

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

Theatre Festival
 Bhangra Gora Natyotshab
 Organiser: BGTF
 Venue: Mohila Samiti Auditorium, Bally Road
 Date: Feb 28-Mar 28; Time: 7pm



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



NEWS bytes

AISHWARYA to shoot at Indo-Pak Border

Shooting a film at the sensitive Wagah Border is no mean task and who else knows it better than Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Randeep Hooda and Richa Chadda? They were ready to shoot, "Sarbjit", the Sarabjit Singh biopic at the India-Pakistan border few days ago, but couldn't as the required permissions weren't granted to the makers. However, the entire shooting team has now breathed a sigh of relief as the documentation has been cleared and the permission to shoot at



the Wagah Border has now been granted to Omung Kumar, director of the film. He is all set to shoot some crucial scenes of the biopic with Randeep, who plays Sarabjit, and Aishwarya, who plays his sister Dalbir Kaur. The team is all set to head to Wagah Border and shoot the required scenes, following which they will head to Delhi for a two-day schedule and finally return to Mumbai to complete the remaining portions of the film.

Source: TNN



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

MAMUNUR RASHID celebrates his 17th birthday today!

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

A prominent actor, director and screenwriter, Mamunur Rashid has massive contributions to the theatre scenario of Bangladesh. The mastermind behind the theatre troupe Aranyak Nattaya Dal has also been involved in TV plays for years. He turns 68 today, but is celebrating only his 17th birthday, as his birthday falls on February 29, and comes only once in four years. The Daily Star interviewed the towering figure of media world on his big day. Excerpts:
People celebrate their birthday every year, but your turn comes once every four years. What are your birthday plans this time?
 Mamunur Rashid: The ideas are very positive. People don't need to bother about my birthday as it comes after every four years. Counting birthdays, I will be 17 this year (laughs). But actually I'm 68 today.
What, according to you, brings meaning to life?
 Mamunur Rashid: Life means work and feeling. Am I seeing the nature around me? Am I feeling everything around me? If I can,

I'm living my life. Is my life of 68 years really meaningful for me? Every day I encounter questions, like can I really do something for people in my long journey? Every day I ask myself this. Sometimes I think wish I could give something more.
In your long 68 years, you have any regret when you look back?
 Mamunur Rashid: A lot, especially the mistakes I made in my early days. It doesn't matter how long my life is: what's important is my work. Shakespeare lived for only 52 years, but what he did in that time, we are still millions of miles behind.
Why did you choose acting as a profession?
 Mamunur Rashid: I grew up watching theatre at my village home. In childhood, the stage play "Sohrab Rostom" inspired me. A stage play can make people happy and sad. On the whole, destiny paved my way for the life of arts and entertainment.
Do memories of youth flood back to you at times?
 Mamunur Rashid: Often. We used to hang out at Sharif Mia's canteen at Dhaka University. We often stayed there till late

night. Poets Nirmalendu Goon and the late Abul Hossain are my friends from that time.
Many young artistes attribute their success to you. How does it make you feel?
 Mamunur Rashid: It's a great achievement for any artiste. A number of artistes came to the spotlight through Aranyak Nattaya Dal. Many have become dramatists, directors and designers, besides acting.
Is there any new grounds that you want still want to foray into?
 Mamunur Rashid: I want to make a film, although I don't know when it will happen. Acting is now my profession. For livelihood, I'm still seen on camera. Besides, I'm active on the theatre stage. Apart from all this, I still dream of directing a cinema.
What do you consider your biggest achievement in life?
 Mamunur Rashid: People's love and adulation.
Is there a song that you listen to repeatedly?
 Mamunur Rashid: One Rabindra Sangeet titled "Labonney Purno Pran" and another Nazrul Geeti-- "Bhuli Kemone Ajo Toh Mone".

Butterflies of Bangladesh ends at Drik Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A butterfly is a symbol of fragility and restlessness. A mass of butterflies, fluttering from flower to flower, remind us of the childhood days that we spent chasing them in gardens, fields, river banks and green fields. There is a belief that butterflies are the emblem of fortune too. The lovely little day-flying insect is also important in maintaining the ecological balance in many ways. But in reality, butterflies are rarely seen in Dhaka, the city of concrete and crowd.
 This deficit may not be cleared overnight, but a group of young environmentalists under the banner "Butterfly of Bangladesh Inventory Team" are working tirelessly to enable city dwellers to see the colourful insect in pictures. The team has so far displayed four photo exhibitions of butterflies at Drik Gallery with the images they have captured from 30 different districts in the last five years. They have indicated 238 species of butterflies in Bangladesh. The three-day (February 26-28) fourth phase exhibition ended yesterday with a display of 50 species of butterfly from eight different families. The inventory project aims to cover all 64 districts of Bangladesh eventually. Besides displaying butterflies from an aesthetic point of view, the team also displayed scientific taxonomy of



the species that were made available for the exhibition. The title of the exhibition remained the same -- "Chhobi Dekhe Shekha" -- as it was in the last three phases. Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmad, Country Representative for International Union for Conservation of Nature, Bangladesh attended the opening of the exhibition along with launching of a book cover titled "Butterflies of Bangladesh, Inventory - Fourth Phase" as chief guest. Professor Monwar Hossain of the Department of Zoology, Jahangirnagar University, provided his expertise to the team to identify the butterfly species. The eight districts covered during the fourth phase of the project are -- Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Jessor, Narail, Bandarban (Only Sadar Upazilla), Bhola, Cox's Bazar and Natore. The team comprises Mirza Shamim Ahasan Habib, Dr. Monwar Hossain, Tania Khan, Md. Shahtabul Islam, Saifuddin Saif, Avra Bhattacharjee, Kazi Farhed Iqbal, Md. Monowar Mahmud Jewel and Mohammed Wajedul Hoque Khan.

QUOTES



"Of course, we are all very happy. I saw a picture, someone showed me, and he is looking absolutely amazing. We're really looking forward to seeing Sanjuji back on the big screen because I'm a big fan of Sanjay Dutt."

KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN ecstatic about Sanjay Dutt's release from jail.

Prangonemor stages "Ami O Rabindranath"



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Prangonemor staged their new production "Ami O Rabindranath" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 26. The play, written and directed by Nuna Afroze, brings Rabindranath Tagore on the forefront. Ananto Hira, Nuna Afroze, Awal Reza, Ramiz Raju, Towhid Biplab and Sarwar Saikat form the cast of "Ami O Rabindranath". Nuna Afroze has also

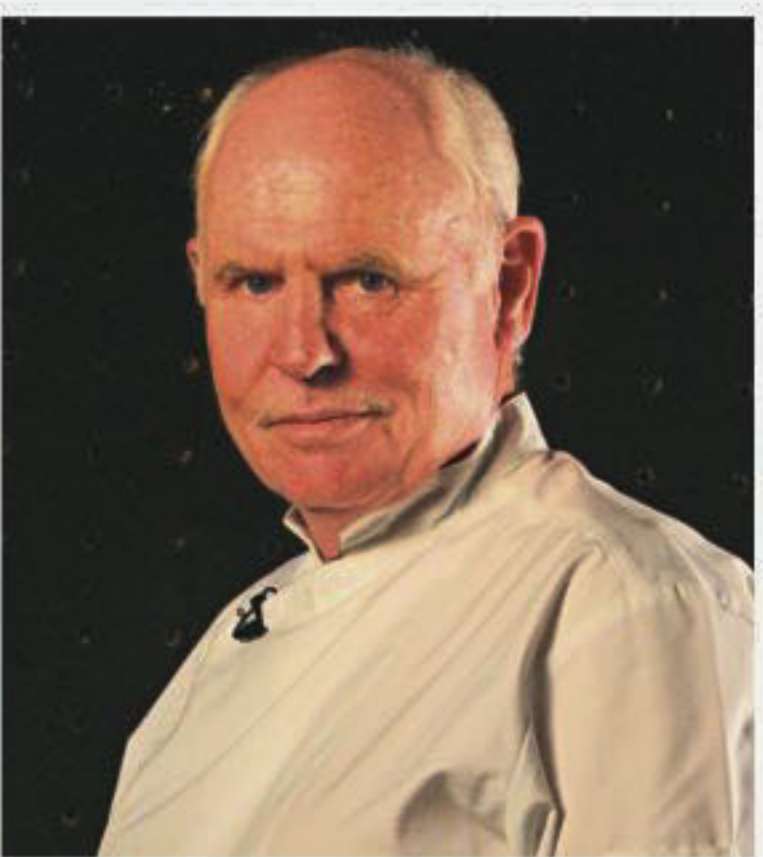
designed the play and costume for the play, while Ramiz Raju and Toufique Robin have designed the music and light respectively. From its inception, Prangonemor has created a firm position in the country's theatre arena for their depiction of Tagore plays. The troupe brought many Tagore plays to the stage, and made some plays based on the life of the bard. "Roktokarabi", "Swadeshi", "Shyamaprem", and "Shesher Kabita" are some of the notable plays by the troupe.

MEET THE STARS:

GERARD WALLACE

A CORRESPONDENT

With the popular culinary reality TV show Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef returning for a brand new season in less than a week, The Daily introduces you to the stars of the kitchen. Gerard Wallace started his career in Ireland with stints in Zurich, London, Dubai, Beijing, Shanghai, Manila and Sydney. During his stellar career, not only did he travel all over the world exploring different cuisines, but he also prepared meals for numerous heads of states. The crown in the jewel was the time he prepared an entire course for none other



than the Queen of England. Having had the opportunity to have worked with Californian Japanese chefs for a decade, Gerard brings a wealth of experience to Bellagio, with the opening of Wasabi. Having learnt so much throughout his journey and with so much to teach, Gerard has been a valuable addition to the Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef Kitchen. Will the participants live up to Gerard's expectations? Wait till you see the challenge he had prepared for the participants of the Super Chef kitchen, when the show begins airing on ntv from March 5.



EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR "Ambience of the fair was good" ... Tasnova Adiba Shanjute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tamrolipi is one of the leading publication houses in the country. Every year, the publication brings books by many renowned writers. However, Tamrolipi is mostly popular for celebrated writer Dr. Muhammed Zafar Iqbal's books. So far, the house has published over a dozen books of Zafar Iqbal, including this year's science fiction "Crenial". Tasnova Adiba Shanjute, the publisher of Tamrolipi, said, "The ambience of the fair was really good, and readers brought the books of their choice. I felt great as a publisher."



Asked which kind of readers buys books the most from them, she said, "Teens buy books the most. However adults also buy books. We have books for all kinds of readers." This year Tamrolipi has brought Gultekin Khan's poetry book "Keu Ajo Ha(n)te Abiram". Also there are new books by noted novelist Anisul Hoque, and Tin-Goyenda writer Raqib Hasan. They have also published Humayun Ahmed's classic collections "Shera Paach Himu" and "Shera Paach Misir Ali". Asked how the fair was, Shanjute said, "Ekushey Book Fair is for everyone. This is a place where our souls belong."

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