


WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2016
 Organiser: Bangla Academy
 Venue: Bangla Academy premises & Suhrawardi Udyan
 Date: February 1-29
 Time: 3-8pm & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)



Solo Art Exhibition
 Censored Image
 Artist: Wakilur Rahman
 Venue: Kalakendra
 Date: Feb 3-23
 Time: 12-8pm



Solo Watercolour Exhibition
 Title: Koto Ojanare
 Artist: Saeeda Kamal
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: Feb 6-18; Time: 9am-8pm



Duet Art Exhibition
 Title: Fragments of the Anthropocene
 Artists: Zihan Karim & Shimul Saha
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan-1
 Date: Jan 30-Feb 27; Time: 12-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Unknown Spirit
 Artist: Esperanza Romero (Spain)
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115, Lane-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
 Date: February 20-29
 Time: 12-8pm



NEWS bytes

'Deadpool' makes history at BO

Ryan Reynolds' superhero movie 'Deadpool' is obliterating numerous records over the weekend, while it opens to a resounding \$132.1 million overseas for a global bow of \$282.1 million; 'Zoolander 2' stumbles.

In a sea change for Hollywood's go-to genre — comic book adaptations — the R-rated and irreverent 'Deadpool' grossed a record-breaking \$132.7 million over the weekend, one of the best showings of all time for a superhero movie and shattering all expectations.

The Marvel-branded film is an enormous victory for Fox and Reynolds, who spent more than a decade convincing the studio to let him make the X-Men spinoff his way. Fox finally said yes but kept the budget at a relatively modest \$58 million. Every other studio superhero movie in recent times has been rated PG-13 and cost much more; but 'Deadpool' altered the game.

It also catapults Reynolds to major stardom, much as 'Iron Man' reinvigorated Robert Downey Jr.'s career.



Source: THR



Shadhona dancers perform at the dance drama.

INT'L DANCE FESTIVAL

Shadhona adds a touch of Manipuri dance

A CORRESPONDENT

One of Bangladesh's leading dance companies, Shadhona, has been invited to present a Manipuri dance drama at India's most prestigious International Dance Festival held every year at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. Shadhona will be presenting 'Radharani'r Oshtoprohor', based on Bangla Vaisnava Padavali kirtans sung during the Nata-palas of the Manipuris of Bangladesh.

'Radharani'r Oshtoprohor' exemplifies the tradition of expressing devotion or 'bhakti' through continuous chanting and performance of devotional songs and dances. 'Prohor', 'prahar' in Sanskrit, is a unit of time. Each day is made of

eight 'prahars'. Among the diverse types of Sankirtan ceremonies, the Nata-Pala is the most complex, involving male drum and cymbal dancers. The Nata-Pala is performed throughout the year at important festivals and at significant "rites-of-passage" in an individual's life. It also serves as a common prologue to the performance of the Rasa-Lila. The 'nata-pala' of Manipuris of Bangladesh is sung in Bangla. This particular 'nata-pala' depicts Sri Radha's unremitting devotion towards her divine Lord, Krishna.

This production came out of Sweetie Das Chowdhury's work within Shadhona's 'Dhruvel' project to teach Manipuri Dance and

Pung to the Manipuris of Bangladesh. Sweetie is a disciple of Smt. Kalavati Devi, wife of Guru Bipin Singh. She is presently based in Bangladesh for marital reasons. The songs are sung by 'rash-dhari' artistes of the Manipuri community in Bangladesh.

Shadhona will be staging this production in Dhaka tonight, (February 17) at 6:30 pm at the Chhayana Cultural Centre, before the 16 member dance troupes leaves for Khajuraho on February 19. Shadhona's Artistic Director is leading the team. She is also presenting an academic paper on dance practices in Bangladesh at the Seminar organised within the Khajuraho Festival.

Homage to Humayun Ahmed

Nasir Ali Mamun's "Ananta Jibon Jodi" launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It's a great way to pay tribute to legendary litterateur-filmmaker Humayun Ahmed by putting together a photo album titled "Ananta Jibon Jodi" featuring over a hundred rare images of various moods and moments of the legend.

Eminent photographer Nasir Ali Mamun captured the images through many years of perseverance, while Onno Prokash's Mazharul Islam published it marking this year's Amor Ekushey Book Fair.

A launching ceremony was held on February 15 at Poet Shamsur Rahman Seminar Hall of Bangla Academy. Finance Minister AMA Muhit graced the event as chief guest. Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman presided over the

programme. The duo with special guests — Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor; Bangla Academy DG Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan; writer-educationalist Professor Zafar Iqbal; Anis A. Khan, managing director & CEO of Mutual Trust Bank Limited; actress and wife of Humayun Ahmed, Meher Afroz Shaon; Nasir Ali Mamun and Mazharul Islam -- unveiled the book.

"Versatile genius Humayun Ahmed's mood fluctuated like mercury. Celebrated photographer Nasir Ali Mamun has represented him in a rather gentle way. We had many rare and precious moments that Mamun couldn't capture. It was almost impossible to depict them," said Asaduzzaman Noor going down memory lane.



Distinguished guests at the book launch. PHOTO: STAR

Parineeti

to turn singer for "Meri Pyari Bindu"

Yash Raj Films announced their next romantic film starring Parineeti Chopra and Ayushmann Khuranna on Thursday evening. Parineeti, who will be seen on the silver screen after two years (her last venture was "Daawat-E-Ishq" opposite Aditya Roy Kapur), will turn singer for the upcoming flick, "Meri Pyari Bindu".

The 27-year-old actor will be singing a number for the film, hoping to explore different aspects of creativity. The production house tweeted a video that shows Parineeti humming the famous Kishore Kumar song "Meri Pyari Bindu" from the film "Padosan".

In the film, Parineeti will play the character of an aspiring singer, Bindu. "The movie is a beautiful love story between Bindu and Ayushmann's character, set in Kolkata. It is going to be a beautiful, heart-wrenching love story," added Parineeti.

During a recent interview, Parineeti said, "I think it's a coincidence that a lot of the actors who are working right now happen to be passionate singers. Obviously, every actor wants to do different things. They don't just want to act but also explore different sides of their talents. It's really great that the audience, music directors and everyone else in the industry are open to the fact that actors should not just act but also sing," she added.

Parineeti also revealed that she is a trained singer and her directors and music directors have often advised her that she should sing.

Source: Hindustan Times



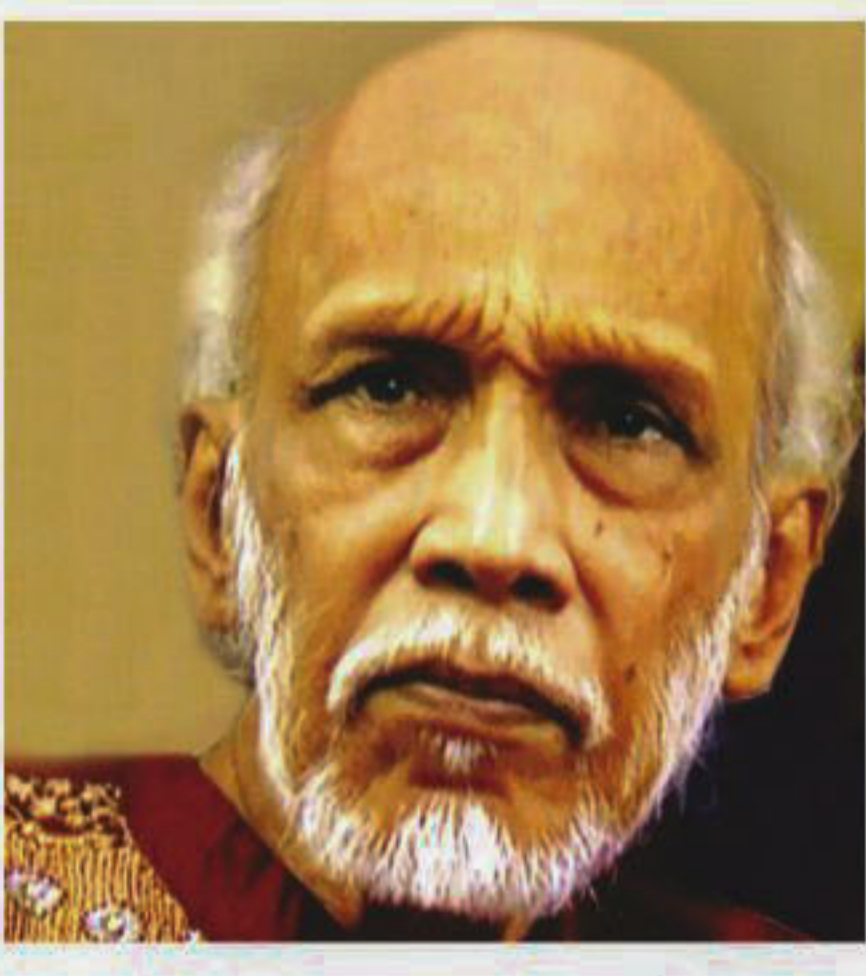
The Great Music Composer

Tribute to Khandaker Nurul Alam

IFTEKHAR ISLAM

In July 2011, we planned a concept-based musical programme on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of our Pharmaceutical Executive Club Ltd. We decided to organise the musical programme to pay tribute to 10 legendary Bangla music composers from both sides of the border. Selecting five composers from the western side of Bengal was really hard since a large number of music legends had thronged the Kolkata music industry after Panchakabi since the 1930s. The five selected composers were Kamol Dasgupta, Robin Chattapaddhya, Salil Chowdhury, Hemanta Mukhopaddhya and Sudhin Dasgupta.

