


WHAT'S ON

Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan
Date: February 1-28
Time: 3-8pm



Chobi Mela IX
Title: Transition
Venue: BSA Art Gallery, Northbrook Hall, BAF, Beauty Boarding
Date: February 3-16

CHOBIMELA
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY BANGLADESH 2017

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Beautiful Bengal
Artist: Mokhlesur Rahman
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhamondi
Date: Jan 28-Feb 10
Time: 3-8pm



Street Theatre Festival
Organiser: BGTF
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: Jan 31-Feb 7
Time: 4pm onwards



Dhaka Live Art Biennale
Organiser: Back ART
Venue: Charukola, Curzon Hall, Chhobir Haat, DU Swimming Pool
Date: February 1-3
Time: 10am-1pm; 7:30-9pm

D:LAB
Dhaka Live Art Biennale
February 01-03, 2017



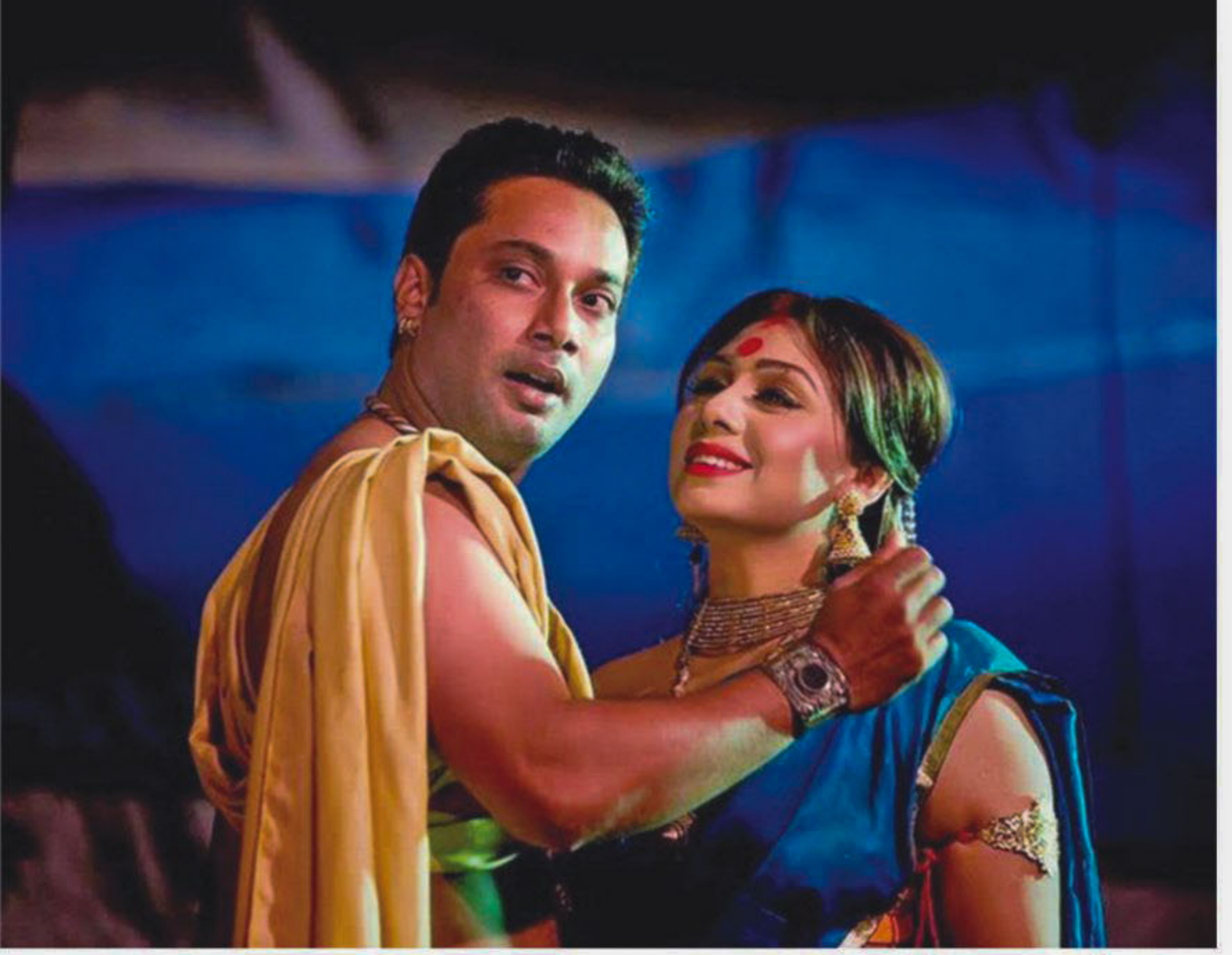
PROTHOM PARTHO

going to Int'l Theatre Fest of India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdullah Al Mamun Theatre School's production "Prothom Partho" will represent Bangladesh at the prestigious 19th Bharat Rang Mahotsav – International Theatre Festival of India. The play will be staged on February 7, at the 'Abhimanch' stage. The festival, organised by India's National School of Drama (NSD) in New Delhi, is one of the biggest theatre festivals of the subcontinent, spanning 21 days and including a host of activities. A total of 94 performances from 12 countries and 16 states of India will be a part of the grand festival, along with seminars, masterclasses, workshops and other allied programmes. The festival will also travel to five more cities – Kurukshetra, Agartala, Patna, Pune and

Hyderabad. "Prothom Partho", written by Buddhadev Bose and directed by Joyeeta Moholanobish, is based on the Mahabharata. Karna is the central character in the play, with Kunti, Draupadi, Krishna and others starring with him. The cast of the play includes Md. Nur Jaman Raja, Shireen Bokul, Tania Hossain, Golam Shahriar Shikto, Shamim Reza and others. Partha Barua has arranged the background music for the play. The troupe will also stage the play in Patna on February 9. Talking to The Daily Star, Tania Hossain expressed her excitement about taking part in the festival. "NSD is one of the most special places to be for any theatre artiste of this region, and it's an honour to be representing Bangladesh at such a big stage," she said.



Soha to share "The Perils of Being Moderately Famous"

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Actress Soha Ali Khan is by no means a Bollywood super star. But royalty and acting are in her blood. Having appeared in a number of films including the hit "Rang De Basanti" in Hindi and "Ety Srikanto" in Bangla, she is now all set to make her debut as a writer this year. Her book "The Perils of Being Moderately Famous" will be a collection of humorous, and sometimes bizarre, stories on her life as a royal princess and a 'moderately famous' celebrity, as Soha likes to call herself. The bulk of the book, the actress said in a statement circulated