

WHAT'S ON

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Peace by Shahabuddin Ahmed
 Venue: Gallery 2, National Art Gallery, BSA
 Date: Mar 19- Apr 18
 Time: 11am-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Life in Mirror
 Artist: Jahangir Hossain
 Venue: DD Gallery, Saltz, 8, Gulshan
 Date: Mar 30-Apr 13
 Time: 12 noon-9pm

Concert
 Kaansuta - Ek Nirjhar-er Gaan
 Organiser: Gaanshala
 Artists: Armeen, Arko, Joyeeta
 Venue: Chhayanaut
 Date: Apr 6; Time: 6:30pm

Live Performances
 Organiser: Jatra Biroti
 Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
 Date: Apr 5-7
 Time: 7pm

Concert
 Robert Russel Trio
 Venue: Ajo Idea Space, Uttara
 Date: Apr 7
 Time: 7pm

Art Event
 Baishakhi Kolorob
 Organiser: Shunno Art Space
 Venue: Shunno Art Space, Mohammadpur
 Date: Apr 6-7
 Time: 11am-8pm

Up close and personal with Poppy



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEEHDI MORSHED

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Gracing her presence on the silver screen for twenty years, Poppy is one of the nation's most-loved film actors. She saw success right from her debut film "Coolie", sealing her fate as a star. The three time National Film Award winning actor made time for The Daily Star recently, where she reflected upon the highlights of her career, and more.

What does being an actor mean to you?
 POPPY: I cannot put to words my love for acting. I sincerely believe that you cannot be good at something without a deep-found love for it.

What do you enjoy doing during your free time?
 POPPY: That would depend on my mood. Sometimes I'm up for mellow activities such as watching a movie or listening to some music. There are times when I prefer to go out for short or long trips.

What's your pick-me-up for moments when you feel down?

POPPY: I tend to brood in silence, and listen to some music to distract my feelings. And then there are times when I'd rather not do anything at all.

What is the hardest aspect of living in Dhaka?
 POPPY: The traffic jam - there's simply no escaping it. Otherwise Dhaka is an amazing place to live in. I do believe, and hope, that our love for the home we've made compels us to eradicate these issues.

Do you have a motto you live by?
 POPPY: We must try our hardest to live our best lives. We must never be afraid to feel deeply, and dream freely. Living life means to accept its ups and downs.

What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?
 POPPY: There is no particular song or genre that I prefer. I listen to the classic oldies, and I also enjoy contemporary music.

Is there something you see around you that troubles you, and you wish you could change?
 POPPY: Whenever we go out, we are faced with the struggles and plight of the less fortunate. It reminds us that there are many realities around us, and that those of us who are able, must extend a helping hand.

Do you miss your hometown?
 POPPY: I will always identify myself as a woman from Khulna. I always look forward to going home.

NEWS bytes

'EVERYBODY KNOWS' TO OPEN CANNES

Two-time Oscar-winning filmmaker Asghar Farhadi's psychological thriller "Everybody Knows", starring Javier Bardem, Penelope Cruz and Ricardo Darin, is set to open the 71st Cannes Film Festival, Variety reports.

"Everybody Knows" ("Todos Lo Saben") will mark only the second Spanish-language film to open Cannes, following Pedro Almodovar's "Bad Education", which kicked off the festival in 2004.

Iranian director Farhadi has previously fielded two films in competition on the Croisette, "The Salesman" in 2016 and "The Past" in 2013. Written by Farhadi, it follows the journey of Laura (played by Cruz), who travels with her family from Buenos Aires to her native village in Spain for a celebration. The family reunion gets disrupted by events that change the course of the characters' lives.

"Everybody Knows" was shot in Torrelaguna, a small town north of Madrid, with a well-seasoned crew. The film is entirely in Spanish, a language Farhadi does not speak.

The Cannes Film Festival runs May 8 to 19.

Source: Variety



"Theatre has become tougher" ... Keramat Moula

ROKON SHARIAR

Keramat Moula is a seasoned theatre activist and movie actor. He has wide ranging talents, from stage design to teaching film and media. Keramat Moula has become a guardian figure of our art and culture. The Daily Star recently engaged him in a conversation:

Tell us about your early life.

Keramat Moula: I was born on November 15, 1942 in Jessore. I completed my primary education at St Barnabas High School, Kolkata and matriculation from Prionath High School, Dhaka (later renamed as Nawabpur Government High School).

I studied in Government Institute of Arts and Crafts, popularly known as Art College (now Charukola). At that time there was no formal certification system after completion of the five year course at Art College. We moved for a formal certification and succeeded. I took part in the movement for resisting the National Education Policy for which I was expelled in 1964. I actively took part in the agitation against banning the observation of Rabindranath's 100th birth anniversary.

How did you become involved in the media?

