

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Nazrul Celebrations Title: Shatter Joy Hok, Shaammer Joy Hok Venue: Music & Dance Centre Auditorium, BSA Date: June 30 - July 1 Time: 6:30pm</p>		<p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Bikargrosto Shomoyer Roikihik Boyan Artist: Nisar Hossain Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur Date: June 30- July 25; Time: 6:30pm</p>		<p>Solo Painting Exhibition Title: Narrative of Time Artist: Monjur Rashid Venue: La Galerie, AFD Date: June 26-July 3 Time: 3-9pm</p>		<p>Anniversary Title: Unmad's 40 Years Anniversary Venue: Drik Gallery Date: July 5-9 Time: 3pm - 8pm</p>		<p>Art Show Title: DUET Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, Dhanmondi Date: June 29 - July 13 Time: 3pm - 8pm</p>	
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JAYA'S big day

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Jaya Ahsan's rise to fame saw her achieve stardom nationally and abroad. The National Film Award winning actor enjoys immense popularity in West Bengal, and today, her joy comes in a different measure as she looks forward to her birthday. In a recent interview with The Daily Star, the actress shares her plans, and more.

What are your plans for the day?
Jaya: I really have no idea, because I leave all the planning to my family. I am excited to look forward to a fun day with family.

What kind of presents do you prefer?
Jaya: I feel that winning over people's love and affection is the best gift anyone could have. One of the blessings I am grateful for is that so many people, fans, acquaintances, family and friends remember to wish me on my birthday.

Are you looking forward to your mother pampering you with her cooking today?
Jaya: Her cooking is something I always miss, and whether it's a special occasion or not, I love everything that she makes. As it is my birthday, I know she will go out of her way to do something special for me.

How far has *Devi* progressed?
Jaya: At the moment, the only thing left is editing. I have been extremely busy with this film.

You've been in the spotlight before the release of *Devi*, how does it all feel to you?
Jaya: I definitely feel positive about it, and I believe it will ensure the film's success. Everyone working on the film deserves recognition, because it wouldn't have come together without their parts.

Is it true that you have opted out of the Kolkata film *Chaurangi*?
Jaya: It is true, I was supposed to be a lead cast in the film, which is directed by Srijit. However, I didn't make my decision without consulting with the director.

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL



PHOTO: NAYEM SHAAN

Stars on the walls of Drik

AL HAQ

In his 20-year illustrious career, renowned photographer Tuhin Hossain conducted his first solo photo exhibition at Drik Gallery 1 on Friday. He has worked as the chief photographer for the popular magazine Anandadhara and also with Showbiz, a weekly supplement of The Daily Star.

The walls of the gallery were adorned with the portraits of big names from the world of glitz and glamour. The grand opening ceremony was embraced by Aupee Karim, Farzana Chumki, Lara Lotus and Opshora Ali.

Tuhin Hossain mentions that over the years, the collection of the stars continued to multiply, and their continuous inquiries about those photographs is why he finally decided to exhibit them. "I have a few hundred photographs of a wide range of celebrities from different walks of life. They comprise of politicians, athletes, writers, directors, musicians and of course film stars. But I had to squeeze it down to only seventy five due to the lack of space." During a chat with Aupee Karim, she praised the talented photographer adding, "I have worked with Tuhin bhai for many years. It's a pleasure to work with him because he understands the space we need to work comfortably. Also, he can endorse a person's character justly in his work."

Irfan Sajjad

Visions and turning points

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Model and actor Irfan Sajjad has become a household name in recent years, and already has a few accomplishments under his belt. As well as being a busy television actor, the star has a budding film career that has seen two movie releases, and has appeared in a number of music videos. Possessing a relentless drive and a heart full of dreams, the actor shares his vision with The Daily Star.



What has been the turning point in your career?
Irfan: It was a tele-fiction titled *Hothat Nari'r Jonno*. After I appeared in this play, I was offered more roles by reputed directors. After this I starred in *Amader Golpota Emon Hote Parto*, another important play that switched my career around. Mehababien was my co-star in both tele-fictions.

Have you always aspired to work in showbiz?
Irfan: When I was a child, I used to do theatre plays in my home town, Chittagong. I was in Lohito Children Theatre during those years. It was definitely a childhood dream to become an actor one day.

Having had two movie releases, what are your thoughts on a film career?
Irfan: I worked on *Bhalobasha Emoni Hoi* and *Mon Jane Na Moner Thikana*. The film industry is incredibly vast, and my aim is not to appear in as many films as I can. I am waiting for a compelling script that I believe will move audiences, so that my work is respected and remembered.

You also garnered a lot of recognition for your performance in *Chottola Express*. What was that like?
Irfan: My co-star was Urmila, and the dialogues were delivered in the Chittagonian dialect. The tele-fiction proved especially popular in my home town, which made me feel close to home. I would love to do more tele-fictions in my regional dialect.

Have you begun working on Eid Ul Adha ventures?
Irfan: So far I have worked on one tele-fiction, and I am still discussing further opportunities with other directors.

How do you spend your free time?
Irfan: I am usually traveling a lot on my time off, and in case of longer holidays, I travel back home to Chittagong.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Two-day Nazrul Festival ends today



PRİYANKA CHOWDHURY

With the aim of spreading National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's work, a two-day long Nazrul festival began in Chhayanaut yesterday. The programme began with a group dance performance with Nazrul Islam's exemplary creation *Anjali Loho Mor*. Dhaka University Professor Begum Akhter Kamal and leading figure in poetry recitation, Bhaswar Bandyopadhyay read Nazrul's writing on secularism. To inaugurate the programme, Nazrulgeeti exponent Khairul Anam Shakil, on behalf of the organisers said, "No matter how modern we think we are, we must go back to our roots."

Solo performances by Nazrulgeeti artists Dasmin Mushtari, Suman Majumder and recitation by artiste Kazi Madina mesmerised the audience.

The second day performances of the festival will begin at 6:30 pm in Chhayanaut auditorium today.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Photoffee Academy of Fine Art Photography confers the Photoffee Photographer of the Year award to deserving photographers every year. Photographers Joy K Roy Chowdhury and Sumon Yusuf received the award for 2016 and 2017 respectively. The award-giving ceremony was held on June 29 at BSK. Noted artist Mustafa Monwar was the chief guest of the event. Eminent photographers Abir Abdullah, Monirul Alam and Akkash Mahmud were also present. The award recipients were presented with prizes of Tk 10,000, crests and certificates. The Photoffee Photographer of the Year award, which was introduced in 2011 is the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

SOURCE: PHOTOFFEE ACADEMY OF FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY



Internationally acclaimed sarod artiste Ustad Aashish Khan, a grandson of legendary classical music maestro Ustad Allauddin Khan, together with his nephew Shiraz Ali Khan performs in a jugalbandi-styled musical soiree held at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The programme, organised by BSA, took place on June 29.

SOURCE: BANGLADESH SHILPAKALA ACADEMY