

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, BAFA, Beauty Boarding
Date: February 3-16

CHOBIMELA 2017
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY BANGLADESH

Iranian Film Show
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
Date: Feb 5-8
Time: 11am-1pm & 3pm-5pm

Iranian Film Show
5-8 February, 2017
Everyday 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. & 3.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Venue: Main auditorium Bangladesh National Museum

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

Group Print Exhibition
Chhapi Chhobi-3
Venue: Galleri Kaya
Date: Jan 28-Feb 10
Time: 11am-7:30pm




Dancers of Dhriti Nartanalay display Manipuri dance at the event.

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Bengal Foundation has been doing some momentous work for the prosperity of our culture for 27 years now, and though most general people of the country know them for the Bengal Classical Music Festival, they have been working in all forms of arts. Now, the organisation is poised to break another barrier – by organising a massive-scale festival of culture outside the capital.

The 'Manobik Sadhonay Bengal Sangskriti Utsab – Sylhet 2017' is set to begin on February 22 at the AMA Muhith Sports Complex in Sylhet, and will bring together top artistes of the country (along with some of the biggest stars of Bangla music and literature from India) for a 10-day extravaganza of music, dance, fine art, literature, films, theatre, crafts and architecture. The festival is dedicated to the memory of Gyantapas Professor Abdur Razzaq.

Bengal Foundation made the disclosure in a press conference at a city hotel yesterday, along with the announcement that registration (which is free, as is the norm with Bengal Foundation events) is now open.

Bengal Foundation Chair Abul Khair, its advisor AK Momen, Dhaka Bank CEO and Managing Director Syed Mahbubur Rahman and Channel i managing director Faridur Reza Sagor spoke at the press conference, which was anchored by Bengal Foundation DG

Luva Nahid Choudhury. Following the press conference, a dance performance highlighting one of the representative art forms of the Sylhet region – Manipuri dance – was presented by dancers of Dhriti Nartanalay, led by Warda Rihab.

The festival will have about 425 artistes of all kinds directly participating, including about 50 from India. Big names include Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Khairul Anam Shakil, Adity Mohsin, Chandana Mazumdar, Joler Gaan, Kuddus Boyati from Bangladesh, and singers Haimanti Shukla, Srikanta Acharya, Monomoy Bhattacharya, Jayati Chakravarty and Parvathy Baul. An art camp will also be held during the festival where noted artists Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Shahid Kabir, Rokeya Sultana, Jamal Ahmed, Shishir Bhattacharya and Tayeba Begum Lipi will participate. A three-day literary festival will be held from February 24-26, where Hasan Azizul Haque, Imdadul Haque Milon, Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Anisul Hoque and others will participate, along with eminent writer Samaresh Majumdar, theatre actor-director Shaoli Mitra and other writers, columnists and poets from India, and two authors from Nepal will take part.

Film screenings will also be a part of the festival, where "Meghmalla", "Television", "Anil Bagchi'r Ekdin", "Runway", "Titas Ekti Nodi'r Naam" "Guerilla" and other critically-acclaimed films will be

screened. Four theatre plays – "Mohajoner Nao", "Amena Sundori", "Konjus" and "Kohe Birangona" will also be staged at the festival. Other attractions include crafts from 15 districts, traditional sweets and other delicacies from various regions, a book fair, a digital display on Sylhet's heritage and culture, an architectural exhibition, a musical instrument exhibition and more.



Speakers at the press conference.

The various festival spaces are named after some of the most important cultural luminaries of Sylhet – Hason Raja Stage, Shah Abdul Karim Chatter, Syed Mujtaba Ali Stage, Gurusaday Dutta Chatter, Radharaman Dutta Bedi and Kushiara Colonnade (after the River

Kushiara). Anyone can join the festival free of cost by registering online – on bengalcraftfestival.com, or via SMS – by sending "Bengal" to 6969. Organisers will also set up registration booths at various educational institutes for students, and there will be arrangements for on-site registration.

Index Group is presenting the festival,

NEWS bytes

Damien Chazelle wins top DGA award



Damien Chazelle has won the Directors Guild of America's top feature film award for the whimsical musical comedy-drama "La La Land."

Chazelle won over Garth Davis for "Lion", Barry Jenkins for "Moonlight", Kenneth Lonergan for "Manchester by the Sea", and Denis Villeneuve for "Arrival". Alejandro Inarritu, who nabbed the last two DGA Awards for "The Revenant" and "Birdman", made the announcement late Saturday night at the conclusion of the 69th Annual DGA Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Chazelle said backstage that he made "La La Land" – which stars Emma Stone as a hopeful actress and Ryan Gosling as a struggling musician falling in and out of love in an idealized Los Angeles – to celebrate the pursuit of artistic dreams. He also pointed out that he began working on "La La Land" seven years ago.

Chazelle won the directing award at the Golden Globes for "La La Land" as part of the musical's sweep. He's nominated for a best director Oscar alongside Jenkins, Lonergan, Villeneuve, and Mel Gibson for "Hacksaw Ridge".

