

WHAT'S ON
International Dance Day
 Organiser: Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: April 23-29
 Time: 6:30 pm



Theatre Festival
 Organiser: BSA Employees' Union
 Venue: National & Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: Apr 24-28
 Time: 7pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Unseen in Our Sight: Dalits in Bangladesh
 Photographer: GMB Akash
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
 Date: April 15-29; Time: 3pm-9pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Perception
 Artist: Uttom Kumar Roy
 Venue: Radius Art Gallery, 57 Gulshan Avenue -1
 Date: April 8- May 4
 Time: 9am-10pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Proximity of Line
 Artist: Ruhul Karim Rumeed
 Venue: Shilpangan, Dhannondi
 Date: Apr 21- May 5
 Time: 3-8pm




NETRAKONA SAHITYA SAMAJ REMEMBERS LUCKY AKHAND

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
Legendary singer Lucky Akhand was remembered at a programme in Netrakona on Saturday night.

Netrakona Sahitya Samaj organised the programme at the town auditorium marking a launching ceremony of the second edition of two books – "Chandbeger Gorh" and "Ekti Attar Opomrittu" written by eminent writer Khaleque Dad Chowdhury. The books were first published in 1967.

Chowdhury, born in village Chandgoan in Madan upazila of Netrakona in 1907, received the Bangla Academy Award for his literary genius in 1983. He died in 1985.

Some other volumes of the writer are – "Shatabdir Dui Diganta", "Ei Mati Rokte Ranga" and "Roktakto Odhyay".

In honour of the writer, Sahitya Samaj has been giving "Khaleque Dad Chowdhury Literary Award" for the last 18 years, said sources.

Prior to the ceremony a one-minute silence was observed in memory of

recently-deceased Lucky Akhand.

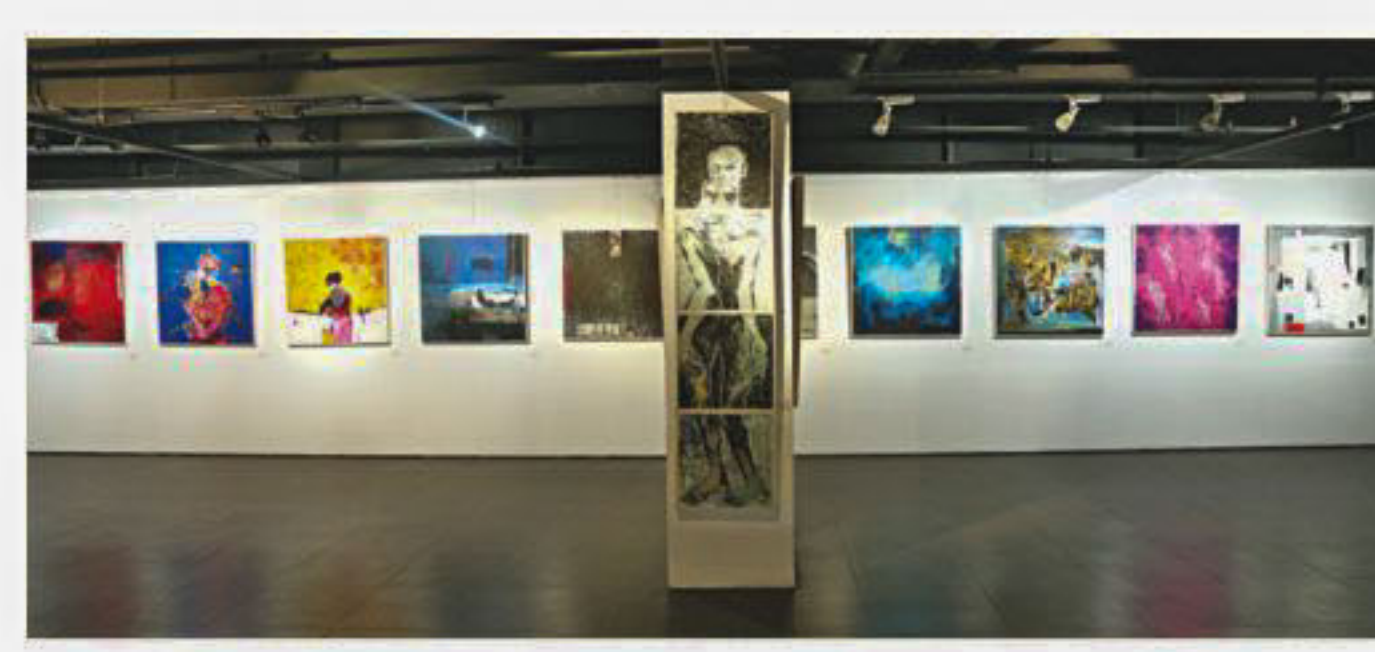
The speakers said that both Lucky and Chowdhury will be remembered for their contributions in their respective fields.

