

WHAT'S ON



An Ode to the Moon & Menstrual Cycle
Title: LAL
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Date: February 19 - 23
Details:



Solo Sarod Recital
Artist: Ustad Aashish Khan
Organisers: Delvistaa Foundation, Music Alliance Worldwide & Shilpangan
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, Banani
Date: Today,



Theatre
Title: Macbeth (presented by Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Dhaka)
Venue: Natmondal, University of Dhaka & Jatiya Natyashala, BSA
Date: Jan 28-31 (Natmondal, University of Dhaka); Feb 2-4 (Jatiya Natyashala, BSA)
Time: 6:30 pm (Natmondal, University of Dhaka); 7



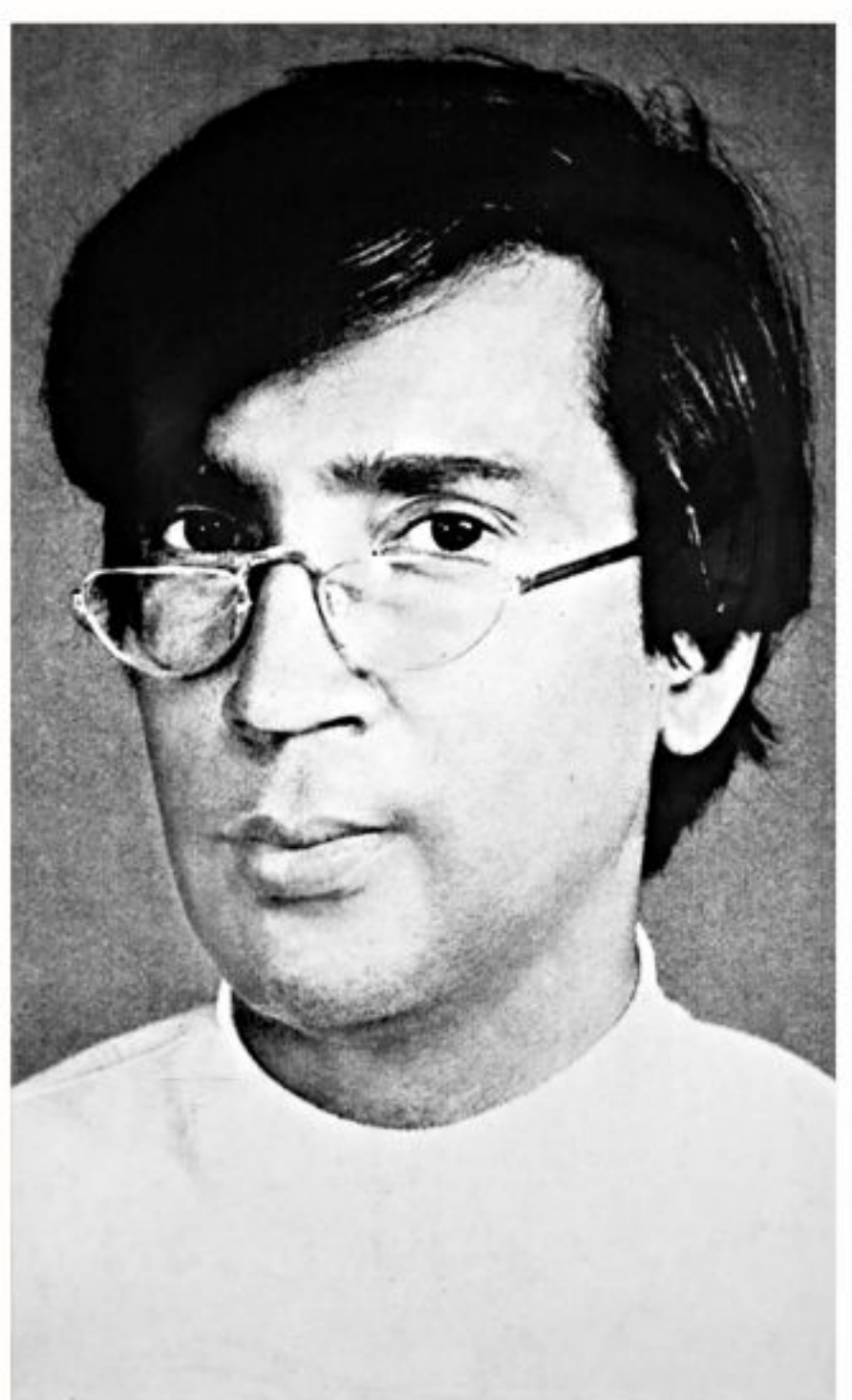
Solo Art Exhibition
Title: The Brilliant Moon
Artist: Iffat Ara Dewan
Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, Lalmatia
Date: Jan 15-28
Time: 3-8 pm



Group Painting Exhibition
Title: Preceptor-Disciple: Disciple-Preceptor
Artists: Malay Bala, Zahangir Alom & Amit Nandi
Venue: La Galerie, AFD
Date: Jan 18-Feb 1
Time: 3-9 pm (Mon-Thurs) & 9 am-12 noon



Rashid Choudhury's tapestry on display at The Met. At the center is the latest acquisition, with two loans from the Samdani Art Foundation on both sides.



