

WHAT'S ON

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

**Terracotta Fair and Exhibition**  
 Venue: Bangladesh National Museum  
 Date: February 11-18  
 Time: 10am-5pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: The Naked  
 Artist: Tilottama Bhowmick  
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka  
 Date: Feb 10-18  
 Time: 3pm-9pm

**Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Alchemy of Losses  
 Artist: Asma Sultana  
 Venue: Kalakendra, Mohammadpur  
 Date: Feb 3-18  
 Time: 5pm-8pm

**Documentary Premiere**  
 Marking 80th Birth Anniversary of Prof. Anisuzzaman  
 Documentary: 'Batighar'  
 Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum  
 Date: Feb 17; Time: 6pm

**National Performance Art Fest 2017**  
 Organisers: Peoples' Theatre Association & BSA  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: Feb 17-18; Time: 3-8pm

# "Dance is not a means to success and fame for me"

Shamim Ara Nipa on receiving Ekushey Padak

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

*Adding another massive milestone in her career, Shamim Ara Nipa has been named along with 16 other eminent personalities as the recipient for the Ekushey Padak 2017. Her contributions to the field of dance has made her one of the most iconic exponents of classical dance in the country, and her dance institute Nrityanchal, co-founded with fellow dancer Shibli Mohammad, is regarded as one of the top dance institutions in the country. In a conversation with The Daily Star, Shamim Ara Nipa talks about her feelings on winning the prestigious award, and more.*



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**How did you first enter the world of dance?**

Nipa: I grew up in an artistic household where my family members encouraged each other to take up different pursuits. My induction to dance began when I was quite young, but as years went by I realised that dancing is my passion, as well as a medium through which I would find my identity.

**Is there a turning point in your life where you regarded dance as a serious career?**

Nipa: I don't really know which instance in my life could be valued as a turning point, but there are quite a few. My early dance career was based out of Dhaka; I was born in Kishoreganj, and was part of a dance troupe from Mymensingh. My teacher there saw me in a different light. Whenever we would rehearse, he would push me to learn extra steps, and showed me how to find finesse in dancing. I traveled with them to Dhaka to perform at a folk festival, and our group stood first in the competition. Soon after, I received an offer to travel abroad, which delighted me to no end! I was only a ninth grader at the time, and had made no significant strides as a dancer – this was a reality check because I thought to myself that I had been given a huge reward without doing much, and that was when I first started thinking of embarking on a serious dance career.

**What are your feelings on winning the Ekushey Padak?**

Nipa: I feel that my loved ones are more ecstatic than I am which makes me feel good. However, I have never set my eyes on winning any award, as dance is not a means to success and fame for me. I tell my students even now to focus on just dance, and to not stray into modeling or acting. But sadly, most are under the impression that they can't do much in their lives through dance alone, and due to the thirst for stardom dance has taken a backseat and is a marginalized career choice. This award has given me the confidence to move forward, and now I can tell people that they can be just dancers, and have great achievements.

**What are you currently working on?**

Nipa: I am busy with my school, Nrityanchal, and we always have performances in various programmes. Other than that, I am working on some rural folk dance choreographies, because I feel that in order to represent ourselves proudly and correctly, we must uphold our roots and learn how to present them properly. Right now I am busy with research, and perhaps by the end of this year I will be able to present it in a big way. I am also working with all the children of my institution in a production for International Dance Day on April 29. Other than that, we have been involved in numerous productions abroad in Kolkata and Dubai, as well as other places, which was a big achievement on our part.

## Shraddha to sport four looks in "Haseena"

Since her big Bollywood outing ("Aashiqui 2" in 2013), Shraddha Kapoor has made people sit up and take notice of her sartorial sense. And on a steadily rising career path, Shraddha is taking her flair for "fashion" a step further in her next movie, a biopic on Haseena Parkar. She will sport four different looks in the film. She has, therefore, decided to get involved to ensure that her looks work out perfectly. The first look of Shraddha in the film, that was recently released, is from that part of the film when she is in her 40s.

Shraddha is excited to have four different looks. From playing a teenager to an older lady with kids, she will be going through four different phases.

Since Shraddha hasn't acted in a biopic before, she is excited to go through the process and has involved herself in designing her looks. There is a team that has been working on the intricacies of her looks, reports Hindustan Times. When contacted, Shraddha did not give out details, except that she will sport four looks. "I'd like to talk about them in detail when we are closer to the release," she says.

Source: Hindustan Times



Artists and organisers at the press conference.

## National Performance Art Festival begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People's Theatre Association (PTA), with assistance from the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), is organising a two-day National Performance Art Festival from today. The festival will be opened at 3pm by eminent artist Mustafa Monwar, with Dhaka University VC AAMS Arefin Siddique and thespian Ataur Rahman as special guest.

Kalidas Karmakar will be conferred Lifetime Achievement Award at the opening ceremony, while Mahbubur Rahman will be conferred the Performance Art Honours 2017.

There will be 14 presentations at the

festival, from 3pm-8pm each day, spread across eight venues at the BSA: National Music and Dance Centre premise and lobby, Nandan Mancha, Open space, National Theatre Hall lobby, National Art Gallery lobby, first floor and Charu Prangan.

Artists performing at the festival are Kamruzzaman Shadhin, Farah Nazmun, Abu Naser Robi, Arpita Singha Lopa, Saleh Mahmud, Sujon Mahabub, Asim Haldar Sagor (on the first day) and Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Jewel A Rob, Yasmin Jahan Nupur, Reetu Sattar, Sumona Akhter, Amal Akash and theatre troupe Loko Natya Dal (on the second day).

The announcement of the festival was made in a press conference at the seminar room of BSA yesterday, where BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky and a number of performing artists were present.

PTA has been involved with children's and youth theatre movement for the last 27 years. They currently have 262 organisations affiliated with them. They have so far organised four youth theatre festivals and 13 children's and adolescent's theatre festivals across the country. Members of PTA have also participated in 85 international festivals in Germany, Russia, Japan, Croatia, UK, Cuba and India, among others.



Winners of the first Actors' Equity elections gathered at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at the oath-taking ceremony for office. The elections were held earlier on February 10, where 715 members voted to choose their representatives in various organisational posts for the next two years.

## NEWS bytes

### MEL GIBSON eyed to helm "Suicide Squad 2"

Warner Bros. has begun the search for the director who will take over the reins for the sequel to box office hit "Suicide Squad". Mel Gibson is perhaps the most surprising of the handful of possibilities. Variety reports that in addition to Gibson, Warners has met with, or is planning to meet with, Ruben Fleischer



("Zombieland"), Daniel Espinosa ("Safe House"), and Jonathan Levine ("Warm Bodies").

Insiders say the list could grow and that there is no front-runner at the moment.

David Ayer wrote and directed the original film that starred Will Smith, Margot Robbie and Jared Leto. It followed a group of villains and antiheroes including Deadshot, Harley Quinn, Captain Boomerang, and Killer Croc, who are forced into the service of the government in exchange for lighter sentences.

Though the original was met with a mixed reaction from fans and critics, it nevertheless grossed more than \$700 million at the box office, making a sequel inevitable.

Gibson's "Hacksaw Ridge" was his first film as a director in ten years, and if it takes on "Suicide Squad", it would be his directing assignment more a major studio since "Braveheart".

Source: Variety