

WHAT'S ON

Star Melodies
 Title: Kanan Devi 'r Gaan
 Venue: A S Mahmud Hall (Level 3)
 Daily Star Center, Dhaka
 Date: September 27
 Time: 6:30pm

Dance Drama
 Title: Shakuntala
 Production: Bhabna
 Venue: National Theatre Hall,
 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: September 23
 Time: 6:30-9pm

National Theatre Festival
 Organizer: Group Theatre
 Federation (BGTF)
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala
 Academy
 Date: September 24- October 11
 Time: 6pm

Theatre
 The Trail of Mallam Ilya
 Troup: Bot-Tala
 Venue: Mahila Shamiti, Bailey
 Road, Dhaka
 Date: September 23
 Time: 7pm

**Solo Metal Sculpture
 Exhibition**
 Title: Hard Emotion
 Artist: Arham Ul Haq Chowdhury
 Venue: Alliance Francaise Dhaka
 Date: September 23- October 7
 Time: 3-9pm

Musical Soiree
 Artist: Nasima Shaheen Fancy
 Organizer: Amra Surjammukhi
 Venue: Bangladesh National
 Museum
 Date: September 24
 Time: 5:30pm

**“Films should portray life, not unrealistic over-exaggerated fiction”
 ... Fazlur Rahman Babu**



Babu's performance in "Oggatonama" was a stirring one.

ZAIMA ZAHRA
 Fazlur Rahman Babu is a celebrated name in the country's entertainment industry. Starting off as a theatre artiste, the actor's career reached new heights in television and film. Honoured with various awards including the National Award, the actor has delivered entertainment not only via acting but also via his singing skills. Recently in Tauquir Ahmed-directed "Oggatonama", the veteran artiste has amazed both viewers and critics with an emotional performance. In conversation with The Daily Star, he shared his experience and views regarding the venture. In "Oggatonama", Babu plays a

father who struggles to cope with the death of his expatriate worker son. Talking about the story, Babu said, "The film shares a story of a commoner. Selling the last bit of asset and sending one's precious child to foreign country is a very common scene in Bangladesh. The pain of losing a son is unbearable, adding to that if a father has to struggle with his son's dead body, then the strength needed to deal with the situation is quite incredible. I had to face a lot of hurdles to portray the role. I have heard of stories about fake passports but never experienced the situation that was depicted in the script." Talking about his director, and co-actors -- a strong cast including

Shahiduzzaman Selim, Mosharraf Karim, Shatabdi Wadud, Nipun and Shahed Ali Sujon, Babu said, "I have worked with Tauquir in a number of projects. Therefore the understanding we share is perfect. Plus, as all of my co-stars share theatre background, so the working environment was very familiar and comfortable." Babu is very satisfied with the project as it embodies a realistic film. He said, "We should be keen to make films that will deliver good story, essence of reality, food for thought as well as entertainment. Films should portray life, not unrealistic over-exaggerated fictions. I am happy that 'Oggatonama' was made and I was a part of it".



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

THE WEEKENDER

“I am not a morning person at all!” ...Nova

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN
 Nova has now become a familiar face in the television as well as modeling industry. Fans are familiar with her professional ventures, but it is the person behind the media personality that we all seek to know. Today Nova shares her life behind the camera with The Daily Star:

What is your favourite thing to do during weekends?
 Nova: I am not a morning person at all, but my son is a toddler, so I usually have to wake up at 6.30am. But usually enjoy sleeping till 9 or 10, so during weekends I take advantage of the luxury and sleep till noon.

If you had to describe yourself using three words, what would they be?
 Nova: Short-tempered, generous, and friendly.

What goals would you like to accomplish during your lifetime?

Nova: I have always wanted to be a good actor, and I feel I have already done that as the audience appreciates my presence on screen very much. When I took a break, viewers wanted me back, and I have returned especially for them. Another accomplishment I would like to add is motherhood, and as my son grows he teaches me new things, and I feel this is one of my greatest achievements in life.

What are your hobbies?
 Nova: I really don't have many hobbies. During my time off, I like doing things most people enjoy doing, such as watching TV, going out with friends, catching up with conversations, and spending quality time with family.

What are you currently working on?
 Nova: I am currently working on TV serials, one of which is, "Torun Turki", directed by Imraul Rafat and it is aired by ntv every Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I am also working with Aronno Anwar in two TV plays, "Dohon" and "Bohuroopi", and Rajibul Islam Rajib in "Baro Ghorer Ek Uthaan". Additionally, I am working on "President Sirajuddowla", which is yet to be screened, directed by Raihan Khan.

