

<b>Ekushey Book Fair</b> Organiser: Bangla Academy Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan Date: February 1-28 Time: 3-8pm	<b>Bengal Sangskriti Utshab</b> Organiser: Bengal Foundation Venue: AMA Muhith Sports Complex, Sylhet Date: Feb 22-Mar 3 Time: 4pm onwards	<b>Solo Painting Exhibition</b> Title: Poetry of Darkness Artist: Rashedul Huda Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka Date: Feb 24- Mar 7 Time: 3pm-9pm	<b>Solo Photography Exhibition</b> Title: Here, For Now Photographer: Hadi Uddin Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur Date: Feb 25- Mar 22 Time: 5pm-8pm	<b>Theatre Festival</b> 3rd Ekushey Natyotshab Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan Date: Feb 1-28 Time: 4pm
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NEWS bytes

NATALIE PORTMAN skips Oscars

Natalie Portman is missing the 2017 Oscars, set to take place this morning Bangladesh time, and the Spirit Awards the day before because of her pregnancy.

"Due to my pregnancy, I am unable to attend the Independent Spirit Awards and the Academy Awards," Portman wrote in a statement. "I feel so lucky to be honored among my fellow nominees and wish them the most beautiful of weekends."

Portman was nominated for best female lead at the Spirit Awards for her portrayal of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in Pablo Larrain's



"Jackie", but lost out to Isabelle Huppert ("Elle"). The film was also up for best feature and editing, but did not take home any awards.

The same role, which has earned the actress rave reviews, also earned Portman a nomination for best actress at the Oscars. "Jackie" is also nominated for score and costume design.

"Jackie" is Portman's third Oscar nomination. She won the best actress award in 2010 for "Black Swan" and was nominated in the supporting category in 2004 for "Closer".

Source: Variety

Cultural performances enthrall Sylhet

Literary sessions quench thirst of lit lovers

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

"The play and stage play are clearly different, and plays have their own value in literature, which cannot be differentiated from the literature," Shaoli Mitra, president of West Bengal Sahitya Academy said on a Saturday at the literary conference being held as part of the Bengal Sangskritik Utshab Sylhet 1017.

She also urged writers and dramatist not to modernise Tagore's plays, as many of them are destroying the merit of the plays eventually.

Saturday's events of the 10-day cultural extravaganza organised by Bengal Foundation, began with writers-painters from Bangladesh, India and Nepal gathering at six sessions of literary discussions for the Kali O Kalam Sahitya Sammilan (Literary Conference) at the Syed Mujtaba Ali Mancha.

The day's literary discussions began with a session dedicated to famous writer Syed Shamsul Haq, titled: "The 60s: Stories of then memories of today" chaired by popular novelist Dr. Md. Zafar Iqbal, where Jyotiprakash Dutta, a famous writer of the '60s, presented the keynote. Subrata Barua, Abul Momen and Proshanta Mridha participated in the discussion.



Shaoli Mitra speaks at the literary session.

The next session was focused on the poetry, titled "Dissent in Poetry", where Gangaprasad Bimal from India presented the keynote speech and Kaysar Haque chaired the session. Abdul Momen and Mondakranta Sen

from India participated in the discussion. Three more sessions were held throughout the day, where West Bengal Sahitya Academy president Shaoli Mitra, writer-researcher Amiya

Deb, Angshuman Bhowmik, Sushubhan Bhowmik, Ashish Sanyal, Satarupa Sanyal from India and Mahesh Padwal from Nepal attended. Famous playwright Mamunur Rashid, writer Anisul Hoque, Bangla Academy

director general Shamsuzzaman Khan, poet Asad Chowdhury, Fauzia Khan, AbulFateh Fattah, Saiman Zakaria, Sumankumar Das from Bangladesh were also present, among others.

The day's cultural session at the Hason Raja Stage began with Aatur Rahman and his troupe presenting Gambhira, a traditional musical dance presentation originated from greater Rajshahi.

