

WHAT'S ON

**Dhaka Int'l Folk Fest**  
 Organiser: Sun Events  
 Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka  
 Date: Nov 10-12  
 Time: 6pm-12am



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Inside Out  
 Artist: Promiti Hossain  
 Venue: Kala Kendra, 1/11, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur  
 Date: Oct 22-Nov 10  
 Time: 5-8pm




**Theatre**  
 Play: Raja O Onnanno  
 Troupe: Prachyanat  
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: Nov 1; Time: 7pm



**Theatre**  
 Play: Paicho Chorer Kissa  
 Troupe: Dhaka Padatik  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: Nov 4; Time: 7pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Artist: Maksudul Ahsan  
 Venue: National Art Gallery (Gallery-4), BSA  
 Date: Oct 28-Nov 5  
 Time: 11am-8pm




# Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Gallery gets new lease of life

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**ZAHANGIR ALOM**  
 The Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Gallery at the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM), has got a new lease of life, thanks to the initiative of BNM and financial support of IFIC Bank Limited. Drik has provided technical assistance to the makeover. The newly-decorated gallery along with its display of paintings by the master artist has some definite positives, but some glaring issues also stick out. The interior, background, framing of the works, lighting and digital display (through video monitor) of more than 100 paintings is awesome. The curator has put Shilpacharya's biography (both in Bangla and English) with his portraits including a rare one placed beside a wall painting of crow on the eastern side. They have also displayed art materials like spatula, brush and pen made of khog and colour tubes of Zainul Abedin. But among the 47 displayed artworks, the display of the priceless painting "Monpura 70" is a complete blunder, according to Nisar Hossain, Dean of Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka.

"Zainul Abedin portrayed the famous scroll painting sitting by the shore of the Bay of Bengal where tens of thousands of corpses were floating due to the devastating cyclone of 1970. It has a distinct flat horizontal visual of the black and white painting. But the curators have displayed in a curved surface. It has been hung above the eye level with little space and the circular symmetric rows (in both top and bottom side) of screws are disturbing. Such a display will definitely harm the painting," said Nisar Hossain. Some other unflattering issues could also be seen around the gallery; there were signs of a possible retouching on the famous painting "Ghor-e Phera". Its title in Bangla is written as Canvas-e Tel Rong (oil on canvas), but in English it says Watercolour on Canvas. What also exasperated many visiting artists and viewers is the sand-like textures of the glasses on the painting frames. It has distorted the real visual aesthetics of the artworks. Prior to the opening of the gallery, an inaugural ceremony was held at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium where finance minister AMA Muhith was chief guest while Asaduzzaman Noor, cultural

affairs minister, was present as guest of honour. Asaduzzaman Noor elaborated the current state of the museum, various timely initiatives of his ministry and most importantly he spoke on the lack of professionalism in running the special departments of the ministry. The cultural affairs minister deserves great thanks for proposing to found a separate National Art Gallery (after the name of Shilpacharya) that will proudly showcase the masterpieces of Bangladeshi artists. The finance minister instantly conferred to the proposal and consented to allocate budgets for the project. "We are augmenting budget for the ministry of cultural affairs. Art and culture help us build good tastes and it is very necessary," said Muhith. Eminent Tagore exponent Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya and Shah Alam Sarwar, managing director of IFIC Bank, attended the event as special guests. Faizul Latif Chowdhury, DG, BNM delivered welcome address while eminent artist Hashem Khan presided over the programme. Artist-actor Afzal Hossain hosted the event.

# ASADUZZAMAN NOOR TURNS 70

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
 "Kothao Keu Nei" is one of the most popular plays in Bangladesh's television history. Asaduzzaman Noor's performance in the play as Baker Bhai is considered one of his best roles, and boosted his popularity. His performance, in fact, made such a major impact on the nation that when Baker Bhai had to be hung in the narrative, it provoked a nationwide protest. Today marks the eminent actor's 70th birthday and it will no doubt be a busy one. A TV play that added to his formidable reputation was "Ayomoy". Appearing as Chhoto Mirza, the actor won critical acclaim for his role, and both "Kothao Keu Nei" and "Ayomoy" are recognised as major milestones in Bangladesh media. These are only two of the many ventures where Asaduzzaman's contribution has earned him fame. Theatre is another sphere where he has made his mark. With his own troupe Nagorik Nattyanon, he is best known for the play "Nuroldiner Sharajibon," where he plays the titular character Nuroldin. His contribution to Bangladesh's showbiz also extends to films, with his first role in "Shankhnil Karagar", and his phenomenal performance in the Liberation War film "Aguner Poroshmoni". Aguner acting role was in the TV play "Matir Pradeep", which was aired during Eid ul Fitr. However, his presence is not limited to showbiz. He has been a Freedom Fighter with a role in the country's Independence movement. Currently the Minister of Cultural Affairs, he has made big strides in the country's cultural development. His journey as an actor began with theatre after joining a troupe called Padatik in 1973. His initial involvement had primarily been off the stage and out of the spotlight, until Abul Hayat, leading actor of a play, suffered an injury during rehearsals. Asaduzzaman Noor stepped in as his replacement, and eventually rose to great heights today.



