

WHAT'S ON Musical Soiree Title: Star Melodies: Traditional Folk Songs Venue: The Daily Star Centre (Level 3) Date: April 8 Time: 6pm		Solo Art Exhibition Title: Face-to-Face by Moon Rahman Venue: Kala Kendra, 1/11, Iqbal Road (3rd floor), Mohammadpur Date: Apr 1-24, Time: 5-8pm		Syed Badruddin Hossain Theatre Fest Organiser: Padatik Nattya Sangsad (TSC) Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: Apr 5-11; Time: 7pm Daily		Group Art Exhibition Title: Exhibition 2017 Venue: Gallery Chitrah, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi Date: Mar 28-Apr 20 Time: 10am-8pm		Group Mask Exhibition Title: Mukh O Mukhosh-7 Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara Date: Apr 8-18 Time: 11am-8pm	
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Paeans to Shameem Ara Nipa

A STAR-STUDED AFFAIR



Shameem Ara Nipa (C) with eminent artistes and cultural personalities at the event.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 On receiving Shameem Ara Nipa's Ekushey Padak, the country's highest civilian award, renowned dance school Nriyanchal organised a felicitation programme at Dhaka Club on April 4. Dance artistes, singers, cultural personalities, celebrities and Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended the programme, greeted her with bouquets and spoke highly of the dancer-choreographer. "We are honoured to confer Ekushey Padak on Shameem Ara Nipa, a dedicated, immensely talented and deserving artiste," said Asaduzzaman Noor. In response to a request of making a suitable dance stage by Anisul

Islam Hero, the minister informed all of starting the construction work of the proposed stage at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy by the middle of this year. Eminent artist and cultural personality Mustafa Monwar; eminent singer Ferdausi Rahman, famous actress Kabori, noted Nazrul Sangeet artistes -- Sadya Afreen Mallick and Professor Nashid Kamal; renowned dance artistes -- Amanul Haque, Laila Hasan, Zeenat Barkatullah, Kajal Ibrahim and Professor Mahua Mukherjee [of Kolkata, India], eminent theatre personality Aaur Rahman, president of Sammitito Sangskritik Jote Golam Kuddus and noted TV personality Mohammad

Barkatullah extended their good wishes to Nipa and shared fond memories with her, especially while they went abroad to represent Bangladesh through their arts. Celebrity actors -- Ferdaus and Purnima; singers -- Ankhi Alamgir and Dinat Jahan Munni; songwriter Kabir Bakul and a host of dancers led by Mahfuzur Rahman, general secretary of Bangladesh Nriyashilpi Sangstha, among others, expressed their happiness at the conferment of the award on Nipa. The celebration started with a vivacious dance display set to a Tagore song "Akash Bhora Surja Tara" by Nriyanchal artistes. The floral set coupled with the changing shades of

light added an aesthetic dimension to the programme. The magnificent cake, decorated with dancing figures and motifs of dance mudra together with the patriotic essence of red and green, enthralled those present. Muhammad Jahangir, coordinator of Nriyanchal, welcomed all and hosted the first half of the programme, while co-director of Nriyanchal Shibli Mohammad hosted the latter half of the event. "I along with my family am so elated that Nipa received the award, making us all so proud," said Shibli Mohammad. The event came to an end with a presentation of a poem by noted elocutionist Dahlia Ahmed.

Shimu goes solo in TAKKHAK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Sumaiya Shimu will be going solo in a one-hour play. This is a first for the talented actress and she is busy readying for her exciting role. Under the direction of Rahat Karim, shooting for the play "Takkhak" will be held in Gazipur's Publie. The play is scripted by Zahir Karim. Here the actress will be seen playing four characters: she will appear as a 30-year-old woman, going on to play a 40-year old, progressing to middle age and finally a woman in her twilight years. "Earlier, I played different characters but for the first time I'm going to portray four roles all by myself. So I'm feeling kind of nervous," Sumaiya Shimu told the correspondent. Shooting for the play will start this month. Sumaiya Shimu has been working closely with the director and costume designer to fine tune her role. Shimu said, "This is a very challenging role as I have to hold the audience's attention alone in the whole play. It is a story based on life in the '60s." Besides "Takkhak", she is shooting for other one-hour plays. Apart from this, she is acting in a drama serial.



