

WHAT'S ON

Day of Music, Poetry and Tea
Title: Cha Chakra in Ashwin
Venue: Cafe Shanchayita, Banani
Date: September 20
Time: 6pm-10pm



Musical Programme
Title: Shunad: Ucha Sangeet
Ashon
Venue: Chhayanaut, Dhanmondi
Date: September 17-18
Time: 7pm



Art Exhibition
Title: State of Mind
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
Date: September 7 - October 3
Time: 4:30pm - 8:30pm
Facebook Page: Kala Kendra



Movie Premiere
Title: Rock Strata: Live On Silver Screen
Venue: Star Cineplex, Bashundhara City
Date: September 29
Time: 7pm-9:30pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: S.M. Sultan-The Comic Journey of a Fugitive
Artist: Nasir Ali Mamun
Venue: La Galerie, AFD



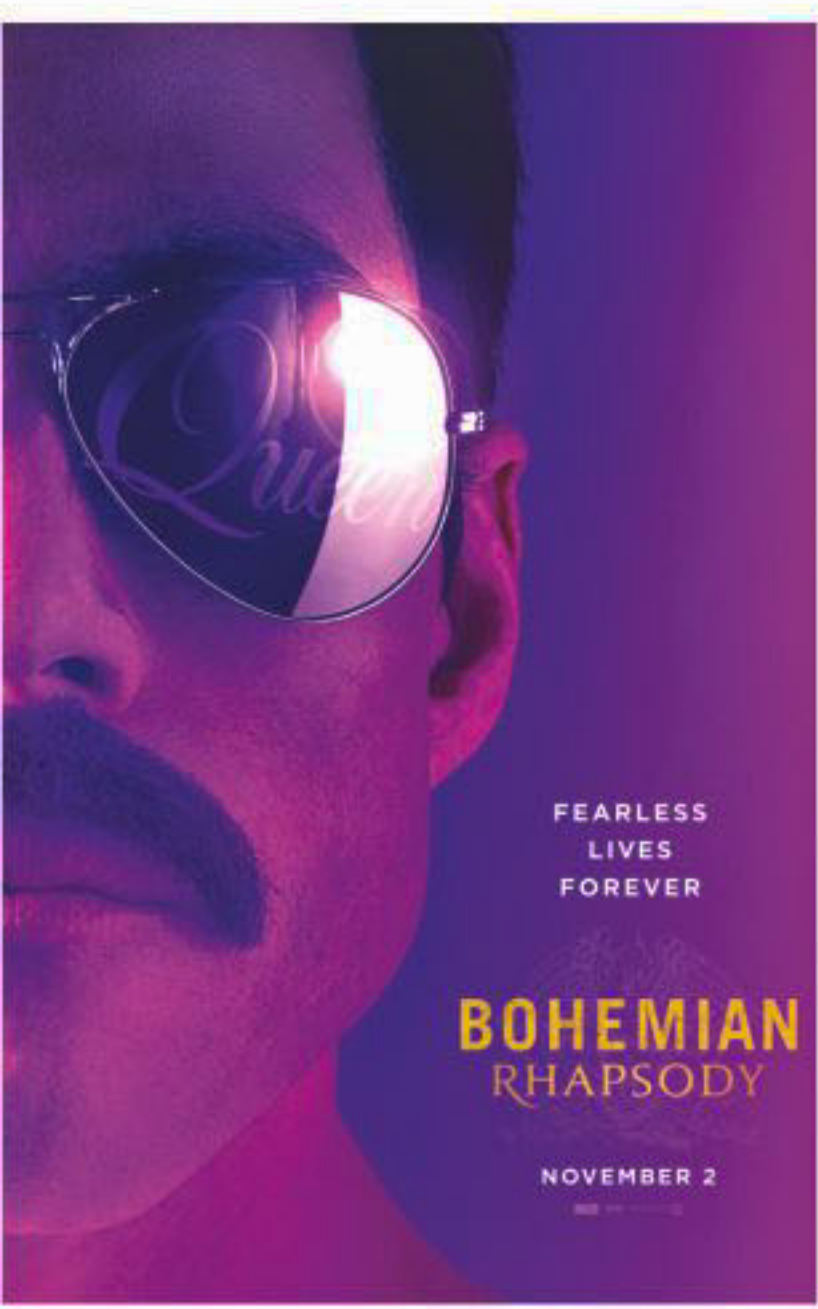
'Bohemian Rhapsody' coming to Star Cineplex soon

SHABABA IQBAL

Ever since the first trailer of *Bohemian Rhapsody* dropped, fans have been rocking out to it. Moviegoers in Dhaka are in for a treat now as the film will see a theatrical release at Star Cineplex soon. The film details the life of the iconic musician Freddie Mercury and his rise with the legendary rock band Queen. Rami Malek of *Mr Robot* fame looks amazing as Mercury. As Queen were no strangers to huge stadium tours, the film, perhaps unsurprisingly, settles on their iconic 1985 Live Aid performance at Wembley for its centre-piece.

Beamed live to 1.5 billion people worldwide, the concert helped to raise funds for the ongoing Ethiopian famine by featuring the biggest bands in the world.

In the concert, it was Queen who arguably shone brighter than their illustrious company, including U2 and Elton John. They delivered what critics have gone on to regard as one of the greatest live shows of all time. Let us hope that the film lives up to the hype!



WHERE PASSION MEETS DIRECTION

A conversation with Rahat Rahman

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Films, video games and satire- these are three elements that embody Rahat Rahman. You may know him through his amazing work in his YouTube Channel. However, he has also been massively successful in mainstream media through ad-making and some very well-received telefilms. In 2016, he was selected to be a part of the Asian Film Academy in Busan, South Korea, where he spent 18 days attending film workshops, building stories and creating visuals. Rahat has recently worked in the much-anticipated *Iti, Tomari Dhaka*, Bangladesh's first anthology film.

Tell us about your experience working in 'Iti, Tomari Dhaka'. How different is it from working on an open platform like YouTube?

To be honest, YouTube has a lot more freedom that I really enjoy. If it was feasible to make a livelihood creating YouTube content in this country, I might actually have considered it. That being said, I have been making television commercials for the last five years, and I started my own production company -- Film Logic. I also directed the much talked about telefilm *Monkey Bizness* along with some other projects; so the transition wasn't really that hard for me. When I got called up by Abu Shahed Emon, who is the creative producer of *Iti, Tomari Dhaka*, I was very excited. I said yes almost instantly, because my hunger for filmmaking was re-ignited when I previously visited the Busan Film Festival. Incidentally, *Iti, Tomari Dhaka* will represent Bangladesh in the same festival! My film for the project is titled *Jiboner Gun*.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Did you always have a passion for direction?

Mostly. When I was little, I actually wanted to be a video game developer. However, that changed when I realised that I had to learn a lot of difficult mathematics and programming for it, I gave up on that 'dream' (laughs). My first exposure to media was when I was a child journalist on *Muktokhorob* on ETV; I was in class 7. Our young crew had to do all the research, editing and presenting of the programme, and this was a head-start for me in the industry. My passion for filmmaking slowly ignited from here onwards, and I started working in various projects as assistant director.

'Team Possible' was a spectacular YouTube series, of which many fans want a sequel. Is there any chance for a second season?

Absolutely. We originally shot *Team Possible* in 2016 for a renowned telecom company, who unfortunately scrapped the project. I waited two whole years to put this up on my YouTube channel, and I am glad that people liked it. When it came out, however, many of my acquaintances in the industry did not like it. It was a tribute to *The Office* and other similar sitcoms. I eventually want to make a second season of the show, but only after everything else falls in place.

What other projects are you working on at the moment?

I have finished shooting an original for iflix titled *Paangkh*. It is a part of the ongoing *Shoptaher Shesh Golpo* series. It is a thriller, which I am hoping that people will like. I also want to work on a full-length commercial film in the near future.

'DIFFERENTLY ABLED, NOT DISABLED!'

BAMBA stands up for autism awareness

In a noble initiative, Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA) has partnered up with the Ministry of Social Welfare and PFDA – Vocational Training Center to arrange a stellar concert on September 28. The concert will raise awareness for autism, which is a commonly neglected phenomenon in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

"We are very happy to be involved in a social cause as such, and hope that we will be able to make people more conscious about autism," said Hamin Ahmed, the President of BAMBA in a press conference arranged yesterday at The Daily Star Centre. "People with autism can still be contributing members of the workforce and the society." Danny Rahman, the founder of PFDA was also present at the conference. "The

word 'autism' is often wrongly used as an insult," she said, "we have to give them their rights as human beings, and this is what we will attempt to highlight the most in the concert." 12 bands, including Miles, Warfaze, Nemeses, Dalchhut, Maqsood' O Dhaka and Arbovirus will perform in the concert. Tickets can be bought exclusively from 10 outlets of Swapno countrywide, and can also be ordered digitally through Bagdoo.com. *The Daily Star* is the print media partner for the concert.