PHOTO: STAR

# PROSUN AZAD banned from productions for one year

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Actor Prosun Azad has been banned for one year following a unanimous decision made by the Directors Guild. Television Programme Producers Association of Bangladesh and Obhinoishilpi Shongho have also given their consent to the decision. Director SA Alik stated, "Director Rokeya Prachi contacted the Directors Guild, after which a three day notice was issued. The three day notice was completed on October 28, during which no comment was made by Prosun. The only statements we have from her are Facebook statuses which have been the cause of much embarrassment to this industry." He further commented, "We have tried to mediate between Rokeya Prachi and Prosun Azad. A letter has also been sent to the latter. However, we have not received a response, which has prompted the decision to ban her from further productions for a year." The incident that resulted in the ban occurred during the shooting of television play "Shopno Shotti Hote Pare", directed and produced by Rokeya Prachi. Soon after the conflict extended to the social media, which led to the director to bring it to the attention of industry associations.

# Dhaka Int'l Folk Fest to open Nov 10

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The second edition of the Dhaka International Folk Fest will take place from November 10-12 at the Army Stadium in the capital. The event, organised by Sun Events is being presented by Meril, in association with GP Music, powered by Dhaka Bank and Supported by Microsoft. The announcement was made at a press conference yesterday, but to the bafflement of many, the organisers refrained from announcing the names of any performing artistes or groups. Anjan Chowdhury, chairman and managing director and Sun Events; Grameenphone's acting CEO and CMO Yasir Azman, Dhaka Bank Deputy MD Emranul Haque, Microsoft Bangladesh MD Sonia Bashir and Bengal Foundation chairman Abul Khair attended the



Speakers at the press conference.

press conference, where they discussed Bangladesh's folk heritage, and the importance of presenting it to the people. Online registration for the festival, free of cost, will begin on November 1 on the website: dhakainternationalfolkfest.com. Updates of the festival will be available on the Facebook page of Dhaka International Folk Fest. The festival, running from 6pm to midnight every day, will be streamed live on the official Facebook page and Youtube, while Maasranga TV, the broadcast partner, will telecast it. The festival's other partners are Radhuni, Bengal Digital, Aamra Companies, Radio Dinrat, MediaCom, Square Hospitals Limited, Aegis Security Force, The Westin Dhaka and Shohoz.com

# NEWS bytes

## TOM HARDY to play Al Capone

Having taken on not one but two Kray twins in 2015's hit British gangster biopic "Legend", Tom Hardy is now set to play the biggest mobster of them all. The Academy Award-nominee will star as Al Capone in "Fonzo", the upcoming project from writer-director Josh Trank. The story will centre on Capone at the age of 47, following nearly a decade of imprisonment, as dementia rots his mind and his vio-



# KANGANA to get crash-course in horse-riding



Bollywood Actress Kangana Ranaut will take up a course in horse riding in Germany for her next film on warrior queen Rani Lakshmi Bai. Kangana, who is currently shooting for Hansal Mehta's "Simran" in the US, is gearing up for the period drama, Rani Lakshmi Bai, to be helmed by Ketan Mehta. "Kangana is right now shooting for 'Simran' post which she will be promoting the film. Then she has promotions of 'Rangoon' which releases in February. She will be doing a crash course in Germany where she will spend time in a horse stable," a spokesperson of the star said in a statement. "She will be learning the nitty-gritties in horse riding. This is expected to last for 15-20 days. The course will also give her insights about the different kind of horse breeds, first aids given to them during times of injuries, cleaning techniques and many more," the spokesperson said. The 29-year-old actress will begin shooting the film by end of March. Lakshmi Bai, the Rani of Jhansi was the queen of the Maratha-ruled Jhansi state, situated in the north-central part of India. She was one of the leading figures of the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

lent past comes back to haunt him. The film will be produced by Russell Ackerman and John Schoenfelder for Addictive Pictures alongside Oscar-nominated Lawrence Bender. Bloom is handling international sales on the project, now in pre-production. "Fonzo" brings together the myth and lore of notorious American Gangster Al Capone, with the undeniable talent of Tom Hardy and Josh Trank," said Bloom's Alex Walton. Source: Hollywood Reporter