Chowdhury is best known for his deep-rooted connection with the people that was depicted in most of his writings, they said.

Blessed with musical genius, Lucky, a freedom fighter and a singer of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra and an icon of post independence modern Bangla songs will be remembered as an all-time hero, they also said.

Deputy Commissioner of Netrakona Md Mushfiqur Rahman was the chief guest while Sahitya Samaj president Professor Kamruzzaman Chowdhury chaired the event.

The programme rounded up with the performance of baul songs by Golam Maula.



Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts presents "Loving Memory"

Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts inaugurated an exhibition titled "Loving Memory" on April 22, according to a press release. The exhibition features artworks of 60 renowned Bangladeshi artists.

Around 80 artworks, themed on the memories of Abinta Kabir, are on display by famous painters – Rafiqun Nabi, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Syed Jahangir and others.

Asaduzzaman Noor, Cultural Affairs Minister, attended the inaugural ceremony as chief guest. Abul Khair Litu, Chairman, Bengal Group, was present as special guest. Ruba Ahmed, mother of Abinta Kabir, described her daughter as an art connoisseur.

She especially cited the appreciation of senior artists of Abinta's taste in arts. She thanked all the participating artists for their time, love, and effort to honour Abinta's memory.

Asaduzzaman Noor condemned the heinous activities of extremists in his speech and held Abinta in high esteem. "She displayed great talent and vision during her short yet highly promising life," he said.

With the exhibition in mind, an art camp was organised on February 17 and 18, 2017, where the artists painted the artworks being displayed at the exhibition as their tribute to Abinta. The money earned from selling the artworks will be donated to schools, acid victim survivors, and others in need of monetary aid, which is in line with Abinta's dream.

Starting on April 22, the exhibition is open every day except Mondays from 10 am to 8 pm. The exhibition will continue till May 22. Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts is located at AJ Heights, Cha 72/1/D, 2nd Floor, Pragati Sharani, North Badda, Dhaka-1212.

Veteran jatra artiste Jyotirmoy Sarker passes away

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
 Veteran jatra artiste and cultural organiser Jyotirmoy Sarker of remote Khaliyajury upazila in Netrakona passed away recently.

He had been paralysed for 13 years and died at his Digalhati residence of Khaliyajury sadar early Saturday at the age of 71.

Sarker was a well known jatra artiste for over 50 years, said the late Sarker's son Jaganmoy Sarker.

"He also performed baul and kabi gaan in Mymensingh region," said Ali Ahmed Talukder, a co-artiste of Jyotirmoy from Khaliyajury.



"Also a well-known kirtan artiste, Jyotirmoy was a pioneer in jatra. He was able to retain the essence of jatra when it was at its ebb," said Ahmed.

A torchbearer of traditional Bengali culture, Jyotirmoy was also a famous cultural organiser in Netrakona's haor areas, said Ahmed.

Jyotirmoy acted in more than 100 jatra palas in Netrakona and beyond, said sources.

Among his well known jatra plays are - 'Meghe Dhaka Tara', 'Ekti Poisa', 'Kalankini Badhu', 'Protima Bisarjon', 'Goli Theke Rajpath', 'Ei Prithibi Takar Golam', 'Nichu Tolar Manush', 'Ekti Golaper Mrittu', 'Jhora Dighir Chowdhury Poribar' and more.

He was the director of Adi Ranjan Opera, a famous jatra troupe in Gouripur upazila of Mymensingh for a long time, said Barman.

Book on Suchitra Sen's life and work unveiled in her hometown

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna
 Under the aegis of the Pabna district administration, a book titled "Suchitra Sen Chalachitra Utshab Shoronika", was launched on Monday at Suchitra Sen's historic Pabna home, now converted into a museum.

A discussion featured on the occasion. The speakers were Pabna Deputy Commissioner Rekha Rani Balo, educationalist Professor Md. Kamruzzaman, Professor Monwar Hossain Jahedi, Professor Shibojit Nag, freedom fighter Rabiul Islam Rabi and journalist Abdul Matin Khan.

