

WHAT'S ON

17th Asian Art Biennale
Bangladesh
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am-8pm




Int'l Group Art Exhibit
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Nov 27-Dec 26
Time: 12noon-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Save The River Buriganga
Photographer: Fojit Sheikh Babu
Venue: Galerie Zoom, AFD
Date: Dec 09-24
Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs), 9am-12noon and 5-8pm (Fri-Sat)



Solo Print exhibition
Title: Deep Print
Artist: Wakilur Rahman
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 751 Satmasjid Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 29-Dec 16
Time: 12noon-8pm



International Mono Drama Festival
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Dec 8-15; Time: 6:30pm



2nd Dhaka International Mono Drama Festival
Date: 8-15 December, 2016

A story told with words unsaid

"The Mud" draws curtain on BotTala Rongomela

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Eminent thespian Aly Zaker delivered an impassioned speech about saving the country's entertainment industry, and Iranian troupe Crazy Body Group gave a mesmerizing performance to close the BotTala Rongomela in the capital's Mahila Samity auditorium on Saturday.

Aly Zaker was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at the festival – which he received from BotTala Chairman Prof. Mesbah Kamal. Although he is currently physically unwell, the eminent actor-director promised to continue working. "I have a lot left to do. I want to move forward with all of you beside me," he said. The iconic cultural personality also spoke about what he described as a "mass media revolution," pointing to the recent movement by actors and producers of TV raising various demands to protect the country's entertainment industry. He said the movement would have to be unified and not of a double standard, adding that artistes cannot carry

out a movement to save the channels. He thanked the government for taking some steps to prevent the proliferation of foreign TV shows, but said artistes have to raise their own voice, and not of the chan-



nels. "We artistes must stand against everything that is wrong, and if it hampers someone's business, then that's not the artiste's headache," he said. "If there is a

revolt, it has to be an all-encompassing one, so the world gets the message that they cannot toy with Bangladesh," Zaker said, adding "We will not let our country's culture go to ruins."



Iran's Crazy Body Group took the stage next for their production "The Mud", and in a 40-minute display left the jam-packed Nilima Ibrahim auditorium in awe.

Combining martial art form Wushu, contemporary dance, mime, physical theatre and contortion, the two-person play conveyed its message of the struggle between the creator and the creation, using clay, mud and water along with cool light projection, ample use of smoke and brilliant live background music on stage. Yaser Khaseb, who wrote and directed the play, is one of the two characters on stage, and his physical flexibility, strength and overall body language remained a testament why this production has traveled the world and gained praise everywhere.

The festival came to an end with an exuberant celebration by the members of BotTala, who held the 10-day 'Rongomela' that included new plays, live music and theatre on a second stage, honouring theatre activists from across the country and other sidelining activities drawing crowds consistently. The Cultural Affairs Ministry, EMK Center, Dhaka Bank and Prime Bank assisted in the festival.

From Chittagong to Goalanda: "Halda" moves to new sets

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

"Halda", directed by Tauquir Ahmed, completed its first leg of shooting at Chittagong two and a half months ago, and now, the crew has left for a ten-day shooting stint at Rajbari, Goalanda. After days of hunting, a historic zamindar manor has been chosen as the prime setting for the next sequence in the script. The manor had been refurbished prior to shooting.

"I wanted the manor to have an aristocratic feel, which is why I have chosen this place. Most of our shooting now will take place indoors," said the director. Zahid Hasan, Tisha, Mosharraf Karim, and more remain as members of the main cast. Dilara Zaman and Runa Khan will be joining the team. They will be portraying Zahid Hasan's mother and first wife respectively.

"Film is teamwork. After two and a half months since completing shooting at the Halda riverbank, we are resuming work once more. We are all working hard to create the best results for our audience," said Zahid Hasan.

Tisha, who plays the younger wife of Zahid Hasan's character said, "In the first sequence, which we have completed, the setting takes place in my character's father's home. Now we are at her husband's home."

Regarding their progress director Tauquir Ahmed stated, "We are hoping to complete shooting the entire film at Goalanda. However, we are yet to film two scenes at Chittagong, which we will tackle once we finish our work here."



Zahid and Tisha on the sets.

PHOTO: STAR

স্টার মেলডিজ The Daily Star আয়োজিত
বাংলা গানের নিয়মিত আসর
এবারের নিবেদন :
নি ভেইলি স্টার এর ২৫ বছর পূর্তি উপলক্ষে বাংলা নাগরিক গানের
২৫ জন কালজয়ী সৃষ্টিকার পান নিয়ে বিশেষ আয়োজনের দ্বিতীয় পর্ব



Star Melodies' tribute to greats of Bangla Nagorik songs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commemorating 25 years of The Daily Star, Star Melodies is holding a series of special musical programmes, paying tribute to 25 noted composers of Bangla Nagorik songs. The first episode of the series was held last month, featuring songs of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, DL Ray, Atulprasad Sen, Rajanikant Sen, along with stalwarts Raichand Boral, Sailesh Dutta Gupta, Sachin Dev Burman, Himangshu Dutta, and Kamal Dasgupta.

