

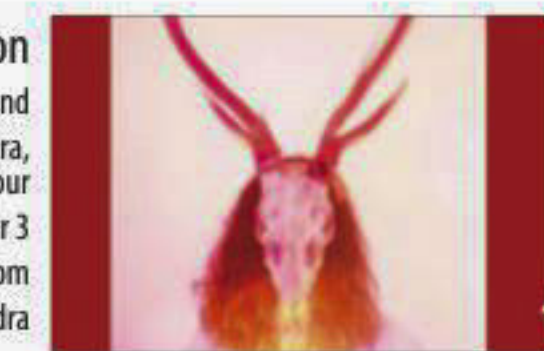
Concert
Title: Concert for Autism Awareness
Venue: Bangladesh Army Stadium
Date: September 28
Time: 2pm-10pm
Tickets: www.bagdoom.com

CONCERT FOR AUTISM AWARENESS
Differently Able not Disabled

DHAKA COMICON
Title: Daraz Presents DHAKA COMICON Express
Venue: MIDAS Center (top floor)
Date: September 28-29
Time: 11am-8pm



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 Cosmic Journey of a Fugitive
Artist: Nasir Ali Mamun
Venue: La Galerie, AFD



HEMANTA MUKHOPADDHAY'S 29th death anniversary today

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Hemanta Mukhopaddhay was a phenomenon of his time. He had a baritone voice, much like Pankaj Mullick, another pioneer in Bangla film music. The enchantment that Hemanta had weaved during his legendary career lives on 29 years after his death on 26 September, 1989.

In the mid-forties, he joined Indian People's Theatre Association and became a comrade of Salil Chowdhury. The combination produced a renowned song about the 1943 Bengal famine - *Kono Ek Gayer Bodhu*. The song was written and composed by Salil Chowdhury. Hemanta sang the song, which told of a prosperous and happy village household devastated by a man-made famine, with all his heart.

Having moved to Bombay in the early fifties, he sang for Dev Anand, who was at his peak during the time. Anand was seen strumming a guitar in *Jaal*, singing *Ye raat ye chandni phir kahan sun ja dil ki dastaan* to Hemanta's voice. The song was composed by maestro S D Burman.

In 1955, Uttam-Suchitra starrer *Shapmochan* was a musical hit. Hemanta composed the music and sang for the film. *Jhor utthechhe baul batash ajike holo saathi* and *Shono bondhu shono* were super hits.

It was Nagin that brought Hemanta the Best Music Director's award in 1954. Lata Mangeshkar sang *Mere dil ye pukare aja mere gam ke sahare aja bheega bheega hai sama* and Hemanta sang *Tere duar khara ye yogi* in the film.

Every Bengali heart would flutter when *Harano Sur* (1957) wooed with the enchantment of Geeta Dutta's *Tumi je amar ogo tumije amar*. Hemanta composed the everlasting melody of the song.

Muche jawa din gulo amai pichu dake from *Lukochuri* will always be there at the top when discussing all-time great Bengali songs.

Should we not conclude with a Hemanta song where he sings with all the anguish in his heart because of the tearful toils of a marginalised common man - *Neel akasher niche ai prithibi aar prithibir pore oi neel akash* from the Mrinal Sen film *Neel Akasher Niche*?

The timeless melodies of Hemanta Mukhopaddhay will live on indefinitely amongst the hearts of Bangla music lovers all around the world.

Teller of riveting stories

In conversation with Ashfaq Nipun

SHABABA IQBAL

Television director and writer Ashfaq Nipun worked in the famous production house Chabial for years before hitting a pivotal moment with writing, directing and starring in '2 in 1,' a tele-fiction about modern-day relationships made under Chabial in 2006. Known for his portrayal of real-life scenarios and family dramas, Nipun recently helmed several projects, including 'Pherar Poth Nei' on Eid-ul-Fitr, a short film 'Ke?' for iflix and the tele-fictions 'Layla, Tumi Ki Amake Miss Koro?' and 'Kaana Machhi Bhou Bhou' for Bioscope and Channel i respectively in the festive season of Eid-ul-Azha. Most notably, he has written and directed 'Shonali Danar Chil,' one of the seven Eid telefilms for Channel i on Chabial's Bhai Brother Express project. It has garnered praise from the viewers for its relevant and emotional elements. He is interested in telling stories of not the high achievers but the dark horses and back benchers of the society. In a candid chat, Nipun tells The Daily Star what his process of direction looks like, and more.

What do you enjoy the most about being a screenwriter and director?

I would say that the best part of being a writer is having the opportunity to observe people, identify what makes people tick and tell any story the way I want to. When you are a director, you are a commander on the sets and all of your requirements are presented to you on a platter, no matter what. Seeing something you thought of in your head materialise into a concrete story is the greatest feeling.