by the publisher, "...is about... well, me. Just me. Is my life really worth writing about, or more to the point worth you paying to read about? Well, the good news is you'd be right not to wait for the movie." However, Soha, who also acted in the Bangla film "Antar Mahal" and Hindi movies "Tum Miley" and "Dil Maangey More", has a 'word of caution' for those hoping she "will reveal the secret behind Kareena's glowing complexion or how Bhai (Saif Ali Khan) trains for an action film." Penguin India Commissioning Editor Gurveen Chadha says "having read a few chapters, I can safely say Soha was born to write." Soha stars in the recent film "31st October", a true story focusing on the aftermath of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination.



A musical storm from the Northeast

Soulmate closes Jazz & Blues Fest with a bang



FAHMIM FERDOUS

The final day of the Jazz & Blues Fest Dhaka began with some very disappointing news, but by the end of the night, that was somewhat forgotten, as Soulmate transformed Le Meridien hotel's rooftop stage to the eye of a veritable blues-rock storm. Lurrie Bell and the Chicago Blues Band, one of the most-anticipated names on this year's festival bill, was supposed to close the festival on Tuesday, but organisers informed of a last-minute change due to some inevitable situations, and the final day's performances opened with a last-minute addition to the festival, US-based jazz trumpeter Avishai Cohen (not to be composed/confused) with the double bass-playing jazz musician of the same name). Despite his tall frame and Viking-like facial hair, his set was smooth and mellow, with pitter-pattering piano and a walking bassline a feature of his pieces. He opened with a track called "Life and Death", and the soothing tone of the trumpet took the audience on a journey. His two other notable pieces, "Dream Like A Child" and "Nature's Dance" were also testament of his musical philosophy – sensitive, calming and spreading a feeling of warmth. Ranjot Barot, another heavy-weight performer of the festival, took the stage next, in a familiar ensemble. His band consisted of the same musicians of the previous night's Miles Davis tribute set – Kevin Scott on bass guitar, Sean Freeman on tenor sax and Osam Ezzeldin on keys. The UK-based Indian drummer-vocalist-composer had performed in the last edition of the festival as well, and was at ease from the get go. He opened with an original composition, "Indian Aria", and after a couple more tracks of fine jazz improvisations, invited Gary Husband on the piano. The group's musical chemistry remained as marvelous as the previous day, although the musical style was a little difference. Barot also showed off his Indian foundation, doing complex 'bols' (often used with tabla or Carnatic percussion instruments) with his mouth before rocking them on the bass pedal and crash cymbals. The combination of Husband's pure piano sounds with Ezzeldin's more synth-like tones also made for some interesting moments. Soulmate, the Shillong-based blues-rock duo of Tripti 'Tips'