However, selecting five composers from our side of Bengal was rather easy, although a good number of composers dominated our music industry during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. And of



these five legends, the name of Khandaker Nurul Alam was an obvious choice. The others were Abdul Ahad, Khan Aatur Rahman, Satya Saha and Robin Ghosh. Khandaker Nurul Alam and Robin Ghosh were still alive and we

decided to invite them to the programme. I personally went to the residence of Khandaker Nurul Alam to invite him to the programme; that was my first meeting with the maestro. I knew he was paralysed but at my first meeting I was quite shocked to see him in a wheel chair. I had the impression that his health was steadily going downhill. His wife gave me his photograph and filled me in with other details about him. We were told that he could not attend our programme, however Robin Ghosh, the only other surviving composer (who passed away on February 13) graced the programme. After the programme I went to see Alam again and returned the photographs and gave him our brochure. Alam was very happy to see me. That was my last opportunity to meet him.

Khandaker Nurul Alam was born in Assam but after partition, their family came to settle in the then East Pakistan. He did his matriculation from Noakhali

Zilla School along with another legendary lyricist of the country KG Mostafa. Both of them met again at Dhaka University and shared many unbounded memories of the beginning of their music career. He was not only a great music composer, but also a very good singer, teacher and mentor.

Khandaker Nurul Alam is no more with us now, but his musical work, commitment, dedication and his outstanding personality will remain alive in the history of Bangla music for many years to come. His all time great songs "Chokh Je Moner Kotha Bole", "Ek Boroshar Brishtitey Bhije", "Eto Shukh Shoibo Kemon Kore", "Ami Chand Ke Bolechhi Aj Ratey", "Ke Jeno Aj Amar Chokhe" and "Janam Janam Dhore Prem Piyashi" will always symbolise the melodious Bangla songs of the golden era of the 1960s-80s.

The writer is a music and film buff.

Taylor Swift and Kendrick Lamar dominate Grammy Awards

Kendrick Lamar was the big winner at the 58th Grammy Awards on Monday night, but he was denied an album of the year trophy by Taylor Swift, who prevailed for her smash hit "1989." Swift and Kendrick were competitors in this year's Grammy race but also collaborators who shared the best music video award for "Bad Blood."

Accepting the top award for her late-2014 album, Swift noted that she is the lone woman to receive the honor twice; she collected the trophy for "Fearless" in 2010. Earlier in the day, during the Grammys' pre-telecast Premiere Ceremony, "1989" also received kudos as best pop vocal album.

Lamar drew a total of five statuettes. He swept up four awards at the afternoon ceremony, and continued his roll with the first

award of the night, reaping best rap album for his widely lauded collection "To Pimp a Butterfly."

Producer-musician Mark Ronson's "Uptown Funk," the radio ubiquity featuring singer Bruno Mars, was named record of the year. Meghan Trainor tearfully accepted the best new artist award. English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran was the dark-horse winner for song of the year with "Thinking Out Loud," co-written with Amy Wadge. Sheeran also won best pop solo performance for the same number.

Chris Stapleton followed up his afternoon win for best country performance by receiving the best country album trophy for his album "Traveller."

Alabama Shakes received award for best rock performance for "Don't Wanna Fight." The

group's sophomore set "Sound & Color" scored the best alternative music album trophy.

Even by past standards, this year's Grammys ceremony, hosted by LL Cool J at Staples Center, was performance-heavy and awards-light: Only eight of the 83 awards were handed out during the nighttime show, an all-time low. The rest were dispensed at the early afternoon ceremony held at the Nokia Theatre.

There were also a number of acts who gave tribute performances - Lady Gaga sang a medley of David Bowie songs, Jackson Browne and The Eagles performed in honour of Glenn Frey and Stevie Wonder remembered Earth Wind and Fire's Maurice White.

Source: Variety



Taylor Swift



Bruno Mars



Kendrick Lamar



Artistes render a chorus. PHOTO: STAR

Basanto Baron Festivals in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A three-day cultural programme to welcome spring concluded at Mymensingh Town Hall premises on Saturday organized by Sandipon Sangskritik Sangstha.

The festival drew a huge audience to the venue.

On the concluding day of the celebration, two background artistes-Narayan Basak (make-up) and Mozammel Hossain Monju (lights) were also honoured with crests and certificates.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqi inaugurated the festival as chief guest. Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy also undertook a day-long programme to welcome spring on Saturday.