



WHAT'S ON


Celebrating 100 years of Independent Finland
Organiser: Embassy of Finland
Venue: The Daily Star Bengal Arts Precinct
Date: October 29-November 3
Time: 11am-7pm




Dance Drama
Tasher Desh
Troupe: Shadhona
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: November 1
Time: 7pm




Musical Soiree
Observing birth anniversary of legendary Abbasuddin Ahmed
Artist: Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and Dr. Nashid Kamal
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
Date: Oct 31; Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Layers
Artist: Fahad Hasan Kazmee
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
Date: Oct 27-Nov 22
Time: 5pm-8pm



Theatre
"Bioscope" and "Keramatnama"
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Oct 31
Time: 7pm



NEWS bytes

Zachary Levi to play DC's "Shazam!"

Zachary Levi will play the title character in New Line and DC Entertainment's "Shazam!", sources confirmed to Variety.

The film follows a boy named Billy Batson who can transform into an adult superhero by uttering the magic word "Shazam!"

The name is an acronym of the ancient gods and historical figures Solomon, Hercules, Atlas, Zeus, Achilles, and Mercury, from whom Batson derives his heroic attributes from when in adult form.

David F Sandberg is directing from a screenplay by Henry Gayden and Darren Lemke.

"Shazam!" will be the next DC Cinematic Universe movie to begin shooting, ahead of the "Flashpoint", "Batgirl", which Joss Whedon will direct, and the "Suicide Squad" sequel, which Gavin O'Connor just came aboard to helm. DC and Warner Bros. are also currently developing a



standalone film about "Black Adam", Shazam's arch nemesis. Dwayne Johnson is attached to play Black Adam in that film.

Levi, best known for his role on "Chuck", most recently appeared in "Heroes Reborn" and the Eva Longoria comedy "Telenovela".

Source: Variety



Cast and crew members, along with supporters of the film, seated at the panel during the press meet of "Ankhi o Tar Bondhura".

ANKHI O TAR BONDHURA

launches promo campaign

Music and poster for Morshedul Islam's film released

NAZIBA BASHER

Morshedul Islam's "Ankhi o Tar Bondhura" revealed its poster and music at an event held on October 28 at in the Channel i premises, kicking off the promotional campaign of the children's film.

Present at the press meet were actors Al-Mansur, Suborna Mostafa and Zahin Nawar Haque Isha, managing director of Lovello Ice-cream Md Ekramul Haque, prominent writer Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal (whose book the film is adapted from), manager director of Impress Telefilm and Channel i Faridur Reza Sagor, Editor of Kishor Alo Magazine Anisul Hoque, and director Morshedul Islam.

The film, recipient of the National Film Grant, is adapted from Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's "Ankhi O Amra Ko'jon". It stars veteran actors Suborna Mustafa, Tariq Anam Khan, Al-Mansur, and child actors Zahin Nawar Haque Isha (playing Ankhi), Ananya Samael (playing Titu), including others.

A government grant awarded film, "Ankhi o Tar Bondhura" is about a blind girl, Ankhi, who comes to study at a school.

Muhammad Zafar Iqbal said, "I have written books previously about specially-abled children. I have a soft spot towards specially-abled because I don't believe they are disabled. I believe they have much more to offer to the

world than we do, and it is through these stories that I want to inspire them."

After the poster reveal, the only song of the film "Khola Akash Pele", sung by Eva and composed by Swani Zubayeer was played for the attendees.

"Ankhi o Tar Bondhura" is set to release in the halls on December 22.

Morshedul Islam has adapted adolescent novels by Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal before, with "Dipu Number Two" (1996) winning two national awards and Liberation-War based novel "Amar Bondhu Rashed" (2011) winning three. The director has won numerous national and international accolades, including National Film Awards twice for Best Feature Film ("Dukhai" and "Anil Bagchi'r Ekdin"), a Best Director ("Anil Bagchi'r Ekdin") and a Best Short Film award (for his 1984 debut film "Agami").

Shimul Yousuf returns to stage

"Binodini" to be staged at BSA tonight

NAZIBA BASHER

Noted thespian Shimul Yousuf is set to return to the stage today after a year-long hiatus, through a staging of Dhaka Theatre's popular mono-drama "Binodini". The play's sole actor is Shimul Yousuf, while the direction is given by Nasiruddin Yousuff.

"I have been diagnosed with osteoporosis, for which I am in constant physical pain. But I am determined to get back on stage. Staying home and being ill depresses me. You can say my return to stage is my fight against my illness. I am nervous and scared, but my team gives me a lot of support and encouragement," Shimul Yousuf told The Daily Star.

