

**WHAT'S ON**

**Lakho Konthe Bidrohi Kobita**  
 Organiser: BaNshori  
 Venue: Central playground, Dhaka University  
 Date: May 1; Time: 4pm



**Theatre**  
 Play: Crutch'er Colonel  
 Troupe: BotTala  
 Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium  
 Date: May 1  
 Time: 7pm



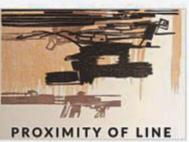
**Album Launch**  
 Koto Modhusomire  
 Artist: Farhim Khan Joyita  
 Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium  
 Date: May 2; Time: 7pm



**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 Rumez  
 Venue: Shilpangan, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Apr 21 - May 5  
 Time: 3-8pm



# SHAHDIDUL ALAM'S exhibition opens Drik's new gallery

## Upcoming exhibition on mosque premises announced

**FAHMIM FERDOUS**

A new exhibition by Dr. Shahidul Alam, titled "The Best Years of My Life: Bangladeshi Migrants in Malaysia" opened in the capital yesterday, also marking the inauguration of Drik's new gallery in Panthapath. In a press conference at the gallery, the marquee photographer-journalist also announced an upcoming groundbreaking exhibition of his, to be held next month at the premises of the Bait Ur Rouf mosque in the capital.

"The Best Years of My Life: Bangladeshi Migrants in Malaysia" takes a close, personal look at the life of migrant workers working in Malaysia, their families at home, their struggles at various stages of the process, and the parties involved in it - from former Malaysian premier Mahathir Mohamad to small-time 'dalal' (agents) in Comilla. In the small space of the exhibition, it brings together a holistic story of the workers' lives and the entire industry in operation. The series was previously exhibited at the 9th Global Forum of Migration and Development (GFMD) held last year in Dhaka, and will travel to the next year's GFMD Summit in Berlin, followed by the Global Media Forum by Deutsche Welle in Bonn.

Shahidul Alam detailed the background of the exhibit, as well as breaking down the photos and the stories beyond them at the press conference. Also speaking there, curator of the exhibition ASM Rezaur Rahman also spoke about the curatorial aspect of it, while adding that this new Drik Gallery aims to hold longer-term exhibitions and aim to connect the audi-



**ASM Rezaur Rahman and Shahidul Alam speak at the inauguration.**

ence better with the exhibitions through the curatorial process.

At the press conference, Shahidul Alam also announced an upcoming exhibition, "Embracing the Other" that is set to be held at the open premises of the Aga Khan Architecture Award-winning Bait Ur Rouf Mosque from May 8-10. The exhibition, groundbreaking in nature due to its venue, was initially set to open in the mosque, a brave attempt by the seminal journalist-writer-curator and activist to bridge the gap between the religious Muslims and the progressive, secular parts of society. According to him, "Prophet Muhammad introduced the mosque, which served not only as a place for prayer and religious activities, but for education, medical treatment, a welfare and charity centre, as a shelter and even for non-Muslims to come in contact with Islam. The exhibition was aimed at creating that missing link. The exhibition was supposed to be held inside the mosque, but apparently pressure from some quarters made that difficult, prompting the decision to shift it to the open premises of the mosque. A number of foreign dignitaries, including British parliamentarians, are expected to attend the exhibit, and the guests have begun arriving, Dr. Alam informed.

# "Lakho Konthe Bidrohi Kobita" to air live today

**A CORRESPONDENT**

BaNshori, in association with Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) has organised an event "Lakho Konte Bidrohi Kobita" to be held at the open courtyards of Dhaka University on May 1. The initiative will witness the attendance of 20,000 participants comprising teachers and students from various institutes under BNCC who will recite the poem by the Rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu will be present as chief guest while Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka AAMS Arefin Siddique and Chairman of ATN Bangla and ATN News Mahfuzur Rahman will grace the occasion as special guests. ATN Bangla and ATN News are the media partners of the event.

BaNshori, a cultural organisation dedicated to the preservation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's legacy, has undertaken the initiative to promote the National Poet's works as part of mainstream cultural practice. Kazi Nazrul Islam's poem



"Bidrohi" was first published in Bijli in 1922, and has made the rounds in the publication circuits including the monthly Probashi, Shadhona and Dhumketu.

The programme will be aired live on ATN Bangla and ATN News from 4:10pm to 4:50pm. Mokaddem Babu, Abdus Sattar and Mushtaq Hossain are the producers of the programme.

# Tauquir-Zahid-Mahfuz trifecta this Eid

## Star-studded tele-film "Big Shots" set to go on floors soon

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**

Three heavyweights of the Bangladeshi small screen will be cast together in a tele-film slated to release during Eid-ul-Fitr on Channel i. Directed by Arfan Ahmed and scripted by Sadat Rasel, the aptly titled "Big Shot" features Tauquir Ahmed, Zahid Hasan and Mahfuz Ahmed in the lead roles. Shooting will commence from May 6 at Gazipur's Pubail, before wrapping up in Dhaka. The venture also marks the first time Arfan Ahmed is directing a tele-film for Eid.

