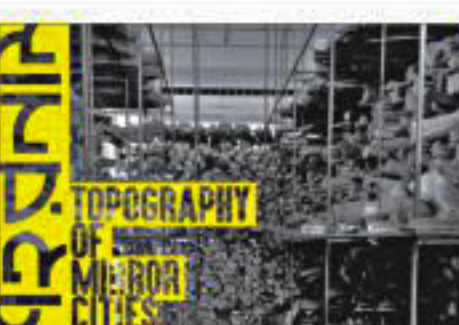



<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Joy Bangla Concert Organiser: Young Bangla Bands: Artcell, Cryptic Fate, Chirkutt Venue: Army Stadium Date: Mar 7, Time: 3pm</p> 	<p>Art Exhibition Shohomama Venue: Daily Star Bengal Arts Precinct & Gyantapas Abdur Razzak Bidyapeeth Date: Mar 2-16 Time: 11am-8pm</p> 	<p>Solo Art Exhibition The Red Thread of Bangladesh Artist: Tarshito Venue: Bay's Park Heights, Kalabagan Date: Feb 23-Mar 9 Time: 10am-8pm</p> 	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Immensity Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, AJ Heights, Bir Uttam Rafiqul Islam Ave Date: Feb 24-Mar 10 Time: 10am-8pm</p> 	<p>Theatre Play: Sararatir Troupe: Teerondaz Repertory Venue: Kagazitola Lane, Sutrapur Date: Mar 9; Time: 6:30pm</p> 
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Ferdousi Priyabhashini passes away

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Another tragedy struck the nation deeply as Freedom Fighter, eminent sculptor and outstanding personality Ferdousi Priyabhashini passed away yesterday at 12:45pm. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP; writer-researcher and Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir and others shared many aspects of her life and art.

"Ferdousi Priyabhashini was a free will. During her twilight months, she went through many physical complications. She always held the conscience of Liberation War in all the phases of her art and life. She was an active voice for the justice of war criminals and human rights. A piece of Bangladesh is represented in every work by her. We have lost a vital voice of our Liberation War," said Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor.

"Ferdousi Priyabhashini was with us from the very beginning of the Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee movement, where she was the vice-president. We paid her citizens' ovation at Bangladesh National Museum in 1999, when she decided to publicly describe the atrocities she went through by the Pakistani occupational forces in 1971 and none could hold their tears. Thus she established the status of Birangonas as Freedom Fighters in our society, and we published the

testimony of her persecution. She held war children close to her heart and proudly declared that she was their mother. As a sculptor she took her artwork to new heights. She transformed many left-over materials of nature into art. Her passing was untimely and her absence will never be filled," shared Shahriar Kabir.

"The life and art of Ferdousi

Shilpacharya Abanindranath Tagore," said Rabiul Hussain, art critic and architect.

"Ferdousi Priyabhashini was the first one to publicly announce herself as a Birangona, a term coined by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This shook the world. As an honest and courageous personality, she struggled through her entire life

"We are at peace to get close to such an unparalleled personality, Priyabhashini, who was a Freedom Fighter and eminent sculptor. Many laid down their lives for freeing our country but women like Ferdousi Priyabhashini bore the intolerable physical and mental persecution with courage," said Nishat Jahan Rana, writer-documentary filmmaker.

Priyabhashini was born on 19 February 1947 in Khulna, Bangladesh, to Rowshan Hasina and Syed Mahbulul Hoque. Her first exhibition was jointly inaugurated by artist S M Sultan and poet Sufia Kamal, and anchored by Syed Shamsul Haque. Priyabhashini married Ahsanullah Ahmed in 1972. Together they have three sons and three daughters.

Ferdousi Priyabhashini was conferred the Shadhinata Padak by the Government of Bangladesh in 2010.

She leaves a void in our national identity that will never be filled.



A piece of Bangladesh is represented in every work by her. We have lost a vital voice of our Liberation War.

Priyabhashini are synonymous. She is the victim of time. When war breaks out, women become victims of persecution. Her dream, morale, courage and struggle are so awe-inspiring that she can be regarded as the mother of new emergence. Ferdousi Priyabhashini practised art like a saint getting inspiration from the kutum-katam style of

for the justice of anti-liberation forces," said Rumi Noman, Chief News Editor of ATN Bangla and director, Gallery Shilpangan.

"Ferdousi Priyabhashini fought her entire life with courage and honour to establish the contributions of our Birangonas in society. We have many things to learn from her life," said Iffat Ara Dewan, noted singer.



Sanjida Khatun addresses the press conference.

