

WHAT'S ON

 **National Art Exhibition 2017**
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: Jul 26-Aug 14
Time: 11am to 8pm

 **Solo Art Exhibition**
Another Axis
Artist: Alomgir Hossain
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: July 22 – Aug 1
Time: 3-9pm

 **Nat'l Photography Festival**
Organiser: DUPS
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: July 28-29
Time: 11am-8pm

 **Hajar Bochorer Bangla Gaan**
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: July 29; Time: 6:30pm

 **Group Art Exhibition**
Title: Charcoal
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
Date: Jul 28-Aug 11
Time: 11am-8pm

 **Book Launch & Solo Painting Exhibit**
Book: Maksudal Iqbal Nipa-Episodes of Her gaze
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum
Date: August 1; Time: 4pm

NEWS bytes

JON STEWART
sets stand-up special at HBO



Jon Stewart will return to stand up comedy in a special for HBO, the former “Daily Show” host’s first such special in over 20 years, it was announced Wednesday.

“I’m really thrilled to be able to return to stand-up on HBO,” Stewart said. “They’ve always set the standard for great stand-up specials. Plus, I can finally use up the last of the Saddam Hussein jokes left over from my first special.”

Stewart’s last stand up special, “Jon Stewart: Unleavened”, aired on HBO in 1996. Additionally, this fall Stewart will host the latest “Night of Too Many Stars” all-star benefit for NEXT For Autism to be presented live from The Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York on November 18.

The second special will feature stand-up performances, sketches and short films. Stewart is under a four-year production deal with HBO, which he signed in 2015 shortly after signing off “The Daily Show”. He initially planned to produce a short-form digital animation project for the network, but those plans were scrapped in May. HBO said at that time it would continue to pursue other projects with Stewart.



Professor Rafiqul Islam speaks at the programme (L), and guests pose for a group photo; (below) Salauddin Ahmed, Khairul Anam Shakil and Rezauddin Stalin address the event.



HOMAGE TO LEGENDARY MUSIC MAESTROS

Tributes pour in at Star Melodies' programme

ZAHANGIR ALOM & NAZIBA BASHER

Star Melodies, an initiative for Bangla music by The Daily Star, held a memorial programme on eminent music exponents and researchers Sudhin Das and Karunamaya Goswami at the AS Mahmud Hall of the office this past week. Eminent Nazrul researcher Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam elaborated on the roles of the duo along with the chronological timeline of contributions of Nazrul artistes throughout history. He also guided the artistes to follow the swaralipi (notation) books containing the original tunes of Nazrul’s Gramophone records. Renowned artistes joined the programme to share their memories of the iconic duo, while young artistes paid musical tribute to the deceased.

The singers set off the event with a choral rendition of the song “Mrityu Nai, Nai Dukkho”. Following the welcome address by renowned Nazrul exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick who hosted the event, singer Khairul Anam Shakil said, “Until the ‘80s, Nazrul Sangeet was just sung however they felt - whether it was the proper tunes, proper words, no one made sure. Sudhin Das took the initiative to



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

rectify this problem, by collecting the original records. After the records were collected, within the first year, 10 swaralipi books were published. Sudhin Das tried, till his final moment, to raise awareness of the proper notations and make sure Nazrul’s music was celebrated.”

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said, “We are all aware of the brilliant contributions of these two people in the world of music, especially of their efforts in uplifting Nazrul Sangeet in the country. I want to pay my utmost respect to them both”

Ferdous Ara, before introducing her students who performed at the



event, said: “The misfortune is that we had to lose two people who played a big role in taking Bangladesh forward. I would like to thank The Daily Star for holding this programme to not only pay respect to the stalwarts but also to give a platform to young artistes.”

Promising artistes of Sur Saptak - Parisha Binte Rahman, Shangita Rahman and Monjuri – beautifully performed songs – “Piu Piu Birohi Papiya Bole”, “Gobhir Nishithey Ghum Bhenge Jaye” and “Shey Chole Gecchhe Boley” respectively.

Fatema Tuz Zohra stressed on the need to take Nazrul forward and to make Sudhin Das’s work



worthwhile by working together.

