

WHAT'S ON

Musical Soiree
Praner Khela
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Gallery
Date: July 28; Time: 6:30pm

Chhau and Contemporary Dance
Organiser: Nityajog
Venue: Music & Dance Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 28; Time: 7pm

Film Show
New Films, New Makers
Organiser: Moviya Film Society
Venue: Art Gallery Plaza, Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 31; Time: 3:30pm

Concert
Charm of Korea VII
Organiser: Korean Embassy
Venue: International Convention City, Bashundhara
Date: July 30; Time: 7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Colliding Collages
Artist: Harun-ar Rashid Tutul
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: July 27-August 5
Time: 3pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

Rachel McAdams confirms Doctor Strange talks



It's been rumored for the last few weeks that Rachel McAdams is up for a role in Scott Derrickson's upcoming "Doctor Strange" movie, and now she has confirmed herself that those talks are real. Speaking with the Los Angeles Times about the speculation regarding her potential place in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, McAdams said "It's still super-early days, and I don't know where that's gonna go - if it's gonna go anywhere at all."

Those who follow the franchise closely know that taking a job in the Marvel Cinematic Universe isn't a simple deal. The studio is very likely trying to work out a multi-picture deal that will allow her to star not only in any potential direct sequels to "Doctor Strange", but also any other Marvel films in which the character could potentially appear. One can imagine this is an involved and complex process, making sure McAdams will be available for shooting scenes in multiple movies over the next several years - along with paying her whatever she's looking for to do it all. Doctor Strange is set for a fall 2016 release date.

Source: **Cinemablend**

IT'S TRUE!



American rapper and musician Joseph Edgar Foreman, better known by his stage name **Afroman**, began his career in eighth grade, when he began recording home-made songs and selling them to his classmates. The first tape he made was about my eighth-grade teacher, who got him kicked out of school for 'sagging' his pants. He sold about 400 copies -- to teachers, students, and just about everybody. He recalled later: "I realised that, even though I wasn't at school, my song was at school, so in a way I was still there. All these people would come by my house just to give me comments about how cool they thought the song was."

THE VOICE OF THE DEPRIVED Remembering Ahmed Sofa

A CORRESPONDENT

"I come from a family of farmers. It is very hard to overlook this fact. I do not want to exaggerate anything. My forefathers had been directly involved with agriculture. I feel proud to be a part of them. I want poor farmers and labourers to eat rice and sing in a jovial mood," said Ahmed Sofa, in an interview in a book "Ahmed Sofar Samay", written by Nasir Ali Mamun.

One of the most prolific writers of Bangladesh, Ahmed Sofa was born in 1943 at Gaachbaria in Chittagong. Among the contemporary fiction writers in Bangladesh, Sofa ranked first for his thought-provoking and contemplative writings. Most of his writings are vital and pensive, with messages about the the social, political and economic milieu. He wrote novels, stories, essays, poems, translations, songs and critical writing. Sofa was outspoken but bold in expressing the truth. He hardly practised religion but his religious belief was unquestionable.

Today marks the luminary's 14th death anniversary. He passed away on this day in 2001, at the age of 58.

Sofa was very closely associated with



noted painter SM Sultan. Both were bohemians, bachelors and had no interest in fame, money or other earthly elements. "We could not find such a personality in the last 100 years. His themes

were all-encompassing. He is the icon of Bengal. He is the greatest painter of the soil. He is also a philosopher. Nobody has come forward to explore him truly. We need Sultan because he was the son of a farmer. Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan are not presented in such way. They are gentlemen. They do not identify with peasants and workers," said Sofa in "Ahmed Sofar Samay".

Sofa's novels are usually in small volumes. All his novels draw the attention of the reader for their well-projected, familiar and lively characters. His works plunge deep into the suffering people and their miserable living conditions.

Sofa embarked on his career as a novelist with "Surjo Tumi Sathi". Published in 1967, the literary work received rave responses. Readers felt that after a long time they had found a writer who spoke their language.

Sofa wrote what he believed in. He disliked pretense, and his writing is devoid of exaggeration. His writings strongly voice the concerns of underprivileged people in our country. Writing was his passion. He led a very simple and ordinary life with little place for comfort and luxury. For a long time, he stayed in a single room with nothing else but a bed, chairs, table and bookshelves.

UJAN GANGER NAIYA on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Ujan Ganger Naiya" will air on ATN Bangla tonight at 8:40pm. Written jointly by Rofikul Islam Poltu and Shuvashish Sinha and directed by Bashar Georgis, the current episode aims at raising public awareness.

In this episode, Sajal takes Dipa to a hospital after an accident. Meanwhile Dipa's father notices Sajal's interaction with his daughter and becomes worried about her. Meanwhile, another girl Nuri informs her husband Ismail about her pregnancy.

The serial has been shot in Cox's Bazar. The serial casts Riaz, Farhana Mili, Titas Zia, Orchita Sporshia, Afroza Banu, Chompa, Tariq Anam Khan, Shotabdi Wadud and others.



"Artistic freedom is a prerequisite to great work" ...Allen Shubhro

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Popular theatre and television artiste Allen Shubhro Gomes' journey began simultaneously in Prachyanat Theatre School and the small screen. His first appearance on small screen was in "Iche Holo", a drama serial by Amitabh Reza. Later, he appeared in many single-episode plays and serials. As a promising theatre artiste, Allen believes in meticulous acting. In a recent conversation with Star Arts and Entertainment, the young talent spoke about his passion for theatre, artistic freedom and detachment, ongoing TV serials and dreams ahead.

