

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Ekushey Book Fair Organiser: Bangla Academy Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan Date: February 1-28 Time: 3-8pm</p>	<p>Bengal Sangskriti Utshab Organiser: Bengal Foundation Venue: AMA Muhith Sports Complex, Sylhet Date: Feb 22-Mar 3 Time: 4pm onwards</p>	<p>Theatre Play: Crutch-er Colonel Troupe: BotTala Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium Date: Feb 24-25 Time: 7pm</p>	<p>Concert Jatra Biroti Live Sessions Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani Date: Feb 23-25 Time: 7pm</p>	<p>Theatre Festival 3rd Ekushey Natyotshab Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan Date: Feb 1-28 Time: 4pm</p>
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NEWS bytes

Jazz legend Larry Coryell dies

Legendary guitarist Larry Coryell died Sunday (February 19) at the age of 73 in his New York City hotel room. Coryell, who passed away in his sleep from natural causes, had performed his last two shows this past weekend at the city's Tridium Jazz Club.

Known as the "Godfather of Fusion", Coryell was a pioneer of jazz-rock. He made his mark in the music world with his highly acclaimed solo work, releasing more than 60 solo albums in his lifetime.

Coryell performed with mid-'70s powerhouse fusion band The Eleventh House and collaborated with jazz greats



including Miles Davis, Gary Burton, Alphonse Mouzon, Ron Carter and Chet Baker.

Though his commercial fame didn't match some of his '60s-'70s guitar contemporaries, Coryell continued to tour the world and had planned an extensive 2017 summer tour with a reformed The Eleventh House.

His final original works included operas based on Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina" and James Joyce's "Ulysses".

Source: **Billboard**



Syed Hasan Imam (L) receives the award from Suborna Mustafa and Asaduzzaman Noor.

BASP awards Golam Mostafa Abritti Padak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Abritti Samonnoy Parishad (BASP) honoured 10 noted personalities with the Golam Mustafa Abritti Padak, for their valuable contributions in the field of poetry recitation on February 20. The recognition was posthumously awarded to Mrinal Sarkar, Waheedul Haque, Hemchandra Bhattacharya, Professor Noren Biswas and Kazi Abu Zafar Siddique. Other awardees were Nikhil Sen, Syed Hasan Imam, Kamal Lohani and Ashrafal Alam.

The event took place at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the wake of Language Martyr's Day and International Mother Language Day. The awards were conferred in a tribute ceremony in remembrance of renowned actor Golam Mustafa. Minister for Cultural Affairs Asaduzzaman Noor graced the occasion as the chief guest while noted actor and elocutionist, as well as the daughter of the late Golam Mustafa, Suborna Mustafa attended as special guest. General Secretary of BASP Mohammad Ahkam Ullah hosted the programme.

During a welcome speech Suborna Mustafa said, "Every year on this day, I hope to gather with everyone in joyous remembrance of my father." Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor also

expressed his appreciation of the event's initiative saying, "Golam Mustafa is an individual whose talent not many have matched, and his contribution to Bangladeshi culture is nothing short of outstanding. His legacy has immortalised him, and he will continue to live on in our hearts."

Asaduzzaman Noor opened the event by reciting Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury's "Ekushey February". The performance enthused the audience, who recited the verses in unison, and members of BASP gathered on stage and presented the minister with flowers to express their respect and appreciation.

Each awardee was presented with Uttariyo, a cheque and a crest. This was followed by a poetry recitation performance by Syed Hasan Imam and Ashrafal Alam. Kamal Lohani and Anjali Biswas, wife of the late Noren Biswas delivered speeches.

The second installment of the programme included poetry recitation by various cultural organisations, including Kanthashilon, Sarasruti, Kotha Abritti Charcha Kendra, Dhaka Shorokolpon, Shongbrita, Mukhtodhara Sangskriti Charchakendra, Projonmokonthon, Charukonthon Abritti Sangshad, Srot Abritti Sangshad, Shorobanjon, Muktoabak, Shorokolpon Abrittichotro, Trilok Bachik Pathshala, Charubak, Muktodhara Abritti Charchakendra, Shorochitro, Abritti Academy, Boikonthon Abritti Academy and Udichi.

Bengal Sangskriti Utshab begins today

Joler Gaan to perform on opening eve

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Foundation's Bengal Sangskriti Utshab, a 10-day extravaganza of music, theatre, dance, literature, film and pretty much all forms of art, begins today at Sylhet's AMA Muhith Sports Complex.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith is scheduled to inaugurate the festival this evening, while Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and Bengal Foundation Chair Abul Khair will also speak. Dhaka Bank MD Syed Mahbubur Rahman and Index Group MD Zakia Tazin are also set to address the session. Bengal Foundation advisor AK Momen will deliver vote of thanks, and the session will be chaired by Brac founder Sir Fazle Hasan Abed.

Before the opening session though, the festival will see screenings of films, "Jonmosathi" ("Born Together") by Shabnam Ferdousi, "Television" by Mostofa Sarwar Farooki and Nasiruddin Yousuff's "Guerrilla" at the Syed Mujtaba Ali stage. At the Hason Raja stage, which is the main performance stage, Warda Rihab and her troupe will perform Manipuri dance, artistes of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad Sylhet will present patriotic songs, Adity Mohsin will perform Rabindra Sangeet, and Joler Gaan will close the night.



Other attractions at the festival include an art camp with noted artists, a three-day Kali O Kalam literature conference (from February 24-26), 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.

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

Anyone can join the festival free of cost by registering online - on bengalculturalfest.com, or via SMS - by sending "Bengal" to 6969. There will also be arrangements for on-site registration.

Index Group is presenting the festival, with assistance from Dhaka Bank. Channel i is the broadcast partner for the event, while Kali O Kalam is the media partner, hospitality partner Paturi, and other partners are Bengal Digital and Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay. Blues Communications is managing the event.



Emma Watson sings "Belle" in first "Beauty and the Beast" clip

Disney has unveiled the first full clip from the live-action "Beauty and the Beast", and it features a memorable musical number from the 1991 animated Best Picture nominee. The clip gives a snippet of Emma Watson's rendition of "Belle", and it's really good one. The number, as envisioned by "Dreamgirls" director Bill Condon, still has the vibrancy and town-chorus of the animated film, but is brought into the live-action realm in an interesting way that maintains the theatricality of the beloved classic. That's been

one of the biggest questions with regards to "Beauty and the Beast": how with the musical nature of the animated film translate to live-action? This was sidestepped in "Cinderella" and "Pete's Dragon" by not using songs, and "The Jungle Book" only featured a couple of very stripped down pieces of music, but "Beauty and the Beast" is a full-on musical in every sense of the word.

Disney's track record is good reason to be optimistic about "Beauty and the Beast", and the talent of Watson as a performer

bodes well.

Scripted by Stephen Chbosky and Evan Spiliotopoulos with music by Disney veteran Alan Menken, the film also stars Dan Stevens, Luke Evans, Kevin Kline, Josh Gad, Ewan McGregor, Stanley Tucci, Audra McDonald, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Ian McKellen, and Emmat Thompson.

"Beauty and the Beast" opens in theatres on March 17.

Source: **Collider**

Bangladesh Sangskriti Kormi Sangha organised a colourful rally on Monday, marking Language Martyrs Day and International Mother Language Day, from TSC of Dhaka University. A number of cultural activists joined the rally with banners and festoons of 80 countries' flags and alphabets of 30 different languages. The organisation has been holding this rally every year on February 20 since 2003.







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