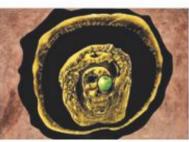


WHAT'S ON

Tagore Monsoon Melodies
 Title: Borishon Mukhorito Rati
 Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhamondi
 Date: August 11
 Time: 7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: The Skin of a Living Thought
 Artist: Nargis Poly
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: August 4-16
 Time: 3-9pm



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



Solo Sculpture & Art Exhibition
 Title: "Rhythm of Clouds" by Ferdousi Priyabashini
 Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, H-7, Rd-13 (New) Dhamondi
 Date: Aug 4-18; Time: 3-8pm



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



NEWS bytes

Performers at 2017 MTV VMAs

Lorde, Ed Sheeran, the Weeknd and Miley Cyrus are among the artists scheduled to perform at the 2017 MTV Video Music Awards. MTV announced Monday that Fifth Harmony, Thirty Seconds to Mars, Shawn Mendes and host Katy Perry will also take the stage at this year's VMAs, which invades Inglewood, California's The Forum on August 27th.

More performers will be announced in the 20 days and counting until the VMAs.

This year's ceremony marks the first time MTV has eliminated gender-specific categories, combining the "Best Female" and "Male Video" awards into "Artist of the Year". The 2017 VMAs will also debut a new category, "Best Fight Against the System".

The change in categories follows a similar path as the refurbished MTV Movie & TV Awards, where the "Best Actor in a Show" and "Best Actor in a Movie" categories included both male and female nominees; "Stranger Things" Millie Bobby Brown and "Beauty and the Beast's" Emma Watson winning the awards.

Additionally, MTV president Chris McCarthy has stated that even the iconic Moonman trophy is getting a makeover at this year's VMAs: The award will now be referred to as a "Moon Person."

Source: **Rolling Stone**



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Moushumi and Omar Sani's small screen return

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Famed couple on and off screen, Moushumi and Omar Sani have held the audience in thrall with their sizzling chemistry in film for many years. However, the duo is largely absent from the small screen, and have worked in only one TV play quite some time ago. The pair is returning to silver screen once more, for an Eid ul Azha TV venture. Titled "Eki Khela", the play is

helmed by Arif Khan. Filming of the entire narrative has taken place in a residential compound at Uttara. Scripted by prolific actor Bipasha Hayat, Moushumi and Omar Sani are portrayed as a married couple. "I have had the pleasure of working with Moushumi before," quipped the director, "But this is the first time I have teamed up with Omar Sani."

Actress Moushumi, quite enthused about the venture added, "Bipasha Hayat has written an

impressive script, and the director is taking great care to do it justice."

Aside from being a heart-rending romance, the narrative projects the complexities of marriage, and the events all tie into a satisfying ending for viewers, one where truth and justice prevails. "I am very selective about television ventures, and this play will deliver on all fronts," stated Moushumi.

Other cast to appear in "Eki Khela" are Brindaban Das and Paresh Acharya.

The journey of the Bangla folk band BAULA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Promising Bangladeshi folk band BAULA holds Bangla folk music across various genres close to their heart as an artistic expression. The band's musical repertoire includes baul, bhatiali, murshidi and marfati.

Folk music is the simplest form of expression of diverse melodies that delineate emotion and feelings of joys and sorrows of the common people. But in recent times, the purity of Bangla folk music is waning, which the band actively works on changing, according to Prokash Banik, the main vocalist of the band.

BAULA made its first public appearance on April 13, 2013 with their maiden performance at Bakul Tola of Charukala (Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka).

Two young artists -- Prokash Banik and Biplob Mrinal are the vocalists of the band. Prokash completed his BFA and MFA from the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University while Biplob Mrinal has the similar degrees from the Institute of Fine Arts of Chittagong University.

Biplob Mrinal is currently living in Melbourne, Australia. Prokash is the main vocalist while Joy Sinha, an A Level student, is also a singer and guitarist. Shayonto, an engineer by profession, is the flutist and also a singer. The present line-up of BAULA also includes Nayan, (bass guitar) and Biplob Sharma (percussion).

The band has successfully touched the hearts of many Bangla folk music lovers both at home and abroad. Biplob is behind the creation of the music videos of BAULA that is set to touch the hearts of the viewers. The band wants to continue their journey towards folk music, and maintaining the essence of our heritage.



PROMOTH CHOWDHURY recalled in his ancestral house 149th birth festival observed in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Leading Bangla writer Promoth Chowdhury was recalled at his ancestral house of Haripur village in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna for the first time on Monday afternoon amid festivity on the occasion of his 149th birth anniversary.