The second and final programme, on December 17, will feature songs of Subal Dasgupta, Robin Chattopadhyay, Abdul Ahad, Manna Dey, Hemanta Mukhopadhyay, Salil Chowdhury, Nachiketa Ghosh, Satinath Mukhopadhyay, Khan Ataur Rahman, Sudhin Dasgupta, Shyamal Mitra, Satya Saha, Robin Ghosh, Khandaker Nurul Alam and Alauddin Ali.

Both noted and promising singers Iffat Ara Nargis, Aniruddha Sengupta, Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb, Alope Sen, Muhin, Suptika Mondal and Eva will present songs of the golden era.

The event will be held at 6 pm at the AS Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star Centre on the day. Sadya Afreen Mallick will compère the programme. The event has been organised with assistance from Eastern Bank Limited and Simantic Creative Concern. Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.

A treat for classical music lovers Priyanka and Allarakha perform at BSA

ZAHANGIR ALOM

It was a houseful auditorium of National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in the evening of December 10 when noted Bangladeshi vocalist Priyanka Gope and Indian Sarangi artiste Allarakha Kalavant enthralled the audience with their solo rendition and recital of classical music.

Priyanka Gope set off the soiree with a chhoto khyal based on Raga Charukeshi. The jugalbandi-style performance contained beautiful ragdari both in vocal and sarangi. Priyanka mesmerised the audience with her speedy akar and sargam taan together with murki. The devotional bandish "Gao Rasna Hari Guna Gao" was on teentaal. Iftekhar Alam Pradhan on tabla and Debasish Adhikary on harmonium accompanied the presentation.

Allarakha next performed a solo piece based on Raga Behag. He also rendered amidst his recital of an old bandish. Soumen Sarkar accompanied the artiste on tabla producing several rounds of beats.

Priyanka later performed a melodious

thumri set on Raga Manj Khamaj. She also performed a dadra on Raga Baroa and some semi-classical pieces based on Ragas Kalavati, Mishra Jog and Sohini. Allarakha too played a popular thumri, "Yaad Piya Ki Aaye" at the programme.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) with overall assistance from High Commission of India in Dhaka organised the event. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor graced the occasion as chief guest while Jayashree Kundu, Director of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre attended the event as special guest. Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA, delivered welcome address at the event.

"The practice and performance classical music was on the wane in the middle; but, the thanks to the regular events of world's biggest Bengal Classical Music Festival, the good days are coming back. I personally initiated the cultural exchange programme between Bangladesh and India and sincerely hope that this continuation will make people of these two friendly nations come closer," said Asaduzzaman Noor.



ISIFF closes with awarding of winners



Saiful Wadud Helal receives his award. STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14th International Short & Independent Film Festival Dhaka 2016 came to a close on Saturday, through awarding of the winners in various categories. The closing ceremony of the festival, organised by Bangladesh Short Film Forum (BSSF), was held at the main auditorium of the National Museum, where Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor was chief guest. A number of international filmmakers were also present at the ceremony, along with festival committee chairman thespian Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu, festival director Syed Imran Hossain Kirmani, and BSSF chair Prof. Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju.

Russian filmmaker Geroje Protov's "Family offline" was adjudged Best Film in the International Competition (Fiction), while Special Jury Award went to Iranian Ismael Monsef's "Ardak". In the International Competition (Documentary), Bangladesh's Saiful Wadud Helal picked up the Best Film for "Jhalmaliya – The Sacred Water". The NETPAC (Network for Asian Cinema) award went to Afghan helmer Sadam Wahidi for "Mary Mother". The Tareq Shahriar Best Independent Short Award – recognizing young Bangladeshi talent in filmmaking, went to Tasmiah Afreen Mou for her film "Statement After My Poet Husband's Death", while the Jury Award went to Md. Abid Mallik's "Poth".

Afsana Mimi paves the way for emerging artistes

A CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday witnessed a daylong event at Bangladesh Film and Television academy marking the first graduation of students who completed their courses at the Acting Department. A final performance occurred, where students Aryan, Himon, Shaheena, Shudjenja, Sajib, Kamal, Matin, Hamid, Arif, and Rafan. An elated Afsana Mim attended the programme, who said "Three months is very little time for students, and the course has been completed before the students had time to discover their niche. Today's programme is a culmination of all they have learned, and shows us how far they have come, and what we have enabled them to do during their time here."

November last year saw the opening of Bangladesh Film and Television Academy at Uttara's Sector 12. The project is the brainchild of actor and director Afsana Mimi, who wishes to help take Bangladeshi film and television across great distances.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED