

WHAT'S ON

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



Contemporary Art Exhibition
 Title: An Abstract Affair
 Artist: Mohammad Eunus
 Venue: EDGE Gallery
 Date: Mar 18-31
 Time: 10am-8pm



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



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



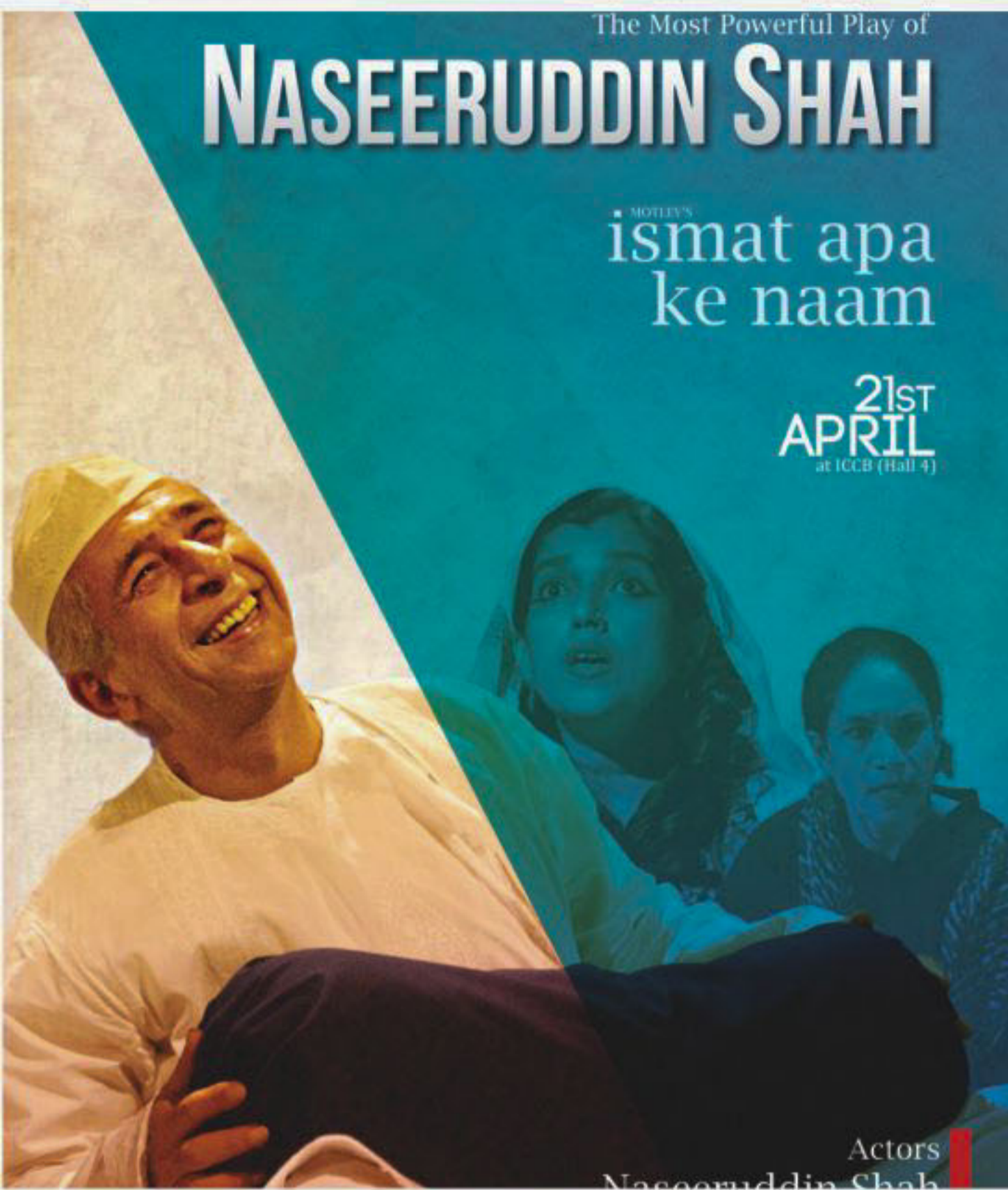
Duet Print Exhibition
 Title: Diversity in Duality by Ajit Seal & Uttam Kumar Basak
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: Mar 12-24
 Time: 3-8pm



NASEERUDDIN SHAH

THE THESPIAN COMING TO DHAKA

Stage play "Ismat Apa Ke Naam" in April



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Film aficionados of Bangladesh are no stranger to Naseeruddin Shah's genius, but pretty much all of it is limited to his films. Agreed, that is an illustrious volume of work, but it is just one dimension of the masterful Indian actor's catalogue. He is one of the most prominent figures of Indian theatre, and the Dhaka audience will get to experience it for the first time, come April.

