemed play "Roktokorobi" on January 23 while Sophocles' play "Oedipus" and Tagore's "Bisarjan" would be staged on January 24 and 25 respectively. All the plays have been directed by Ahmed Iqbal Haider.

Four theatre personalities -- Chhanda Chatterjee, Ashok Mukhopadhyaya, Shaktinath Bhattacharya and Pradip Bhattacharya -- will be accorded receptions in the festival.

Bulletins and souvenir would also be published on the occasion.

As part of the yearlong programmes to celebrate its 40th founding anniversary, Tirjak has a plan to organise four festivals.

Since its inception, Tirjak has staged 2,501 shows of 43 plays at home and abroad.



Chaos and Order at Dhaka Art Centre



Jasna poses with a print of her photograph.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solo photography exhibition by French-Bengali photographer Jasna Boudard is currently on at the Dhaka Art Centre in the capital. The exhibit, "Chaos and Order" began on January 13.

After a lovely journey through Europe and Americas, the photographer has returned to Bangladesh in search of its beauty. Her works in "Chaos and Order" features the idyllic beauty of this land, along with the depiction of life from the perspective of a globetrotter.

Jasna, through her photos, has depicted a world where man and man-made objects live in harmony with nature. In her photos, there is a place where the East meets the West, the mundane meets the fantastic, and chaos meets order.

Her extended travels and unusual encounters reveal the layers between the established norms. And "Chaos and Order" explores different themes that deal with both separation and harmony.

Jasna, a photographer, artist and model grew up in different parts of the world which shaped her perception and vision. Several exhibitions in America, Europe and Asia have featured her works.

"Chaos and Order" closes on January 21.



PHOTO: STAR

The National Conference 2015 of Kendriyo Khelaghor Ashor was held at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shikpakala Academy on January 16 and 17. The two-day event was inaugurated on Friday morning by the chief guest President Abdul Hamid, while Finance Minister AMA Muhit was present at the closing ceremony. The event featured a discussion, rally and cultural programme.

"30 Taka Litre", a performance depicting the struggles of residents of Sunderbans, following the recent oil spill on the Shela river, was held at the Chhobi'r Haat in the capital on Saturday. The performance was part of the two-day Ah! Sunderban exhibition organised by a group of visual artists, activists and conservationists -- bringing together works of creative arts surrounding the incident that has raised an alarm globally on the long-term effects on the world's largest mangrove forest.



PHOTO COURTESY: KAISAR AHAMED