Rani Mukerji begins shooting comeback film "Hichki"



Rani Mukerji is all set to return to the big screen with "Hichki," directed by Siddharth P Malhotra. On Tuesday, Yash Raj Films released an 18-second clip on social media, in which the 39-year-old actress can be seen writing on the blackboard -- "shoot starts today." Rani Mukerji, last seen in Pradeep Sarkar's movie Mardaani (2014), will be making a comeback to the silver screen after three years. "Hichki" is likely to be released later this year. In a statement released earlier, Rani Mukerji said: "I was looking for a script that would challenge and excite me, and 'Hichki' came my way. Each of us has a weakness that pulls us back, but if we just look at it as simply a hiccup, we can emerge as winners. 'Hichki' is built on this positive premise and I decided to take it up." "Hichki" is being produced by Maneesh Sharma. He made his debut as a director in 2010 with "Band Baaja Baaraat" starring Ranveer Singh and Anushka Sharma. Other films directed by him are -- "Shuddh Desi Romance" and "Fan." Maneesh Sharma also produced the 2015 film "Dum Laga Ke Haisha."



"Sunflower" reaches 50th episode

A CORRESPONDENT
 Popular actors Tarin, Apurba and Urmila have been sharing screen space for the first time in the TV drama serial "Sunflower." Directed by Nazrul Islam Raju, the series is aired on ntv at 8:20pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, and April 4 marked the show's 50th episode. The serial quickly rose to popularity among viewers since its first airing, regarding which Tarin said, "My main incentive to work in this venture was its compelling storyline as well as the unique role I was given. My character is an electrician, which is usually associated as a man's job. Breaking gender stereotypes is quite challenging as well as a rare opportunity in mainstream entertainment media. Nazrul Islam Raju is a very patient director to work

with and brings the best out of his crew." The noted actor is also currently starring in two new drama series: "Lampost" with Mosharrar Karim; and "Amader Haatkholo," where she is joined by Shaju Khadem, AKM Hasan and Arfan. Co-star Apurba said, "I have worked in many TV serials where I was unaware of the entire journey the narrative goes through, but "Sunflower" is an exception. This affects the way I conduct my character in the show, as I am aware of the shape the story will take. Therefore "Sunflower" holds a very special place in my heart." The actor's made his film debut last year in "Gangster Returns," and is slated to appear in another film soon. Alongside regular acting in TV plays, the artiste is also gearing up for new projects for Eid.

Star Melodies to beckon Baishakh with folk music

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Star Melodies, the initiative of The Daily Star promoting Bangla music, will host a celebration of traditional folk songs of Bengal by prominent and emerging singers of Bangladesh, on April 8, Saturday. The event to be held at the AS Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star Centre from 6pm, will feature a folk instrumental recital by Anupom Biswas and troupe and songs by Indra Mohan Rajbongshi, Deepti Rajbongshi, Waqel Ahad, Nurjahan Alim and more. Tangail Sari Kutir will display colourful saris on the occasion. Sadya Afreen Mallick, Editor, Arts & Entertainment at The Daily Star, will anchor and coordinate the programme. Simantic Creative Concern will assist in the programme. Those interested in the event may collect passes from the reception of The Daily Star between 11 am-5 pm depending on availability. Seats are limited.

BRAC University organises Baishakhi Mela



A CORRESPONDENT
 BRAC University (BRACU) organised a fair titled "BRACU Baishakhi Mela-1424" at the auditorium of its Mohakhali campus in the capital on April 3 marking Bangla New Year 1424. Stalls displaying boutique attire, jewellery accessories, games, food items and more made and presented by BRACU students and their associates, faculty members and staff were the major attraction at the event which was also open to students' parents. Director of BRAC Institute of Languages, Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed inaugurated the programme. In her inaugural speech, she said "Pahela Baishakh is a joyful occasion in the life of each and every Bangladeshi". At the fair there were also arrangements for a puppet show, bioscope, parrot fortune-telling and a mehdi corner. Rayed Hassan, a student organiser, said that the puppet show was aimed at acquainting students with Bangladesh's cultural heritage through entertainment. The fair also gave opportunities to entrepreneurs to showcase their products. The campus was decorated on the theme of the day while students wore traditional attire with motifs depicting Bangladesh's heritage and culture.