

WHAT'S ON
Photography Exhibition
 Concealed
 Artist: Habiba Nowrose
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: August 10-31
 Time: 5pm-8pm

Theatre
 Selim Al Deen Festival
 Play: Nimojon
 Troupe: Dhaka Theatre
 Venue: National Theatre Hall
 Date: August 21; Time: 7pm

Art for the Soul
 Organiser: Moar
 Venue: Ventura Iconia, Banani 11
 Date: August 22
 Time: 12pm-9pm

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: A Thousand Tales
 Venue: Gallery Chitrag, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi
 Date: August 18-21
 Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Syed Nazmus Sakib
 Venue: EMK Center, H-5, Rd-16 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 5-24
 Time: 5pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

Comedian-rights activist Dick Gregory dies

Dick Gregory, the pioneering standup comedian and civil rights activist who made his advocacy work a key component of his on-stage persona, died Saturday night in Washington, DC. He was 84.

Gregory's death was confirmed by his family in an Instagram post.

Gregory was active on the standup and public speaking circuit on and off for more than a half-century. He had been making comedy appearances until he was hospitalised on August 9.



Gregory made his mark in the early 1960s as a rare African-American comedian who was successful in nightclubs geared to white audiences.

Gregory was known for his folksy delivery and for incorporating commentary about segregation and discrimination into his routines. During this period he released a number of successful spoken word albums. By the mid-1960s Gregory turned his focus to full-time work as an activist with Martin Luther King Jr. and others.

A prolific writer, Gregory's other books included "Up From N---", "No More Lies," and "Calus on My Soul". He received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2015.

Source: Variety

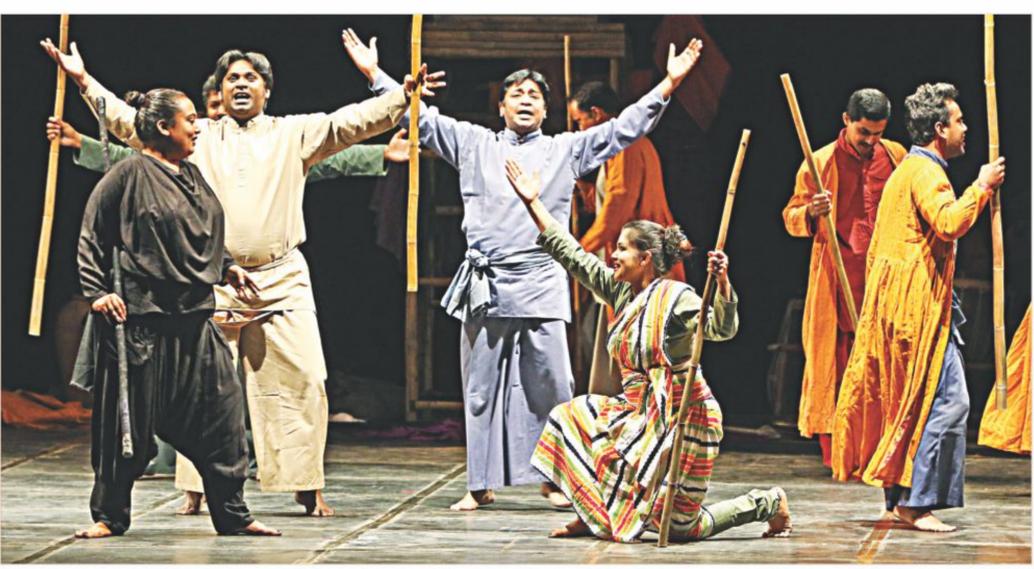


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Selim Al-Deen Festival kicks off with zeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Selim Al Deen Festival opened in full swing at the main auditorium of the National Theatre Hall at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on August 19, through a ceremony that handed out a number of awards, and saw the staging of Dhaka Theatre's play

of BSA's National Theatre Hall, which was adjudicated by eminent artist Hashem Khan. The festival was inaugurated by academician Dr. Farzana Islam, Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University at the main auditorium at 6pm. The ceremony began with handing over a number of awards, and the Selim Al Deen award recipient,

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) and Director General of BSA. He was also absent from the ceremony due to health reasons, and members of BGTF received the award on his behalf. The Fauzia Yasmine Shibly award is generally awarded to young theatre personalities, and this time was given to Sudip Chakraborty. Sudip, who recently suffered a personal tragedy as his 5-month old daughter died, said, "I have been going through a devastating time in my life. Receiving this recognition and love has given me strength to stand back up and carry on with my art."



