

# THE SEAGULL'S FLIGHT TO BANGLADESH

Chekhov Studio stages "Chekhov and The Seagull" at BSA



A scene from the play.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Chekhov Studio -- the theatre group attached to the museum in Anton Chekhov's estate at Melikhovo, Moscow, staged "Chekhov and The Seagull" at the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) on Thursday, taking the audience through a classic by the Russian playwright. The play, written in 1895, dramatises the romantic and artistic conflicts between the four main characters: a storywriter, an ingénue, a fading actress and her son, who is a playwright.

"The Seagull" is the story of various triangular loves. The play is also an intimate journey into Chekhov's own soul.

Vladimir Baicher, director of Chekhov Studio Theatre, has

directed the play. A stellar performance by consummate actors brought the play alive at three different spaces -- Nandan Mancha, the front side of Coffee House and the National Theatre Hall of BSA.

The play is set in a country estate owned by Sorin, a retired civil servant in failing health. He is the brother of the famous actress Arkadina, who has just arrived at the estate for a brief vacation with her lover, the writer Trigorin. The play-within-a-play features Nina, a young woman who lives on a neighbouring estate, as the "soul of the world" in a time far in the future. The performance starts with Masha destroying the theatre because some other woman is playing the role she wanted.

The highlight of the performance was the high level of acting, which shifted from realistic to

fantasy as the narrative demanded. The designer -- Vladimir Anshon perfectly changed the set and stage according to the acting styles. Alexey Litvinov produced the play.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, BSA DG Liaquat Ali Lucky, Russian Ambassador Alexander I Ignatov and Professor of DU Theatre and Performance Studies Department Dr M Israfil Shaheen presented bouquets to the director and all the cast and crew of the troupe.

On invitation of the Government of Bangladesh, Chekhov Studio also held a three-day workshop and staged another play "The Bear" yesterday as part of the event organised by BSA, in association with University of Dhaka and Embassy of Russia in Bangladesh. Ministry of Cultural Affairs assisted in the entire arrangement.

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# Classical dance school Nrityanjoli opens in Chittagong

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Nrityanjoli, a classical school of dance initiated by alternative educational institute Fulki, launched its journey with a colourful cultural programme at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) in the port city recently.

Fulki organised the programme with cooperation from Kalpataru, a classical dance centre of famed dance organisation Sadhana, on February 5.

On the occasion, poet and journalist Abul Momen, Principal of Fulki Shila Momen, President of Dancers' Guild of Chittagong Sharmin Hossain and Head of Kalpataru Lubna Mariam delivered speeches on the origin and development of different forms of dance in the subcontinent and on their characteristics.

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also enriched the art of dance both in variety and prosperity.

Underscoring the need for practicing classical dance, the speakers said classical dance is the foundation of any rich form of dance and practicing it can help a learner to be a good dancer in future.

Later, the grand opening was on with ignition of clay lamps by the guests.

Artistes of Raktakarabi presented the Rabindra Sangeet "Nritya Tale Tale" to set the programme in motion. Young students of Sonartori entertained the audience with a Bandish on Raga Malkauns and a Tarana, accompanied by two dances.

Later, Amit Chowdhury, teacher of Kalpataru and his two associates Zuaairah Mouli and Shammi Akhter enchanted the audience with their presentation of Bharatnatyam.

The official opening of Nrityanjoli lessons started through learning of primary mudra by the young learners. The session was conducted by Amit Chowdhury.



PHOTO: STAR

# Katy Perry unleashes new song "Chained to the Rhythm"

Katy Perry's pre-Grammys party has started early with the release of her new song "Chained to the Rhythm".

The pop superstar teased her new retimed number through the week and shared the goods overnight, with its lyrics sheet premiering through Genius.

Long-time collaborator Max Martin and Ali Payami produced the song and, as expected, there's a guest appearance from Bob Marley's grandson Skip Marley. Aussie hit-maker Sia Furler is a surprise guest vocalist. Perry co-wrote "Chained to the Rhythm" with Max Martin, Sia Furler, Ali Payami and Skip Marley.

