

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




IN MEMORIAM

DITI: A DHALLYWOOD TRAILBLAZER

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From a simple small town girl with dreams of becoming a singer, she became one of the biggest film stars of her era. And much like her well played action heroine roles in the '90s, Parveen Sultana Diti was a fearless fighter for most of her life, until the battle with brain cancer got too big on her on this day last year, just 11 days shy of her 51st birthday. One of the most recognizable faces of Bangladeshi cinema, she left behind countless unforgettable moments on the silver screen, and an army of ardent fans.

Born on March 31, 1965 in Sonargaon, Diti aspired to become a singer, and was even awarded at a national competition by the Shishu Academy. While singing for Bangladesh Television, she first drew the attention of actor Al Mansur, who cast her in the TV drama "Laili Majnu" opposite Manas Bandopadhyay.

Despite her family being somewhat unsupportive, she worked in another

TV play "Imitation", before taking part in a talent hunt "Notun Mukher Sondhane" by the BFDC in 1984, and winning it, alongside Sohel Chowdhury.

Her first film was Udayan Chowdhury's "Daak Diye Jai" (opposite Afzal Hossain) that never saw the light of day, and Ajmal Huda Mithu's "Ami-e Ostad" marked her debut on the big screen.

But it was her story with Sohel Chowdhury that deserves a film adaptation in itself. After winning the talent hunt, the two were cast in Amjad Hossain's "Hiramoti", an adaptation of famous Punjabi tragic romance "Heer-Ranjha". The picturesque locations of Sylhet and Jafong where the film was shot created a spark between the two, and Diti eloped to marry Sohel. The duo went on to co-star in a few other films, most notably "Chirodiner Sathi".

While Diti's career saw a steep rise, the moody Sohel Chowdhury failed to find similar success. They had two kids together, Lamia and Shafayet

Chowdhury, but eventually, the two parted ways in the mid-'90s.

Sohel Chowdhury was tragically shot dead in the capital in December 1998. Diti took her children's responsibilities on her shoulders, and managed a career and a family with success. She later married Iliyas Kanchan, one of her most successful on-screen pairs, but that bond too didn't last long.

Subhash Dutta's 1987 film "Swami-Stree", opposite Alamgir, brought Diti a National Film Award. She went on to become one of the most in-demand heroines of Dhallywood in the years to come.

Diti enthralled audiences with action roles in "Hangama", "Khuner Bodla" and "Lady Inspector", and her acting range was on display in memorable films like "Usila", "Premer Protidan", "Beporoa", "Garial Bhai", "Chorom Aghat" and "Shesh Upohar".

Diti left the country for personal reasons, and her children settled in Canada for studies, and when she came back, she became choosier about her films, and even did some TV plays.

"Noy Nombor Bipod Shongket", "Akash Chhowa Bhalobasha", "Jonakir Alo" and "Purno Doirgho Prem Kahini" were her notable works in her second stint. Wajed Ali's "Sweetheart", released a month before her demise. Her last work on the big screen, "Ei Golpe Bhalobasha Nei", came out this January.

Diti's musical career never got the chance to take off because of her film stardom, but she recorded her first album "Tomaro Chokhe" in early '90s, and her second, "Phire Jeno Ashi", in 2011. She also did playback in a few films.

In her last years, brain cancer took a toll on her, and she spent long periods of time in hospitals in Chennai and Dhaka. In between, she worked in TV dramas "Life in a Metro" and "Meghe Dhaka Shohor".

That endearing smile may never grace the big or small screens, but the 200-plus films she was a part of will keep her ever so present in every heart she touched. As she rests in eternal peace, Diti deserves to know what an impact she made in film. Let's all hope she does.

New daily soap "Tumi Acho Tai" on SATV

A CORRESPONDENT

A new daily soap, titled "Tumi acho Tai", begins on SATV tonight. Written by Masud Hasan and directed by Ahsanul Hasan, it casts Sharmili Ahmed, Mahmud Sajjad, Elora Gohor, Abdullah Rana, Saberi Alam, Monira Yusuf Memi and others.

