

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Hybridity by Eshita Mitra
 Venue: Kakakendra, 1/11 Iqbal Rd, Mohammadpur
 Date: Sep 23-Oct 14
 Time: 5pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Cryptic Monologue
 Artist: JAVED JALIL
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: October 2-15
 Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Ceramic Art Exhibition
 Artist: Akhtarun Nahar Ivy
 Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: Oct 2-10, Time: 9:30am-5:30pm



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 10
 Time: 11am-8pm



Ganga-Jamuna Theatre & Cultural Fest
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Oct 6-15
 Time: 7pm



Bangladesh Film Festival 2017
 Venue: National Art Gallery Plaza, BSA
 Date: Oct 6-21
 Time: 5pm onwards



STAR FILE PHOTO

Ganga-Jamuna Fest opens today

92 TROUPES PARTICIPATING IN TEN-DAY CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ganga-Jamuna Theatre and Cultural Festival, one of the biggest theatre festivals of the country, will see its curtains rise at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) today. The 10-day festival, in its sixth edition this year, will see a staggering 92 theatre and cultural troupes, from Bangladesh and India, perform stage plays, music, dance, recitation and street theatre. The disclosures were made on Wednesday at a press conference held at the BSA Seminar Room.

Like previous years, the cultural programmes at the open stage of BSA will be held every day from 4pm-6:30pm, while three theatrical productions will be staged simultaneously at the National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall from 7pm.

The festival will be inaugurated by thespian Aly Zaker, while Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will be present as chief guest and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harshvardhan Shringla will be special guest, organisers informed. The curtains will rise on the festival with Prachyanat's "Circus Circus" at the National Theatre Hall (Theatre Hall) after the inauguration. The other plays on the opening day will be Prangonemor's "Condemned Cell" at the Experimental Theatre Hall and Loko Natyadal (Banani)'s "Boikunther Khata". Other Bangladeshi troupes presenting their plays are Dhaka Theatre, Somoy, Natyachakra, Padatik Natya Sangsad (TSC), Aranyak Natyadal, Natyateertha, BSA's repertory troupe, Dhaka Padatik, Mad Thetar, Kanthasheelon, Theatre Art Unit, Rongopeeth,

Nagorik Natyangan Bangladesh, Shobdo Natyacharcha Kendra, Vision Theatre, Loko Natyadal (Siddheshwari), Theater, Theater School Praktoni, Subachan Natya Sangsad, Bahubachan, Desh Natok, Natyam Repertory and Joyjatra. The three Indian theatre troupes taking part in the festival are Dokkhin Ruchirongo, Gonokrishti and Aneek, all from Kolkata. This year's festival has been dedicated to recently-deceased Indian thespian Amalesh Chakrabarty of Aneek Natyadal. The festival has been held annually since 2012, with an aim to exchange cultural experience and strengthen the bond between Bangladesh and India. The Cultural Affairs Ministry of the Bangladesh government, the India-Bangladesh Foundation and BSA are assisting in holding the festival.

THE WEEKENDER

"Tom Cruise is on top of that list..."

Deepa Khandakar



ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Seasoned actress Deepa Khandakar has built an impressive career around television that has made her a household name. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the artiste shed a little insight on her life and preferences beyond the limelight.

How do you normally spend your day off?

Deepa Khandakar: I'm usually with my kids if I have any time off. I'm either watching movies with them, or going out. And then there are friends to catch up with.

What is the best meal anyone has ever cooked for you?

Deepa Khandakar: My sister often cooks for me, be it on a regular day or for particular occasions, and I love everything she makes.

What is the craziest thing a fan has ever done for you?

Deepa Khandakar: I have not noticed anything out of the ordinary in recent years, but one particular incident will always stand out in my memory. Years ago in 2002 or 2003, I used to get cards and flowers sent to my house from the USA from a love struck fan.

Is there a celebrity you have never met, but would love to?

Deepa Khandakar: There are far too many! But Tom Cruise is on the top of my list.

What are you currently working on?

Deepa Khandakar: I am working on three serials as well as a few single-episode plays. Right now I am filming for a play titled "Megh Mukhi Tumi Shurjomukhi Hou", directed by Chayanika Chowdhury. The plot revolves around child abuse, and it is a very important issue that is not highlighted enough. The release date has not been confirmed yet; we are likely saving it for a special occasion.