"Chained to the Rhythm", built on a bed of warm, slightly-tweaked '80s keys and with its energies tuned to the dance floor, is the first track from Perry's upcoming fourth album release, and her first single proper in six months. It's the follow-up to "Rise", which synced with NBC's coverage of the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, and peaked at No. 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 and topped Billboard's Dance Club Songs chart.

Capitol Records confirmed Perry will debut "Chained to the Rhythm" live at the 59th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday (Feb 12). Skip Marley is tipped to join her on stage.

Source: Billboard



# EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

## "We are always getting new readers"

.....Shahadat Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

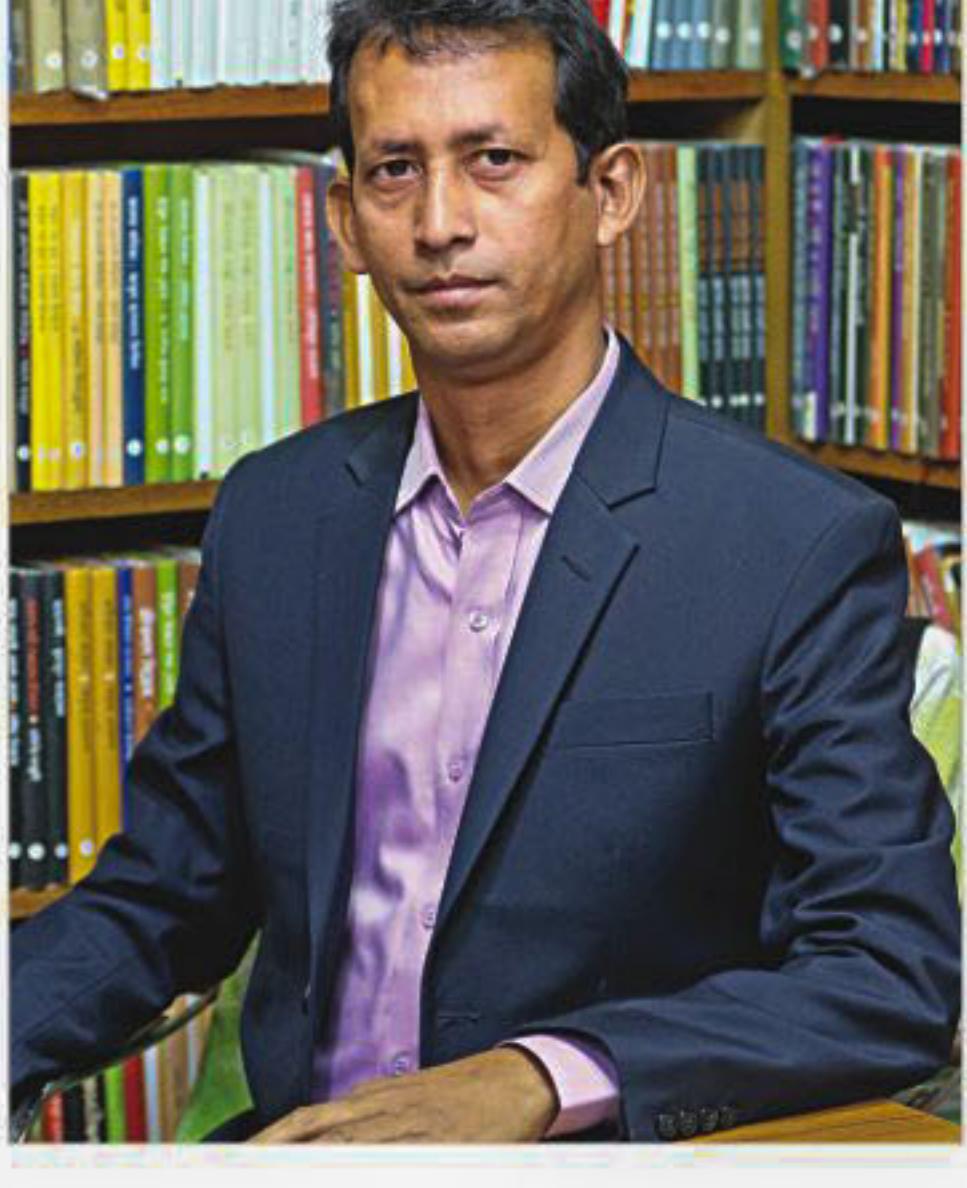
Annesha Prokashon is one of the leading publishers of the country, with as many as 700 books including poetry and novels on the Liberation War and research publications emerging from its presses. The publication house has mainly published novels penned by noted writers like Humayun Ahmed, but is adding on volumes by other authors at this year's Ekushey Book Fair. The Daily Star spoke to Annesha's proprietor Mohammed Shahadat Hossain about his strategies to attract new readers, publishing trends and offerings at the book fair:

