

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)

Group Paining Exhibition
 Title: Taste of Light and Darkness-2
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi
 Date: Feb 26-Mar 8
 Time: 3pm-9pm

Felicitation to Shaheen Samad
 Organiser: Aamra Surjomukhi
 Venue: A.S. Mahmud Auditorium, The Daily Star Centre
 Date: February 26
 Time: 6pm

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

Solo Paining Exhibition
 Title: Of a Poetic Vision of Life
 Artist: Ranjit Das
 Venue: Shilpangan
 Date: February 26-March 12
 Time: 12pm-8pm

Papon to perform in Dhaka

Popular Indian singer Angarag Mahanta, known mostly by his nickname Papon, is all set to perform at Ethnicity Concert in Dhaka on February 25 at Naboratri Hall of International Convention City Bashundhara.

Aside from Papon, the show will also feature popular Bangladeshi singer Shawon Gaanwala, says a press release.

Papon is the lead singer and founder of folk-fusion band Papon and The East India Company.

Information about the tickets of the event is available on Cignal Event's Facebook page.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



(From left): Syed Shamsul Haq, Liaquat Ali Lucky, Sara Ara Mahmood and Professor Nasreen Ahmed at the inaugural ceremony.

BSA holds five-day programme on iconic playwrights

A CORRESPONDENT

A five-day programme began at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on February 22 in memory of nine late playwrights of Bangladesh. The programme, titled "Smriti Shotta Bhabishhyat", was inaugurated by eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq, while Professor Nasreen Ahmed, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, was the chief guest at the event, held at Studio Theatre Hall of BSA.

Sara Ara Mahmud, director of Theatre and Film Department of BSA gave the welcome speech, while BSA director general Liaquat Ali Lucky presided over the inauguration ceremony. The five-day event will feature seminars on

nine iconic playwrights—Munier Chowdhury, Syed Waliullah, Selim Al Deen, Nurul Momen, Abdullah Al Mamun, Anis Chowdhury, Zia Haider, Sayeed Ahmed, and SM Solaiman.

In the opening evening, a seminar was held on Munier Chowdhury. Mahfuza Hellali presented the keynote paper at the seminar, while Dr. Mohammad Joynuddin and Dr. Biplab Bala were among the discussants.

Following the inauguration ceremony, TheatrEX staged Munier Chowdhury's play "Kobor."

A number of plays including "Nimoijon", "Taranga Bhango", "Nemesis", "Meraj Fokir er Maa", "Manchitro", "Mukti Mukti", "Kaalbela", and "Golapijan" will be staged at the programme.

Feroza Begum Memorial Gold Medal Trust hands over cheque to DU VC

Feroza Begum Memorial Gold Medal Trust Fund handed over a cheque of Taka sixty lakhs to the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University on February 13, says a press release.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique received the cheque at VC office from M. Anis Ud Dowla, Chairman of Feroza Begum Foundation and brother of the legendary Nazrul singer.

The foundation will award gold medal and scholarships to the most deserving students of the Department of Dance, and the Department of Music of Dhaka University.

Among others present at the function were Professor Nasreen Ahmed, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Feroza Begum's another brother Brigadier General (Retd.) Mosih Ud Dowla; her two sons, popular singers Hameen Ahmed and Shafiq Ahmed, her niece Nazrul artiste Shusmita Anis, noted Tagore artiste Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, and singer Dr. Leena Taposhi Khan.

The trust fund is being formed in memory of Feroza Begum, the most renowned Nazrul Sangeet singer in Bangladesh and India.



Hollywood is not for me: KAREENA KAPOOR

While Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone spread their wings to Hollywood, Kareena Kapoor feels Hollywood is not for her. With a variety of films to her credit, Kareena says there is ample opportunity for female actors to prove themselves in Bollywood.

"Los Angeles is not for me. The way Priyanka has put India out there, and done so well for herself, is amazing. I feel proud of her. But my priorities are different. I don't see Hollywood as an avenue. I want to be an actor, a wife, and lot of other things in my life," Kareena said in a recent interview.

"Women have always had good roles. Good films have been coming their way since my mother's time. Also actors like Sharmila Tagore, Hema Malini, Sridevi and Karisma Kapoor, among others, have done really good films," added the actor.

Kareena also said, "There are always opportunities in Bollywood. I have been acting for the last 16 years, and I have worked with many actors. I don't see anything stopping women. If you are a good actor, you will get work till you are 80."



Source: Hindustan Times



Touquir and Tarin pair up for "O"

A CORRESPONDENT

Seasoned television actors Touquir Ahmed and Tarin have paired up for a new single episode television play, titled "O". Written by Ahmed Shahabuddin and directed by Mohammadullah Nantu, shooting for the play wrapped up recently.

The play surrounds working couple

Amiya and Rajon, and the misunderstandings that crop up in their life together.

Amiya and Rajon rent a home in the capital. Amiya sends money to her parents behind her husband's back. When Rajon learns this, he begins to doubt Amiya's honesty.

The play, that also casts Rokeya Prachi and Shome Akbar, will soon go on air on a satellite channel.

Esperanza Romero's Unknown Spirit at Cosmos-2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 10-day solo art exhibition, titled "Unknown Spirit", by Spanish artist Esperanza Romero opened at Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka on February 20. Art patron Nevine Sultana has organised the show.

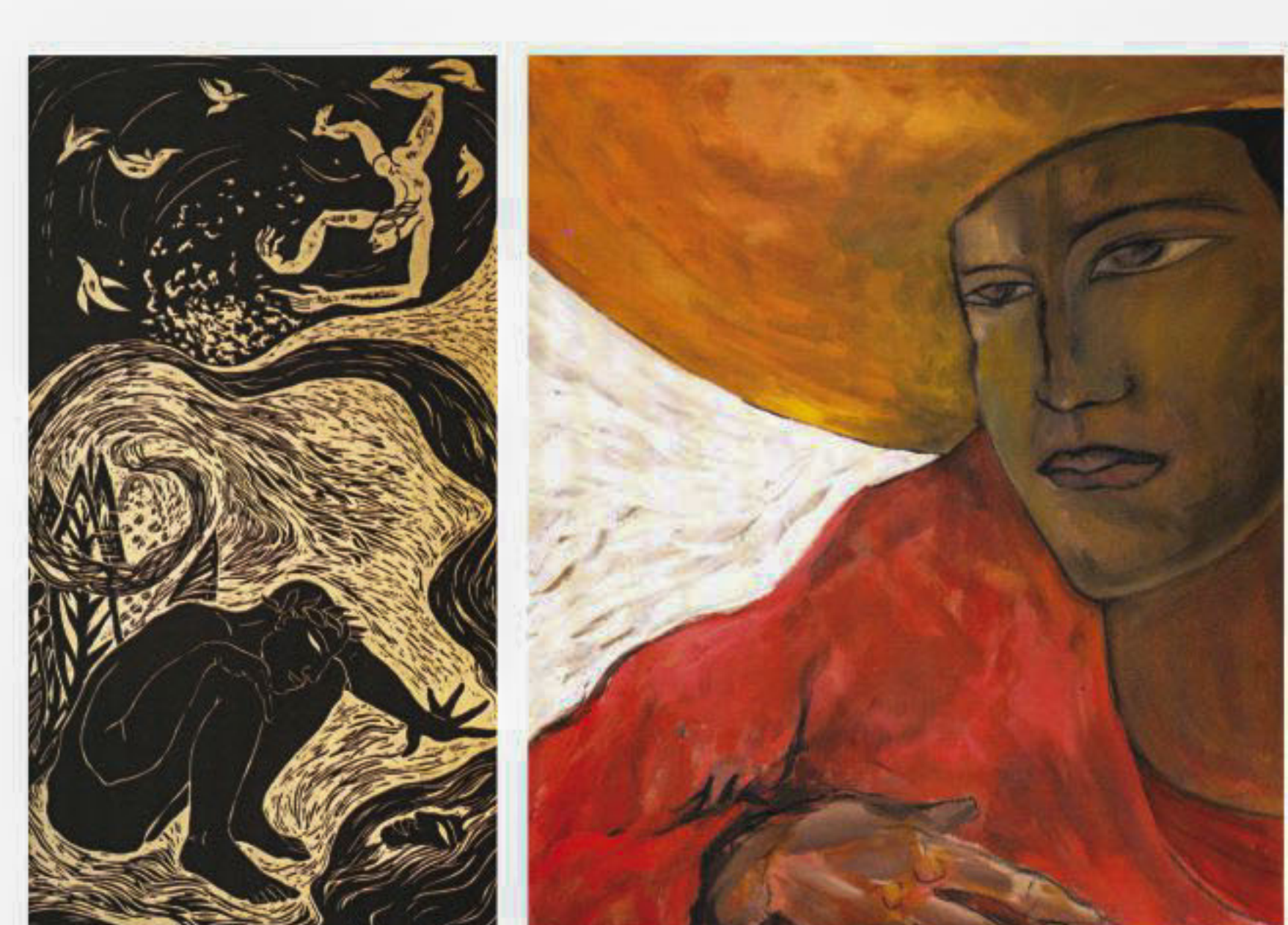
Nazim Farhan Choudhury, managing director, ADCOMM; Amparo Porta, Head of Index Chair for Spanish Language and Culture, University of Dhaka, and noted artist Shahid Kabir jointly inaugurated the exhibition as special guests.

The artist has showcased ceramic sculptures that symbolically represent her lonesome journey towards spirituality. The black and white faces and cats indicate her search for the meaning of life as well as light in the darkness.

Romero's two linocuts -- "Narcissus" and "Icarus" -- have mythical nuances. They portray sagas of Greek mythology. The use of aesthetic lines and a balanced composition have won appreciation. The artist's other works trace contemporary issues like migration, nature and leisure.

Esperanza Romero studied in London, obtaining a BA Honours at Camberwell School of Art and a Master's degree at the Royal College of Art. In the '80s, she embarked on an international career with exhibitions in France, Holland, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, China, Italy, India and Japan. After a 14-year stay in England she left in 1988 to live in Granada, Spain from where she continues her art that encompasses etching, painting and sculpture.

The exhibition, opening from 12pm to 8pm daily, will continue till February 29.



Celebrating Life In Rhythm

A CORRESPONDENT

Nritya Nandan, a well established dance institution in Bangladesh, headed by eminent dancer and choreographer Sharmila Banerjee, tied up with Norwegian organisation Concerts Norway to conduct a dance appreciation project called "Celebrating Life in Rhythm" from September to October 2015 in various schools across Bangladesh.

Nritya Nandan and Concerts Norway's joint initiative has taken a big step in contributing to the exploration of young minds in performing arts, enhancing spirit and team attitude and developing sensitivity and awareness about nature, humanity and secularism.

It hopes to continue with this programme of promoting culture among the children of Bangladesh, through the continuation of the project "Celebrating Life in Rhythm", as this intervention could be a major contribution to innovative ideas for the global community, and also act as an aid to the inclusion of dance in the educational curriculum in the future.

Buoyed by the great success of a pilot programme in 2014 in five schools in Dhaka and Chittagong, this time Nritya Nandan widened the scope of the programme from five to seven schools in the districts of Dhaka as well as Sylhet and Khulna. The goal of this project was to generate an appreciation of dance and create a link between the local and the global, through introduction to dance styles both South Asian classical, folk and contemporary as well as few western styles.



Nritya Nandan took this project to special schools for underprivileged children as well as orphanages.

The content of the project has been designed by Sharmila Banerjee, exclusively for children between 8-12 years. The project included a simplified description of the history and evolution of dance, giving examples that children could relate to. It then moved on to explanations about different art genres complemented with live performances, narrations and audio visual presentations, giving children a good grounding in our dance forms.

The programme also involved creating awareness among children about nature through dance performances.

Nritya Nandan took this project to Bengali medium, English medium and special schools for underprivileged children as well as orphanages. The most overwhelming and moving response was experienced in the schools for underprivileged children and orphanages, where the children have little exposure to such art forms. Their enthusiastic and exhilarated response were an achievement and an affirmation of the purpose and goals of the project. All the schools expressed their interest to continue with this project in the future.