

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Alakesh Ghosh
 Organisers: BNM & Gallery Cosmos
 Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattachali Gallery, BNM
 Date: October 15-21
 Time: 9:30am-5:30pm

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

Duet Art Exhibition
 Title: Diversity in Duality 2
 Artists: Abdus Shakoor Shah & Ranjit Das
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery
 Date: Oct 13-27
 Time: 3-8pm

Solo Musical Soiree & Album Launch
 Artist: Riddhi Bandyopadhyay (Kolkata)
 Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi
 Date: Oct 20; Time: 6:30pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Mritika Maya by Samar Majumder
 Venue: La Gallery, AFD
 Date: Oct 13-26
 Time: 3-9pm

Theatre
 Play: Konjush
 Troupe: Loko Natyadal
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: Oct 20
 Time: 7pm



PHOTO: STAR

Bauls congregate at Lalon's shrine

Mystic bard's death anniversary observed

AMANUR AMAN, From Kushtia

A three-day death anniversary programme in memory of mystic poet Lalon Shah ended with speakers calling for a 'Lalon University' to spread the bard's philosophy, especially its humanitarian aspect, worldwide.

"Steps in this direction his have to be taken by the government as it was to set up Rabindra University,"

DR. RASHID ASKARI
 ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR, DURING HIS SPEECH AS CHIEF DISCUSSANT ON THE CLOSING DAY.

The programme, chalked out on the occasion of 126th death anniversary of the Baul legend, was held at the Chheuria Lalon Akhra in Kushtia from October 16-18.

Lalon Academy held the programme in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Kushtia district administration

supervised the event. The programme included a 'Lalon Mela', discussion and rendition of songs by artistes of Lalon Academy and Bauls from across the country.

Joint general secretary of Awami League, also lawmaker of Kushtia-3 Mahbubul Alam Hanif, inaugurated the

programme with Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Md Zahir Raihan Azad in the chair.

"We want to build a secular Bangladesh where practice of Lalon's philosophy is given its due," Hanif told this correspondent.

Bauls and Lalon devotees in thousands flocked to Lalon's shrine on all

three days. With a large gathering at the main stage, seated in small groups, Bauls could be seen paying homage to Lalon at the bard's grave and singing the songs of their spiritual guru.

"He (Lalon) is our philosopher and we are influenced by every stanza of his songs," said Abdul

Kuddus, a veteran Baul of Kushtia town who has been a follower of Lalon for 55 years.

The Bauls consider the *akhra*, Lalon's shrine as a sacred spot where they can free themselves of all sorrows and misery through Sadhan-Bhajan (spiritual songs). This homage takes the form of Lalon's songs.

SALMAN KHAN reveals first "Tiger Zinda Hai" poster

Bollywood star Salman Khan had the perfect Diwali gift for his fans, as he shared the first poster of his much-anticipated film opposite Katrina Kaif, "Tiger Zinda Hai" on Wednesday morning. The film is a sequel to Salman-Katrina starrer "Ekk Tha Tiger" (2012).

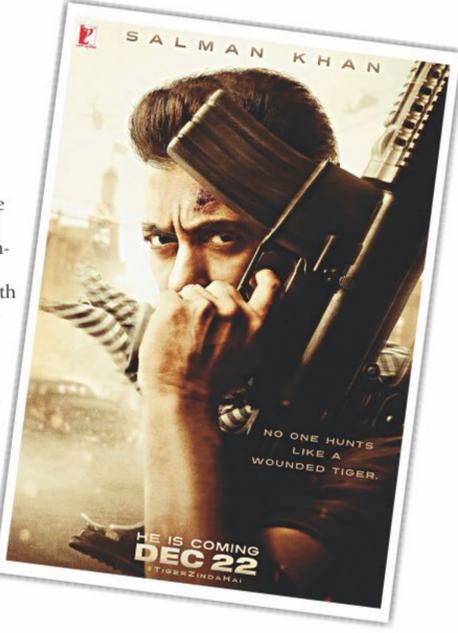
Salman reprises his role as an Indian special agent who falls in love with an ISI agent (played by Katrina Kaif) in the original. The two vanish overnight, leaving the agencies in both the countries scratching their heads.

Director Ali Abbas Zafar was supported by action coordinator Tom Struthers of "The Dark Knight" and "The Dark Knight Rises" fame.

Zafar described the experience of shooting the film as "gruelling, challenging and a whole lot of fun". "We've shot across pristine, relatively unseen locations in Austria, Morocco and shot on a huge lot in Abu Dhabi along with other spots. Right from the infrastructure, to the support that the local military has given us, shooting here was smooth and a great collaborative experience. Tiger and Zoya's second outing is going to be larger than life, and the shoot lives up to that," he said.

The film is set to release on Christmas.

Source: Hindustan Times



Samina Husain Prema taking on new challenges

NAZIBA BASHER

Acclaimed Manipuri dancer Samina Husain Prema will be travelling to London to perform at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan on October 22. Prema, she also joined Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) as a dance instructor. In a recent interview with The Daily Star, Prema discusses her future plans, her new responsibilities, and Bhabna.



Tell us about how becoming BSA's dance instructor came about, and what your responsibilities entail? Prema: BSA sent out a circular for various job positions for the first time in a long time. Without thinking much about it, I applied for the 'dance instructor' position. After a written and practical test, I was interviewed and was offered the job. There is a 15-member dance group now, from which three of us are instructors, and 12 are dancers. Our main responsibilities haven't been assigned yet. But as far as we know, there will be a lot of workshops we will be conducting inside and outside of Dhaka.