Dr. Rafiqul Islam began with the journey of Dhaka Betar, and went to speak about the distortion of Nazrul Sangeet. “During the 60s, in Kolkata, Nazrul Sangeet started getting distorted and its effect was falling upon singers of Dhaka. Sudhin Das stepped forward to rectify this. Even though he would practice many kinds of music, he left everything behind and till his last breath he worked for the perfection of Nazrul Sangeet. At Nazrul Institute, behind the book of swaralipi it is written that the tune, lyrics and notations found on the gramophone records are to be

considered authentic. Many an artiste worked for the purity of Nazrul Sangeet, but none did like Sudhin Das.”

Deputy Director of Nazrul Institute, Rezauddin Stalin said, “It is important to have universities and schools as a part of such programmes. At Nazrul Institute we are trying all we can, but due to lack of funds we are falling behind.”

Nazrul Institute artistes Zarif Ikram and Israt Jahan Mim rendered two songs “Tobo Mukhokhani Khujia Phiri Go” and “Amar Aponar Cheye Apon Je Jon”. Noted singer Dr. Fakir Shahidul Islam Sumon wrapped up the soiree with the song “Khela Shesh Holo Shesh Hoy Nai Bela”. Asit Biswas on esraj and Apurba on tabla accompanied the performances.

Dalia Nausheen said, “Sudhin-da was my teacher when I was five. My parents wanted me to learn from him. He began with teaching me classical music. I began Nazrul Sangeet a little later, but that was when I realised how much I loved music. Sudhin-da was the kind of man who never did anything for fame or fortune. He did purely out of the love for music and the love for Nazrul.”

Singers Salauddin Ahmed, Shelu Barua, Rebeka Sultana and Chhanda Chakravarti also shared their memories of the mentors.



PHOTO: STAR

Prangonemor to stage “Condemned Cell” today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prangonemor Natya Dal will stage their 10th production, “Condemned Cell” at the Bangladesh Mahila Samity auditorium today at 7pm. The play is written by Ananta Hira and directed by Awal Reza.

The cast of the play includes Nuna Afroz, Ananta Hira, Awal Reza, Ramiz

Raju, Zahidul Islam, Mainul Tawhid and others.

The play is a fictional account of the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators’ atrocities in the villages of Bangladesh during the 1971 War of Liberation. The entire play takes place in a condemned cell of a prison, where only convicts of death penalties are kept.



“MACBETH” RE-IMAGINED

Agontuk Repertory stages “Dholeswari Opera”

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agontuk Repertory Theatre staged their second production, “Dholeswari Opera” at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday. The play, based on Shakespeare’s classic “Macbeth”, has been adapted into a local tale by Pantho Shahrir (of Nagorik Natya Sampraday), with a cast bringing together members from Nagorik, Theatre and Prachyanat - including Tropa

Majumdar, Shatabdi Wadud, Harunur Rashid, Mostafiz Shahin, Jahangir Alam and Tahmina Islam, among others.

Agontuk Repertory Theatre dedicated the play to two thespians -- Aly Zaker and Ferdausi Majumdar -- whose performances in “Macbeth” are an iconic picture of Bangladeshi theatre.

The backstage artistes of the play were Faiz Zahir (Aranyak) in stage design, Ahsan Reza Khan (Center for Asian Theatre) with background scores, Amlan Biswas (Nagorik) in lights.



Salman, Aamir won't be in “Andaz Apna Apna” sequel

Fans of Bollywood cult comedy “Andaz Apna Apna” can never have enough of the film that brought Salman Khan and Aamir Khan together for a laugh riot. So, each bit of information about the sequel to the 1994 film is lapped up with a lot of excitement.

In an interview to DNA, director Rajkumar Santoshi confirmed that a sequel is very much in the pipeline. However, he also said something that is likely to break the hearts of all “Andaz Apna Apna” fans - he said Aamir and Salman will not reprise their roles. Explaining his decision, the filmmaker said, “For humour, you need innocence. That time, these actors had the innocence. Now, it will look forced. It looks cute if a

20-year old is chasing a girl. A 45-50 year old man chasing young girls looks vulgar.”

Asked if he has finalised actors for the sequel, Santoshi said, “There is Ranveer Singh, Ranbir Kapoor, Varun Dhawan... They are all promising actors and they have the knack for comedy. I will pick up good talent for the film.”

The original film, featuring Salman, Aamir, Karisma Kapoor, Raveena Tandon, Shakti Kapoor and Mehmood, proved to be a box office dud. It was only later that it became popular with the audience and has now become a cult movie among Hindi film lovers.