Blues Communications is organising the staging of Naseeruddin Shah-directed play "Ismat Apa Ke Naam" by his theatre troupe Motley, on April 21 at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB). Naseeruddin Shah also acts in the production, along with daughter Heeba Shah and wife Ratna Pathak Shah.

The play is actually a celebration of Ismat Chughtai (1915-1991), an iconic writer and poet from India, considered the grand dame of Urdu fiction. She was a lighthouse of feminist ideology in Urdu literature, and her outspoken, controversial

writing style has made her a seminal figure of the genre.

The three short stories by Chughtai narrated in the play - "Chui Mui", "Gharwali" and "Mughal Bacha", all essentially deal with women and their survival in a male-dominated society. The music of the production has been done by Vishal Bhardwaj.

"Chui Mui", enacted by Heeba Shah is the first act of the play, and tells the story of a woman whose sole aim in life is to mother a child so her husband doesn't leave her for another woman. The second act is "Mughal Bacha" and is enacted by

Ratna Pathak Shah, another familiar face among close followers of Indian cinema. Told in the form of traditional grandmother's stories, Pathak switches between narrator and actor to tell the story of how the wives of past rulers had to bear the burden of their husbands' arrogance. The third act, "Gharwali" has Naseeruddin Shah himself take the stage, in a story of a beautiful girl who a rich man marries and then sort of discards from his life.

City Bank is the title sponsor of the event. Details of tickets for the play can be found on the Facebook page of Blues Communications.

NEWS bytes

JLo drama "Shades of Blue" renewed



NBC is ready for more "Shades of Blue". The network has renewed the Jennifer Lopez cop drama for a third season. Season 3 will consist of 10 episodes. The series, which also stars Ray Liotta, Drea de Matteo and Warren Kole, centres on a single mother and detective (Lopez) who is hiding several dark secrets.

Lopez is also an executive producer on "Shades of Blue".

The renewal comes early into the show's second-season run. The drama returned on March 1 following unscripted hit "Little Big Shots" and "Dick Wolf's Chicago Justice" to a solid rating among adults 18-49.

However, the early renewal is not surprising, given Lopez's busy schedule. The actress-singer-dancer is also an exec producer and judge on NBC's forthcoming dance competition "World of Dance", which is slated to debut in May. Lopez is also set to star in the network's next live musical telecast, "Bye Bye Birdie", which is expected to debut at the end of the year. Lopez also has a Las Vegas residency, titled "All I Have", and has been working on a Spanish-language album.

Source: Billboard

A call to bring back single-episode TV plays

A CORRESPONDENT

Since 2008, the regular airing of single-episode TV plays across all national TV channels has ground to a halt.

In a bid to revive the regular airing of such TV plays, cultural organisation Charuneedam has created a campaign "Ek Ghontar Natok Bachao" (Save single episode TV plays) and has organised events "Charuneedam Television Kahinichitro Utshab" and "Charuneedam Television Kahinichitro Puroshkar", where 22 single episode TV

plays recently released in 2016, as well as those from previous years, will have a screening at Shawkat Osman Auditorium of Central Public library from today till March 23.

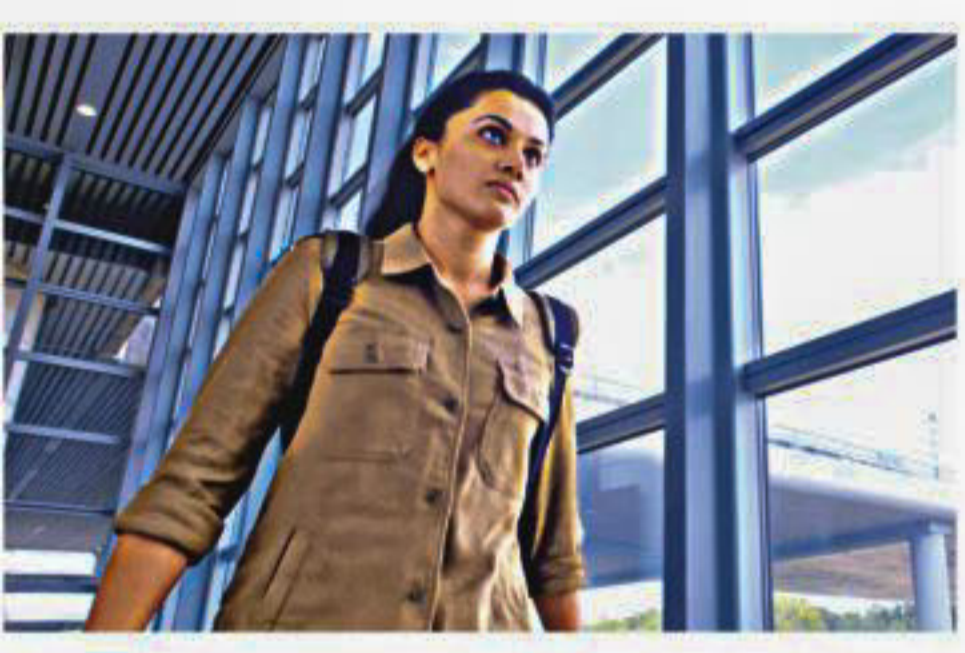
The programme was inaugurated at 5:30pm yesterday by noted actor Ferdousi Majumdar, along with renowned actor Amirul Haque Chowdhury present as chief guest.