A still from "Dhaboman" (top); Sudip Chakraborty receives the award.

"Dhaboman". The festival is celebrating iconic Bangla playwright Selim Al Deen's 68th birth anniversary. Dhaka Theatre, Bangladesh Gram Theatre Foundation and Selim Al Deen Foundation are organising the five-day festival, with assistance from BSA.

The day's proceedings began with a children's art competition at the lobby

noted theatre and television actor Aly Zaker, could not attend the ceremony. He was reportedly abroad and could not reach Dhaka on time, and organiser sources said he will receive the award on the festival's closing day on August 23. The Mir Maksud-Ul-Salehin-Bazlul Karim award was given to Liaquat Ali Lucky, director of

After the award ceremony, the first stage play of the festival, "Dhaboman", was staged. The play, directed by Shimul Yousuff and written by Selim Al Deen casts Shimul Yousuff, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Nasrin Nahar, Rosy Siddique, Esha Yousuff, Nargis Akhter, Asaduzzaman Aman, Shajjad Rajib, Rafiqul Islam and many others.

The festival informally opened the day before (August 18) when organisers made a trip to Jahangirnagar, where Al Deen is laid to rest, to pay tributes to him. A seminar was also held on the day at BSA.

Other plays to be staged at the festival will include "Rupchan Sundori's Pala", "Nimojon", "Swopnoromonigon" and "Neelakhyan".

BIPASHA AND TAUQUIR on their "Chemistry"

A CORRESPONDENT

Bipasha Hayat and Tauquir Ahmed have stood out in the Bangladesh television industry as a powerhouse couple, pairing up for roles for over 25 years. The actors first became a duo in the 1992 play "Sonali Roddur". Off-screen, the dynamic couple continues their romance as a happily married couple of 18 years. The actors will reveal their secrets to staying happy together in a programme titled "Chemistry", to be aired during Eid ul Azha on Maasranga TV.

Anchored by actress Nabila, the couple will also reveal to viewers new projects in the pipeline. "Come Ekushey Boi Mela, I will publish a collection of poems," said Tauquir Ahmed. Bipasha Hayat also expressed her interest in writing a script for a film based on "Shonkhabash", a widely popular TV series directed by her husband, for which she had also written the script.

Planned by Rumman Rashid and produced by Saiful Islam, "Chemistry" will be aired on the fourth day of Eid ul Azha at 8pm.



"The Conjuring" horror universe crosses \$1B



With its latest film "Annabelle: Creation" earning more than \$110 million worldwide, New Line Cinema's "Conjuring" cinematic universe has surpassed the \$1 billion mark at the global box office.

The horror universe, headed by James Wan and producer Peter Safran, includes the films "The Conjuring 2" (\$320.4M), "The Conjuring" (\$319.5M) and "Annabelle" (\$257M).

"We are thrilled with the success of 'Annabelle: Creation' and enormously proud to continue bringing this hugely popular 'Conjuring' franchise to theaters everywhere," says Sue Kroll, president of worldwide marketing and distribution at Warner Bros. Pictures.

"Annabelle: Creation" opened in theatres on August 17. New Line will next release "The Nun", based on the character appearing in "The Conjuring 2", directed by Corin Hardy and due July 13, 2018. The studio also is developing "The Conjuring 3" and "The Crooked Man", the latter also based on a character that appeared in "The Conjuring 2".

Toby Emmerich, president and chief content officer of Warner Bros. Pictures Group, stated, "This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of New Line, and without question the horror genre has always been an integral and important part of the company's DNA. While the genre has certainly evolved over the decades, watching the critical and commercial success of the 'Conjuring' universe has been truly spectacular and I am incredibly proud of all the talented people involved in making this happen."