In tearful memories

Sharmili Ahmed remembers co-star Razzak

NAZIBA BASHER

Eminent film actress Sharmili Ahmed had worked very closely with Nayak Raj Razzak in many a film, where she not only played the female lead opposite Nayak Raj, but also his mother. The day Nayak Raj passed away, Sharmili was in Savar, shooting for drama-serial "Tumi Achho Tai". Upon hearing the news, she sat stunned in the make-up room, unable to come to terms with the fact that she just lost one of her dearest friends. The actress spoke to The Daily Star recently and shared her memories and stories about the wonderful relationship they shared off-screen.

"I did a lot of work with him. I believe he is the greatest actor to have ever graced the nation. He has taught the next generation of actors what it is to be a sincere artiste, and how to love your art. He worked with so much dedication, always on time, always motivated to do better." Sharmili remembered the struggle that Razzak had to go through to become the star



that he was. "He travelled all the way from Kolkata to build a career in acting. 'Ami nayok hobo (I will be an actor)' was all he said. He came to Dhaka, lived in a small tinshed house in Tejgunipara with his wife and first child. He tried to earn just about enough to at least buy milk for his baby. Razzak did everything he could; he was an assistant director, he gave passing shots, he worked so hard

that his life became exemplary to newcomers. I don't think I know of anyone who can work this hard for their career anymore -- but Razzak did show them the path." Razzak shared many memories with not only Sharmili, but her whole family. "When I was living with my husband outside Dhaka for his work, Razzak would often drop by and we would spend hours just talking. That is

when I learned about his struggle. One of my favourite memories of him is when I had met him at a doctor's appointment. His son, Shamrat, and daughter-in-law, had accompanied him. We used to see the same cardiologist at United Hospital. We chatted for a while and then at one point he walked to the doctor's room, turned the door knob with his left hand to open the door, and he looked like such an actor doing it! He said to the doctor, 'This woman sitting here, she has been my wife, my girlfriend, my mother, how can you make her wait for so long? I cannot accept this!' He then gestured towards me and said, 'Come on, madam'. The doctor, everyone waiting outside, and I began laughing. That was Razzak in his entirety -- the perfect charmer. Another memory that I love was when he had won the Shadinota Padak, and Diti, Aruna Biswas, Babita and I had gone to his house with flowers to congratulate him. He was so happy, and so was his wife, Lokkhi bhabi, whom he later gave the flowers to."

"I feel like there are two families for every artiste -- one at home, one at the industry. So naturally, when Razzak passed away, we all felt like we lost our own brother. He was an exceptional human being -- humble, charming, and intelligent; a hero in every sense of the word. He really did show the whole country that artistes can achieve anything if they work hard enough."

NEWS bytes

Nicole Kidman joins cop thriller "Destroyer"

Nicole Kidman will star in the Los Angeles crime thriller "Destroyer" from director Karyn Kusama. She will portray an LAPD detective who, as a young cop, was placed undercover with a cult-like gang in the California desert. When the leader of that gang re-emerges many years later, she must work her way back through the remaining members and into her own history with them to finally reckon with the demons that destroyed her past. Casting is currently underway on the film. Kusama will direct from an original screenplay by Phil Hay and Matt Manfredi. Kidman starred in HBO's hit limited series "Big Little Lies", which just earned her an Emmy Award. Her recent film credits include Sofia Coppola's "The Beguiled" and Yorgos Lanthimos' "Killing of a Sacred Deer". The Australian actress has been nominated for four Academy Awards, winning for her performance in Stephen Daldry's "The Hours".

Source: Variety



First trailer of "Ittefaq" is intriguing

The much-awaited trailer of Sidharth Malhotra and Sonakshi Sinha-starrer Bollywood film "Ittefaq" was just released online. The film that revolves around two murders puts Vikram (played by Sidharth) and Maya (essayed by Sonakshi) under the scanner. The two-and-a-half-minute-long trailer takes the audience through the journey the duo undertakes the night that turns their lives around. And then enters Akshay Khanna, a cop trying to solve the case. "There are three versions of the story. His side. Her side. And the truth. We have to find the truth," he proclaims in the trailer. The film is a remake of the 1969 film by the same name starring Rajesh Khanna and Nanda. The crime thriller that is being co-produced by Red Chillies Entertainment, Dharma Productions and BR Studios, and is directed by BR Chopra's grandson Abhay Chopra.

Source: TOI