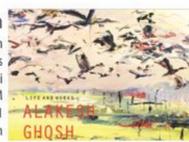


Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Alakesh Ghosh
 Organisers: BNM & Gallery Cosmos
 Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharjee Gallery, BNM
 Date: October 15-21
 Time: 9:30am-5:30pm



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



Flower & Bliss Int'l Theatre Fest
 Organiser: Aranyak Natyadal
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Oct 22-28
 Time: 5:30pm (Inauguration); 7pm (Show)



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




PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

No slowing down for Moushumi

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
 The three-time National Film Award winning actress Moushumi's debut in "Keyamat Theke Keyamat" was a stroke of luck that set her on a trailblazing path of success, playing leads in one hit venture after another. Since then, the actress has also turned her hand to direction, where she found acclaim as well. Her most recent venture, "Dulabhai Zindabad" was released in theatres nationwide yesterday.

Montazur Rahman Akbar, Moushumi plays the role of a woman named Jotsna. Playing the role of her husband is Dipjol, and popular actress Bidya Sinha Mim is part of the main cast as well. "After a long time, I am taking part in a film I feel is worth watching. I have a strong feeling that it will be received well by the audience," said Moushumi.

The seasoned actress is currently working on other films as well, and has nearly completed shooting for the AK Sohel helmed film titled "Pobitro Bhalobasha." She has also recently wrapped up filming for another venture produced by actor Ferdous. Moushumi will be joined once again by Bidya Sinha Mim in another venture titled "Ami Neta Hobo", directed by Uttam Akash, where the main cast also includes her husband Omar Sani and Shakib Khan.

"I am very selective when it comes to choosing scripts, and so I can guarantee with certainty that the ventures I am involved with have strong narratives and compelling characters. I hope the audience feels the same way as well," she elaborated.

Aside from big screen projects, the actress has recently completed shooting for a TVC alongside actor Zahid Hasan. The TVC, which depicts the importance of paying taxes, has been filmed on the grounds of FDC.

Moushumi remains active on the small screen, and makes regular appearances in drama serials, single episode plays and telefilms. The actress is also noted for being active in social work; "My entire career is for the people in my country, and I would like to reach out and help in any way I can," she said.

HARRY POTTER FESTIVAL takes off in Bangladesh

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Bloomsbury publishing "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone", the British Council has been hosting the Harry Potter Festival from October 15-28 for the series' fans across Bangladesh, says a press release.

The festival will be hosted in three different phases through five public libraries in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna and Rajshahi as part of its collaboration with Libraries Unlimited, which is another British Council project in partnership with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and supported by the Department of Public Libraries.

The first phase of the celebration was hosted in Dhaka from October 15-19 at the British Council, Dhaka University campus office. Around 2000 Harry Potter fans celebrated the magical eve with an array of activities like panel discussions, art competitions, treasure hunt, quizzes and games. A magic workshop titled "Wizards Classroom" was arranged, followed by a magic show by the famous magician Jewel Aich. The second phase will be hosted at Rajshahi today, and the third phase will take place in Chittagong, Sylhet and Khulna on October 28.

This collaborative celebration aims to engage communities using the public library network to build public awareness of and access to library and information services. Harry Potter is a series of fantasy novels written by British author J. K. Rowling which chronicle the life of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, all of whom are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

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NEWS bytes

Margot Robbie transforms into disgraced figure skater



The first teaser for Margot Robbie's "I, Tonya" proves that the actress took a no-nonsense approach to her portrayal of disgraced figure skater Tonya Harding. The footage shows her smoking a cigarette under the arena hallway prior to competition, stubbing it out with her skate, and then coming out to the ice with a dazzling smile. In a voiceover, Harding asserts that the American people want someone to love and someone to hate.

The dark comedy centres on Harding's attack on rival figure skater Nancy Kerrigan — aimed at breaking Kerrigan's leg so she couldn't compete in the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer. Harding's involvement would eventually lead to her being stripped of her 1994 national title and a lifetime ban from the figure skating world.