"I fell in love with theatre troupe

Prachyanat when I watched their play 'Circus Circus' at Bailey Road. I gained admission to Prachyanat School of Acting and finished their six-month course. Then I joined the troupe, did background work and appeared in a couple of plays including, 'Circus Circus', 'Raja Ebong Onyanno', 'Koinnya' and 'Kinu Kaharer Thetar'," said Allen.

While talking about working on-stage and backstage, the actor said, "Backstage is more casual, while the stage is serious. When I step on stage, I get detached from all the worldly affairs and delve into the character I enact. Artistic freedom is a prerequisite to great work. One needs to think out of the box."

"I have learnt a great deal from my troupe, and that learning continues. The friendly

ambience is effective for proper theatre schooling. Because of my busy schedule on the small screen, I am currently less regular in the group, but I really miss it," says Allen.

Allen is now busy with TV serials, and is also hosting a social and educative radio programme on BBC. The targeted audience of the programme is teenagers.

Allen dreams of making it big on the silver screen. Fans of the artistes will soon see him in Animesh Aich's upcoming film "Bhoyongkor Sundor". "I love to play unusual characters which the audience is not familiar with. My aspiration is to follow my passion and get more involved with acting so that I can present something brilliant to the audience," concludes the actor.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Michael Jackson wanted to play Jar Jar Binks!

Michael Jackson, the "King of Pop", he nearly became the 'King of Acting Flops'. The singer reportedly told Star Wars mastermind George Lucas that he wanted to play the goofy Jar Jar Binks, one of the most despised characters in film history, in the franchise's 1999 blockbuster, "Episode I: The Phantom Menace". Ahmed Best, who voiced and provided motion capture for the Binks character, explained Jackson's interest in an interview with Vice.

"Me, Natalie Portman and George [Lucas]'s kids - we were at Wembley arena at Michael Jackson's concert," Best said. "We were taken backstage, and we met Michael. There was Michael and Lisa Marie [Presley]. George introduced me as 'Jar Jar', and I was like, 'That's kind of

weird.' Michael was like, 'Oh. OK.' I thought, 'What is going on? After Michael had driven off, we all go back up to a big after-party. I'm drinking



with George, and I said, 'Why did you introduce me as Jar Jar?' He said, 'Well, Michael wanted to do the part, but he wanted to do it in prosthetics and makeup like Thriller. George wanted to do it in CGI. My guess is ultimately Michael Jackson would have been bigger than the movie, and I don't think he wanted that."

The casting probably worked out better for Jackson in the long run: Jar Jar was panned by critics after "Phantom Menace" hit theaters, inspiring fan vitriol that hasn't dimmed 16 years later. Best told Vice that he's accepted the character's outcast status - and he understands why Jar Jar's importance diminished in the two subsequent Star Wars films, 2002's "Episode II: Attack of the Clones" and 2005's "Episode III: Revenge of the Sith". "At the end of the day, it is the movie business, and if the character doesn't work for the people who watch the movie, then the character doesn't work," he said. "I can't take that personally. It's up to the filmmaker to make sure that not only does the film work for the filmmaker but it also works for the audience. So, because he wasn't a fan favorite, I can understand why he was sacked back. Jar Jar's whole purpose was to bring light and levity. By the time for 'Revenge of the Sith', there was none."

Source: **Rolling Stone**

Musical tribute to Feroza Begum on Channel i



A CORRESPONDENT

Marking the birth anniversary of legendary Nazrul singer Feroza Begum, Channel i will air a special episode of its regular programme "Gaane Gaane Sokal Shuru" today at 7:30am. Noted singers Fatem Tuz Zohora and Sadya Afreen Mallick will pay tribute to Feroza Begum through songs. The programme will also feature a number of Feroza Begum's songs from the Channel i archive.

Hosted by Mousumi Barua, the programme is produced by Ananya Ruma, Mostafizur Rahman Nantu, Iftekhar Munim and Jamal Reza.

Bulbul Islam and Shreyashi Roy to perform at Praner Khela

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tagore songs conjure subtle feelings in listeners' minds. The bard's compositions on -- 'Prem' (Love), 'Prokriti' (Nature), 'Puja' (Devotion), 'Swadesh' (Patriotic) and 'Bichitra' (Diversity) -- continue to entertain Bangalees' eternal musical thirst.

Noted Rabindra Sangeet artiste Bulbul Islam along with Shreyashi Roy will perform at a musical programme titled 'Praner Khela' at Bengal



Shilpalaya in Dhanmondi at 6:30pm on July 28. Bengal Foundation has organised the programme to pay homage to Tagore.

Bulbul Islam has carved a niche in Rabindra Sangeet through his artistic devotion and melodious voice. Shreyashi Roy, daughter of legendary Tagore singer Ajit Roy, has attained Tagore enthusiasts' accolades through her distinctive rendition style. The singer duo will perform a diverse genre of Tagore songs at the soiree.

"Phantom": Saif, Katrina take revenge for 26/11



After the release of the first look of "Phantom", the makers have now launched the trailer of Kabir Khan's film, starring Saif Ali Khan and Katrina Kaif in lead roles.

Set against the backdrop of the horrific 26/11 terrorist attacks that shook Mumbai to its very core, "Phantom" tells the tale of a young agent who goes to prison undercover, gathering all kinds of information to prepare him for his attack against those responsible for mercilessly taking away so many innocent lives.

Seen in an action role, Saif Ali Khan looks intense as he appears grim-faced and determined, courageously seeking out the bad guys amidst high speed chases and flying bullets. Katrina Kaif, who is sharing screen space with Saif for the second time, is also part of quite a few action scenes.

Based on S Hussain Zaidi's recent novel "Mumbai Avengers", "Phantom" has been shot in Lebanon, Syria, The UK, Canada and India, and is slated to hit theatres on August 28.

Source: **Indian Express**