Bangla language survives because Bangladesh exists

Swapnamoy Chakraborty speaks in Ctg

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

The survival of Bangla language and literature would have been endangered if Bangladesh had not emerged as an independent country, said acclaimed Indian writer Swapnamoy Chakraborty while talking about his literary life before readers in Chittagong city on Saturday evening.

The writer, who was awarded Bankim Puraskar in 2005 and Ananda Puraskar in 2015 for his contribution to Bengali literature, was addressing a programme themed "Amar Jibon, Amar Rachana" (My life, My writings) at Baatighar premises in the city.

The largest book shop in the city, Baatighar, organised the programme where eminent personalities, educationists and literature enthusiasts came together.

Excerpts from "Amader Rabindranath" by the writer were recited at the beginning. Baatighar proprietor Dipankar Das gave a welcome speech.

At the programme, Swapnomoy informed that his ancestors migrated to India from Noakhali after the partition of Bengal in 1947.

Later, he recounted an anecdote about how witnessed a worker plunge to his death after a fall from an under-



The eminent writer speaks at Baatighar.

PHOTO: STAR

construction building. He wrote a story named "Mangalghot" on life of the construction workers. And it was the beginning of his story writing, he said.

Going further, Swapnomoy said one day he was introduced to the acclaimed Bangladeshi writer Akhtaruzzamn Elais, whose leg had been amputated due to cancer. In the course of a conversation, Akhtaruzzaman Elais informed

Swapnamoy that he was able to lead a normal life with one leg but often felt pain in the amputated leg.

Perplexed at this conundrum, Swapnomoy said he was inspired to write a short story about a football coach whose leg had been amputated.

Poet Ahmed Munir emceed and writer Harishankar Jaladas presided over the programme.



A book titled "Hash'er Paye Ghuri" by Nazia Zebin was launched on Saturday at the Center for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP). Founder of CRP Valerie Taylor, its CEO Md. Shafiqul Islam, child psychologist and chairman of Beautiful Mid School Dr. Shamim Motin Chowdhury and founder director of Plus One Rubaba Daula launched the book. "Hasher Paye Ghuri" has been published from Ignite Publications.

Belal Khan brings new surprises



ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

For any artiste, winning awards heightens the audience's anticipation of greater things to come. This has certainly been true in the case of National Award-winning Belal Khan, who achieved his milestone last year. Since then, the artiste has focusing his energies on new projects to further define his career. Recently this correspondent got in touch with the artiste, about his new ventures and more.

As a musician who has won the national award at a young age, has it altered your visions on the musical styles you want to work on?

Belal: After winning this award, I kept a low profile during the months that followed. Last year I only released two songs. This year however, I seek to explore new depths in music. On February 5, I released a new single along with a music video titled "Dozokh." The video is experimental and non-traditional, and unlike any other project I have previously worked on. I have collaborated with other artistes as well; Mohammad Shoyeb is working on classical improvisation, and Puja has lent her voice on the track. Emon Chowdhury from Chirkutt is behind musical arrangement and Fazle Rabby has directed the video. Shomeswar Oli has composed the lyrics.

Who would you cite as musical influences?

Belal: This is a difficult question to answer, as the list is ever-growing. There are many composers that I hold in high regard, and each have inspired me in their own way, and I try to do my best to learn from them as well.

Is there a project you have worked on that you are most proud of and feel has defined you as a musician?

Belal: I am most proud of the song "Station." It is the song that won me the National Award, and people who have listened to it prior to its success have told me that it will take me far. I am also proud of my new single "Dozokh", as it is the song where I am exploring my identity as a musician, and representing myself anew to the audience.

What changes would you like to see in the musical landscape of Bangladesh?

Belal: Currently in the commercial music scene, songs are composed around lyrics that lack poetry. I would like to see this change in the future, and I would like to encourage musicians to create more thought-provoking songs that evoke a deep, soulful connection. Even though we have to make commercially successful songs for movies, etc, individual singles that require a heavy budget along with music videos must be seen as an opportunity for artistes to define themselves.

BIPASHA BASU wants to try a new career lane

Bipasha Basu is planning to try her hands on small screen, and the actress says rather than picking up a fiction project, she would like to go for a reality TV show.

The 38-year-old actress, who last big screen outing was 2015 film "Alone", took a break from films after getting married to TV actor Karan Singh Grover last year.

"The fiction is improving but very slowly, we are still catering to a very different kind of audience. The mindsets are changing. Yes, I am open to television but mostly I would think of reality at this point of time. I won't get into fiction right now," said Bipasha.

The actress said she is also planning to return to films and would like to do a comedy project. "I will be back on the big screen soon. Now that marriage is done, honeymoon is done, I would like to do a comedy film."

The actress walked the ramp wearing a silver encrusted shimmery gown from the collection and says it was her husband Karan, who chose the outfit for her. "I was sent two outfits by the designers and Karan chose this. He said that I was looking like a queen in this gown."



Source: PTI