

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
 Title: London 1971: Unsung Heroes of the Bangladesh Liberation War
 Venue: British Council
 Date: March 3-31




Painting Exhibition
 Bangabandhu Bangladesh
 Organiser: BSA & Samata
 Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
 Date: March 4-17
 Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Journey & Images
 Artist: Ranjit Das
 Venue: Galleri Kaya
 Date: March 12-25
 Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Here, For Now
 Photographer: Hadi Uddin
 Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
 Date: Feb 25- Mar 22
 Time: 5pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Poetry of Darkness
 Artist: Rasheedul Huda
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka
 Date: Feb 24- Mar 7
 Time: 3pm-9pm




PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Many happy returns to Tauquir Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

With a powerful acting legacy on the small screen, Tauquir Ahmed has made a significant mark as a director as well with his hard-hitting and thought provoking films. The actor cum director has roots in theatre which alludes to his commanding on screen presence and penchant for off-beat roles. Today is the artist's birthday, and in a recent conversation with The Daily Star, he shares his plans for the occasion and more.

"Thankfully I don't have a busy shooting schedule this year. I plan to stay at home and celebrate with my mother, siblings, Bipasha and the kids. My kids get a kick out of my birthdays the most, and they go out of their way to make the day truly special. I love looking forward to their handmade cards inscribed with "Happy Birthday Baba" and flowers."

"I have many memorable birthday moments, but none are as special as the times when I was able to celebrate them with my son and daughter. Once, I came home to find the entire house decorated with birthday cards. This lovely surprise was my daughter Sara's handiwork, and it was a day I shall never forget."

"During my years as an actor, birthdays were greeted



with flowers flooding into my office from the morning. They would be from familiar acquaintances, but many came from fans I did not know personally. I remember those days with much fondness."

"After my marriage my birthdays were spent with my wife, Bipasha Hayat. She is someone who loves spending time and effort into making our house look beautiful. My first birthday after marriage was spent wonderfully, all thanks to the efforts she invested into decorating our home."

"My birthdays were spent differently during childhood. We would cut a cake amidst close friends, and I was showered with presents from loved ones. I really miss those days! I still receive a lot of presents, and they always differ each year. Bipasha makes sure to give me something special every year, whether it is a shirt or cologne."

"My children are always the first ones to wish me on my birthday. Then my wife joins in, and they all wish me in unison."

"One more thing I would like to mention to cap my birthday: I am about to embark on a new venture which is a biopic based on the life of the poet Jibanananda Das. I am optimistic about the project and hope to present an entertaining and informative film for my fans."

A GRAND DISPLAY OF BANGLADESHI CULTURE

Bengal Sangskriti Utshab ends on a high note

ZAHANGIR ALOM, back from Sylhet

It was a grand display of Bangladeshi cultural and its diversity that Bengal Foundation hosted in a 10-day (February 22-March 3) Bengal Sangskriti Utshab Sylhet 2017 at Abul Maal Abdul Muhith Sports Complex.

The festival, dedicated to Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq, concluded on March 3 on a high note. Young artistes of "Geetobitan Bangladesh" set off the day's programme with presenting Tagore songs and poems like "Neel Digantey", "Hridoy Amar Nacherey", "Orey Grihabashi" and "Esho Hey Baishakh".

Promising Nazrul Sangeet artiste Anindita Chowdhury came next, beautifully rendering several solos including "Gunjamala Gol-e", "Dola Lagilo Dokhinar", "Bulbuli Nirob" and Abar Bhalobashar Sadh Jagey".

A concluding ceremony was followed where civil aviation and tourism minister Rashed Khan Menon attended as chief guest while Dr. Nazmanara Khanum, noted educationist Syed Manzoorul Islam, managing director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagar and founder and president of Samdani Art Trust Rajib Samdani spoke as special guests.

In his welcome address, Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation, said, "Political and economic advancement



The festival finale drew the largest assembly of spectators (top); Tagore exponent Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya serenades the audience with her performance.

won't be meaningful if cultural practice and development does not go hand in hand." He also sincerely thanked all concerned to make the festival a grand success.

"We have already included the timing of Bengal Classical Music Festival in our tourism calendar so that the grandest festival attracts both foreign and local tourists to Bangladesh at that time. The holding of more festivals will help shape a better society," said Rashed Khan Menon.

Shedding light on the importance of art, literature and culture, Syed

Manzoorul Islam thanked Bengal Foundation to bring the festival to his hometown. He also echoed Rajib Samdani's proposal of continuing the festival in Sylhet annually.

Artistes of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay offered group sitar recital at the event. Renowned Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya entertained the audience with popular songs like "Amar Hiar Majhey", "Tomar Khola Hawa", "Amar Poran Jaha Chayey", "Jodi Tor Daak Shune Keu", "Kotobaro Bhebechhinu" and "Sakhi Bhabona Kaharey Bol-e". She also rendered a

Radharaman song "Amar Bondhu Doyamoy".