37th Jatiya Rabindrasangeet Sammelan commences soon

A CORRESPONDENT

A press conference was held at Chhayanaut Bhaban regarding the 37th Jatiya Rabindrasangeet Sammelan. General Manager of the Sammelan Bulbul Ahmed presented a statement at the event, which was presided over by the Sammelan's President Sanjida Khatun. Also present among others from the Sammelan were vice presidents Abul Hasnat, Mita Haque, Moinuddin Nazir, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Treasurer Nasehun Amin, and member of the secretarial board Lily Islam.

The 37th Jatiya Rabindrasangeet Sammelan will be held from March 9-11 at Nilphamari High School's playground. The event will be inaugurated by Minister of Cultural Affairs Asaduzzaman Noor, while Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University Biswajit Ghosh will attend as chief guest. The event will also confer the Rabindra Padak on classical music artist Monjusree Rai from Rajshahi, and folk singer Upendranath Rai from Rajshahi.

The event will be supported by the Cultural Affairs Ministry, Bengal Group Ltd, and more.

Dwindling audience results in the closure of 17 cinema halls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Seventeen cinema halls in Faridpur district have recently stopped screening films due to a dwindling audience.

On a recent visit in Rajbari town, The Daily Star correspondent found that the district's largest cinema hall, Bushundhara at Boropul Mor area, had been brought down as the cinema hall authorities had sold out. The hall will make way for a multi-storied building.

Other movie theatres are also in trouble. Tofajjal Hossan Mia, owner of Sadhona Cinema Hall said, "I used to own seven cinema halls in the district but had to close them all due to the lack of audiences."

He added that he made profits only during Eid. He had several other grouses: one was the popularity of YouTube films that people could view on their mobile phones. "On the other hand, our films cannot draw audiences, because the stories are not up to the mark. However, Indian films draw a crowd and are greatly enjoyed. The government and film producers should take initiatives to make better films," he said.

Aslam Hossan, a former employee in



Demolition underway of Rajbari's largest cinema hall at Boropul.

Chitra cinema hall in Rajbari town said, "Chitra was the first cinema hall in Rajbari town. After that four other halls came up in the town. But now only one movie theatre screens films regularly. I lost my job four years ago as Chitra cinema hall building was declared unsafe. After that my family faced much hardship. Now I run a small betel leaf shop.

Monowar Hossan, a resident of Baliakandi upazila, said, "Film shows began in Baliakandi Upazila at Lolita

Cinema hall in 1984. After that cinema halls gathered momentum. Post 2006, there was a major slump. Lolita cinema hall closed down in 2010 due to lack of audience, while the upmarket Modhumoti cinema hall stopped screening films for two and half years because the owners ran into trouble. Most of the cinema halls are now being used as jute godowns."

Similar stories have unravelled in other areas of the district as well.

From Experimental Theatre Hall to Theatre Olympics in India

Department of Theatre and Performance Studies of University of Dhaka are staging "Panjore Chandroban" (Lunatic Asylum), written by Shahman Moishan and directed by Professor Israfil Shaheen. The play has been staged at the Experimental Theatre of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy from 6th to 9th March at 7 pm each evening. Masters' students of the department are performing in the play, says a press release.

"Panjore Chandroban" is a narrative of violent global realities along with the eternal search for the beauty of life in a milieu of homelessness. The play as a political allegory radiates the idea of home which foreshadows the crisis and cries of Rohingya in context of the geo-political catastrophe in South Asia and even the political calamity in Middle East and also in the other parts of the globe.

Tanmay Paul, Sakhawat Fahad, Ummey Hany, Ummey Somaiya, Shangkar Kumer Bishwas, Roney Das, Israt Jahan Moutusi and Sanwarul Haque are the cast of the play. Ashiq Rahman Leon designs sets and light for the production. Kazi Tamanna Haque Sigma designs costumes, and she has composed the music along with Sydur Rahman Lipon where Amit Chowdhury choreographs.

The play will be staged on March 13 at Patna and March 14 in Delhi for the 8th Theatre Olympic organised by National School of Drama, New Delhi, India.



A scene from the play.

Tiffany Haddish to star in "The List"

Tiffany Haddish will star with Tika Sumpter and Omari Hardwick in Tyler Perry's comedy "The List." Perry is directing from his own script and producing. Paramount Players has already set a November 2 release date for the film.

Haddish will portray a wild woman who gets released from prison and reunites with her sister, played by Sumpter. Sumpter's character is in an online relationship with a man that may be "catfishing" her.

Haddish stole the show while presenting at the Academy Awards on Sunday night. She most recently starred in Universal's "Girls Trip" and hosted "Saturday Night Live" in November. She will host the MTV Movie & TV Awards in June and star with Kevin Hart in Universal's "Night School," which will hit theaters on September 14.

Paramount Pictures launched Paramount Players in June, with veteran producer and executive Brian Robbins in charge.

Viacom president-CEO Bob Bakish unveiled details of "The List" on Monday at the Deutsche Bank Media, Telecom and Business Services Conference in Palm Beach, Florida.



Source: Variety