

WHAT'S ON

Chobi Mela VIII
Organiser: Pathohala and Drik
Venue: Different locations in Dhaka
Date: Jan 23-Feb 5
Time: 10-6pm

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

1st National Dance-Drama Festival
Organiser: BSA
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Jan 27-31
Time: 6:00pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Jamal Ahmed
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, Al Heights, Cha 72/10, Progoti Shorani, Udar Badda
Date: Jan 9-31
Time: 10am-6pm (Closed on Monday)

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Tarshito: Embrace the World
Artist: Nicola Scipioni Tarshito
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 16-30
Time: 12-8pm

8th International Children's Film Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Children's Film Society
Venue: Central Public Library BINA, BSA
Date: January 24-30, Time: 10-6pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: The Colours of Life
Artist: Indira Khatun Kabir
Venue: home a décor, Cha-90 Btl Premier Plaza, Papatia Shorani
Date: January 31, Time: 5pm



PHOTO: STAR

All eyes on Ekushey Book Fair

Publishers and binders put up finishing touches

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

The month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair will begin on the first day of February. Ahead of the largest book fair in the country, publishers, organisers and authors are busy with last minute preparations for the literary extravaganza. As last year, this year's fair will take place simultaneously at the historical Bangla Academy premises and Suhrawardy Udyan, the newly-extended venue.

Workers at publishing and binding houses are toiling night and day to finish printing and binding books. Banglabazar, the largest hub of publishers and printers, is now rejuvenated with the smell of new books which will soon spread across Bangla Academy and adjacent areas.

All the new books, which will adorn the fair from Sunday, are now lying piled at the printing press, while press workers are now printing books which will keep hitting the fair throughout the month. Proprietor of Moutita Printers, Tapan Saha said, "The preparation begins from December, and reaches its peak in January. Though books keep coming every day, January is the busiest month for us."

Meanwhile, workers at Bikolpo Binders are doing their best to complete orders. Unfinished books are stacked at the floor where workers are putting finishing touches on the books. Samsul, a worker at Bikalpo, said that they had been working 24/7 hours in two shifts to meet the huge demand.

On another front at the fair venue, stalls are being set up. Hundreds of people are working to make pavilions and stalls of different sizes and colours which will house books. Publishers are overseeing the ongoing work at both Banglabazar and the fair ground.

Publishers said that this year the fair will host 10 pavilions, and 11 specified corners. The main stalls will be set up at the Suwardy Udyan, while Bangla Academy premises will host over 100 stalls of different government, semi-government, and autonomous organisations. So far, 475 stall units have been allocated for 284 publications. One unit costs 12,000 taka this year.

Like previous years, a special corner for children and teens will be set up in front of Nazrul Mancha, while the venue for cultural programmes remains the same.

The fair has assumed larger proportions this time with a four-day international literary conference slotted for eight. Poets, literateurs and linguists from six countries will participate in the conference.

Writers and publishers hope that the conference will add a new dimension to the fair.

"Charm of the Silk Road"

Chinese opera troupe set to perform in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China and celebration of the Chinese New Year, Bangladesh-China Friendship Center in association with Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) will hold three shows of a cultural programme titled "Dunhuang Melody: Charm of the Silk Road by Gansu Opera House of China".

A press conference was held yesterday in this regard at the National Theatre Seminar Hall of BSA. Chen Shuang, Cultural Counselor, Chinese Embassy in Dhaka; Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; M. Delwar Hossain, President, Bangladesh-China Friendship Center and H M Jahangir Alam Rana, General Secretary, Bangladesh-China Friendship Center were present at the press conference.

The Chinese cultural team will arrive in Dhaka on January 31. Their first performance will be held at 6pm at National Theatre Hall of BSA on February 2 while their second performance will be held at 6:30pm at the same venue on February 3 and is open to all.

The troupe's third performance is scheduled to be held on February 4 at 7pm at Bangladesh Army Stadium, Dhaka only for the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces and family.