Rashid Choudhury (1932-1985)

Rashid Choudhury's tapestry becomes the first Bangladeshi artwork to feature in The Met



Nadia Samdani and Rajeeb Samdani.

PHOTO: COURTESY

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ
Rashid Choudhury (1932-1985) was a second generation artist, sculptor, writer and professor. Best known as a pioneer in tapestry art in Bangladesh, he recently made history posthumously, as his work became a part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the USA, one of the largest and revered art museums in the world. The untitled tapestry was gifted to the museum by the Samdani Art Foundation, the Dhaka-based private arts trust earnestly working for the exposure and promotion of the country's artists and architects. Two of his other pieces were also loaned to The Met. The *Daily Star* got in touch with Nadia Samdani, the co-founder of the foundation alongside her husband, Rajeeb Samdani. "This is indeed a huge stride for Bangladeshi Art, as we feel that our talented artists are under-

represented in the international art arena," says Nadia Samdani. This is one of the reasons that the Samdani Art Foundation initiated the biennial Dhaka Art Summit, an international, non-commercial research and exhibition platform for art and architecture related to South Asia. Through the summit, international artists and curators took note of the immense talent present in Bangladesh's art world. "Last year, a huge team from The Met came in order to inspect the tapestry, and they were very impressed with it. They wanted the work in their collection," explains Nadia Samdani. The art collector further said that since the museum only displays art that fits the theme of their massive and legendary art collection, which makes the feat even more impressive. More and more Bangladeshi artists are now becoming globally recognised, and the Samdani Art Foundation has a pivotal role to play in that.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

AIRIN preps for her 'Partner'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After making her mark in the field of cinema and television, popular actor Airin is set to star in *Partner*, her first ever web series. The cast and crew of the series have just wrapped up their shooting schedule in Bali, Indonesia, and are currently shooting in Dhaka. Airin portrays the role of Maya, a struggling young woman, in the series. Among other things, the charismatic actor will soon be seen in yet another web series titled, *Trapped*, directed by Shawkat Hossain.

Momtazuddin Ahmed's 85th birthday at Bangla Academy

Born in January 18, 1935, Momtazuddin Ahmed became one of the pioneering thespians to have contributed to the Bengali culture. Apart from being a playwright and an actor, his illustrious career far exceeded the theatrical stages, as he fulfilled the role of an esteemed educationist.



Momtazuddin Ahmed (middle) along with the guest speakers.

PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

MINAM HAQ
In order to pay homage to the virtuoso on his birthday, Bangla Academy arranged an event on January 18, at Abdul Karim Shahitya Bisharad Hall. Various stalwarts from the cultural arena and renowned media personalities including, Mamunur Rashid, Nawazish Ali Khan, Kamal Lohani, Habibullah Shirajee, Ramendu Majumdar and Asaduzzaman Noor, were present to partake at the joyous occasion alongside Momtazuddin Ahmed. Ghulam Quddus, Member Secretary of Bangla Academy, hosted the programme which began with a melodious song. Concerned about the health of the guest of honour, he requested everyone to keep their sessions precise. In between the speeches of remembrance and appreciation, slots had to be allocated to make time for the monumental amount

of theatre troupes and artistes from various organisations, students, colleagues and well-wishers, who came from all over the country, with their wreaths and other tokens of appreciation. Soon enough, the dais was full of bouquets, signifying the love people had, for the immense contributions made by the Ekushey Padak winning dramatist. Finally, when the microphone was placed in front of Momtazuddin Ahmed, the buzzing of the house-full hall was silenced immediately. His humble words echoed with the essence of patriotism, as the audience soaked in the moment, spellbound. "You all have given me so much unconditional love, paired with all these bouquets. But where shall I keep this admiration? You all have put me up on a pedestal. I am not deserving of this greatness. I am an ordinary human being," concluded the legendary Momtazuddin Ahmed.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

'Galileo' back in theatre

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
The 46th production of Nagorik Natya Sampradaya's *Galileo* by Bertolt Brecht will be staged today at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala

Academy at 7 pm. Translated by Abdus Selim, the play is directed by Pantha Shahriar. Aly Zaker, Asaduzzaman Noor, Pantha Shahriar, Ruhe Tamanna Labonyo, Farhana Mithu, Abdur Rashid, Mostafiz Shaheen and

many others will be performing in the play. Sara Zaker, assisted by Nima Rahman, is the costume designer for the play. She is also the executive director. Nasirul Haq Khokon is behind the light direction.

Natya Utsab held in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh
A day-long theatre festival, organised by Rangabhum Theatre, was recently held at Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy. Plays titled, *Muntasir Fantasy*, written by Selim Al Deen and directed by Naimur Rahman Nayeem, and *Shikari*, written by Mannan Hira and directed by Apu Mehdi, were staged by the students of Theatre and Performance Studies Department of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) and Rangabhum Theatre.



PHOTO: STAR