

WHAT'S ON

Musical Soiree
 Organiser: Star Melodies
 Venue: A S Mahmud Hall, The Daily Star Center
 Date: Nov 5
 Time: 6:00pm

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
 Troupe: Jagoroni Theatre
 Play: Raja'r Chithi
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: November 4
 Time: 6:30pm

Theatre
 Play: Paicho Chore 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

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



RUNA STRIKES GOLD!

Citi Bank to honour Runa Laila tomorrow

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Runa Laila is a living legend of the Bangladeshi music industry. She is one of the revered artistes of the subcontinent and the world at large. The singing diva, who has so far recorded more than 10,000 songs in different languages, is all set to receive "Gaan-e Gaan-e Gunijon Shongbordhona", conferred by Citi Bank at 4pm on November 5.

"I am very honoured to receive the award as it is prestigious. The award ceremony coincides with 50 years of my professional career; that's why it is special to me," said Runa Laila. The organisers will confer the award money along with a crest, uttario and a portrait on her. A promising singer generally pays musical homage to the honoured artiste through performing their recorded songs at the programme. "I suggested names of three promising singers – Konal, Kona and Jhilik to render songs. I will be happy to listen to them as they are doing very well," shared Runa Laila. Eventually Citi Bank selected Konal to render several popular songs, originally recorded by Runa Laila, at the event. Asked on her stage performances in Bangladesh, Runa Laila said, "Actually, the lack of a proper auditorium is a big problem for a large-scale concert or any ticketed event in Bangladesh. I do mostly perform at

prestigious shows, arranged by famous corporate houses. Besides, the issue of security in performing at open air concerts is also a matter of concern. If there is any secured venue with proper event management, I won't have any objection to perform," said the artiste. Talking about her 50-year musical career, Runa Laila commented, "I feel surprised to think that I have already circled 50 years of my music career. I am grateful to Almighty Allah. The support of my family together with the love and honour of my fans has made immense contributions to what I am today. I am grateful to them as well. I performed in a concert on September 24 in London where the audience of all ages thoroughly enjoyed the event. I am often wonder struck that my fans still love me and my songs for the last five decades. I would like to sing till the end of my life and always want to present newer songs."



Tens of thousands throng Chanchal's Facebook Live at TDS!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It's not often that fans get a chance to interact up close with their favourite celebrities, and they are ready to make the most of every chance they get. Chanchal Chowdhury, still basking in the groundbreaking success of "Aynabaji", sat down for a candid, personal session with fans on the first Facebook Live AMA (Ask Me Anything) session of The Daily Star on Wednesday, and was instantly overwhelmed with the response. Over a thousand people tuned in almost at the instant The Daily Star Facebook page went Live, and the numbers kept growing frantically. A staggering 9,800+ comments poured in just one hour as the actor struggled to keep up with the rapidly scrolling comments. He managed to read quite a few, which ranged from curiosities about his personal and professional life, to hearty praise for him and his film. Over 46,000 people from all over the world tuned in at the session, and comments dropped in from Qatar to Canberra and Bogra to Belgium. Chanchal also took the time to speak out against piracy, and gave insights about how much work and finances go into making a film.



Feel-good vibes in first "Dear Zindagi" song

Shah Rukh-Alia share a special bond

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Gauri Shinde's latest big screen venture, "Dear Zindagi", has kept audiences hooked since its promo material started rolling out on the web – from the Twitter exchange between lead cast Shah Rukh Khan and Alia Bhatt to fun, quirky images. Now, the first song of the film just landed, providing a closer look into the film's tone and the chemistry between the two. "Love You Zindagi" oozes with feel-good vibes, as it tells the story of a young girl and her therapist. Set to an upbeat, happy tune by the talented Amit Trivedi, it looks into the life of Alia's character, her happiness and struggles. Shah Rukh, who turned 51 on the day of the song's release, seems to play a friend-and-philosopher role, and the bond between the two is heartwarming. The film's other cast -- Aditya Roy Kapur, Kunal Kapoor, Ali Zafar, Angad Bedi, Siddharth Shukla and Ira Dubey are mostly in the background as the focus is all on the 23-year old Alia who seems to be growing strength from strength as an actor with every film. The vocals of Jasleen Royal fit in perfectly with the 'Love Your Life' theme of the song, and the visuals and music intertwine superbly. The film is backed by Shah Rukh's friends and family – produced by wife Gauri Khan and long-time cohort Karan Johar, along with Shinde himself. The film is slated for a November 25 release.



NEWS bytes

Elle Fanning joins GALVESTON

Elle Fanning and Ben Foster will star in "Galveston", adapted from the 2010 novel by True Detective creator Nic Pizzolatto. Melanie Laurent will direct the moody crime thriller from Pizzolatto's screenplay. "Galveston" follows two hard-luck outsiders on the run. Barely surviving an assassination attempt from his loan-sharking boss, debt-collector Roy 'Big Country' Cady (Foster) flees to the Texas town to lie low, but in rescuing Raquel 'Rocky' Arceneaux (Fanning), a vulnerable young prostitute, from the shoot-out, any hope of a safe haven vanishes. Rocky is a girl with secrets to hide, including one that will forever haunt Roy in a powerful story of sacrifice and redemption. Low Spark Films' Tyler Davidson will serve as producer. Production will begin in January.



Meem keeps herself busy

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Once a popular face on the small screen, Shabreen Shaka Meem had won the hearts with her acting in TV plays, but she has made a bit of a shift now, and is busy with TV show anchoring these days. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, she spoke about her transition.

"I have been involved with anchoring since I started my acting career. I was irregular in the profession although I continued acting on regular basis. The people of the country know me as an actor. I exceeded TV programmes occasionally at that time. I have refrained from acting for the last four years. I'm hosting a popular live show named 'Rtv Tarokaalap' twice a week for over a year. "I really enjoy live programme because those who come here as guests are familiar to me. The guests share their fond memories with me, which is always enjoyable. A few days ago, in the course of my show when Chandni talked about a TV play she had shot overseas, it struck me immediately that we had both stayed abroad shooting for the play at the same time." "An interesting incident occurred on the set recently. A few days ago, actor Shahed came to my show and at one stage, he told me that I had put on some weight. He later told me that he totally forgot that he was on a live programme." "I love anchoring. I had grown apart from my former colleagues but I'm now connected with them through Rtv Tarokaalap. "Many people have asked me why I quit acting. I haven't retired from acting, but I don't want to be a regular here. Everything will depend on a strong plot. But I want to stay busy with anchoring at present."