Tauquir Ahmed will don the role of a doctor, while Zahid Hasan plays a leader of a group. Mahfuz Ahmed plays an actor in the narrative. "Each character sees



**Mahfuz**

himself as a big shot, and their inability to step down is the backbone of the story. I have nothing to say about the actors' performances, as their reputation rightly precedes them," said the director.

Zahid Hasan described his work with the director saying, "Aside from being a talented actor, Arfan is like a younger brother to



**Tauquir**

me. I hope he goes far in life." Mahfuz Ahmed described the director along similar lines, expressing hope for this venture to find success.

The tele-film boasts an impressive cast of 20 noted and popular actors in the industry who appear in various roles throughout the play. To name a few, it includes ATM Shamsuzzaman, Mamunur



**Zahid**

Rashid, Tariq Anam Khan, Shamsuzzaman Selim, Azad Abul Kalam, Mir Sabbir, Swagata and Prova.

"So far, there has not been a tele-film featuring such a great assembly of stars. Furthermore, this is the first time I am directing a tele-film for Eid. I would like the support of my well wishers," said Arfan Ahmed.



A solo photography exhibition titled, "Ruplal House --Waiting for a Light of Resurrection" opened at Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi, Dhaka on April 28. This is the second solo photography exhibition by Mohammad Ibrahim. Eminent historian and writer Professor Muntasir Mamun inaugurated the exhibit as chief guest while Azim Buksh, Chairman, Dhaka Kendra; M. Abdul Majid Chowdhury, President Alliance Française de Dhaka, Munem Wasif, noted photographer and faculty Pathshala and Babu Ahmed, noted photographer, attended the event as special guests. The show ended yesterday.

# GWEN STEFANI ruptures eardrum, cancels Vegas performance



Attendees of the "Keep Memory Alive: Power of Love" Gala were surprised Thursday night after being informed that Gwen Stefani would be cancelling her performance due to a ruptured eardrum.

The Voice coach was set to headline the annual fundraiser for the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center For Brain Health, alongside Bon Jovi. The lavish event, honouring tennis legend Andre Agassi and catered by Wolfgang Puck and Michael Mina took place at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that Stefani's manager Irving Azoff informed Ruvo that she was admitted into an LA hospital on Tuesday -- after the incident happened on a flight -- with the singer being advised not to sing or fly. Azoff offered the event organisers a great fix: an apology video from Stefani to the attendees and Jennifer Hudson as her replacement.

# AN ASSORTMENT OF DANCE STYLES

## BNSS celebrates Int'l Dance Day at BSA

**APORAJITA MUSTAFA**

Marking International Dance Day on April 29, Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha (BNSS), in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), organised a week-long dance festival and fair (April 23-29) at BSA in accordance with their long-held tradition. To conclude the festival and commemorate the day, an array of energetic and colourful performances were presented by some of Bangladesh's most prominent dance companies at the National Theatre Hall Auditorium on the eve of International Dance Day.

The President of BNSS, Minu Haque and General Secretary Mahfuzur Rahman inaugurated the finale of the festival along with the chief guest of the evening, Minister for Cultural Affairs Asaduzzaman Noor. Eminent cultural personalities, Nasir Uddin Yousoff, Ramendu Majumdar, Syed Manzoorul Islam, Golam Mostofa Khan and Professor Abdus Selim also attended as special guests. The inauguration was followed by welcome addresses by the celebrated individuals, all of whom unanimously expressed severe concern over the discord threatening our social harmony and encouraged practicing and promoting arts and culture to stand as a strong defense against the spread of terrorism across young minds.

The lifetime achievement award of this year's festival went to Ilias Haider, who has been working in the dance industry for 48 years and has played numerous roles in dance-dramas directed by notable choreographers, and till date has



taken and collected photographs of over 25,000 dancers.

The dance programme commenced quite late, at around 9pm and comprised about twenty performances presented by various troupes. Some noteworthy performances included: Pallavi Dance Center's folk piece, directed by Minu Haque; Kathak Nritya Sampraday's classical set choreographed by Saju Ahmed; two performances by Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA), choreographed by Sadia Islam Mou and Benazir Salam respectively; Spandan's lively and energetic folk routine choreographed by Anik Bose; Rewaz Performers' School's folk item choreographed by Munmun Ahmed; Nrityam's Manipuri set choreographed by Tamanna Rahman; Nataraj's folk piece directed by Laila Hasan; Dibya Sangskritik Sangathan's routine directed by Dipa Khandaker; Angikam's folk dance choreographed by Tabassum Ahmed; Benuka Lalitakala Academy's piece directed by Golam Mostofa Khan; Suktanya's folk item choreographed by Sultana Haider; and Nandan Kalakendra's routine choreographed by MR Wasek.