Seasoned Baul singer Shafi Mondal gave mesmerising performances, starting off with Lalon songs "Elahi Almin", "Chatok Banchey Kemoney", "Kanan Haat Bazaar", "Chander Gaye", "Anander Bajarey" and "Mon Mondirey". Shafi Mondal also performed songs on request. He sent the crowd into auditory joy when he started singing Paban Das Baul's "Dil Ki Doya Hoyna". He also performed Shah Abdul Karim songs and several other folk songs composed by the mystic bards of Sylhet region.

The largest number of audience (around 45,000) attended the concluding day's festival. At one point, security personnel were bound to open up the entry gate to the enthusiastic crowd. The audience of Sylhet has a natural inclination to folk music and the festival truly delivered. Cultural aficionados thoroughly enjoyed performances of varied songs, instrumental recitals, dance, recitation, theatre and film. Besides, the grand scale festival has an art camp participated by prominent and promising Bangladeshi artists, a craft fair displaying the traditional crafts of Bangladesh, a literary conference, a symposium on architecture titled "Agamir Sylhet" and a display of traditional musical instruments and architectural designs and maps of Sylhet and Dhaka.



Bijori Barkatullah joins the judges of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef and mesmerises the participants with her knowledge and charms.

RUPCHANDA-THE DAILY STAR SUPER CHEF Super Chef episode 9: A pinky promise made

OSAMA RAHMAN

Ayesha Siddiky, affectionately known as Pinky, opened the mystery box before her, wondering what she could create. The box unveiled its secrets slowly; three components, emitting three rounds of collective gasps from each remaining participant. The *jadur baksho* (magic box) challenge never failed to be exacting and this was going to be no different. This week, the participants had to work with koral, king prawn and dory. Pinky must have been thinking what blend would work best. She had shown her prowess with *rupchanda* fish in the last *jadur baksho* challenge and had proven her penchant to work with seafood. It can thus be said that her heart was now caught up in two conflicting emotions of trepidation and hope.

The judges had put in a lot of thought behind each of the tasks to befall the participants. Carefully tailored cooking classes were planned ahead, allowing the prospective Super Chefs to add to their skill-set. Each



challenge was designed to not only bring out the best but to methodically test the challengers' abilities to prove their skills and prepare them for whatever was about to come.

After the previous *jadur baksho* challenge consisting of just one fish, this time there was more variety. The judges wanted to see how much knowledge the participants had of combining different but complementary elements. These could be used to either produce one stellar dish or a number of courses, seamlessly transitioning from one to another.

This challenge revealed another almost unspoken facet of the Super Chef competition; chefs need not just have the ability to cook but also must come with the promise of creativity. The ability to create brand new dishes would thus be considered a prerequisite to being a Super Chef and this *jadur baksho* challenge was conceived to serve that very need.

Pinky would go on to prevail in front of celebrity guest Bijori Barkatullah, the famous actress. Bijori was thoroughly impressed and so were the rest of the judges. While Pinky celebrated, Ferdous Ara Tuin, the 24-year old businesswoman from Rajshahi would not share the same fate. Ferdous Ara Tuin, known as Lucky, would bid farewell.

Tonight, yet another Chef demonstration would be held by Chef Dipu, from Ruposhi Bangla. A dessert connoisseur, expect to be left with a sweet tooth at the end of proceedings. Tune into ntv at 9:00 pm, every Saturday and Sunday to find out what happens next in Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2017.

Lizzy Caplan joins Michael Pena in 'Extinction'

"Masters of Sex" star Lizzy Caplan will play opposite Michael Pena in Universal and Good Universe's sci-fi thriller "Extinction."

Sources tell Variety Caplan will play Pena's wife in the film, which follows a man trying to save his family from an alien invasion.

Ben Young will direct. Eric Heisserer — who was most recently nominated for his script on "Arrival" — will write the screenplay with Spenser Cohen and Bradley Caleb Kane.

Todd Lieberman and David Hoberman of Mandeville, who backed the highly-anticipated live action "Beauty and the



Beast." will produce. Mandeville's Alexander Young will executive produce, alongside Nathan Kahane and Joe Drake of Good Universe. Anna Halberg, will serve as co-producer.

Caplan most recently starred opposite Michael Sheen in Showtime's critically-acclaimed drama series about the lives of the sex researchers William Masters and Virginia Johnson, "Masters of Sex." On the big screen she was most recently seen in "Allied" opposite Brad Pitt and also starred in "Now You See Me 2."

Source: **Variety**

RUPCHANDA The Daily Star Super Chef 2017

Chef Abu Taleb's Lime and Strawberry CHEESECAKE CHALLENGE

Watch Every Saturday & Sunday At 9pm On **ntv**

www.facebook.com/RupchandaTheDailyStarSuperChef