"I, Tonya" is directed by Craig Gillespie and written by Steven Rogers. Sebastian Stan stars as Harding's spouse, Jeff Gillooly, with Caitlin Carver portraying Kerrigan and Allison Janney as Harding's mother, LaVona. Paul Walter Hauser, Julianne Nicholson, Bojana Novakovic, and Bobby Cannavale also appear in the movie. The film held its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival last month. It hits theaters on December 8.

Source: Variety

A glimmer of light in the darkness 31-year journey of Protik Theatre

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Habiganj

Chandan Mohali, 55, is a tea worker who started drinking alcohol while still a young boy. With minimum wages, he couldn't sustain his family in the Deondi tea garden in Chunarughat Upazila of Habiganj. However, his family felt he would change upon getting married. But that was proved wrong when after a few years he descended into the liquor trade. During this period he had no time for his family and gradually his life shattered.

"Around 12 years ago I saw a play in Bangla called 'Sobho Juger Oggo Manush'. The play really hit me," said Chandan. Not only him, but a large number of confused men have had life-changing experiences after seeing Protik Theatre's plays in the tea garden area.

Sunil Biswas, the president of Protik Theatre, witnessed since childhood how alcohol destroyed the lives of tea garden youths. A large number of his relatives succumbed to cancer because of excessive drinking. This gave him the idea of staging plays against excessive alcohol consumption.

Biswas was born in a family of tea workers in the remote Deondi tea garden. He experienced severe poverty while growing up. When he was a child, the questions of his education seemed doubtful as his parents had a paltry daily wage.

"I had to work in the tea-gardens alongside my parents and find whatever little

time I could for studies," Biswas reminisced of his childhood days.

Life in the tea gardens is full of turmoil and hardship in the face of illiteracy, superstition, oppression, and above all, scorching poverty. And this is true for most tea plantations, which, ironically, propel one of the biggest foreign currency earning sectors in Bangladesh.

was never going to be content with just lifting his family from poverty. He wanted to continue the fight, this time to change the fate of his community -- one of the most marginalised peoples in the country.

"Drama & education," he said, "are the only weapons that we (tea garden communities) have in our fight against extreme poverty."

sponsors either, and so he started making productions from his meagre savings.

"The theatre group now has 70 members. They work selflessly without expecting any returns," Biswas says.

Gradually, Protik Theatre expanded its activities to prevent social ills such as drug addiction, child marriage and illiteracy. Its most recent triumph includes the SM Solaiman Padak, which they received earlier this year.

Chandan is now a transformed man because of Protik Theatre. Not only does he shun liquor, he is a senior member of the theatre group. His daughter who is in high school is also a member of the troupe. "Protik Theatre's plays changed me a lot," said Chandan.

Toffazol Sohel, former organising secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Sylhet divisional unit, told this correspondent, nonetheless, his innovative strategy shows promise from 31 years. He is working with more enthusiasm than ever to bring a meaningful change to the fate of his community, he added.

Mamunur Rashid, prominent actor-director-screenwriter told this correspondent that theater activist Biswas' good work has made him a role model across the country. He is an asset for the tea garden community, added Rashid.

Biswas' plays are vocal against illiteracy, superstition, oppression, and above all, rampant poverty in different areas of the country, he added.



Protik theatre artistes perform in a play. PHOTO: STAR

Despite all obstacles, Biswas never gave up the uphill task of first finishing his school education and then went on to complete his graduation--only one of the few from his community to do so. Eventually, he ended up getting a job in the tea garden, and it finally meant a respite for his family.

But the indomitable fighter inside him

On April 14, 1986, Sunil established a theatre group called Protik Theatre with the primary aim of combating drug addiction by educating children of tea-garden workers. Needless to say, being one of only a few graduates in his community, he had very little support. In the beginning, he was one of the only 13-15 members of his Protik Theatre group. He didn't have any



Nine Dhallywood stars -- Sohel Rana, Rozina, Faruk, Misha Saudagar, (seated in the front row); Bapparaj, Amin Khan, Poppy, Purnima and Samrat (standing in the back row) -- attend in a get together party held on Thursday night at the residence of Misha Saudagar, president of Bangladesh Chalachchitra Shilpi Samity.





CELEBRATING LIFE DISTRICT TOUR

TOMORROW
MADAN MOHAN COLLEGE
SYLHET

Photo Exhibition
 Film Screening

Partners   আনন্দধারা