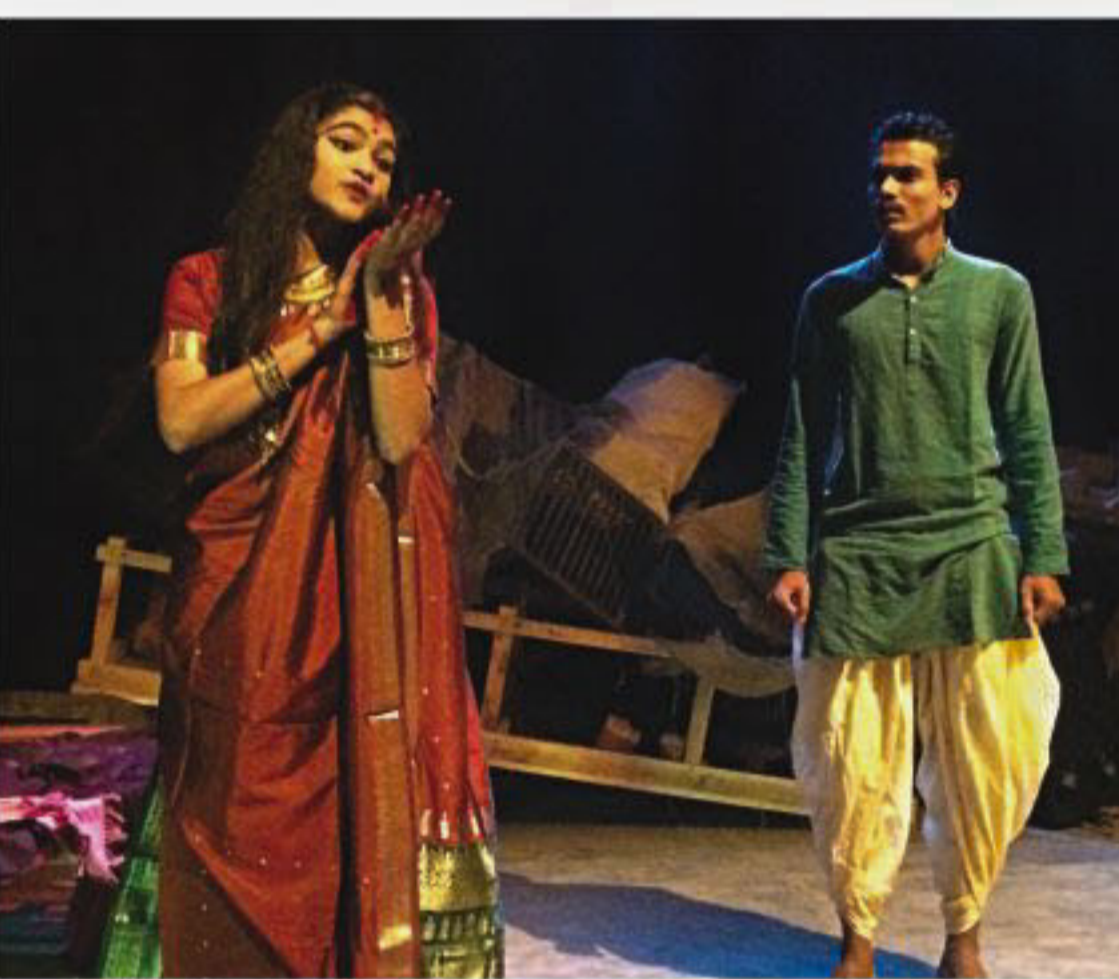
Iffat Ara Dewan's musical performance followed, after which reputed Nazrul exponent Khairul Anam Shakil presented songs of Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Labik Kamal Gaurob, Nobonita Chowdhury and Baby Dewan performed folk songs at the stage next, making the audience move to the rhythms extracted from the grassroots of many regions of the country.

At the Syed Mujtaba Ali Mancha in the evening, Theatre Art Unit from Dhaka staged their play "Amina Sundari". The play, based on folklore of greater Chittagong area, was written by SM Solaiman and directed by Rokeya Rafiq Baby.

The festival, dedicated to the memory of Gyantapas Professor Abdur Razzaq, will continue at the AMA Muhith Sports Complex in Sylhet till March 3.

DU's Annual Theatre Fest ends today



A CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Bibidho Bhashar Bibidho Ratan", Dhaka University's 11th Central Annual Theatre Festival, arranged and produced by the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies of University of Dhaka, opened on February 21 at Teachers' and Students' Centre (TSC) auditorium in the campus. The weeklong festival ends today.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor joined the inaugural ceremony as chief guest, while Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMs Arefin Siddique inaugurated the festival.

Written and directed by Sumaiya

Moni, the production "Abhinetrir Ek Sada Ratri" was staged on the opening day. The festival also featured staging of plays "Jera", "Shunye Ekti Chhoto Baksho", "Ekjon Chakurer Jiban Bastobata", "Kongkal", "Shikod" O Shakha" and "Protibimba" from February 22-24.

Adapted from Syed Shamsul Haq classics -- "Nuruddin-er Sara Jiban", "Nishiddho Loban" and "Payer Awaj Pawa Jaye" -- Ahmedul Kabir has directed "Bonhi Bisharjan Badweep", that was staged on February 25 and 26.

