

WHAT'S ON

Shopping Festival
Eid-e-Jhalmuri
Venue: Innotel Baton Rouge, Banani
Date: June 2-4
Time: 11am-10pm



Solo Art Exhibition
The Empire of Dream
Artist: Ripon Saha
Venue: Kala Kenda, Mohammadpur
Date: May 6-30
Time: 5-8pm



Solo Woodcut Print Exhibition
Title: Urban Ruminations
Artist: Anisuzzaman
Venue: EDGE Gallery, Gulshan-2
Date: May 21-June 2
Time: 10am-8pm



Saree Exhibition
Bibi's Pabon: Poncho Ashor
Organiser: Pater Bibi
Venue: Hive, Dhanmondi Road 7
Date: June 9-10
Time: 11am-9pm



Solo Art Exhibition
The Empire of Dream
Artist: Ripon Saha
Venue: Kala Kenda, Mohammadpur
Date: May 6-30
Time: 5-8pm



NEWS bytes

Southern Rock pioneer Gregg Allman dies

Gregg Allman, whose hard-jamming, bluesy group the Allman Brothers Band was the pioneering unit in the Southern rock explosion of the '70s, died Saturday due to complications from liver cancer, his longtime manager Michael Lehman confirmed. He was 69.

Reports surfaced on April 24 that Allman was in hospice, although Allman substantiated a denial in a Facebook post. However, he had suffered a number of ailments in recent years —



including an irregular heartbeat, a respiratory infection, a hernia and a liver transplant — and cancelled many scheduled tour dates in recent months for health reasons.

For his work with the Allman Brothers and as a solo artist, Allman is considered one of the leading lights of Southern Rock. They were a top-drawing touring outfit until October 2014, when the group finally closed the book on their career.

As a member of the Allman Brothers Band, Allman was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995 and was honored with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

Source: Variety



Nritya Nandan confers scholarship on two dancers Tushar and Evan travel to India



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nritya Nandan, a reputed dance institution led by eminent dancer Sharmila Banerjee, conferred short scholarships on two promising Bangladeshi dancers — Mehraj Haque Tushar and Saiful Islam Evan. They went to India on May 26 to pursue dance under renowned gurus.

"Tushar is learning Kathak under Sandip Mallick, and participating at a five-day workshop by Pt. Birju Maharaj. Evan is learning Bharatnatyam under Rahul Dev Mondal of Rabindra Bharati University," said Sharmila Banerjee.

"It was my dream to confer scholarships on talented Bangladeshi dancers who are really doing well. We started it from this year and hope to continue in the days ahead," she added.

Tushar took dance lessons from MR Wasek, Habibullah Chowdhury, Belayet Hossain Khan and Shibly Mohammad. He completed a certificate course from BAFA, a diploma course from Nrityanchal and a five-year course of Bharatnatyam under Guru CV Chandra Shekhar, while he was in Dhaka teaching under High Commission of India (Dhaka).

Evan received his first dance lessons in his hometown Patuakhali under Moniruzzaman Moni. He completed dance course at Shishu Academy and Shilpakala Academy in Patuakhali and Barisal respectively. He also learned Bharatnatyam from Belayet Hossain Khan. He is currently a student and performer of Nritya Nandan.

Tushar was MTV talent show "Notun Kuri" best dancer in 2002, and eventually won Channel i Shera Nachiye in 2012 and became. Evan positioned first runner up in Channel i Shera Nachiye in 2013.

CHANCHAL juggling TV projects for Eid

Popular TV star Chanchal Chowdhury has been busy with shooting schedules for TV plays, after completing his big screen run for . This year, he is doing a number of Eid specials. He will be seen working in six Eid special drama serials. Five of the serials are of six episodes each, and one of them is seven episodes long.

The shooting of the seven-episode drama serial, called "Lojjoboti Layla ke Niye Zulfikar er Chomok" directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud, just wrapped up filming. Tisha will be sharing the screen with Chanchal in it. "All I want to say is that it is a very interesting piece of work. I do not want to give the story away. I want to keep it a surprise for the viewers," said Chanchal, about the drama serial.

"Lojjoboti Layla ke Niye Zulfikar er Chomok" will air during Eid on Desh TV.

On the other hand, he has also completed shooting a six episode Eid drama-serial directed by Masud Sezan. The name of the drama-serial is "Chhotolok". The role Chanchal portrays in this particular drama-serial is of a man who is always busy trying to do good for others. Chanchal informed that another one of his six-episode series is under Masud Sezan's direction.

He is currently busy shooting for "Nosu Villain" in Pubail, another six-episode series, written by Bindaban Das and directed by Sagor Jahan. The actor is paired up with Shokh for the project. "This is the first time I'm working with Sagor Jahan," Chanchal told The Daily Star. "I play the titular character."

The other serials will go on floors shortly, the actor informed.

Aside from the longer commitments, Chanchal also has a single-episode play slated for Eid on his schedule. "Prayoshchitto", in which Urmila will be seen opposite him, is directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud and was shot at the Kaliakoir zamindar bari.



UAP stages Shakespeare plays

The Department of English at University of Asia Pacific (UAP) staged seven Shakespearean plays in original or adaptations this past week at their campus, as a part of the celebrations of 453rd birthday of William Shakespeare.