You will be travelling to London to perform at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. How did this show come about and what will you be performing? Prema: I had performed there before in 2011, and since then they have been asking me to visit and perform again. This year, everything fell into place, and we're going. Singers Imtiaz Ahmed and Laisa Ahmed Lisa will also be travelling to perform. I will do a live performance to one of Imtiaz Ahmed's songs, and I will also have an additional 15-minute slot to do my own performances. I will be focusing mainly on Rabindra and Nazrul songs. I plan on doing a pure Manipuri piece, but that will depend on how much time I have. I may also do a particular piece involving only the main character from one of my dance dramas, perhaps "Shakuntala".

With your responsibilities branching out, what are your future plans with your group Bhabna? Prema: Bhabna is moving at its own pace. Of course, since I got the new job my responsibilities towards my craft and country have both increased, and it will take some getting used to. But I am certain once I get the hang of it, everything will fall into place. Whatever the case, I will have to manage time somehow or the other because Bhabna is purely my own. It is where I have the most freedom. Regarding future plans, I have some work in the pipeline. After our productions like "Bhanushingher Padabali" and "Shakuntala", people's expectations have reached a certain level, so I do not want to present anything haphazard to them. I want to give them something ready and polished, so I will take my time. I am currently planning a full-fledged Manipuri production. It will be a combination of the nine emotions of *navarasa* and the changing seasons. It isn't based on any one story, but will be a blend of many stories. There are a lot of issues before we finalise anything in this production. Like always, logistics and finance are big concerns. So, let's wait and see.

PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Is Toma Mirza ready to change the "Game"?

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

A talented dancer and model, Toma Mirza has found triumph in acting, bagging the National Film Award this year. Her latest venture, "Game Returns", is set to hit the big screen soon, which she elaborates on in a recent conversation with The Daily Star.

Could you talk about your latest movie? Toma Mirza: "Game Returns" will be released in halls throughout the country on the silver screen on November 3. The action thriller is directed by Royal Khan, and I play a bubbly, spontaneous character in the narrative.

What would compel people to flock towards theatres and enjoy the film?

Toma Mirza: It is a highly entertaining film. In addition to an absorbing plot, the film contains exciting action sequences and wonderful songs. I don't believe viewers will find a single dull moment, and I look forward to everyone's feedback after the film's release.

Has there been any particular standout moment while shooting for this film?

Toma Mirza: There's so many to recount, because the whole film crew including the director became like family. We travelled to various spots around the country for filming, including Cox's Bazaar during the monsoon season. When it rained all day and we were unable to film, we would sit and chat with each other, or get wet in the rain. I remember the delicious food we were served, and the memories made there are definitely something I cannot recreate in Dhaka.

You've won the National Film Award this year. How else has this year been different for you?

Toma Mirza: 2017 has definitely been a milestone year for me. Four of my ventures have been released this year, which is the most I have ever done in a single year. I was also able to partake in my other passion, and do a few dance performances. I will definitely look back on this year as one of my best.

What aspirations do you have for your career?

Toma Mirza: I have been in the acting industry for seven years, and have acted in 13 films. I would like to keep doing movies regularly in the future, as well as open up a production house and make sure quality films are being made. I am also a law student right now, and hope to set up a practice once I graduate.

How do you spend your free time?

Toma Mirza: I am a huge movie buff, and often stay up watching movies from all over the world. As an actor, I love seeing other actors' work and being inspired by them. I love music as well, but not as much as film.

Who is your favourite actor?

Toma Mirza: Undoubtedly the great Nayak Raj Razzak. I have no words to describe my admiration for him and his work. Whenever we met he would call me to come over to him, and he was always full of fatherly affection. I miss him very much.



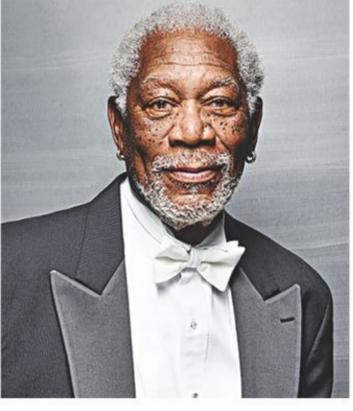
MORGAN FREEMAN joins Colin Powell biopic

Morgan Freeman will star as Colin Powell in an independent biopic about the former US Secretary of State.

The film will focus on Powell's 2003 speech to the United Nations to seek support for the Bush administration's plan to forcibly remove Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, based on intelligence (later discredited) that Iraq was developing nuclear weapons. Powell later described the event as a low point in his career.

Reginald Hudlin is attached to direct "Powell" Hyde Park Entertainment and Revelations Entertainment as the production companies.

Hudlin will direct from a script by Ed Whitworth, which was on the 2011 "Black



List". The project will focus on Powell's tenure as the 65th United States Secretary of State, serving under President George W Bush from 2001 to 2005. He was the first African American to serve in that position.

Freeman recently starred in New Line's remake of "Going in Style" and will appear in Disney's "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms". Hudlin directed "Marshall," starring Chadwick Boseman and Josh Gad.

Freeman starred in the 2009 historical biopic "Invictus", portraying South African President Nelson Mandela. He received his fifth Oscar nomination for the role.

Source: Variety