

WHAT'S ON
Int'l Bangla Literature Conference
 Venues: Osmani Memorial Auditorium & Bangla Academy
 Date: Jan 13-15
 Time: 2:30pm onwards



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Joratalir Chalcitra by Hashem Khan
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Gallery, BNM
 Date: Jan 5-31
 Time: 10am-5pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Phirey Dekha by 79 Batch
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, FFA, DU
 Date: Jan 15-21
 Time: 12noon-7pm



Dhaka Int'l Film Fest
 Organiser: Rainbow Film Society
 Venues: BNM, Public Library, RCC, AFD & Star Cineplex
 Date: Jan 12-20
 Time: 10am onwards



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Oporoop by Gopal Chandra Saha
 Venue: EMK Center (9th Floor), Midas Center, Rd-16 (old 27), Dhanmondi
 Date: Jan 13-25
 Time: 9:30am-8pm



NEWS bytes

"Shazam!" gets 2019 release date

Warner Bros.-DC Entertainment's superhero movie "Shazam!" has been set for an April 19, 2019 release date.

The film stars Zachary Levi, who plays the titular superhero, and Asher Angel, who plays Billy Batson, a young boy who turns into Shazam when he utters the name. "It" star Jack Dylan Grazer will play Freddy, Billy Batson's best friend. Grace Fulton has been in negotiations to star as one of Batson's friends and Mark Strong has been rumored to be attached as the villain.

David F Sandberg ("Lights Out") is directing from a script by Henry Gayden and Darren Lemke. Peter Safran is producing, with filming planned for this year.

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

"Shazam!" will be the next DC Cinematic Universe movie to hit theatres following Jason Momoa's "Aquaman", which will open December 21.

Source: Variety



Demand for gender equality in films

Women filmmakers' conference begins in the capital



Guests inaugurate the conference by lighting clay lamps.

A CORRESPONDENT

The fourth Dhaka International Conference took an empowering stand as key figures in cinema raised their voices on gender equality in film. Titled "Women in Cinema", the conference began on Saturday (January 13) is part of the 16th Dhaka International Film Festival.

The two-day conference was inaugurated by State Minister of Information Tarana Halim as chief guest and chaired by State Minister of Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam. Halim, who had an illustrious career in television and film - stated that more participation from women will contribute in making a world respectful towards gender equality. State Minister of Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam also assured that Dhaka is ready to boost women participation in the film industry.

The opening day also had US writer-educator Sydney Levine and Turkish filmmaker Alin Tasciyan as speakers. Six topics were discussed over six sessions of the conference, including "How to sustain Gender Equality in Cinema", "Women in Avant-Garde Cinema", and "Perception of South Asian Women by Western Women through Cinema".

Tajik filmmaker Dr Sharofat M Arabova, Indian directors Aparajita Ghosh and Dr. Debjani Halder, Iranian researcher Nazanin Kaynejad among other eminent cinema experts presented keynote papers in the sessions. The Dhaka International Film Festival, organised by Rainbow Film Society, is being held from January 12-20 at the National Museum, Central Public Library, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Russian Cultural Centre, and Star Cineplex, where a total of 216 movies from 64 countries are being screened.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Bhabna debuting as novelist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ashna Habib Bhabna has shone through in the country's show business with her versatile talents in modeling and dancing. The artiste is all set to debut as a novelist next month, with the publication of her very first work titled "Gulnehar", published by Tamralipi.

Previously, Bhabna broke into the writing market with a few short stories that were published as part of a collection. Her most recent work traces the life of a woman over 87 years, and the various upheavals she has had to face.

"Gulnehar" is the work of my dreams. I may have worked on it over a few months, but the story has lived with me for a long time," stated Bhabna.

"Gulnehar" will be available to readers during the month-long Ekushey Book Fair held in February.

Confirmed: "Black Mirror" is a shared universe

For years, fans of Netflix hit series "Black Mirror" have argued over whether the episodes of the show take place in the same universe.

Creator/showrunner Charlie Brooker contended they did not, that they were all completely separate stories. But in a new Season 4 featurette, Brooker appears to have changed his mind.

