

**WHAT'S ON**  
**Ganga-Jamuna Theatre & Cultural Fest**  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shipakala Academy  
 Date: October 21-30  
 Time: 4pm

**Solo Musical Soiree**  
 Artist: Masud Ahmed  
 Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum  
 Date: October 21  
 Time: 6:30pm

**Drawing Exhibition**  
 Manifestation of the Human  
 Artist: Md. Mainuddin  
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi  
 Date: October 8-20  
 Time: 9:30am-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Rooted in Soil  
 Artist: Kamruzzaman Shadhin  
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD  
 Date: Oct 14-29  
 Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs), 9am-12noon and 5-8pm (Fri-Sat)

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: METAMORPHIC - Naturally Transformed  
 Artist: Rezaun Nabi  
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos  
 Date: October 14-28  
 Time: 12-8pm

# Three day Lalon death anniversary ends



# A tale of the hunter and hunted

## Shadhin's maiden solo exhibit at AFD



AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

The three-day death anniversary programme in memory of mystic poet Lalon Shah ended with speakers emphasising the need to harken back to Lalon's philosophy, especially its humanitarian aspect.

Steps for preserving the bard's original songs were another demand at the event.

The programme chalked out on the occasion of 126th death anniversary of the Baul king was held at the Chheuria Lalon Akhra in Kushtia from October 16-18.

Lalon Academy held the programme in tandem with the Ministry of Cultural

Affairs. Kushtia district administration supervised the event.

The programme included a 'Lalon Mela', discussion and rendition of songs by artistes of Lalon Academy and Bauls from across the country.

Asaduzzaman Noor, Minister of Cultural Affairs inaugurated the programme.

Other guests addressing the occasion include Abdur Rouf, lawmaker of Kushtia-4, Abdus Samad, and Divisional Commissioner of Khulna.

Bauls in thousands and Lalon admirers from in and out of the country flocked to Lalon's den on all three days. With a large gathering at the main stage, seated in small groups, the Bauls could be seen paying homage to Lalon at the

bard's grave and singing the songs of their spiritual guru who is regarded as the torchbearer by the Bauls and shows them the path to obtain spiritual or divine peace.

The Bauls consider the akhra, Lalon's shrine as a sacred spot where they can free themselves of all sorrows and misery through Sadhan-Bhajan (spiritual songs). This homage takes the form of Lalon's songs.

Speakers said that Lalon's philosophy is unique.

"Lalon's credos have a direct relevance to our times --local and global context in the present social and cultural ambience, when humanity is fast deteriorating, hatred rules the roost, and culture suffers at the hands of intoler-

ance, sectarianism, fundamentalism, orthodoxy, and fanaticism," said Professor Dr. Rashid Askari, writer and columnist who is the current Vice-Chancellor of Kushtia Islamic University.

He said the true spirit of the songs can help us stand against the long shadow of ignorance, superstition, and dogmatism and lead people of various creeds, ideas, and dogmas to peace and happiness in this age of social unrest, political hostility, cultural aggression and religious intolerance.

Following on this idea, the speakers urged the government to take initiatives on this front. More steps for research on Lalon should also be initiated, they said.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) organised a solo art exhibition titled "Rooted in Soil" by Kamruzzaman Shadhin at its La Galerie and Galerie Zoom. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition was held on October 14.

Asaduzzaman Noor, Cultural Affairs Minister, graced the occasion as chief guest. Sophie Aubert, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh, attended the programme as the guest of honour. Faruque Hassan, managing director, Giant Group and Mustafa Zaman, artist, critic and editor of Depart attended the opening ceremony as special guests. M. Bruno Plasse, Director, AFD, delivered welcome address at the event.

Kamruzzaman Shadhin has displayed an installation of 15,000 rats made of burnt clay, an installation of 500 arrows accompanied with video, and around five paintings employing clay collected from the Santhal village in his first solo show.

This art project started earlier this year while Shadhin was working in a Santhal village called Molanipara in Thakurgaon, Bangladesh. The Santhals are an indigenous minority community living around the north-western region of Bangladesh.

The artist has experienced the gradual changes in their lifestyles, how they gradually shifted their hunter-gatherer lifestyle to a modern agrarian one. Their surrounding environment has also changed with hybrid crops and excessive use of insecticides and pesticides driving away foxes, owls, eagles and many other animals. The rats that the Santhals used to hunt before have increased excessively in numbers and invaded their earthen houses.

As a part of the project, Shadhin has created thousands of rats made of clay with the help of the community. The rats symbolise human beings and their greed, out to destroy everything in nature in the name of development. This presentation included a series of Shadhin's works whose main inspiration came from the intricate relationship between nature and human beings on earth.

