

<p>WHAT'S ON</p>	<p>Nazrul Festival Organiser: Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy Date: June 10 Time: 6:30pm</p> 	<p>Banshi-te Rabindra Nazrul Organiser: Government Music College Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA Date: June 14; Time: 6:30pm</p> 	<p>Album Lunch Album: Phirtey Chahe Na Ankhi Artist: Milla Ali Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, The Daily Star Centre Date: June 12 Time: 5pm</p> 	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Remixing Illusion Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2 Date: June 1-15 Time: 11am-7pm</p> 	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Wings of Imagination Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi Date: 5-15 June Time: Monday-Thursday 3-9pm Friday and Saturday 9-12am and 5-8pm</p> 
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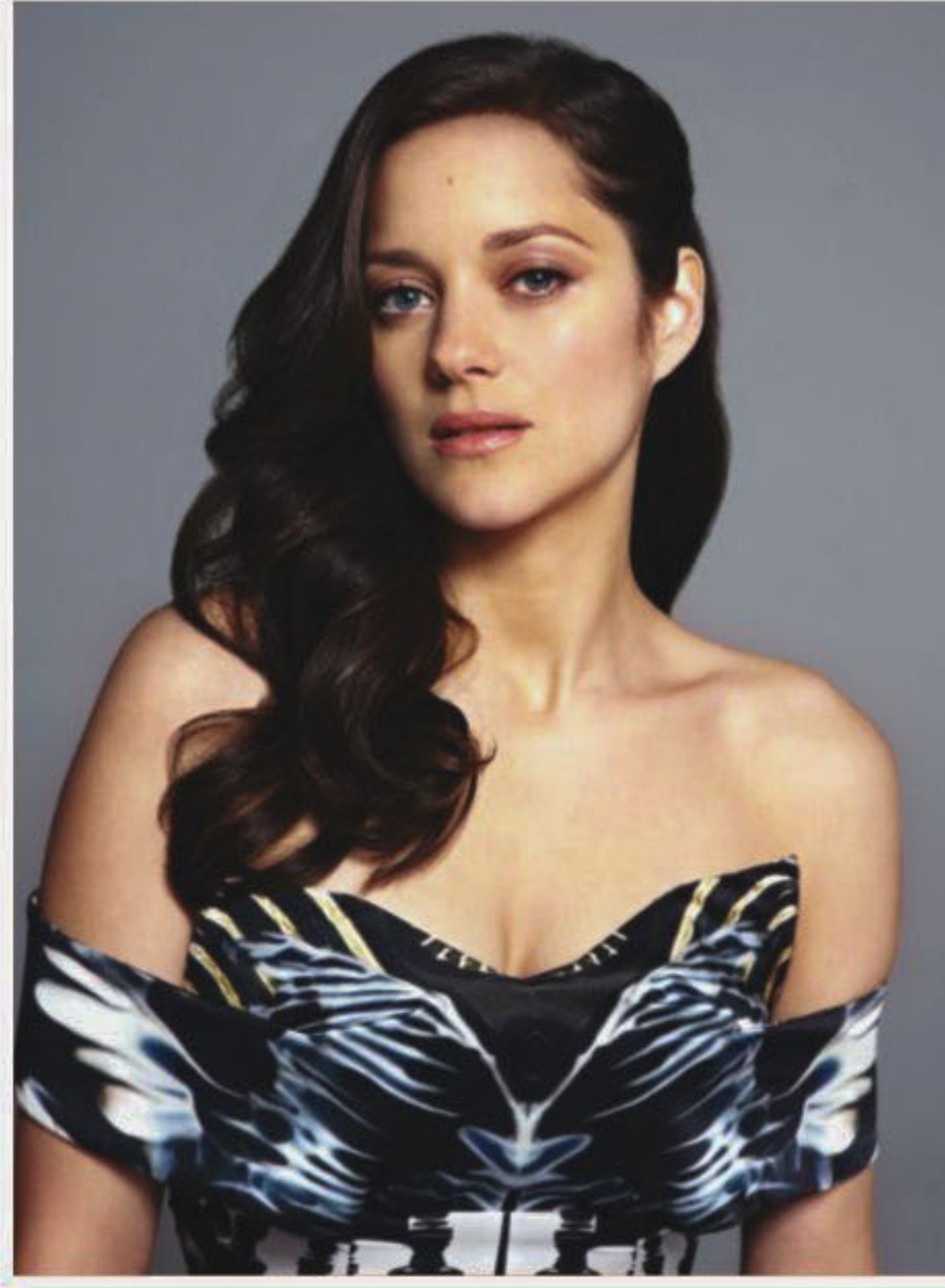
PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