The festival concludes today with the staging of "Saratir". Written and directed by Badal Sarkar and Shubhra Goswami, the show will start at 7pm.



Why is Jacqueline binge-watching Karisma Kapoor films?

Jacqueline Fernandez is prepping up for her upcoming film "Judwaa 2" co-starring Varun Dhawan and Taapsee Pannu. The 31-year-old actress will be playing Karisma Kapoor's role from the 1997 movie "Judwaa" in the re-telling. And to get her act right, Jacqueline is binge-watching Karisma Kapoor's movies, the actress told news agency IANS.

The original "Judwaa" directed by David Dhawan, featured Salman Khan in a double role opposite Karisma Kapoor and Rambha. On being asked if Karisma has given her cues about the role, she said: "No, Karisma hasn't given me any tips. But I am watching a lot of her movies. She is an extremely amazing actress."

"Judwaa 2" is scheduled to release in theatres in September this year. The film will see Varun Dhawan in a double role as estranged twins and Taapsee Pannu will be seen portraying Rambha's character.

Jacqueline, who was last seen in 2016 movie "A Flying Jatt", will be seen sharing the screen space with Varun for the second time. The duo previously worked in "Dishoom", along with John Abraham.

The actress recently made an appearance on Karan Johar's chat show "Koffee With Karan" along with Sidharth Malhotra, who she will be co-starring with in upcoming film "Reload". The movie is a prequel to the 2014 movie "Bang Bang" starring Hrithik Roshan and Katrina Kaif, and is slated to release in August.

Jacqueline is also working with filmmaker Chandran Rutnam in his next venture, titled "According to Mathew".

Source: NDTV Movies

SHAZU'S busy book fair days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shah Alam Shazu is a dedicated, hard working entertainment journalist, but between all the interviews, reports and photo-shoots, he manages time for a deep-seeded passion- writing fiction, and every February he sees all his hard work come to fruition as his books hit the Ekushey Book Fair.



Shazu, whose first novel came out back in 1998, has had a steady flow of books over the years, and at this year's fair, he has six books to offer his readers. Three of his novels -- "Mone Rekho Sondhyatara Amio Bhalobeshchilam", "Tumi Brishtimoyi" and "Boshonte Esho Tumi Bhalobasha Dibo" are for mature readers, while "Goyenda Obhijan", "Jonny Goyenda" and "Bhoyongkor Bablu" are for younger readers.

Noted actor Afzal Hossain and prominent singer Fahmida Nabi launched "Tumi Brishtimoyi" at the Book Fair recently.

Apart from writing, Shazu is making an active effort in creating new readers. He gives away books to students at his native village of Tangail's Sokhipur every year. It's something he says he finds immense satisfaction in.

Shazu began writing fiction in 1996, with short stories for newspaper supplements. He writes around the year and prefers to complete writing well ahead of the fair. His preferred time to write are late night and early morning. His next big plan is to write an elaborate novel based on the Liberation War.

Memories of a Freedom Fighter Book on Liberation War "Pabna-1971" launched



AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPI, Pabna

A book focusing on the history of the Liberation War, titled "Pabna-1971", was launched in Pabna on Friday. The book, authored by valiant Freedom Fighter Rabiul Islam Rabi, hinges on his memories of the battlefield and sheds light on the key events of the Liberation War.

Language hero Aminul Islam Badsha Foundation organised the book launch at Pabna Press Club

auditorium. Key organiser of the Foundation, Sultan Ahmed Buro chaired the programme while eminent educationalist Professor Md. Kamruzzaman, Freedom Fighter Baby Islam, writer Rabiul Islam Rabi, journalist Abdul Matin Khan and Shibojit Nag spoke on the occasion.

The speakers said such a book was long overdue. It goes to the credit of the writer that he closely observed the reality of the war and brutality of the Pakistani occupation army. This is not only a topical book, but a histori-

cal work that can be a source of knowledge for the next generation.

Although there are many limitations in the book, it is a brilliant work because of its subject, the speakers added.

Speaking on the occasion, writer Rabiul Islam Rabi said "In the book I have written about incidents that I observed. I can't recall it all, but if all Freedom Fighters pen their memories today that would be the source of research in future."



Department of Printmaking of the Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU) arranged their annual art exhibition at Zainul Gallery on February 23. The department conferred awards on its best students. Sakib Salim receives Taka 50 thousands as award money of Shilpaguru Safiuddin Ahmed Award -2016.

Cultural organisation Chhayanaut heralded Spring through holding a special musical programme at its auditorium on February 24. Artistes of the organisation rendered solo, duet and choral songs along with dances to greet the king of all seasons. They presented songs composed by two great bards -- Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam -- at the event.