Out of all the projects you have worked on, which one did you find most enjoyable?
 Nova: This is a very difficult question to answer, because to choose between projects is like choosing between your children. You grow with each one, and love every single one of them for what they are.

ALBUM REVIEW

Shabnam Abedi's yearning for classical music

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Audio albums containing tracks of North Indian classical music are in short supply in the Bangladeshi market. The reason behind it may be the music labels' aversion to produce them or the scarcity of accomplished classical vocalists to record albums. Whatever the reason may be, it is a laudable initiative of Laser Vision to produce a classical album titled "Till September Intazaar" by talented artiste Shabnam Abedi who recorded five tracks for the album.

The album begins with a record of Khayal, set on Raga Bhimpalashri where the artiste opens with a short alap followed by the bandish "Ja ja re apne mandira wa" (composed by Niyamat Khan alias Sadarang), sargam taan, aakar taan and tehai. The singer has done justice to evoke the essence of the Raga that is supposed to take away the tiredness after a busy day. Shabnam has an 11-year training in classical music under Anasua Roy of Gwalior Kirana Gharana, with its root trailing back to Ustad Vishmadev Chatterjee. Classical music lovers will be satisfied with the artiste's sweet voice and her enamoured rendition of two dadras -- "Rangeen saari gulabi" (based on Raga Pahadi) and "Barsana laagi" (based on Raga Mishra Pilu) and two thumris -- "Yaad piya ki aaye" (based on Raga Kaushikdhvani) and "Ka karoon sajni" (based on Raga Kirwani).

But classical music connoisseurs, who have listened to the original records of the thumri duo, composed and popularised by Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, may be dissatisfied with the covers. Renditions of the thumris by the likes of Ustad Rashid Khan have taken the songs to great heights that are nearly impossible to top.

Durbadal Chatterjee has directed music for the album. The music arrangement has been praiseworthy thanks to the collective efforts of Sandip Ghosh and Joy Nandi (tabla); Rahul Chatterjee (sitar); Gautam Shome (keyboard); Shubhayu Sen Majumdar (esraj); Bubai Nandi (bansuri), Raju Chatterjee (guitar) and Durbadal Chatterjee (strings and accordion).



PHOTO: STAR

**Theatre festival held in Sylhet
 32nd Anniversary of Sammilita Natya Parishad**

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Sammilita Natya Parishad Sylhet, a prominent cultural organization of Sylhet, celebrated its 32 years of journey to the excellence on and off stage, with a three-day theatre festival in the district.

The festival was held at the Kazi Nazrul Auditorium from September 20-22, and saw staging of three plays following a colourful opening ceremony at the open stage (Mukta Prangon) of the auditorium on the opening day.

On the inaugural day, Nagamat presented a short play named "Adam Test", and other dance and musical organisations performed on the stage.

Theatre Sylhet presented "Ujane Mrityu", an absurd drama written by the iconic Syed Waliullah, and directed by Kamrul Haque Jewel on the first day. Nabashikha Natyadal presented "Saat Koinyar Kahani" originally extracted from a Nagri written by Syed Shahnur, which was converted to stage drama by Ruma Modok and directed by Sushanta Kumar Sarkar, on the second day of the festival. The drama of the ancient literature of Sylhet presented seven female characters. The festival closed with the drama "Sukher Khoje Sukhlal" of Natyamancha Sylhet, written by Bidyut Kar and directed by Rajat Kanti Gupta. The drama represents the life of the tea workers of the greater Sylhet region.

“Pacific Rim 2” to begin filming in November



After years of uncertainty, "Pacific Rim 2" now has an official release date as well as a filming location. Filmmaker Guillermo del Toro's colorful kaiju vs. mech film "Pacific Rim" hit theaters in 2013 to mostly solid reviews but shaky box office. Del Toro's film was intended to kick off a franchise, serving as a terrific piece of world building, but the box office results had made uncertain the possibility of further sequels.

Del Toro remains involved as a key producer on "Pacific Rim 2", and it has been announced that Chinese actress Jing Tian is joining the cast with confirmation that production begins this November in Australia, with principal photography also planned to take place in China.

John Boyega is leading the cast of the sequel and producing, though it's as-yet unclear if the sequel will have the original cast members. Though it has been confirmed that Charlie Hunnam is not returning, del Toro recently stated that 'a lot' of the cast from the first movie will indeed be returning, adding that "Pacific Rim 2" expands the universe by focusing on the post-war setting.

With a firm November start-date now set, the is slated for release on February 23, 2018.

Source: Collider