On the opening day, plays "Modhu Gach" (written by Akhtaruzzaman, directed by Gazi Rakayet) and "Mon Tar Shonkhini" (adapted and directed by Badrul Anam Soud from Hasan Azizul Haue) were screened.

Charuneedam has dedicated itself to arranging festivals and award ceremonies to promote visual arts since 2009.



"Harun Miya'r Khoab" will be screened on March 21 at the festival.



Taapsee is fierce in second "Naam Shabana" trailer

In the second trailer of "Naam Shabana", Taapsee Panu has clearly made her way ahead of Akshay Kumar. The film, directed by Shivam Nair, is actually a prequel to Neeraj Pandey's critically-acclaimed 2015 film "Baby", in which both Akshay and Taapsee feature as secret agents - Jay Singh Rajput and Shabana Kaif respectively. "Naam Shabana" tracks the story of Taapsee's entry into the team of special agents, who are trained to kill for and sworn to protect their country at any cost. The trailer begins with a narration in the voice of Manoj Bajpayee, who describes Shabana as one of those who want to 'live for their country, and not die.'

Taapsee's Shabana Kaif embarks on deadly missions with much enthusiasm and fights and kills like it's no big deal.

Anupam Kher, who plays a senior member of the secret agency, makes a premonition for Shabana: "You will definitely die." Akshay Kumar, who shared the trailer on Twitter, wrote: "Want to know how Shabana became a part of Team Baby? Watch the new Naam Shabana trailer to know her story." The 29-year-old actress wrote: "And that's how it all started for Shabana."

The trailer is also a reunion of sorts for the cast of "Baby" with Akshay Kumar, Anupam Kher, Madhurima Tuli and Danny Denzongpa reprising their roles. Manoj Bajpayee, Elli Avram and Prithviraj Sukumaran join as the new cast members. The film is slated for a March 31 release.

"Beauty and the Beast" makes epic \$165M opening

"Beauty and the Beast" is already having a magical weekend at the nation's multiplexes with an estimated opening of upwards of \$165 million already in sight, estimates showed Friday.



"Beauty and the Beast" had already banked nearly \$40 million at noon PDT with pre-sales and a stellar \$16.3 million from Thursday night previews. The first-day total approached \$60 million to \$63 million in the evening.

Emma Watson stars as Belle and Dan Stevens as the Beast in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast", a live-action adaptation of the studio's animated classic directed by Bill Condon.

The film — the only new film opening wide — should add between \$80 million and \$110 million in international box office as Disney is launching in about 70% of markets.

The most optimistic forecasts issued earlier in the week had "Beauty" finishing with the best March opening ever for the domestic box office, eclipsing

last year's \$166 million launch for "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" — which was the eighth-best opening of all time.

Reviews have been mostly positive with a current 68% "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. "Beauty and the Beast" will be by far the biggest domestic launch of 2017, easily outpacing the \$88 million opening for "Logan" two weeks ago.

The second weekend of Warner Bros.-Legendary Entertainment's "Kong: Skull Island" should lead the rest of the pack with about \$24 million, followed by the third weekend of Fox's "Logan" in the \$18 million range and the fourth weekend of Universal-Blumhouse's "Get Out" with \$13 million.

Source: Variety

The Daily Star | STAR Cinoplex

QUIZ CONTEST

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QUIZ - 02
 Who turned into beast in Beauty and the Beast movie?

WINNERS OF QUIZ NO-1

1. Sohel Rana, Merul Badda
2. Fazlur Rahman, Mohammadpur
3. Shaina Amin, Dhanmondi 15
4. Shariful Alam, Shyamoli
5. Siddiqur Rahman, Narinda
6. Fahima Ashraf, Tejuri Bazar
7. Hasan Mahmud, Gulshan 1
8. Pritu Reza, Banani
9. Riad Arefin, Tejgaon
10. Yousuf Talukder, Dhanmondi



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