



PHOTO: REUTERS

## In remembrance of **STAN LEE** on his 95th birthday

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Today marks the 95th birthday of legendary comic book writer, editor and publisher, Stan Lee. Lee rose to prominence through his work for Marvel Comics where he co-created some of the most iconic fictional characters of all time, including the superheroes – Spider-Man, Iron Man, Fantastic Four, the X-Men, the Hulk, Thor, Black Panther, Daredevil, Doctor Strange, Ant-Man, among many others. He is also known far and wide for his quirky cameo appearances in Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise films. Lee passed away on November 12 this year, leaving fans fervently in wait for his two posthumous cameos in the Marvel films – *Captain Marvel* and *Avengers: Endgame*, which are set to release next year.

## “My fans are my greatest blessings” – Minar

*Minar's career has been on an upward trajectory ever since his coming of age with 'Ahare'. The artiste, who possesses an enviably unique and melodious voice, has been one of the most consistent figures in the music industry.*

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Having recently celebrated his birthday, Minar was visibly emotional about the love he got from his fans from all over the country. *The Daily Star* catches up with the singer-songwriter for an exclusive interview. **Wishing you a belated happy birthday. How did you spend the day?** I was actually awestruck by the amount of heartfelt wishes that I received on December 26. People made tributes, drawings and earnest wishes citing me as their inspiration, and honestly, there's not much you could ask for in life as an artiste. I remember that during a show in Noakhali that I recently did, a boy came to meet me before the show, and hugged me for ten minutes straight. He told me that he had to fight security to get here, and my music was a huge reason for him getting through tough times in his life.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

My fans are my greatest blessings. **What are your plans heading into the New Year?** I am working on a few new releases as of now. *Ure Ure* will release early next year under the banner of Gaanchill. I am making another track for Dhruba Music Station, which we haven't decided the name of, as of yet. A project that I am looking forward to is *Thakurmar Jhuli*, which will be a completely independent one. Overall, I want to have a new approach to music in 2019. As I am also an artist, I am looking to make a comic strip this year, along with an animated music video for one of my songs. **Why do you think people love your music so much?** I think it's because they can relate to it. Much of my music is geared towards the youth, and they reciprocate to the lyrics and tune, which I usually write myself. Young

people today are very sensitive and aware of their surroundings, and look to understand whichever medium they choose. **What are your thoughts on the decline of physical albums lately?** You see, digital distribution of music has become the norm of the industry now. For the past few years, most of my music has been released on digital platforms, and has been successful. That being said, I do believe that physical albums will never cease to exist, as it is a coveted collectors' item for dedicated music fans. **What are your views on our music industry at the moment?** First of all, I would urge everyone to keep supporting our local musicians. Our music is now being noticed globally. I was surprised when I saw reaction videos of my music on YouTube, and realised that we all have the potential to make our music international with the support of the audience.

## WHAT'S ON



**Award Winners' Art Exhibition**  
Organiser: FFA, DU  
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU  
Date: Dec 23-29  
Time: 11 am – 8 pm

**Winter Festival**  
Title: Him Utsab  
Venue: Jahangirnagar University  
Date: January 17 – January 19  
Time: 10 am



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Winning With Art  
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Gulshan 1  
Date: Dec 1 – Dec 31  
Time: 10 am – 6 pm

**Zainul Uthshab**  
Title: 70 years of Charukala and Zainul Mela  
Venue: Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka  
Date: December 25 – 29  
Time: 9 am – 8 pm



**Bulbul Chowdhury Birth Centenary**  
Organisers: BSA & BNSS  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Yearlong Celebration opens in Jan

**Exhibition**  
Title: International Photography  
Exhibition  
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 26-28  
Time: 3-9pm



PHOTO: STAR

## Two Jaya Ahsan films to be screened at DIFF 2019

*Two films of celebrated actor Jaya Ahsan, 'Debi' and 'Ek Je Chilo Raja', are scheduled to be screened at the Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) 2019. With the theme 'Better Film, Better Audience, Better Society', the 17th edition of Dhaka International Film Festival, organised by Rainbow Film Society, will be held from January 10 to 18, 2019.*

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Based on the novel of the same name by renowned author Humayun Ahmed, *Debi*, featuring the famous character Misir Ali, has been at the centre of attention since its release. Jaya, who has been working in one blockbuster after another, made her debut in the field of production with the film. She plays the role of Ranu in the adaptation, while Chanchal Chowdhury fills in the shoes of Misir Ali. *Debi* is directed by Anam

Biswas. It will be screened under the Bangladesh Panorama section at DIFF 2019. On the other hand, featuring Jisshu Sengupta in the lead role, *Ek Je Chilo Raja* is a period drama based on A Princely Imposter by Partha Chatterjee. Jaya plays the role of king Mahendra Chowdhury's elder sister in the film, which revolves around the Bhawal case of 1921 and is directed by Srijit Mukherji. It will be screened under the Asian Film Competition section in the festival.



## Contemporary Dance Workshop conducted in Sylhet

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Nritytajog- a chapter of World Dance Alliance Bangladesh, organised a Contemporary Dance recently at Sharoda Hall, Sylhet. The workshop is conducted by Billy Chang from Taiwan, Tara Pandeya from USA, who is a dance Researcher at University of Roehampton, London and Abu Nyeem from Bangladesh. The workshop is organised to help Bangladeshi contemporary dancers adapt new trends and concepts within contemporary dance. The participants of the workshop were given certificates at the end of the programme. A similar workshop was conducted recently at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka.