

WHAT'S ON

Solo Sculpture Exhibition
 Title: Stones-2
 Sculptor: Hamiduzzaman Khan
 Venue: Galleri Kaya
 Date: March 5-18
 Time: 11am-7:30pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Ranjit Das
 Venue: Shilpangan
 Date: February 26-March 12
 Time: 12pm-8pm



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



Art Exhibition
 Title: Informal
 Artist: Syed Zahid Iqbal
 Venue: Kalakendra, Mohammadpur
 Time: 5pm-8:30pm
 Date: March 8-29



Book Launching Ceremony
 Title: April by Andrew Engle & Tulip Chowdhury
 Venue: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh
 Time: 4pm-7pm
 Date: March 19



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: SOME REFLECTIONS

"The world is beautiful when there's gender equality"
 ...Rokeya Prachi

SAURAV DEY

Rokeya Prachi, a popular face on and off the television, is an activist who works for the rights of women. Arts & Entertainment recently caught up with her for opinion on Int'l Women's Day, and the position of women in Bangladesh. Excerpts:
 "Every year on this day we celebrate the power of women. There are women who are not aware of their rights, and there are men who are blind to women's rights. When there is gender equality, the world is beautiful. This day is an inspiration for us women to dream of a world without gender bias," says Rokeya Prachi.



stories of women directors and crew. If we focus on their success, more parents will encourage their daughters to take part in this profession."
 Answering a separate question about the future of women in Bangladesh, she adds, "The position of women in Bangladesh is good compared to the first world. Now women are participants in every sphere, including politics. Our prime minister is a woman, and women in general are playing key roles in building the nation. I would like to thank our male counterparts for changing their outlook. A man has to prove himself as a partner in marriage, and many men are now working for women rights and equality. This is a very good sign. I am hopeful that we will have equality in all spheres of life in coming days."

"This day brings a very positive vibe"
 ...Afroza Banu

SHAH ALAM SHAUZ

Noted actor Afroza Banu has been vastly popular on screen for the past few decades. The Daily Star caught up with the veteran to know her opinion about Int'l Women's Day.



With so many stories of oppression against women all over the world, is there much to celebrate on International Women's Day?
 Afroza Banu: I think we have a point in celebrating the day, thinking about the condition of all women. We need to raise awareness against torture and oppression. And this day is important to aware men and women about the equal rights of women. This day brings a very positive vibe, and encourages women to break the shackles.
 What do women need to do to make themselves heard, in a society like Bangladesh?
 Afroza Banu: The situation has improved a lot. Once women were confined to the four walls, but now they have participation in every

sphere of society. However, still there are many barriers, and women are overcoming those. They are taking part in sports and doing well there.
 While there are numerous women-centric works being done on TV/films and theatre, why are there so few women directors, crew etc?
 Afroza Banu: I agree that the number is very low. But there are women doing well behind the camera.

Women should take part in this arena, and see the life outside their home.
 What is your impression of the future of women in this country?
 Afroza Banu: First of all, we need to educate women. The government is playing a tremendous role in ensuring education of women. There is no alternative to education for the development of women.

"Women should DEMAND parity"
 ...Shamim Azad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamim Azad, a poet and writer, believes this year's theme for the International Women's Day - Pledge for Parity -- does not fit too well, in terms of Bangladesh's social circumstances. "The core point is parity. I don't think there should be a pledge; there should be a demand for parity," she told The Daily Star in a conversation. "Society has not treated women the same as men in our country," she adds.
 Asked about her opinion on women's participation and development in the country, particularly in the cultural sector, she says "Tremendous progress has been made in arts



and culture by women, which is extraordinary because women are

not the privileged ones in society. Although it looks nice and colourful with women moving freely and taking up positions at work, there are still certain job roles that are not given to women; roles that could challenge cultural taboos."
 But then, what is the way forward for women? "Women and men should get equal opportunities from their homes, and in the society," says Shamim Azad. "In terms of equal opportunities, it becomes a double whammy for girls. To create a better mindset, it has to start at a young age. Boys and girls should be treated based on their talent, potential and intellect, and not based on their gender," she concludes.

"Male perspectives must be gender-sensitive"
 ...Dahlia Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leading elocutionist of Bangladesh, Dahlia Ahmed was born in Mymensingh to a Freedom Fighter family. She has given background voice to many stage shows, dance dramas, documentaries and live commentaries. The artiste has recited poetry and dance dramas all over Bangladesh and abroad.



Women's Day 2016. Excerpts:
 "Our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam powerfully portrayed gender

parity in his poem 'Nari', and Rabindranath Tagore also raised his voice on the subject of gender equality in his poem 'Sobola'. Yet women face gender discrimination and violence both within the family and society. Family, schools, mass media and society can play vital roles to elevate the status of women. While men need to be more gender-sensitive there are male role models who deserve greater attention."
 "We, the artistes, should uphold the issue of gender parity through our creative practice like drama, debate, recitation, music, dance and more. If we can disseminate the idea of parity among the younger generation, we would have done our job."



Pooja as Nazrul's Nargis Programme to premiere today

A CORRESPONDENT

Marking International Women's Day 2016, dancer-choreographer Pooja Sengupta has designed and directed a choreography titled "Nargis" that will premiere at a programme

"Alokito Nari", organised by Rtv today. The programme will be held at Hotel Sonargaon at 7pm, and broadcast live on Rtv.
 Adapting the famous letter written by Kazi Nazrul Islam to his first wife Nargis, Pooja has incorporated the folk dance form

dhamail (of Sylhet) in the choreography. Led by Pooja, artistes of Turongomi Repertory of Dance will perform in "Nargis" that aims to seek an imaginative answer to the poet's letter by assimilating art and reality.



The award giving ceremony of Citi-Anondo Alo Sahitto Puroshkar 2016 was held at Channel i. Aslam Habib, Citi Bangladesh's Chief Finance Officer; Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan, DG, Bangla Academy and Head of the Jury Committee; Rezanur Rahman, Editor, Anondo Alo and Faridur Reza Sagor, Managing Director of Channel i handed over the awards to the winners. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, historian and noted writer Muntasir Mamun, noted writer Selina Hosen, Pias Mojid, Aslam Sani, Ahsan Hafiz and Mujib Irom won awards in different categories this year.

Zootopia registers best Disney animation debut

Yes, 2015 was a great year at the box office, but 2016 has hit the ground running. Disney's "Zootopia" premiered in theatres this week to nearly universal critical acclaim, and audiences seem to have listened. The animated feature definitively won the box office during its opening weekend. However, beyond merely garnering the number one spot, the tale of Nick Wilde and Judy Hopp also set an all-time box office record for Disney animation. A new report from ComicBook.com indicates that the film's \$73.7 million opening weekend box office debut makes it the best ever opening for Disney animation (the film has already gone on to haul \$200 million globally). Prior to the release of "Zootopia", Disney's animated superhero feature "Big Hero 6" held the three-day record with \$56 million. Behind that, "Wreck-It Ralph" and "Tangled" both came in with roughly \$50 million during their respective opening weekends. "Frozen", the now-legendary

tale of Elsa and Anna premiered to a paltry \$250,000 in a single theatre, but then went on to garner close to \$67 million the following week when it experienced a wide release.
 Outside the realm of Disney movies, "Zootopia" managed to break yet another record as well. Over the course of its three-day premiere it managed to dethrone the previous record holder for highest grossing animated March premiere, "The Lorax", which hit cinemas in 2012.
 What makes this accomplishment even more impressive is the fact that "Zootopia" managed to do something no other movie has been able to accomplish in the last three weeks: taking down "Deadpool", which had recently gone on to become not only the highest grossing R-rated comic book movie of all time, but managed to garner numerous other records during its short run.

Source: **Cinemablend**