Kharbanga and Rudy Wallang along with a touring band of a drummer and a bassist, was the final act of the night and the festival, and they rose to the occasion. The band was also on the last edition's lineup of the festival, and it gave them a certain advantage of reading the audience better. Opening with a one of blues' most recognizable tunes – BB King's "Every Day I Got The Blues", Tips thrust into the performance full throttle as she channeled her inner Etta James with "Blues is My Business". Tips powerhouse vocals and Rudy Wallang's feel-oozing riffs kept the night going in a rapid-fire set of performances, mixing in originals and covers – their own numbers "Set Me Free" and "Don't You Go and Make Me Blue", to classics like "Rock Me" (originally by Muddy Waters), Koko Taylor's "Voodoo Woman" and Buddy Guy's "Let Me Love You Baby" – sharing the vocal duties. They got the audience off the feet and dancing, and wishing for more. It was a fitting end to a festival that defied many obstacles to take place, and the blues and jazz-loving crowd of Dhaka owes a tip of the hat to Blues Communications for their commitment and hard work.

NATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL

at Central Library, DU

A CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Kabita Maney Na Borborota", Jatiya Kabita Parishad has organised the 31st National Poetry Festival 2017 at the Central Library premises, University of Dhaka on February 1 and 2. Renowned poet Belal Chowdhury inaugurated the festival yesterday as chief guest while noted poet Muhammad Samad presided over the inaugural session. Invited poets, writers and representatives from Bangladesh, India, Sweden, Russia, Germany, Puerto Rico and Austria took part in an open discussion on the title "Poetry Against Savagery" on yesterday morning. They also recited their self-composed poems. The festival comprising poetry recitations, seminars and rendition of songs set to tune from poems, ends at 9pm today.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Int'l Poets Summit 2017

Verses from the heart

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi and international poets had a poetry recital session at the city's Gallery Chitrak on January 31. This was in prelude to Dhaka International Poets Summit '17 billed for February 3, at the National Gallery Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy under the aegis of literary organisation Kathak. German poet Tobias Burghardt and Argentine poet Jona Burghardt, known for being co-founders of the Babylon Festival for International Cultures and Arts, mesmerised the audience by reciting poetries in German and English. Austrian poet Manfred Chobot, Puerto Rican poet and Director of World Festival of Poetry, Luz Maria Lopez, Russian poet Dr. Victor Alexandrovich Pogadaev and another young poet from Puerto Rico, Maria de los Angeles Camacho Rivas, also recited their poems. Poet Aminur Rahman conducted the recital and musical session. Other Bangladeshi poets at the event included Habibullah Sirajee, Hayat Saif, Jahidul Huq, Rahima Akhter Kalpana, Camellia Mustafa, Jahangir Feroze, Reaz Ahmad, Zahid Mustafa, Shakib Lohani, Kamruzzaman, and Ahmed Tahsin Shams. Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon will be present as chief guest at tomorrow's Dhaka International Poets Summit. Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan will chair the session.

A busy year ahead for MILON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned actor Anisur Rahman Milon made his film debut in "Hajar Bochor Dhore". Primarily recognised as a TV actor, the artiste has also strayed into films from time to time. Currently, six films featuring the actor await release. Milon will be seen alongside Apu Biswas for the first time in "Rajneeti". The actor has also wrapped up shooting for "Crime Road", which has been cleared by the censor board. Actor Shaila Sabi will be filling in the role of the female lead. The actor will also be seen working with Moushumi for the first time in "Ratir Jatri". Regarding his experience, Milon said, "I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity to work with her." Other films starring the actor are "Shopnobar" with Momo as his co-star, and "Naiyor". Milon has also branched out his acting skills to don the role of a villain in "Shadakalo Prem".