The cultural performance will include a number of dance items, songs, a magic show, songs and solo instrumental tracks.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

A FOLKSY NIGHT at the Sufi Fest Dhaka

SAURAV DEY

The Army Museum ground was reverberating with music and beaming with lights as the performances of second night began at the Sufi Fest 2015. It was Bangladeshi band Shikor, comprising Rob Fakir, Shafi Mondal and Beby Dewan, who opened the show with an instrumental of Lalon's "Milon Hobey Koto Diney".

Then Rob Fakir rendered "Saddho Kirey Amar Sherup Chintiney" followed by Baby Dewan's "Tora Ke Jabi Babar Dorbar-e". They continued to present Lalon songs one by one taking the audience on a ride through mysticism.

Aside from songs, Shafi Mondal gave brief lectures on their songs and essence of Sufism. He then presented the

beautiful track "Ami Mon Mondirey Puja Debo" that preaches a universal religion. They closed their presentation with the choral rendition of "Anonder Bajarey".

Then Arko Mukherjee came on the stage. The Kolkata-based singer enthralled the crowd with his soulful, striking renditions of mystic songs. Arko introduced the audience with Sufism and his music. His accompanist Satyoki Banerjee, multitalented instrumentalist, was no less on the backing vocals. Arko began with "Oi Moha Shindhur O paar Theke", a DI. Roy song. Satyoki and Arko excelled with the number "Jab Ud Jayega Dard Ka Daman". Arko then rendered Abdul Alim's "Duarey Aishache Palki" followed by a French song and "Khaja Baba" as a tribute to Nizamuddin Awliya.

Later, Egyptian Sufi music troupe Mawlawyah came on



Shafi Mondal in his element.

the stage to mesmerize the audience with their music and Sufi-style whirling dances. Their use of Middle-Eastern folk instruments added a new dimension to the ambience.

Noted Indian Ghazal singer Munawwar Masoom concluded the show. He opened his performance with "Mawla Ali", set on Raga Yaman, and presented a number of Ghazal and Sufi songs.

The festival closed last night with performances by Caurob (Bangladesh), Serenas (Denmark), Zik'R (Spain) and the show-stopper, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan (Pakistan).

NEWS bytes

Ghostbusters female line-up confirmed

"Bridesmaids" co-stars Kristen Wiig and Melissa McCarthy are set to reunite in the all-female "Ghostbusters" sequel, director Paul Feig has confirmed. Saturday Night Live comedienne Leslie Jones and Kate McKinnon will join them in the film, Feig announced on Twitter. He went on to confirm it would be released on July 22, 2016.

Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis and Ernie Hudson played the ghost-hunting quartet in the 1984 original.

Directed by Ivan Reitman, the film made almost \$300m at the global box office. A sequel, "Ghostbusters II", followed five years later.



IT'S TRUE!

American animated sitcom "The Simpsons" is the longest-running American sitcom, the longest-running American animated program, and the longest-running American primetime, scripted television series since its debut on December 17, 1989. "The Simpsons" is widely considered to be one of the greatest television series of all time: Time magazine's December 31, 1999, issue named it the 20th century's best television series. It has won dozens of awards including 27 Primetime Emmy Awards, 30 Annie Awards and a Peabody Award, while Homer's -- a central character -- exclamatory catchphrase "D'oh!" has been adopted into the English language.



Dance-drama festival continues

A CORRESPONDENT

Directed by Enamul Haque, Gowhar Jamil and Abul Kashem, artistes of Nriyashilpi Sangstha, Khulna; Jago Art Centre and Jhankar performed in three dance dramas -- "Rongila Nayer Majhi", "Samanno Khoti" and "Gunai Bibi" on the second day (January 28) of the first National Dance Drama Festival. Jointly organised by Bangladesh Nriyashilpi Sangstha and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), the festival, featuring performances of three dance drama every day, is being held at National Theatre Hall of BSA.

Today's performances will begin with "Bhanushigher Podaboli" directed by Samina Hossain Prema. It is inspired from Rabindranath Tagore's book of Padavali poems, which will convey the love story of Krishna and Radha. Following that will be "Battle of Bangladesh" based on the Liberation War. The production will showcase efforts of Bengali people to reach the goal of freedom -- via a fusion of dance forms like Bharatanatyam, folk, ballet and others.

The last piece of the night has the directorial touch of Ladli Mohan Mitra, named "Firaye Anibo Tarey", also inspired from Rabindranath Tagore's poem "Debotar Crash".



A scene from "Samanno Khoti".

PHOTO: STAR

Taylor Swift trademarks "1989" phrases

If you want to "Party Like It's 1989" to "This Sick Beat", you better ask Taylor Swift's permission first. The pop star has trademarked those phrases -- along with "Cause We Never Go Out of Style", "Could Show You Incredible Things" and "Nice to Meet You, Where You Been?" -- with the US government, according to the legal database Justia.

The filings prohibit the use of those phrases, which all came from her 2014 album "1989", from appearing with a license on everything from guitar straps and other accessories to removable tattoos. Some of the more obscure -- and likely obligatory -- items covered by her trademarks include typewriters, walking sticks, non-medicated toilettes, Christmas stockings, "knitting implements", pot holders, lanyards, aprons, whalebone, napkin holders and the particularly ominous collection of "whips, harness and saddle".

In other Swift news, the singer's Twitter and Instagram accounts were recently hacked, with multiple posts attempting to convince her 51 million



followers to follow other Twitter users. The social media service quickly deleted the fake tweets and Swift referenced her own "Shake It Off" with the joke, "Hackers gonna hack hack hack hack".

The singer expressed her concerns of privacy and security last year in her Rolling Stone cover story. When the magazine asked her who she thought might be spying on her, she said it could be anyone. "The janitor who's being paid by TMZ," she said. "This is gonna sound like I'm a crazy person -- but we don't even know. I have to stop myself from thinking about how many aspects of technology I don't understand."

Source: Yahoo! Music

Riaz and Nova in "Pushpo... Tomar Opekkhay"

A CORRESPONDENT

Riaz and Nova Firoz will make their first appearance as an on-screen couple in single episode drama "Pushpo... Tomar Opekkhay". The play, written and directed by Raihan Khan, features them as a romantic duo who will face ordeals in their relationship. The play will air on Valentine's Day on a private TV channel.



RAPID FIRE ... Moushumi Hamid

Former Lux Superstar Moushumi Hamid is a household name on the small screen. While acting in TV plays, she has ventured into cinema as well.

The talented actress faced some quick questions from The Daily Star.

How do you feel when you're not facing the camera for some days?
Moushumi: I feel bored.

What comes next to love?
Moushumi: Pain and sorrow.

Are you scared of supernatural forces?
Moushumi: That was when I was more into fairytales... If you could get Aladdin's magic lamp, what would you do?
Moushumi: I would end traffic jam and clean the city up.

What would you do if you found your wallet was missing, when the bill arrived to you at a fancy restaurant?
Moushumi: Ask my friend to pay the bill with a toothy smile.

Any crazy experience on the sets?
Moushumi: Yes. A few days ago, I went to Shitakundo for a shoot and suddenly everyone started screaming at the top of their voice because a bomb had been hurled at our vehicle. Luckily we survived the attack.

What do you always keep with you?
Moushumi: My cellphone.

If you were sent into exile, what would you do?
Moushumi: Start weeping.



BTB's popular variety show "Ittyadi" showcases the country's culture, history and heritage. As the longest-running TV series in Bangladesh, the programme has always looked for new, innovative ways to entertain people, while also upholding their social responsibilities. This episode of the show was shot at Khagrachari. The programme planned, written and directed by Hanif Sanket will go on air after 8pm news on January 30.



The music of Roy gains momentum

"Roy", featuring Ranbir Kapoor, Arjun Rampal and Jacqueline Fernandez, had drawn attention thanks to its interesting cast right from the beginning. The trailer of the T-Series film was well-received. Now, the music too is adding to the anticipation around the Vikramjit Singh-directed thriller.

After being launched digitally on January 11, the songs have gone on to make their presence felt across television channels, radio and digital platforms. "Sooraj Dooba Hain", composed by Amaal Mallik and sung by Arjit Singh and Aditi Singh Sharma, is a fast-paced number and has become the party anthem for the youth. Meanwhile, "Tu Hai Ki Nahin" is a melancholic ballad picturised on Ranbir. It has been composed and sung by Ankit Tiwari. Adding to the diversity of the album is Jacqueline's dance number "Chittiyaan Kalaiyaan". Not surprisingly, all the three songs have been steadily climbing the charts.

"Boond Boond" and "Yaara Re", composed by Ankit, were recently released. While the former is a sensuous track that displays Arjun and Jacqueline's romance, KK brings out the pain of heartbreak in "Yaara". Producer Bhusan Kumar said "We were bullish about the music from day one because we knew we had a good album in hand. I'm happy that our conviction has paid off."

Roy produced by Divya Khosla Kumar, Bhusan Kumar and Krishan Kumar, releases February 13.



Actors are like missionaries

... Azad Abul Kalam

A CORRESPONDENT

Azad Abul Kalam, is not merely a popular actor but also a writer and director. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, he talked about if the next generation should make a full time career of stage acting.

In Azad's words: "Struggle had become the norm and in Bangladesh it is rather difficult for a person to make a permanent career of stage acting. Here, the actors and actresses are like missionaries who come for a certain task and leave, after having preached a certain message. It is rare for a person to last long in this profession. Only those very passionate about their careers can reach a certain level and gain respect. Having said that, it would be sheer stupidity to be focused on stage performances. Working as a stage performer in Bangladesh cannot be one's bread and butter."

"However, an actor should thoroughly enjoy his work. It should be kept in mind that contemporary theatre is likely to have the greatest appeal for future generations. A person interested in theatre should believe in themselves. Only then can they do better, thus attaining respect and position in our society."



"Filmmaking is my passion and music my addiction"

... Saiful Islam Jarnal

A CORRESPONDENT

Saiful Islam Jarnal wears many hats: he is the designated percussionist of the urban folk band Joler Gaan, a distinguished theatre activist, musician and film-maker, model and actor. The versatile artiste spoke to The Daily Star about his busy career, musical skills and his innings as an actor. Excerpts:

How do you juggle filmmaking and music?
Jarnal: Filmmaking is my passion, and music my addiction. So I try to compartmentalise the two. When I work on a music album, I do not try to take on anything else. Whenever I work on theatre, modeling or acting projects, I try to give my best in that.

What have you been busy with lately?
Jarnal: We are working on our new, yet untitled album. We are composing our songs and will start recording may be after next month. Of late I have been busy with theatre. A new Prachyanat production, "Tragedy Polashbari", is directed by Azad Abul Kalam. I am involved in the video documentary and direction segment. Besides theatre, I am also working with a project to do puppet shows for underprivileged street children. We will try to be on the go from January and devote at least a week to them.

How do you create your songs?
Jarnal: Each song is a narrative. We try to simplify our lyrics. When we write the lyrics, we first imagine the song and then try to picture that scene. We try to write songs from our own experiences, which the audience can relate to.

What are your plans as a filmmaker?
Jarnal: I used to make films in an easy format, because whatever we have around us we try to utilise to make our films. I want to do more short films with different concepts; not the usual adaptations of Tamil or Indian films. I intend to do creative work. I hope the audience will appreciate my work.