Shadhin is a visual artist born and based in Bangladesh working in the mediums of installation, video and performance art. His work mostly focuses on environmental and social issues. His art projects are often created through public participation and are exhibited in public spaces where the main audiences are the general public and surrounding communities. He is the founder of Gidree Bawlee Foundation of Arts - a non-profit organisation working to create scope for cultural and artistic exchange between artists and communities through collaborative approaches. Shadhin is also a founding member of "Chhobir Haat".

The exhibition, opening from Monday to Thursday from 3pm to 9pm and from Friday to Saturday from 9am to 12 noon and from 5pm to 8pm, will conclude on October 29.

## NEWS bytes

# Hugh Grant joins PADDINGTON 2

Hugh Grant is set to join the cast of "Paddington 2", which has already begun principal photography.

Irish actor Brendan Gleeson will also join the all-star British ensemble which sees Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Julie Walters, Jim Broadbent, Peter Capaldi, Madeleine Harris and Samuel Joslin all returning. Ben Whishaw and Imelda Staunton, who provide the voices of Paddington and Aunt Lucy, respectively, are also set to reprise their roles.



The original "Paddington" opened in 2014 to critical and commercial acclaim, garnering strong reviews and grossing \$270 million worldwide to become the highest grossing independent family film of all time.

The sequel sees the beloved bear, happily settled with the Brown family and a popular member of the local community -- embark upon a series of odd jobs to buy the perfect present for his Aunt Lucy's 100th birthday, only for the gift to be stolen.

Grant will play local celebrity Phoenix Buchanan, a vain and charming acting legend who has fallen on hard times. Gleeson is set to play 'Knuckles' McGinty, a notorious safe-cracker and strongman who becomes an unexpected ally for Paddington.

Source: Variety

## TV WATCH

# "Shong-Shar" on ntv



A CORRESPONDENT

New TV series "Shong-Shar" will air on ntv tonight at 9:45pm. Written and directed by Golam Sohrab Dodul, the programme airs

every Wednesday and Thursday. The series includes a heavyweight cast of Abul Hayat, Dilara Zaman, Afran Nisho, Apama Ghosh, Shatabdi Wadud, Moushumi Hamid, AKM Hasan, Nadia, Allen, Tanzin Tisha, Runa

Khan, Monira Mithu and others.

The story revolves around a seemingly simple but actually extraordinary family, that has the mother of the family at its centre.

# First "Dear Zindagi" poster out

The first poster of the Shah Rukh Khan and Alia Bhatt-starrer upcoming slice-of-life film "Dear Zindagi" was unveiled on Tuesday evening by makers Red Chillies Entertainment. And the refreshingly breezy poster hits all the check-marks for a great first look.

The film, directed by "English Vinglish" director Gauri Shinde, is already highly anticipated due to the first-time pairing of Shah Rukh and Alia. The two co-stars have been exchanging tweets in character to promote the film.

Their fun Twitter exchange seems to have culminated in the poster, which shows a light-hearted moment between the two keep moving on path of life.

"Life is a ride and you gotta keep moving!" Red Chillies captioned the poster.

"Dear Zindagi" also stars Kumal Kapoor and Ali Zafar. Co-produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, the film is slated for a November 25 release.

Source: NDTV Movies



# BotTala to bring "Crutch-er Colonel" on stage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe BotTala has always had a distinctively socio-political approach to the selection of content for their productions, from the folklore-based "Khona" to the political drama "The Trial of Mallam Ilya" or their street play "Jotugriho" about the Tazreen Garments tragedy. Now, the troupe is set to bring another politically-sensitive work to the stage. Mohammad Ali Haider is directing the stage adaptation of eminent novelist Shahaduzzaman's "Crutch-er Colonel", about the life of Liberation War Hero and one of the masterminds of the November 7 coup Colonel

Taher, who was executed in 1976.

The troupe members recently went on a three-day intensive residential rehearsal programme outside the capital for the play, and are now continuing to put finishing touches. Troupe member Kazi Roksana Ruma informed that they are planning to premiere it this November. Aside from the original novel, some additional parts for the play have been written by Samina Luthfa and Soummo Sarker, while cast members will include Imran Khan Munna, Evan Riaz, Luthfa, Ruma, Toufique Hasan Bhuiyan, Nafij Bindu and Abdur Rahim.

Lieutenant Colonel Taher, who was a high-achieving officer of the Pakistan

army, defected and joined the Liberation War, and was appointed the Sector Commander for Sector 11. After Liberation, he became a leading force in forming the leftist political party Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dol. He was an active player in the events of November 1975 that resulted in General Ziaur Rahman coming to power, who, after taking charge of the army, tried him in a military tribunal for high treason and murder inside the Dhaka Central Jail, and was executed on July 21, 1976. More than three and a half decades later, the High Court declared in 2011 that verdict of the military tribunal and the execution were illegal.