What is the profile of present day readers?

Shahadat: At one stage, reading habits were on the decline, but that is changing. There is a large number of teenagers who are taking to books and many youths browse new books at the fair. Besides, school and university students have started reading books. So we are always getting new readers.

What is your strategy to attract new readers?

Shahadat: As a director of Bangladesh Knowledge and Creativity society, I have taken several initiatives to attract new readers.



ers. My first step is to arrange book fairs across the country. As a part of this initiative, we are doing our best to arrange the fair in every district in cooperation with National Book Centre. It is a huge challenge but will help us attract readers who cannot come to the fair in Dhaka. Secondly, we have set in

motion a library movement. If it works, there will be an increasing number of readers.

What are your online sales like?

Shahadat: Our online orders are satisfactory. A few organisations are selling our books online and it is a good initiative. Annesha has also launched e-book versions to attract readers at home and abroad.

Do you think more books should be sold online?

Shahadat: It should be doubled from its current numbers. If more organisations come forward to boost online sales of books, it will benefit both publishers and readers.

How many books have Annesha brought out at this year's fair?

Shahadat: Around 40 books are being published by our house. We are bringing out an anthology of novels by by Humayun Ahmed, with the name "Chandrasokha". The writer had given us this title for a book he was going to write, but he could not finish it in his lifetime, so we thought of honouring him by using the name for the anthology. Besides, we have brought out books by Anisul Hoque, Samresh Majumder and on mystics bards like Lalon Shah and Hason Raja. There are also books based on the Liberation War, and research volumes.



# PEYA participating at New York Fashion Week

Jannatul Ferdoush Peya is one of the most high-profile fashion models of the country, and she is all set to add another feather to her hat of acclaims. The glamourous diva will represent Bangladesh at this year's New York Fashion Week (NYFW), one of the biggest fashion events in the world.

On Thursday, Peya was named the Bangladesh brand ambassador of TRESEMME, a top hair care and styling brand which is also the hairstyling partners of NYFW. She will be at NYFW as the brand ambassador and a model influencer on behalf of TRESEMME Bangladesh. She will be accompanied there by celebrity hair stylist Nahila Hedayet as the hair stylist influencer. This is the first time Bangladesh is being represented at the grand event, according to a press release.

The New York Fashion week is running from February 9-16, bringing together brands, designers, models and everyone related to the world of fashion.

PHOTO: STAR



US Ambassador to Dhaka Marcia Bernicat inaugurated the Bangladesh Peace & Harmony Week 2017 Photo Exhibition On February 6. The exhibition, at EMK Center for Public Services & Arts is a part of the week long events commemorating UN World Interfaith Harmony Week 2017. Dr. Kazi Nurul Islam, founding chair of the Department of World Religions and Culture at Dhaka University and Ahmed Ashfaqur Rahman, president of Junior Chambers International, Bangladesh were present at the inauguration. The photography contest introduced 20 best photographs mostly focusing on religious coexistence and rich cultural ethnicity of Bangladesh.