Anupam Roy's 'Du Mutho Bikel' for 'Debi' out today



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Singer and songwriter from Kolkata, Anupam Roy composed, wrote and sang for a Bangladeshi film for the first time. The song titled *Du Mutho Bikel* will feature in the much awaited film adaptation of Humayun Ahmed's *Debi*. The characters

Ranu (Jaya Ahsan) and Anis (Animesh Aich) will be seen in the song. "Humayun Ahmed is one of my favourite writers," said Anupam Roy in a video message yesterday. "I am glad that I decided to work in this film. I am looking forward to watch *Debi* and hope it is loved by everyone." The song will be released today at 11 am.

PRIVANKA CHOWDHURY

With the slogan "Sromiker jonyo Cinema, Sromikder nirmito Cinema" (Cinema for the workers and cinema by the workers) Joloj Movie and Asia Media Culture Factory (Korea) in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organised the 7th Seoul Migrant Film Festival Dhaka 2018 in the International Archive Auditorium on September 15.

The day-long festival began with a filmmaking workshop conducted by noted filmmaker Manzar-e-Hasin Murad on *Film Aesthetics and Theory*, and filmmaker Nurullah Mohammad on *Simple Methods of Making film and others*. The participants comprised of filmmakers, students and workers. Prominent names, including director Tareq Ahmed were present at the event.

"It is interesting that migrant workers choose filmmaking as a way to express their feelings and experiences. It is necessary that we continue to inspire workers of our country to explore the medium to tell their stories,"



(From left) Tareq Ahmed, Manzar-e-Hasin Murad and Asif Munier PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

says Saiful Jarnal, musician and filmmaker of Joloj Movie.

Filmmaker Manzar-e-Hasin Murad mentioned that it is important to look for new ways of telling stories.

Four films were screened in the second

session. *The Road* by Nandin-Erdene Ganbaatar, *Seoul Times* by (Wurim) Forest Ian Ashley, *A Day by Uranzaya Tsevegsuren*, and *Diaspora* by Sheikh Al Mamun. All the participants received certificates at the end of the programme.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Embracing art, literature, language and more of another country broadens our perspectives and helps us see things differently. On Sunday, the people of Bangladesh and Japan were seen embracing each other's cultures at the Japan Fest 2018 held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

This festival was organised by the Embassy of Japan. Bangladesh and Japan have long enjoyed a cordial relationship, with various Japanese cultural fests organised in the past in Dhaka.

Many stalls by Bangladeshi young individuals sold manga and anime-themed goodies at the event. The

excitement around these stalls showed the youth's interest in Japanese culture. Both Japanese and Bangladeshi musicians performed, much to everyone's delight.

Sumie Kaneko, a Japanese Koto and Shamisen (traditional Japanese musical instrument) player mesmerised everyone with her skills. Bajna Beat, an active Dhaka-based Japanese music group consisting of Shunsuke Mizutani and Mae Watanabe lit up the festival with their energy. While they were performing, pictures of their experiences in Bangladesh were being played as a slideshow behind them. Khayam Sanu Sandhi, a popular Bangladeshi artist, performed a song of friendship which was appre-

ciated by everyone. The highlight of the evening was the friendship duet performed by Bajna Beat and Sandhi. Rie Okada, a tea specialist, came all the way from Japan to introduce the art of tea ceremony to the people of Bangladesh. Japanese tea ceremony has a rich history of 400 years.

The event was supported by Regent Airways, Ajinomoto, Grameen UNIQLO, Honda Bangladesh, Studio Padma, Japanese Commerce & Industry Association in Dhaka, Bangladeshi Ikebana Association, Bangladesh Bonsai Association, ICARUS and the students of the Department of Japanese Language & Culture, and Department of Japanese Studies, University of Dhaka.

From Japan, with love: JAPAN FEST 2018