Your telefilm 'Shonali Danar Chil' is based on the issue of leaked exam papers. How did you come about the script and how was the experience?

For the last two years or so, I have been working on stories that question the societal systems and pressures and bring issues which we brush under the carpet to the forefront. I chose the subject of leaked exam papers as the centre-piece for *Shonali Danar Chil*, because it was an uncharted territory. Rather than highlighting the technical factors of how the papers are leaked, I wanted to focus on telling the story of the hopes of a family, one that the audience could connect to. I received many compliments on one particular uncut scene where the daughter feeds rice to her parents - it really showcases the interpersonal relationships in the family.

Your short film for iflix, 'Ke?' deals with a marriage where the man cannot reproduce. How and why did you come up with this concept?

It is highly difficult for a man to accept the fact that his wife cannot have children because of him. Masculinity is always linked to the concept of reproduction, and not being able to reproduce is a huge blow to the male ego. So, I wanted to touch upon the discomfort that comes with discovering that the husband in a marriage is incapable of having children.

What is your take on the current state of television viewership in Bangladesh?

I think we are faced with a crisis because we have more television channels than we require. It is challenging to provide quality content for all the channels without having enough resources. Nowadays, television channels are heavily reliant on YouTube, because that is where the audience prefers to watch programmes. On the other hand, internationally, if we look at a hit television series like *Game of Thrones*, people gladly watch it on television at the scheduled time because they want to avoid spoilers. Our television business needs to focus on quality over quantity, thereby attracting the audience with effective promotion tactics.

Over the years, what are some of the most important lessons that you have learned in the industry? One lesson I have learnt is to never take the audience for granted, since they are not going to sit through a story that is predictable. Being able to engage the audience is the key. It is also important to be disciplined for surviving and succeeding in this industry.



PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Many happy returns, Alpana Habib!

IRIS FARINA

The 'happy home cook', Alpana Habib is turning over a page in her life as she celebrates her 52nd birthday today. For her, it has been a tremendously eventful year. Her very first bilingual cooking book - Alpana's Cooking came out in May 2018, and she is involved more than ever in promoting the best of Bangladeshi cuisine throughout home and abroad. On official invitation, she has been to the USA and Canada this summer to attend book fairs in New York, Washington DC and the FOBANA Conference in Atlanta. The book containing 250 of her most favourite

recipes is not just a compendium of items, but rather her outlook in tackling all that is cooking and presenting that with continuous integrity. From simple sandwiches to all time favourites like Biryani and Chinese and Korean inspired dishes, the variety of her cooking is not confined to pages and words only. Her cooking shows on TV and her YouTube Channel aptly capture the fine nuances that make viewers come back time and again to reach the perfect output.

Alpana Habib is indeed on her path to greatness as a figure who is upholding the best of our cuisine while adding her own touches along the way.



Kelly Clarkson to host her own talk show

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular singer and songwriter Kelly Clarkson ventured into stardom from her debut in *American Idol*. Apart from garnering fame in the music arena, the established artiste also managed to do well in films and television. Recently, the Grammy award winner was a guest at *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*. During the conversation, she talked about her tour *Meaning of Life*, which is due on January and will feature *The Voice* Season 14 winner Brynn Cartelli along with Kelsea Ballerini. While giving details about

the innovative take on her new tour, including live online segments for people who can't attend, Kelly swiftly revealed, "I'm doing this thing to kind of prep for my talk show that's gonna be next year." Jimmy was awestruck as it was not announced officially until Kelly let the cat out of the bag. Jimmy jokingly reacted asking, "We are going head-to-head at 11:30? How dare you take my job?" The Voice coach confirmed that her new show will be unique from the regular talk show formats and will have a more musical vibe to it. Kelly Clarkson fans are surely in for a New Year treat!



Film screening during a Standard Chartered - The Daily Star Celebrating Life event at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Mymensingh. The event was inaugurated by Professor Dr A H M Mustafizur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of the university. Popular band Chirkutt also performed at the event.



PHOTO: ATN BANGLA

Miss World Bangladesh 2018 starts today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The most anticipated beauty pageant of the year, Miss World Bangladesh 2018 will broadcast today on ATN Bangla at 9 pm. The audition rounds for the event started from September 16, and 10 participants have been chosen for further grooming before the grand finale. The judges for this year's iteration are Taren, Suvro Dev, Khaled Sujon, Shabnaz Sadia Emi and Ahmed Al Farabee. The winner of Miss World Bangladesh 2018 will receive an opportunity to represent Bangladesh in the upcoming Miss World main event, which is to be held in China in December.

