

WHAT'S ON

Borshoboron 1425
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Ramna Batumal
Date: Apr 14
Time: 6am



Mongol Shobhajatra
Organiser: FFA, DU
Venue: FFA Premises
Date: April 14
Time: 9am



Music Night
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Venue: AFD
Date: April 12
Time: 7pm



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



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Peace by Shahabuddin Ahmed
Venue: Gallery 2, National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: Mar 19-Apr 18
Time: 11am-8pm



FILM REVIEW: SWAPNAJAAL

Giasuddin Selim delivers on his promise

FAHMIM FERDOUS

There was considerable buzz surrounding "Swapnajaal" ever since it was announced, and that discussion only gathered pace as the film neared its release - from the choice of the central cast to the secrecy surrounding its plot details. The rather limited release (in 22 theatres across the country) of the film on April 6, however, was a little anticlimactic for the multi-starrer, but judging by early reactions, the momentum is on its side.

Set in the riverside Chandpur suburbs of the '90s, "Swapnajaal" at its core is the story of Opu (Yash Rohan) and Shuvra (Pori Moni), two teenagers in 'young love'. Their blooming romance take a dramatic turn south when conniving influential businessman Aynal Gazi (Fazlur Rahman Babu), with the help of his trusted aide Thandu (Iresh Zaker) fights back to bring justice to Shuvra's family and to get back this love, but even after justice is served, there are bigger obstacles on the way to their reunion.

On his return to the big screen following a nine-year hiatus since his directorial debut "Monpura", Giasuddin Selim proves that he understands the Bangladeshi middle class audience - the one that made "Monpura" a soaring box office success against the odds - better than most filmmakers in the country.

There is a lot to love about the



film, and the story is the first of them. "Swapnajaal" contains every cinematic element that is a signature of classic South Asian cinema - romance, conflict, tragedy, the hero's plight, poetic justice and the truth of society - in perfect balance. Selim's treatment of these elements deserves applause. The romance is sweet and innocent; the conflicts are intense but there is no violence on screen; with these, he ensures that audience of all ages and social groups are at ease. Emotions and relationships are kept simple yet relatable, and with (mostly) seamless dialogue the narrative progresses smoothly.

The acting is another key factor to the film coming through. Pori Moni in particular is a revelation; despite playing a role way out of her comfort zone, she sits in character from the start and only grows stronger as the

film moves on. Yash Rohan also gives a fairly tight performance for a newcomer. But it is the support cast that elevates the film. Fazlur Rahman Babu, Iresh Zaker, Farhana Mithu, Shahidul Alam Sachchu, Misha Sawdagar, Shilpi Sarkar Opu, Shahed Ali and their Indian counterparts Brattya Basu, Biplab Banerjee, Reshmi Sen and Rajat Ganguly all portray sincere, believable characters. Fazlur Rahman Babu has been on a roll in recent years with one memorable performance after another in "Oggatonama", "Haldaa" and "Gohin Baluchor" and continues that form into it.

Kamrul Hasan Khosru's cinematography is all but flawless, and the art direction (by Anowarul Haque and Samar Halder) is also commendable, especially in the latter part of the film.

There are a few issues with the

film, though, although most of it will not bother most people. The sound design is a little spotty, with the acoustic license often used too liberally. The screenplay does get a little sluggish in the second half, and some climactic moments do not build up well enough. A few plot points are also left unresolved but to his credit, Giasuddin Selim establishes the suspension of disbelief well enough for the audience to not be too bothered by it. The music, by Rasheed Sharif Shoaib, is pretty but all-too-fleeting, with some vocals feeling a tad too over-processed.

Overall, "Swapnajaal" delivers on most of its promise and anticipation. It is the kind of film that can bring audiences back to the theatres (however few and far between they are) and one can only hope that Giasuddin Selim's next comes out sooner than another nine years.

BSP honours Shadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak winners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad (BSP) arranged an ovation programme in honour of artistes, who received Shadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak at Banani, Dhaka on 4 April.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Advocate Anisul Huq attended the programme as chief guest. The organisers honoured Shadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak winning personalities -- cultural affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Shykh Seraj, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Md. Khurshid Alam, Sheikh Sadi Khan, Indra Mohan Rajbongshi, Sujeya Syam, Shaheen Samad, Shamim Ara Nipa, Minu Haque and Mahmud Selim.

"Artistes impart happiness and culture to our society," said Anisul Huq.

President of BSP Rehana Ashikur Rahman said, "BSP takes pride in honouring the winners of Shadhinata Padak and

Ekushey Padak. BSP will work to augment the standard of music and give artistes their rightful place. "Secretary general of BSP Ferdous Hossain delivered the welcome address.