The episode "Black Museum" from the new season features a museum chock-full of references to other episodes, mostly from the new season. Brooker confirms this is the first time a "Black Mirror" shared universe has been explicitly addressed, so the myth is busted: "Black Mirror" does take place in one universe, but the episodes are still standalones.



While this is cool, it doesn't change the dynamic of the sci-fi anthology series, according to Collider. Brooker hasn't yet crossed characters over from one episode to another, so for now it's a tangential connection between the standalone anthology stories. Moreover, Brooker has already been hinting at a shared universe for a while now with cleverly placed Easter Eggs—the pizza delivery company from the episode "Crocodile" shows up in another episode, tech from one episode is used in another, and so on and so forth.

Shared universe or not, the show continues to churn out compelling, shocking, and emotionally affecting standalone episodes. Netflix produced both Season 3 and Season 4 (after the first two seasons aired on British TV channel, Channel 4) and while they haven't officially ordered "Black Mirror Season 5" just yet, given the show's popularity, one imagines it's just a matter of time. There's even been chatter about a spinoff series based on the "USS Callister" episode, the opening episode of the new season.

The entire show is currently streaming on Netflix, with the latest season releasing December 29, 2017.

Source: Collider



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

A scene from the theatre production "Noddiu Natim", presented by Mad Thetar, staged on the opening day of the three-day International Bangla Literature Conference 1424 at Bangla Academy. About 300 literary personalities including poets, playwrights, novelists, short story writers, singers, artists, filmmakers, theatre and cultural personalities and theorists and critics from across the world are taking part at the grand conference in a variety of programmes like seminars, discussions, and open adda on Bangla Literature, poetry recitation, musical performances, storytelling, staging of plays, screening of films and more. Former Indian president Pranab Mukherjee will grace the closing ceremony as chief guest today at Academy's Nazrul Mancha.

JU observes Selim Al Deen's death anniversary

MD. ASADUZZ ZAMAN, JU

The 10th death anniversary of 'Natyacharya' Professor Selim Al Deen was observed at the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus yesterday with daylong programmes. The Department of Drama and Dramatics organised the programme, which was attended by renowned theatre and cultural personalities from Dhaka.

The programme started early in the morning with a procession that started from the Dramatics Department towards Al Deen's grave. JU Vice Chancellor Professor Farzana Islam inaugurated the procession.

In honour of the theatre icon, a street towards to Selim Al Deen's grave from the main streets of the campus was inaugurated as part of the programme.

Among others, JU treasurer Prof Sheikh Md. Monzurul Huq, Prof. Sazzad Ahsan, Chairman of the department, Prof. AKM Yousuf Hasan Arko, lecturer Mohibur Rouf Shaibal, were present at the inaugural.

A seminar was also held on the campus while Prof. Lutfar Rahman of Dramatics department and Bangla Academy assistant Director Saymon Zakaria delivered keynote address. The seminar was chaired by Prof. Afsar Ahmed.

A photography exhibition featuring the life and works of Selim Al Deen was also part of the programme. The exhibition, featuring works of Barin Ghosh, was held on the campus, and inaugurated by Director of Bangladesh Television (BTV), M. Hamid.

In the evening, "Gunjan Bibir Pala" by Adatik Natya Sangsad was staged at the Mukto Mancho.



A memorial procession was brought out marking the occasion. PHOTO: STAR

Kareena-Sonam's "Veere Di Wedding" postponed

The makers of upcoming female buddy comedy film "Veere Di Wedding", starring Kareena Kapoor Khan, Sonam Kapoor, Swara Bhaskar and Shikha Talsania, have decided to push the release date.

The movie, which was earlier supposed to release on May 18, will now hit the theatres on June 1.

There has been massive anticipation surrounding the film ever since its announcement, as two power producers Ekta Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor came together to present a fun ride that explores the spirit of the modern day Indian woman.

Ekta Kapoor said, "This is definitely going to be a wedding to remember. We are happy to announce that Veere Di Wedding will release on the 1st June 2018."

Rhea Kapoor said: "We are hoping that Veere Di Wedding will usher in a new phase in the Hindi film industry. Nothing like this has been attempted before and we hope it's a fun ride for the audience."

The movie is directed by Shashank Ghosh and written by Mehul Suri and Nidhi Mehra.

Source: Hindustan Times