Source: THR

Duet art exhibit at AFD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

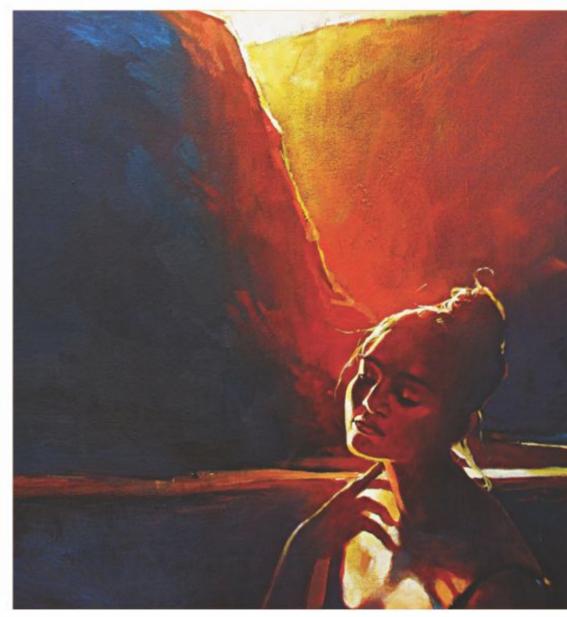
Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) has organised a duet painting exhibition by young artists -- Sayed Fida Hossain and Sultan Ishtiaque -- titled "Obsession" at its La Galerie. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition was held on August 18.

Renowned artist Professor Jamal Ahmed inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest on August 18. MK Aaref, Director, EMK Center, attended the inaugural ceremony as the guest of honour.

The exhibition is about a journey that begins with the artists through their dreams, memories, perception, and feelings about the urban and idyllic lives. The journey acquires a voice of its own and tells a story of being obsessed with the daily happenings. Driven by the mechanical life of tiresome drudgery, the journey reveals about the resultant suffocation.

Hossain's segmented portrait series previously showed verisimilitude of his subjects and at the same time their fragility. His goal in this regard is not to attain a good likeness, but to keep pushing the limits of realism. However, for this exhibition Hossain introduces a completely different style that exhibits the surroundings or the landscapes along with the portrayal of the subject's obsessed mind.

Ishtiaque's canvasses used to depict natural beauty with all its glory, but now



his approach has evolved to include in those landscapes the compelling presence of individuals and their dreams and hardships. A massive shipyard now exhibits the raw emotion Ishtiaque felt for the shipyard workers who are in imminent

danger on account of working under unsupervised and hazardous conditions.

The exhibition is open from 3pm to 9pm (Monday to Thursday), and on Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 12 noon and 5pm to 8pm.

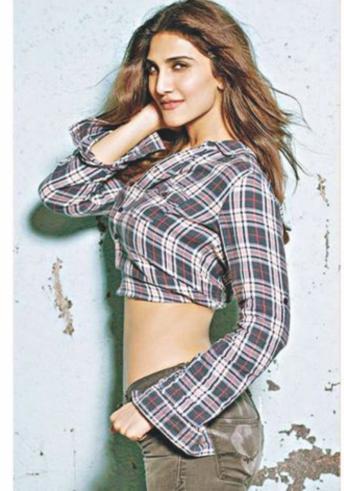
VAANI KAPOOR is unfazed by failure

Her film "Befikre" could not do wonders at the box office, but Bollywood actor Vaani Kapoor said she is fine with it as failure and success are part of life. The 28-year-old actor, who made her debut with "Shuddh Desi Romance" and went on to star in the Aditya Chopra-directed "Befikre", said she wants to take things slow. "I always want to be part of something exciting. I believe in quality over quantity. I will be all there for something which interests me."

"Failure is something which everybody has to face. It is part of life. You do feel bad when things don't work. But you cannot succeed without failing. It goes hand-in-hand. I understand that completely," Vaani said.

Be it on the ramp or in front of the camera, Vaani says she always feels nervous. "I feel it is good to be nervous because you are not fully sure or over-confident. And I am also very new, so it is given that I will have those butterflies."

Source: PTI



IGCC organised an evening of Rabindra Sangeet by Sutapa Chakrabarty and tabla recital by Pandit Parimal Chakrabarty from India at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh, Dhaka on August, 19.