The artistes expressed their response as recipients of crests at the event.

Music composer and director Azad Rahman; singers Khalid Hossain, Hasina Momtaz, Syed Abdul Hadi, Runa Laila, Subir Nandi, Sadya Afreen Mallick, Fatema Tuz Zohra, Yasmin Mushtari, Nashid Kamal, Akramul Islam, Rupa Farhad, Mala Khurram, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Shelu Barua, Alam Ara Minu, Rukhsana Anwar, Ustad Omar Faruk; former MP Sarah Begum Kabori; poet Kazi Rosy; journalist Abed Khan, Kabir Bokul and Dinat Jahan Munni were among the renowned artistes and dignitaries attending the programme.

Founded in 1990, BSP consists of singers, lyricists, instrumentalists, music directors, and dance artistes.



Sujeya Syam receives a crest at the programme.

FROM THE SHOOTING SPOT

Tahsan-Mamo come together for "Sonali Ilish'er Golpo"



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The Laboni Shooting House, situated in sector 4 of Uttara, has been the spot for many a TV play over the years. For the upcoming Pehela Basishakh, TV director Sagar Jahan is filming a new single-episode play "Sonali Ilish'er Golpo" for Rtv there. This correspondent visited the shooting a couple of days ago.

On set, Jahan is seen briefing the script to Tahsan and Mamo, who are seated on a sofa. As the shooting unit prepares for the shot, the director goes back to the monitor, and the actors begin delivering dialogues. Someone instructs that Tahsan needs a touch-up, and the makeup man runs to complete it.

Suddenly there is a power outage, and the trio takes the chance to allow press photographers to click some portraits. But as the electricity shows no signs of returning, the director instructs his actors to get a wardrobe change to get an outdoor shot.

It takes a little while before the actors re-emerge with new clothes on, and the shooting unit moves to the outdoor location while the director briefs the actors.

Amid the scorching heat, the next few shots are taken before lunch is announced and the unit gets in the cars to head to the shooting house.



"Sonar Shekol" on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

TV series "Sonar Shekol" airs tonight on ATN Bangla at 8pm. The series, written by Shafiqur Rhaman Shantanu and directed by Syed Shakil, casts Urmila Srabonti Kar, Sabnam Faria, Arfan Ahmed, Badhan, Nawsheen, Irfan Sazzad, Abul Hayat, KS Firoz, Saberi Alam, Shahadat Hossain, Joyraj and others.

Arko, a well-settled young man is about to get engaged to his girlfriend of three years, when suddenly detective police, picks him up and questions him about some girl. Just 27 hours in police custody turns his life upside down as newspaper reports of his arrest cause his wedding to get cancelled, his job offer to be retracted, and his sister's relationship ending.



Kareena Kapoor Khan to announce her next project soon?

Kareena Kapoor Khan will return to the big screen with 'Veere Di Wedding', which will be her first movie outing post motherhood. While there have been speculations about her film after 'Veere Di Wedding', the actress has not made any official announcement yet.

Reportedly it has been learnt that out of the four scripts that were offered to her, the actress has shortlisted on one, which is reportedly a remake of a Marathi film 'Aapla Manus' which is being planned by Ashutosh Gowariker. On the other hand, the actress has liked a women-centric film with a message where she is touted to play the titular role.

Kareena allegedly plans to announce her next movie post-June, as she wants to make sure to spend enough time with her son Taimur.

Source: TOI

Classical evening in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A mesmerising performance by classical singers at a musical soiree in Mymensingh spellbound the audience over the weekend in the district town. Mymensingh Sangeet Bidhalaya, a prominent music school of the town, organised the evening at its office.



Professor Dr. Asit Roy of Music Department of Rajshahi University; Sushanta Sarker and Indrani Karmaker, both assistant professors of Music Department of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University and Prodig Taluker and Bijon Topder performed various ragas including Bhinna Shadaj and Pilu, as well semi-classical songs.

Ustad Sunil Kumar Dhar, Ustad Mofazzal Hossain Bala, Sangeet Bidhalaya's organising committee president Mizanur Rahman Khan and its secretary Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu were present at the programme, among others. Nazib Ashraf, director of the Sangeet Bidhalaya anchored the event.

Earlier on Monday, a ghazal evening was also organised by the school at the same venue to remember iconic Indian ghazal singer Jagjit Singh. Local singers including Mobarak Hossain Anadi and Prodig Chakraborty rendered prominent ghazals of the maestro.