Keramat Moula: I had an attachment with the erstwhile Pakistan Arts Council (now Shilpakala Academy) where I came to know Kalim Sharafi the late Rabindra Sangeet singer and a cultural personality. Inspired by him, I joined Bangladesh Television in 1965. Though I was supposed to do design work for television shows, in reality my responsibilities included stage design, acting, production and so on.

Your primary identity was of a design artist and gradually you acted in theatre and movies. Which identity do you enjoy the most?

Keramat Moula: I love to be called a theatre activist.



I started acting on stage at an early age in a play called 'Bharate Chai', a production of Shantinagar Club. I have acted in 37 plays so far and still feel drawn towards theatre. I have been acting in 'Shat Ghater Kanakori' produced by Theatre Natyadal, for more than 60 years. I was a member of the first ever theatre troupe that travelled to India to stage a play called "Buro Shaliker Ghare Ro". I was a member of the presidium of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation from 1999 to 2011.

What differences do you find in theatre of yesteryears and that of today?

Keramat Moula: Theatre has become tougher nowadays due to the onslaught of TV play culture. Today's audience is not happy to watch on stage the same things they watch on the TV screen. You have to offer something new in theatres so that the audience can find it more appealing.

You acted in a number of movies too. Tell us about your movie career.

Keramat Moula: In 1970 I debuted in the movie "Manush Omanush". Then I acted in 16 movies including "Surjodighol Bari", "Ekhoni Shomoy", "Mohanayak", "Rajlukkhi Srikanto", "Padma Nadir Majhi", "Nodir Nam Modhumoti", "Dipu Number 2", "Dukhai", "Nondito Noroke" and more.

What have you been doing lately?

Keramat Moula: I teach the course 'Media and Film' in Stamford University. I spend time with my grandchildren Eric and Alina, hang out with friends and read books. I have been actively involved with Sommilito Sangskritik Jote since its inception. I am a member of the advisory committee of Bangladesh Charu Shilpi Sangsad and a life member of Bangladesh Ovinoy Shilpi Shangha. These involvements keep me busy.

How do you feel as recipient of Ekushey Padok and Munir Chowdhury Shommanona.

Keramat Moula: What I value above everything is the love that I received from art-loving people and that for me is my most important achievement. I am fulfilled as I count as my friends legendary figures like Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Jasimuddin, Kalim Sharafi, Prof. Monsur Uddin, Hamidur Rahman and many others.

What are your thoughts about future?

Keramat Moula: I am still 35 within and I will remain so. I want to act for as long as I live.

The writer is a contributor to The Daily Star.



SALMAN KHAN

gets five-year jail in Blackbuck poaching case

A Jodhpur (India) trial court yesterday marquee Bollywood star Salman Khan to five years in jail in the 1998 blackbuck poaching case, reports Times of India.

A penalty of Rs 10,000 has also been levied on him. Other accused in the case, including actors Saif Ali Khan, Sonali Bendre, Neelam and Tabu, were acquitted.

Jodhpur District Presiding Officer Devkumar Khatri pronounced Salman guilty of killing two blackbucks, which are an endangered species, on October 1, 1998 during a hunting expedition near Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The actors were in the city for the shooting of the film "Hum Saath Saath Hain".

The other accused actors were also present in court during pronouncement of the verdict. There are two other accused in the case -- travel agent Dushyant Singh and Dinesh Gawre, Salman's assistant at the time. Gawre is still absconding.

Salman, 52, had earlier pleaded innocence in the case, claiming before the court that the blackbuck died of "natural causes" and he was being "framed". Salman is facing charges under Section 51 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act and the other actors have been charged under Section 51 read with Section 149 (unlawful assembly) of the Indian Penal Code. Maximum punishment under Section 51 is six years.

This is last of the three poaching cases against Salman from 1998 that is being heard at Jodhpur trial court. He was convicted in two poaching cases by trial court, only to be acquitted by the Rajasthan high court later.

Source: Times of India



Armeen, Arko and Joyita.

"Kaan-Shuta" at Chhayanaut today

A CORRESPONDENT

Gaanshala, a musical initiative by Enamul Karim Nirjhar, is set to hold a musical event titled "Kaan-Shuta" at the Chhayanaut auditorium today.

As part of the "Ek Nirjhar'er Gaan" project, songs by artistes Armeen Musa, Arko Sumon and Farhin Khan Joyita will feature at the soiree which promises to have a unique, informal setting that brings the audience closer to the artistes. All the songs are written by Nirjhar and music arranged by Arko. The audience and the artistes will listen to the songs together and then engage in a conversation about them.

ABC Radio and Gaan Bangla TV are partners of the event.

"Ek Nirjhar'er Gaan" is the musical project of architect-filmmaker Enamul Karim Nirjhar, under which in 2015 he released a compilation of 101 songs all written by him, and composed and sung by a number of reputed singers and musicians.