

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

Photography Exhibition
 Butterflies of Bangladesh
 Venue: Drik Gallery
 Date: Feb 26-28
 Time: 3-8pm

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

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



Felicitation to Shaheen Samad

Amra Surjamukhi holds programme at The Daily Star



"Poramati", one of the plays to be staged at the festival. PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned cultural organisation "Amra Surjamukhi" held a felicitation programme to pay ovation to Ekushay Padak recipient eminent singer Shaheen Samad at AS Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star centre on February 26. Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka, attended the event as chief guest while Md. Abdul Hannan Khan, chief coordinator of International Crimes Tribunal, Bangladesh, presided over the programme. Shafiqul Islam Selim, coordinator of Amra Surjomukhi, delivered welcome address.

"The malpractice of distorting our glorious Liberation War is still on. The presence of living musical institution Shaheen Samad is necessary in the face of such distortion. She fought for the country with her music and I wish her a long life and good health," Said AAMS Arefin Siddique.

Several renowned singers -- Khalid Hossain, Sadya Afreeen Mallick, Sujit Mustafa, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Yasmin Mushtari, Badrunnessa Dalia -- spoke highly of Shaheen Samad. The singers also rendered a song each for their favorite singer.

"The timeless spirited songs that we performed to inspire our freedom fighters are getting distorted. I have personally learnt the Ganosangeet from our Guru Sheikh Lutfar Rahman. If present-generation artistes approach me to learn the accurate lyrics and tunes of the songs,

I'll be glad to help. These songs need to be preserved properly with active assistance from the government and private sectors," said Shaheen Samad.

"I would like to propose to the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University to hold musical programme featuring spirited songs that we performed in 1969 in the

melodious songs like "Ek Boroshar Brishtey Bhijey" and "Oi Jhinuk Khota Sagor Bela".

Shaheen Samad with Sadya Afreeen Mallick next took the stage performing a Gurusaday Dutta song "Manush Ho". Shaheen Samad later performed two songs "Ami Bono Bulbul" and "Falgun" in style. Yasmin Mushtari beautifully



(Top) Shaheen Samad receives a citation from Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique (R) and Md. Abdul Hannan Khan. Shaheen Samad and Sadya Afreeen Mallick perform a duet.

campus. At least one such event in a month will help current students understand the power and eternity of the songs," said Sadya Afreeen Mallick.

Khalid Hossain set off the musical part with presenting "Sedin Tomaye Ami Bolechhinu" while the featured singer Badrunnessa Dalia sweetly rendered five

rendered "Momo Tonur Moyur Singhshon-e" while Sujit Mustafa sang "Mago Oder Kono Dosh Chhilo Na," penned by Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal. Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury offered "Anek Pawar Majhey Majhey" and Sadya Afreeen Mallick ended up with her song "Momo Mayamoy Swapan-e".

Bhanga Gora Natyotshab opens today

Theatre returns to the historic Mohila Samiti Auditorium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), with assistance from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, is hosting a month-long theatre festival at the revamped Dr. Nilima Ibrahim auditorium of the Mohila Samiti in the capital's Baily Road, which was once the throbbing pulsating of Bangladeshi theatre. With this, the Mohila Samiti is set to become a regular venue for theatre plays.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will inaugurate the festival. BGTF chairman Liaquat Ali Lucky will chair a discussion, participated by thespians Ramendu Mazumdar,

Mamunur Rashid, Nasir Uddin Yousuff and Sara Zaker; Sammilito Sangskritik Jote chairman Golam Kuddus, Mohila Samiti chairperson Sitara Ahsanullah and General Secretary Tani Bakht Festival convener and BGTF Secretary General Akhtaruzzaman will deliver the welcome address.

The post-Liberation theatre movement of Bangladesh was centered at this Baily Road auditorium, and it was taken down in 2011, following a 'Bhanga Gora Natyotshab' organised by BGTF, to be re-built. The building and the auditorium are now both ready to stage plays. As per the promise made by BGTF, the month-long festival will mark the reopening of the venue.

Young artistes perform at the Spring festival organised by Chhayanaut at its auditorium on February 26. The programme opened with a musical and dance presentation of Tagore song "Ore Grihobashi", and featured solo and group songs of Pancha-kobi (Tagore, Nazrul, Atulprasad, DL Roy and Rajanikanta) and dances set to them, along with a classical vocal rendition. The programme, as per tradition, closed with the National Anthem.



NEWS bytes

GOTG sequel casts TOMMY FLANAGAN



With production on "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" underway, new faces that will be appearing alongside the returning players are being revealed. Earlier this month, Pom Klementieff was confirmed as Mantis, while Kurt Russell, Elizabeth Debicki, and Chris Sullivan have been added in undisclosed roles. Now a fifth newcomer has apparently joined the sequel -- Scottish actor Tommy Flanagan, who's made a living playing tough characters. Flanagan is reportedly playing one of the Ravagers in the film, specifically the 'right-hand man' of Yondu Udonta, a role being reprised by Michael Rooker.

Tommy Flanagan's cinematic credits include "Face/Off", "Gladiator", "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle", and "Alien vs. Predator". TV-wise, he starred as Filip 'Chibs' Telford in "Sons of Anarchy", and had guest spots on shows like "24", "Revenge", and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit".

Currently shooting in Atlanta, Georgia, "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" flies into theatres on May 5, 2017.

Selim and Moutushi in daily soap

A CORRESPONDENT

Prolific TV and film actor Shahiduzzaman Selim and Moutushi Biswas are pairing up on-screen for a new daily soap, titled "TV Poribar". Written by Azam Khan and directed by Sumon Reza, the comedy also casts Kalyan, Ishana, Kazi Ujjal, Shikha Khan and Mizan Sarkar, among others.

Director Sumon Reza said the series is expected to begin airing in a satellite channel from June-July.

Meanwhile, a new TV series "Ek Jhak Mrito Jonaki'r Golpo", also starring Selim and Moutushi, will air on ATN Bangla soon.

On the big screen, Moutushi can be currently seen on "Krishnopokkho", while Tauquir Ahmed-directed "Oggatonama", which casts Selim, is awaiting release.



"My Whole Career Is a Tribute to David Bowie" ... Lady Gaga

Following Lady Gaga's tribute to David Bowie at the Grammys, the singer opened up about how the late rock legend inspired her artistically in a new interview. "I feel like my whole career is a tribute to David Bowie," Gaga told NPR.

In the interview, Gaga revealed that her love of Bowie first began when she saw the "Aladdin Sane" cover for the first time. "I was 19 years old, and it just changed my perspective on everything, forever. It was an image that changed my life," Gaga said. "I remember I took the vinyl record out of the casing and I put it on my vinyl player -- which was on my stovetop in my kitchen, because I was living in this really tiny apartment and I had my turntable on my stove. 'Watch That Man' came on and, I mean, that was just the beginning of my artistic birth. I started to dress more expressively. I started to go to the library and look through more art books. I

took an art history class. I was playing with a band."

Gaga credited Bowie's music for introducing her to "a lifestyle of total immersion in music, fashion, art and technology." "You meet or see a musician that has something that is of another planet, of another time, and it changes you forever," she said. "I believe everyone has that, don't you? That one thing you saw as a kid that made you go, 'Oh, okay. Now I know who I am.'"

Even after the Bowie tribute, Gaga continues to be immersed in his music. "I've been watching his videos all day long, and also listening to 'Blackstar', his last album, which is a truly incredible piece of music," Gaga said. "It's one of the single greatest things an artiste has ever done: making a masterpiece album that is their own eulogy. Can you imagine? To go into the studio every day and put your heart in that place, where you are saying goodbye to life? I mean, his art made him strong."

Bowie's influence on Gaga has been apparent in her fashion choices throughout her career as well, whimsical and norm-shattering. Last week, the eclectic pop diva got a David Bowie tattoo (unsurprisingly, of the iconic "Aladdin Sane" cover) above her waistline before the Grammy performance, and even documented the process of getting it, via her SnapChat account.

National street theatre festival ends in Barisal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The Jatiyo Potho Natya Utsab (National Street Theatre Festival), concluded on the open air stage in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall in Barisal City on Friday night.

The festival was organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), Barisal divisional unit. Four theatre groups of Barisal participated in the festival.

Syed Dulal, presidium member BGTF, inaugurated the festival on Friday evening.

Basudeb Ghosh, divisional organizing secretary, BGTF; Kajol Ghosh of Barisal Natak; SM Iqbal, president, Barisal Sangskritik Sanagathan Samannya Parishad; Shuvongkar Chakrabarty, president, Barisal theatre and Md. Sahajahan, president Smmilito Sangskritik Sanghatan



A scene from "Kobor O Krishnachura". PHOTO: STAR

Samonoy Parishad, Barguna addressed the inaugural session of the festival.

The speakers said street theatre is a popular artistic medium in some South Asian and South American countries to protest against all kinds of social and political injustice. The art form is usually staged on streets and in open spaces for creating awareness among people on any issue, they noticed.

In Bangladesh, street theatre has played a significant role in the past social and political movements. It is also a frequently staged art form to address the contemporary issues.

Four dramas by Kheali Group Theatre, Brojomohon Theatre, Barisal Natak and Natyam -- "Kobor O Krishnachura", "Ekjon Chowdhury Onyjon Khan", "Jago" and "Chor" respectively, were staged.

A large audience enjoyed the programme.