The speakers expressed satisfaction that



Sen's house, the centre of a long legal battle, has been transformed into a museum. Besides, they added, the district administration has gone a step further by publishing a book on the life and work of legendary Bengali film actress Suchitra Sen.

The museum is also likely to obtain all research work done on the actress as well as on legendary Bangla films, according to the Pabna Deputy Commissioner.

The museum located at Sen's ancestral home should be initiated to introduce a film institute for running research in films, the speakers added.

Nine writers have contributed stories in the newly launched book on Suchitra Sen.



FROM THE SHOOTING SPOT Zahid Hasan now a cell phone recharge assistant?

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
 Zahid Hasan steps out of a white car, as excited locals come up to him and address him as Arman Bhai. Bursting into laughter, Hasan enters the makeup room of Salahuddin Lavlu's shooting house in Gazipur's Pubail.

Hasan is shooting for director RPI Billah's single-episode play "Oti Chalak", scripted by Akash Ranjan, where he plays the central Lokman.

After donning his make up, Hasan starts walking towards a remote house with the director. It takes about 10 minutes to reach there. A large, colourful umbrella is seen placed under a tree in front of the house. There is a chair and a table. He takes his seat following the instructions of the director. He plays a cell-phone account recharge vendor in the play.

Zahid Hasan goes through the script once, as an assistant comes and stands beside him. The shot starts and some people stand in a queue to get their cell phone accounts

recharged. Zahid recharges the numbers, and his assistant is seen giving each of them a cookie.

The shooting continues for about one hour, before rain interrupts the proceedings. The entire unit seeks shelter in a house. The drizzle stops after about 10 minutes, and the next shot commences, with a new female artiste.

In the next sequence, there is a huge crowd at his shop, and an elderly woman who plays Lokman's mother, arrives with his meal. Putting everything else on hold, he starts his lunch right away.

The clock strikes 4 in the afternoon, and the shooting unit takes a lunch break. The entire team walks towards the shooting house.

In between shots, Zahid shares a few words with this correspondent: "The plot is very good. The story is basically centered on me," he says.

The shooting resumes after the break and continues until 9:00pm. It has been a hectic day for Zahid.



Japanese masterpiece "Tora-san" screened

Japanese box-office film "Tora-san's Sunrise and Sunset" returned to Bangladesh National Museum on April 8 and 22 under the museum's ongoing "Juvenile and World Classic Film Show," according to a press release.

The film, depicting the life and sentiment of "Tora-san", made the series a long running hit in Japan, spanning 48 episodes over the past decades. In Bangladesh, three of the best "Tora-san" series were dubbed in Bangla and broadcasted on ntv between

September 2016 and March 2017, gaining popularity amongst Bangladeshi audience.

The film was screened by using audiovisual equipment donated by the Government of Japan to Bangladesh National Museum in 2008. Since then, the equipment, which recently went through maintenance by the Japanese grant, has been fully used to support the museum's daily cultural programmes, including the ongoing film screening scheme.

Priyanka Chopra will reportedly play astronaut Kalpana Chawla

Actress Priyanka Chopra is reportedly all set to star in the biopic of late astronaut Kalpana Chawla, directed by first time director Priya Mishra, says mid-day. Kalpana Chawla, an Indian American astronaut, was one of the seven crew members who died in a space shuttle explosion in 2003. It was her second space expedition. The 34-year-old actress, who returned to India Friday night, after the completion of the second season of her TV series "Quantico", will reportedly start work on this biopic next. Priya Mishra told mid-day, "I have been working on it for the past seven years. A new production banner will back the project."

In fact, Viacom 18 had announced "a film based on an astronaut" last year. Reports now suggest that the film will be produced by an international production company. A source told mid-day, "The film will be mounted on an international scale. A new production company, Getway, is

likely to produce the biopic."

Priya Mishra has reportedly met the late astronaut's family several times as part of her research of the film. "I was last heading a TV channel creatively and post 2011, quit to pursue filmmaking. This is one of the two scripts that I have written," she told mid-day.

Meanwhile Priyanka Chopra will next be seen in her first Hollywood film "Baywatch", co-starring Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson and Zac Efron. She will soon start the promotions of the film in US and India. Priyanka recently wrapped "Quantico's" second season, where she plays the role of FBI agent Alex Parrish. She has also been appointed as the jury member of the 16th edition of Tribeca Film Festival. Closer home, Priyanka Chopra was last seen in Prakash Jha's "Jai Gangaajal", which released in 2016.