'Promoth Chowdhury Smriti Shangrakshhan Parishad' (PCSSP) organised the event at the writer's ancestral house on Monday.

Born on August 7, 1968, at the village Haripur in Chatmohar upazila under Pabna district, Promoth Chowdhury began his literary career at an early age. As a literary figure during the Rabindra era he was able to establish own stance through a close observation of life and society. He died on September 2, 1946, in Kolkata.

The Chowdhury family shifted to India before Partition in 1947, leaving behind their sprawling state in the village.

"Land grabbers occupied the ancestral house. Long after, the Pabna district administration freed the estate from illegal occupiers on April 19 this year. A library was also set up in the historic house," Professor Iqbal Kabir Ronju, president of the SSP told The Daily Star.

A discussion on the occasion was chaired by president of SSP Iqbal Kabir Ronju.

The speakers focused on the literary works of Promoth Chowdhury and said he took the lead in bringing into being a modern form of Bangla language.

His literary works enriched Bangla language, the speakers added.

Among Chowdhury's notable books are *Tel-Noon-Lakri* (1906) *Beerholer Halkhata* (1916), *Nana Kotia* (1919) and *Probandho Sangraha* (1952-53). He was also a talented poet. *Panchashat* (1913) and *Podacharn* (1919) are his sonnet books. Towards end of his life Chowdhury immersed himself in editing the *Bishwa Bharati*.



"Stranger Things" director teaming with James Wan for "Malignant Man" movie

20th Century Fox has recruited "Stranger Things" director Becca Thomas to direct an adaptation of James Wan's comic series, "Malignant Man". Per THR, "The Conjuring" and "Aquaman" filmmaker is attached to produce "Malignant", which is based on the Boom! Studios comic he co-created with writer Michael Alan Nelson ("Hexed") and artist Piotr Kowalski. Boom!'s Ross Richie and Stephen Christy will also produce alongside Wan, operating through his Atomic Monster label.

The sci-fi thriller follows Alan Gates, a man diagnosed with terminal cancer and resigned to his imminent death until he discovers that his tumor isn't deadly cancer but a mysterious alien parasite. Gates not only gets a new lease on life, he discovers extraordinary



powers and "must fight against an evil army buried beneath society's skin, all the while unlocking the secrets of his forgotten past." (via Boom! Studios).

The screenplay comes from "Lights Out" co-producer Zak Olkewicz. For Thomas, "Malignant" is the latest in a series of exciting projects to come the

director's way. After making her feature debut with the 2012 indie drama, "Electric Children", Thomas directed an episode of MTV's short-lived but well-loved "Sweet/Vicious" and a Season 2 episode of the Netflix sensation "Stranger Things", which drops in October. She is one of only two directors, the other being "Toy Story" scribe and "Finding Nemo" director Andrew Stanton, to join Shawn Levy and the Duffer Brothers behind the camera for the second season. Thomas is also attached to Universal's live-action "The Little Mermaid" movie and Paramount's adaptation of the John Green bestseller "Looking for Alaska", both of which are still in development.

Source: **Collider**

Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy honours eminent personalities

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy honoured nine eminent persons and an organisation for contributions to their respective fields at a programme held at the academy auditorium recently. The academy authorities honoured the selected persons with the 'Shilpakala Padak' for the years 2016 and 2017 for their roles in the fields of music, art and research, said sources.

The awardees are Md Salam Uddin Khan for classical music; Arabinda Sarker Jibon for theatre; Snehashish Chowdhury for folk culture; Nirmol Chandra Modok for fine arts, while Gouri Rani Dey was awarded for Jatra-Shilpa (folk theatre) for 2016. The awardees for 2017 are Md Anwar Hossain for classical music; Hossain Ahmed Golandaj for theatre; poet

Farid Ahmed Dulal for creative research; Amjad Hossain Dulon for recitation, and Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, Mymensingh, for regional creative organisation.

Talking to The Daily Star, noted artist Nirmol Chandra Modok said, "I am very honoured to receive this recognition from Shilpakala Academy. I want to continue my work for as long

as I can breathe."

Earlier, a discussion was held. Mymensingh divisional commissioner GM Saleh Uddin was the chief guest while Mymensingh Police Superintendent Syed Nurul Islam was the special guest.

The speakers said about the awardees: "They are enlightened people who have been continuing their

creative works for the betterment of our traditional culture and art. They are torchbearers of enlightenment for future generations, yet they never ask for anything from society. We are overjoyed to be able to honour them and our best wishes are always with them."

The programme concluded with cultural shows performed by the artists of Shilpakala Academy.



PHOTO: STAR