

**WHAT'S ON**

**Musical Soiree**  
 Artist: Pandit Swarnamoy Chakraborty  
 Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre  
 Venue: Bangladesh National Museum  
 Date: September 23; Time: 6:30pm



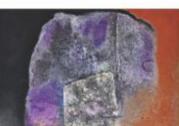
**Painting Exhibition**  
 Diversity of the Nature  
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka  
 Date: September 15-29  
 Time: 3pm-9pm



**Concert**  
 Sound Check  
 Organiser: Yonder Music  
 Venue: ICCB Hall 4  
 Date: September 22  
 Time: 2pm



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Chronicle of Existence  
 Artist: Reza Asad Al Huda Anupam  
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD  
 Date: Sep 22-Oct 6  
 Time: 3-9pm



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Stories from Nature  
 Artist: Shahanoor Mamun  
 Venue: Galleri Kaya  
 Date: Sep 22-Oct 3  
 Time: 11am-8pm



# "Rizwan brought back audience to theatre halls"

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN

"Rizwan", a short film, scripted and directed by Deepti Khurana, is based on "The Country without a Post Office" by Agha Shahid Ali, and adapted into a play by Abhisheikh Majumder. The entirety of the short film lasted 15 minutes; within that time frame, the director was able to aptly portray Rizwan's story, through which a lot of people were already familiar with the narrative. The same story was brought to the stage recently by Syed Jamil Ahmed, noted theatre personality. It was staged 19 times between September 2-10 at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, and the proceeds from the tickets went to those affected by the recent floods.

My excitement and anxiety were immeasurable. The thronging crowd fighting over tickets, trying to get the best seats, standing in a queue before the gates even open -- was a wonderful hit of nostalgia. As a theatre actor myself, hearing words such as "Why should only cinema tickets be sold out? Why not theatre tickets?" or "If we can watch cinemas during Eid, why not come to the theatre?" were music to my ears.

As I entered, my anticipation grew. It was, after all, Jamil sir's play. It was perhaps this high level of anticipation, which caused the pain I experienced during the play. The first thing I had noticed was the weak musical arrangement. The tracks used were much too simple. I was reminded of the rhythm tracks we used in our Yamaha PSR Keyboards as students. Some of the music was familiar -- used in many a stage play. Why was there room for such a weak ingredient in such a grand play? Some of the more important scenes, such as the hospital scene, or when we get to witness the boatman for the first time -- seemed to



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

have fallen short of accuracy and expectation. I felt like we were back in a shooting spot in Pubail, filming a cheap comedic scene. I was deflated. But at that very moment, a particular dialogue brought a smile back to my face, when Fatema, the character that is Rizwan's sister, said, "I raped this soldier back." It called for applause, but it was against the rules to do so according to the hall management. Why it was against the rules is beyond me-- as both audience, and theatre performer.

When I had the opportunity to speak to "Komolarani Shagordighi" actor Sayeedur Rahman Lipon or Jon Martin of "Bishad Shindhu", they had told me that Jamil sir is a perfectionist, and never compromises on quality. But what had me confused was why he had selected inexperienced actors for such a grandiose play. Where was the energy? Where was the strength in the delivery of dialogues? Where was the proper use of the props? Many of

the dialogues were inaudible -- they just sounded like screaming. And it was this screaming that took away the haunting silence that comes with a story of death. Rizwan's age -- when was he a child, a teenager, or an adult -- was missing throughout the play.

One thing that will strike anyone while watching "Rizwan" is the visual aesthetics. The boat moving through thick fog, the moments of speechlessness, and some other particulars were praiseworthy, even though borderline repetitive.

The play on lights was fantastic. The choreography and blocking that were done with the use of the lights felt like a proscenium stage. But alas, I was not in front a proscenium stage. The use of the arena of some plays such as "Bishad Shindhu", "Khona" and "Kotha '71" left an eternal impression. Debashish Ghosh's "Kotha '71" was one such play that used the Experimental Hall to its fullest potential.

## ← GUEST COLUMN |

# Shajal and Aparna play star-crossed lovers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular actors Shajal and Aparna are pairing up on screen for a new single episode TV play titled "Opekkhar Sheshe". Helmed and scripted by Shakhawat Shibly, shooting for the play has commenced at the capital's Uttara and Diyabari.

Shajal will don the role of Fahim, while his co-star will appear as Tania. Fahim lives abroad, while Tania is a poetry elocutionist working in the city. When Fahim returns to the country for a short while, he meets Tania at an event, where he is told that she does not take a liking to men living abroad. He conceals the fact that he lives abroad from her, but after striking up a relationship with her, it has become necessary for him to fly abroad. The narrative goes on to explore the conflicts that arise, and the events that follow after.

"I don't want to give away the ending, but the work has been really great so far," said Shajal. Director Shakhawat also added that the narrative will appeal to today's viewers.

Other members of the cast include Daisy Ahmed and Rajat Barua.



# SONAM KAPOOR signs two new films

Sonam Kapoor is a busy actress; after wrapping up work on the Twinkle Khanna production "Padman" and filming her part in the Sanjay Dutt biopic, the National Award-winning actress has begun work on her third project co-starring Kareena Kapoor and Swara Bhaskar, titled "Veere Di Wedding".

Sonam, who is quite active on social media, dropped a surprise announcement revealing that she has signed her two projects for 2018. According to Sonam Kapoor's Twitter post, she has signed two new Bollywood projects which she will start working on next year.

Sonam's tweet read, "Padman, Dutt and Veere Di Wedding. The filming gets done this year and they release next year! And next year I'm starting two new films!"

She also tweeted about her next projects, "Some exciting announcement coming soon! Hope you guys won't be disappointed! Have worked super hard this year!"

Source: TOI



## NEWS bytes



# LP to perform at Chester tribute

Linkin Park will pay tribute to their late singer Chester Bennington with a tribute concert in Los Angeles. The 'one-night-only' event will feature the five surviving members performing together for the first time since Bennington's July 20 death.

The concert, set for the Hollywood Bowl on October 27th, will raise money for Music for Relief's One More Light Fund in memory of Bennington. Check out Linkin Park's website for full ticket information.

Linkin Park also released a video for "One More Light", the title track of the band's latest LP. The Joe Hahn-directed video focuses on Bennington both onstage, where he's surrounded by his legions of fans, as well as the singer backstage with his band mates.

Source: Rolling Stone





## CELEBRATING LIFE DISTRICT TOUR



**TOMORROW**  
 Photo Exhibition  
 Film Screening  
 Concert by  
**BAND LALON**  
 at Social Science Faculty  
 Auditorium  
**CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY**

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