The series focuses on women and their position in society. Women's hopes and dreams are often crushed underneath the patriarchal dominance, but some women set out to achieve what they want for themselves.

The soap airs every Sunday to Thursday at 8pm.



TV WATCH



National Art Gallery auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was the venue for Udichi's Gonosangeet Competition held on March 18. The competition was held as a prelude to the eighth Satyan Sen Gonosangeet Utsab O Jatiyo Gonosangeet Protijogita, to commemorate Udichi Shilpigoshti founder Satyan Sen's birth anniversary.

RUPCHANDA-THE DAILY STAR SUPER CHEF Chef Daniel competes himself

OSAMA RAHMAN

On Episode 13 of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2017, guest judge Nazma Huda challenged the participants with a 'Jadur Baksho' (magic box) consisting of six different kinds of lentils. This was a set of ingredients the participants had yet to find themselves against. "I immediately went blank when I uncovered the box," Sumona Sharmin recounted. However, the 27-year old engineer wasn't the only participant worried. A sudden hush had fallen over the entire kitchen. "What was there to think about? A 'deshi' recipe was all we could make," Shampa Rahman added. Although, unlike Sumona, Shampa had just won an immunity pin and would be saved regardless of the result.

Between the two though, Sumona was one the one heavily favoured. This wasn't due to some well-thought out comparison: in fact, it

was more superstition than anything. Behind the kitchen, where the crew that ensures the smooth running of proceedings sit, there were whispers of Sumona's relationship to winner of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2015, Umme Kulsum. Sumona Sharmin Akhter bore a striking resemblance to the previous winner and the mistake could be forgiven. But a mistake is all it was. Sumona had no relation with Umme Kulsum apart from a natural gift for the culinary arts.

This she solidified by preparing a Jhal Bhuna Kihcuri which won her Nazma Huda's challenge. As is the rule in the Super Chef kitchen, one's fortune is another's misfortune. Where Sumona celebrated her win, Maymuna found herself with the lowest scoring dish, nestled right on the brink of elimination. The 22-year old student from Dhaka North braced herself for her final farewell. Until, Judge Tariq Anam intervened. "I cannot allow someone to depart the

kitchen just for not being able to produce one dish." Saying these words, Judge Tariq decided to pit Maymuna Akter against Chef Daniel himself. He asked them both to prepare something with winter vegetables. While Judge Tariq wanted to allow 50 minutes for Maymuna and 25 minutes for Chef Daniel, the young chef declined and asked for only 40. "I was not going to quit. I knew then that I had to fight; I wanted to fight," Maymuna recalls. As seen, she did surprise everyone by cooking a dish that equaled Chef Daniel. "It was perfect," Chef Daniel himself said of the dish, later on.

With the challenge for the week out of the way, Alpana Habib came to the kitchen to conduct a cooking class, teaching the basics of fusion cooking. The skills learned will surely prove to be invaluable in the more difficult challenges that are yet to come. This week was a roller-coaster in the Super Chef kitchen. Next week promises not to be easy either.



Rtv organised a glamorous fashion show titled "Oitijhhe Bangla Cinema" at its Bengal Multimedia Studio on Saturday, where actors and models walked the ramp and performed, showcasing fashion trends in Bangla films over decades. Actors Ferdous and Nabila anchored and also performed, while performers included Rozina, Sadia Islam Mou, Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, Jannatul Ferdoush Peya, Shanarai Debi Shanu, Toma Mirza, and others.



The Daily Star | STAR Cineplex

QUIZ CONTEST

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Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winner of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email

QUIZ - 03
 Beauty and the Beast movie is produced by which company?

WINNERS OF QUIZ NO-02

- Chandi Das, Dhaka University
- Nahin Mahfuz Seam, Dakshinkhan
- Azmina Azad Rede, Gulshan-1
- Aadib Tanveer, Farmgate
- Md Istiak Hossain Chowdhury, Mirpur
- Md. Mazharul Hossain, Green Road
- Fariha Kabir, Ramna
- Tanzina Islam Shanta, Mirpur
- Arpita Banik, Dhanmondi
- Md. Faruk Al-Faisal, Mohakhali



Disney
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
 17 MARCH, 2017
 STAR Cineplex