"Binodini" is a biographical play based on the life of legendary Bengali theatre actress Binodini Dasi. Saymon Zakaria, under the guidance of Selim Al Deen, dramatised the production. During the dramatisation, Zakaria used two autobiographies of Binodini Dasi - "Aamar Kotha" and "Amar Obhinoy Jibon". The play depicts Binodini's rise from an entertainer, who society looked down upon, to a venerated artist.

"Binodini" is Dhaka Theatre's 31st stage production and this is their 124th staging of the play.



H.E. Ms Nina Vaskunlahti, Ambassador of Finland (C), Muhammad Aziz Khan, Honorary Consul General of Finland to Bangladesh (L), and Peppi Kiviniemi-Siddiq (R) at the exhibition.

Finnish photo exhibit "Land of Northern Lights" opens

A CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate Finland's 100 years of Independence and continuous democracy, the Consulate of Finland in Bangladesh has organised a weeklong photography exhibition titled "Land of Northern Lights", at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct in the capital. The exhibition was inaugurated yesterday afternoon by Nina Vaskunlathi, the Ambassador of Finland to Bangladesh and India and Muhammad Aziz Khan, Honorary Consul General of Finland to Bangladesh and Chairman of Summit Group of Companies.

Diplomats and esteemed guests attended the event, along with Mahfuz Anam, editor and

publisher of The Daily Star.

The exhibition features the wonderful natural phenomena of Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights, through photographs of renowned photographers Miikka Neimi, Asto Kuittinen, Markku Inkila, Jorma Lutha and Markus Thomenius. The exhibition has already traveled to a number of cities in India including New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

The exhibition is open until November 3 from 11am-3pm on the mezzanine floor of the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct.



Hamiduzzaman Khan Retrospective opens at BNM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A retrospective exhibition of eminent sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan's works opened at the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) on Friday.

Eminent political scientist and art critic Professor Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony, while noted writer Mafidul Haque was the main discussant. Muhammad Aziz Khan, chairman of the Summit Group of Companies was present at the event as special guest. Renowned painter Hashem Khan chaired the session.

Director General of BNM Faizul Latif Chowdhury said the exhibition displays works from the past and present of Hamiduzzaman Khan's career, and through it one can understand the artist completely.

"I try to first understand the media that I am working in," Khan said at the programme, "and that is how I



Sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan (center right) and other guests at the exhibition.

find artistic inspiration in any media."

Hamiduzzaman Khan, born in 1946 in Kishoreganj, completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the erstwhile Dhaka Art College (now Faculty of Fine Art, Dhaka University) in 1967, and did his Master's and higher studies in Baroda, India and New York, USA. The artist, who received the Ekushey Padak in 2006, has exhibited internationally and has created a number of notable sculptures seen in Dhaka and across the country.

Cultural activists protest cancellation of classical music festival

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Protesting the cancellation of Bengal Classical Music Festival this year, cultural organisers and activists recently observed a sit-in programme in Mymensingh town.

The programme, organised in front of Shashi Lodge was also attended by people from different sections including poets and journalists.

The speakers said the practice of classical music should not be obstructed as everyone has the right to listen to their traditional music. Our classical music is our tradition and pride, said the speakers.

Classical music, continuing for centuries, is a must for the country's cultural development, they added.

Terming the cancellation as the biggest blow to the country's cultural scenario, they also urged the government to take immediate effective steps so that the

festival attended by illustrious classical maestros from home and abroad could be held on schedule.

Bengal Foundation's classical music festival started from Mymensingh through a classical event themed "Mayar Madhuri" at Zila Shilpakala Academy in May 2012, said Rezaul Karim Aslam, chairman of Novice Foundation, a Mymensingh-based cultural institution here.



Eminent flautist AHM Shahabuddin Khan, Sarwar Chowdhury, Shah Saiful Alam Pannu, Prof Afzal Rahman, Sarwar Kamal Robin, baul Sunil Karmaker, Mahbub Hossain Sharif, Abdul Motalab Lal, advocate Nazrul Islam Chuunu, Shibbir Ahmed Liton, Dwipshikha Khan, poet Yazdani Quraishy Kajol, Neamul Kabir Sajal and Nazib Ashraf addressed the programme, among others.

Later, they also submitted a memorandum to the divisional commissioner of Mymensingh to place their demands on record.