The plays, performed by the students were: "Hamlet", "Merchant of Venice", "Tempest", "Othello", "A Mid-summer Night's Dream", "As You Like It" and "Macbeth".

Professor MR Kabir, acting vice-chancellor of UAP, attended the festival as chief guest while Takad Ahmed Chowdhury, head of English department presided over the programme. Two special guests of the programme were Treasurer Ishaq Ilahi Chowdhury and teacher trainer from the UK Andrew Michael Rochford. The panel of judges included Mohammad Moniruzzaman Akhand, Theotonius Gomes and Nellufar Yeasmin.

The programme received warm accolades from the audience. Later, prizes were distributed in different categories.

Cultural shows mark Nazrul celebrations at Darirampur

Colourful cultural shows marked Nazrul celebrations at Darirampur Nazrul Mancha in Trishal of Mymensingh. The three-day celebrations marking the bard's 118th birth concluded on May 27.

Cultural Affairs Ministry and Mymensingh district administration jointly organised the celebrations that included a colourful rally, discussions, cultural shows, staging of plays, poets' gathering, and more.

Eminent Nazrul artistes from Dhaka and Mymensingh enthralled the huge audience with their classical performance.

Fatema Tuz Zohra, Ferdous Ara and Nishat Afza Arzoo held the audience captive with their mesmerising renditions. The artistes rendered popular songs of Nazrul such as -- "Gonthon Kholo Parul Monjury", "Tumi Jokhon



Fatema Tuz Zohra and Nishat Afza Arzoo perform at the programme.

Esehchely", "Tumi Haat Khani Jobe", "Dur Deep Bashini", "Mone Pore Aaj" and more.

Artistes of some 85 cultural organisations and drama troupes of Mymensingh also performed at the celebrations, said Professor Amir Ahmed Chowdhury Ratan, convener of the cultural sub-committee of the celebrations.

The organisations included Mymensingh Nazrul Academy, Zila Shilpakala Academy, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Sandipon Sangskritik Sangstha, Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, Bidrohi Natya Goshthi and many more.

A 'Nazrul Mela' with traditional items was also held, attended by thousands of village folk during the festival.

Nazrul, born in Bardwan of West Bengal in India on May 25 in 1899, stayed at Trishal for a year and studied at Darirampur High School. Police sub-inspector Kazi Rafizullah, then working at Bardwan took Nazrul to his Trishal's

Kazir Shimla village in 1913.

Earlier, Principal Motiur Rahman, Minister for Religious Affairs, inaugurated the celebrations as chief guest. Harun-ur-Rashid, deputy director of Local Government Department Mymensingh presided over the opening ceremony while Md Abu Zafar Ripon, upazila nirbahi officer of Trishal delivered the welcome speech.

Poet Mohammad Nurul Huda, Khilkhil Kaz and Nazrul researcher AFM Hayatullah delivered speeches on Nazrul.

Terming Nazrul as great contributor to Bengali literature, the speakers said that through his fiery writings and songs, the poet inspired the people to fight against injustice, repression and get their rights. "Nazrul songs also inspired freedom fighters to fight against the Pakistani army during the War of Liberation in 1971," they added.

"Mohamanober Deshe" sets sail



Guests at the launch ceremony.

A tele-film based on the Liberation War and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is set to be produced marking his 42nd death anniversary (August 15). Titled "Mohamanober Deshe", it has been written by Sahid Rahman and adapted and directed by Mannan Heera. Piya Vision is producing the tele-film.

The Mahurat of the tele-film was held last week in the capital, where eminent cultural personality Kamal Lohani, Dhaka University VC AAMS Arefin Siddique, eminent personalities like Barrister Amirul Islam, political personality Mujahidul Islam Selim, actor/director Gazi Rakayet, yesteryear film star Faruq, and thespian Selim SH Chowdhury (on behalf of Piya Vision) were present.

Tariq Anam Khan, Dolly Zahur, Fazlur Rahman Babu and Shormimala are in the cast of the tele-film.

CANNES

Iran's "Lerd" wins Un Certain Regard



The Un Certain Regard sidebar of the 70th Cannes Film Festival announced its winners over the weekend, with the jury awarding the top prize to "A Man of Integrity" ("Lerd") by Mohammad Rasoulof.

The film is a drama about endemic corruption in provincial Iran and shows how it's an uphill climb for a righteous man.

"We are proud to present an aesthetically diverse and beautiful palmares," said Uma Thurman, Un Certain Regard jury president, to open the ceremony.

"April's Daughter" by Michel Franco won the jury prize. Tim Roth executive produced the Spanish-language film, which stars "Julietta" lead Emma Suarez.

Taylor Sheridan won the best direction award for "Wind River". Harvey Weinstein accepted the award for Sheridan, who made his debut behind the camera with the Wyoming-set mystery starring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen.

Jasmine Trinca of "Sergio Castellitto's Fortunata" ("Lucky") won best acting prize and Mathieu Amalric took a best screenwriting prize for "Barbara".

Other jury members included directors Joachim Lafosse and Mohamed Diab, actor Reda Kateb and Karlovy Vary festival director Karel Och.

Source: THR