NEWS bytes

Marion Cotillard joins Brad Pitt in Robert Zemeckis' Spy Thriller

Marion Cotillard is in negotiations to co-star with Brad Pitt in Paramount, New Regency and Graham King's untitled period spy thriller. Robert Zemeckis is directing the pic from a script by Steven Knight. King, who first developed the project and brought it to Pitt, will produce alongside Zemeckis and Steve Starkey. The pairing of Pitt and Cotillard was almost not meant to be as the shoot date for this movie did not initially work with Cotillard's schedule. She will next shoot the action film "Assassin's Creed" with Michael Fassbender. Production for "Assassin's Creed" begins at the end of the summer and would have overlapped with the Pitt film, which was originally intended to shoot in the fall. The production moved to the first quarter of 2016, allowing Cotillard to join Pitt in the film.

Source: **Deadline**



"Calling Bell" on Desh TV

Drama serial "Calling Bell" goes on air on Desh TV from every Sunday to Thursday at 9:45pm. Written and directed by Imraul Rafat, the plot encircles the everyday lives of Afsar Amin and his family members. Everyone is busy in the present times and are hardly concerned about others; they are disconnected and self-centered. The serial sheds lights on the happiness and sorrows of some city dwellers. Abdullah Rana, Sanjida Preeti, Sajju Khadem, Mishu Sabbir, Allen Shubhro, Airin Afroze, Tanjika Amin and others are in the cast.



BAFA celebrates Diamond Jubilee today Academy which sprinkled culture with stars . . .

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) is a pioneering cultural school and organisation located at 7, Waizghat, Dhaka. Though there are controversies surrounding the permanent address of BAFA, the 200-year-old venue has a rich history as it was built during the reign of Nawab Sir Salimullah. Whatever may be the outcome of the present debate, there is little doubt that the renowned cultural organisation has promoted a number of noted artistes and luminaries who are now an integral part of the country's cultural scene.

Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts was named after pioneer dancer, painter and versatile genius Bulbul Chowdhury. On May 17, 1954, at the age of 35, Chowdhury died in Calcutta (now Kolkata). After his death, his wife Afroza Bulbul founded the Bulbul Institute of Culture in Karachi and the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) in Dhaka on the first death anniversary of the legend.

The reputed cultural school is celebrating its diamond jubilee today (June 10) with a grand programme at Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad auditorium of Bangla Academy at 3:30pm. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will be present as chief guest while advocate Kazi



(Clockwise from top left); The magnificent architecture of BAFA building in Waizghat; children in a music class, and students take painting lessons from instructors.

Firoz Rashid, eminent writer-researcher, folklorist and DG of Bangla Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan and acting editor of daily Ittefaq Tasmima Hossain will be present as special guests.

To join the celebrations, dancer-writer Nargis Bulbul Chowdhury (Bulbul Chowdhury's daughter) has already arrived in Dhaka from London. Ajit Sanyal, BAFA's founding dance guru and a close associate of Bulbul Chowdhury, has also winged his way from Kolkata to join the programme in Dhaka. Apart from discussions and reminis-

cences, the teachers, students and alumni of BAFA will take part in a cultural programme featuring solo and choral performance of songs, dances and musical orchestration. Hasanur Rahman Bachchu, President of BAFA, who was honoured with "Guitar Guru Award" at the India International Guitar Conference, held on January 7-11, 2015, will play Hawaiian guitar at the show. Directed by Sohel Rahman, artistes of BAFA will stage the Tagore dance-drama "Mayar Khela" at the event. A reunion of BAFA alumni is also on the cards for

8:30am on June 12.

To mark the diamond jubilee, a souvenir has been brought. Eminent artiste and cultural personality Dr. Sanjida Khatun notes that BAFA as a cultural school helped Chhayanaut's establishment by arranging cultural programmes, according to Hasanur Rahman Bachchu, the current president of BAFA.

"It is our logical demand to the government that it leases the land and residence of BAFA for a long time so that we can start our journey with new vigour and restore the lost pride and heritage of BAFA, something it badly requires. We want the removal of any confusion regarding fake organisations which are using our organisation's name," said Hasanur Rahman Bachchu.

Rashid Ahmed Chowdhury, popularly known as Bulbul Chowdhury, was a Bengali dancer of British India, and later East Pakistan. He is regarded as a pioneer of modern dance in Bangladesh. Born in Chittagong, Chowdhury earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Scottish Church College in 1938, and Master of Arts from the University of Calcutta in 1943. In 1953, Chowdhury with his troupe visited Europe. He was declared as the National Dancer of Pakistan in 1949. Chowdhury was married to Afroza Bulbul Chowdhury, a dancer and actress.

IT'S TRUE!



Game of Thrones is one of the most expensive shows in the history of television. It costs three times as much to make an episode of GoT as it does to make an episode of The Big Bang Theory. Some GoT episodes cost even more than \$6 million to make. That's partly because it's filmed on three continents and in six countries. To date, producers have traveled to the United States, Croatia, Morocco, Malta, Iceland and Northern Ireland for filming, with locations often overlapping in order to meet deadlines. It is also the most pirated television show ever with BitTorrent saying that the 2013 season finale of Game of Thrones was downloaded via their site 5.9 million times.

Shomi-Mahfuz on screen after 11 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shomi Kaiser and Mahfuz Ahmed, two of the most popular television stars of the 1990s, are reuniting after 11 years for single episode TV play "Onumoti Prarthona". Written and directed by Chayanika Chowdhury, shooting for the play wrapped up recently in Nilgiri and some other locations in Bandarban.

"Though the play was scheduled to be shot in Nepal, we had to change the location due to the devastating tremor," said Chayanika.

About the play she also said, "Shomi took some time when I gave the script to her. But when she read the script, she called me and said that she was surprised to see such a good script."

"When the shoot began I was happy to see Shomi working very hard. She rehearsed every night after the shooting packed up and woke up very early to shoot a scene of sunrise," Chayanika added.

About her return to screen Shomi Kaiser said, "I found such a good script after a long time. I hope the audience will get to see a



really good play."

Meanwhile, Mahfuz said, "I am elated to work with Shomi after a decade. The audience will appreciate our work."

Shomi plays Ria in "Onumoti Prarthona" alongside Opu, portrayed by Mahfuz Ahmed. It also casts Anisur Rahman Milon, new-

comer Maya and Shafiul Azam Pintu among others.

The play encircles a romantic relationship where a man meets his wife after five years, and then the story takes a new turn.

"Onumoti Prarthona" will air on ntv during Eid.



"I can quit films and lead a family life" ... Deepika Padukone

She may be the Bollywood's leading diva right now and a champion of women rights in her own way but Deepika Padukone has recently said she can easily give all of it up to get married and have kids.

The actor, who is riding high on the success of her latest film, Piku, said in an interview to DNA, "I can quit acting and lead a domesticated, happy family life away from the limelight. For me, nothing is more important than the relevance of family in our lives. It really completes me as a person."

The 29-year-old star also said, "I don't know when that's going to happen, but I hope that when it does, I do it gracefully. That's the only advice my parents have given me and I'd want to stick to that."

Source: **Hindustan Times**

Sajal-Sonya's "Canvas of Love"

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actor Sajal will be seen alongside Sonya Hossain in a single-episode television play titled "Canvas of Love". Written and directed by SK Shakil, shooting for the play wrapped up recently at Priyanka shooting house in the capital's

New Eskaton.

Sonya said, "I have been working with Sajal since the beginning of my acting career. I believe the audience will appreciate this play the way they appreciated our previous works."

The play will air on a satellite channel during Eid.

