

**WHAT'S ON**

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

**Musical Evening**  
 Title: Cafe Shanchayita Presents Notun Aloye Cha Chakra  
 Venue: Cafe Shanchayita, Banani  
 Date: January 26  
 Time: 10:30 am - 7:30 pm  
 Contact: +880 1672-704823, +880

**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: Ifat Ara Dewan  
 Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, Lalmaia  
 Date: Jan 15 - 28  
 Time: 3 - 8 pm

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

# "I view Bangladesh as a literary gold mine" – Shahnaab Alam



PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

**PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY**  
 Shahnaab Alam began his career as a journalist, and later worked under Yash Raj Films. Presently, he is an independent producer in projects that include international co-productions as well as mainstream films. This year at the recently concluded Dhaka International Film Festival, the Assamese film *Bhoga Khirikee* by Jahnua Barua, which he produced alongside Priyanka Chopra, received an overwhelmingly positive response from the audience. We caught up with him to find out more about his work.

**Your film 'Bhoga Khirikee (Broken Window)' was largely appreciated at the festival. How has your journey been with the master filmmaker, Jahnua Barua?**  
 Most of my films have either been with my contemporaries or new comers, but this is the first time that I have teamed up with a mastermind. Not many people know that Jahnua Barua is the highest award winning director in India, so working with him was an honour. I have learned a lot just by observing him.

**You have co-produced many films. Is co-production more convenient than producing projects on your own?**  
 As a producer, my target is to reach a wide audience. The very first film that I produced, *Shoonya*, performed very well in the international market. I realised that the international audience is watching our film and that it would be better if I have a feedback from a global perspective. That's how I have positioned myself and I absolutely believe in collaboration. For

example, *Lunchbox* was a tri-nation collaboration and it reached people in different countries. None of us can take the sole credit for it. In today's age, collaboration makes work really fast and easy.

**How would you contrast producing independent films with producing commercial films?**  
 I don't like categorising cinema. However, working under big banners means that you are sheltered and protected. Because of its nature, the scope of exploring stories is slightly limited. The fundamental difference is that in independent films, you are basically on your own. For me, it has been an advantage since I knew the industry already. However, the best part is exploring through different stories.

**You have co-produced with Priyanka Chopra. How was it teaming up with a star like her?**  
 There are more platforms today for screening, which in turn, brings us revenues. Artists in Mumbai have the liberty in many ways today to make the films that they want to. I've known Priyanka for a long time. We are interested in exploring stories from various parts of India and having Priyanka, who has made her mark as an artiste globally, by our side, is a boon.

**Do you have any plans of collaborating with people in the Bangladeshi film industry?**  
 I would love to. In fact, I was very keen to collaborate with Tareq Masud for his film *Paperflower*. Unfortunately, he left us early. I still hope the film gets made. I view Bangladesh as a literary gold mine. I'm sure the nation has many stories to offer. I am interested to explore stories from our shared histories as well.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## CHANCHAL CHOWDHURY going to Nepal for Eid shoots

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**  
 Popular actor Chanchal Chowdhury will be leaving for Nepal in the first week of February to film four Eid tele-fictions that are all directed by Shokal Ahmed and scripted by Brindaban Das. The actor will be staying in Nepal for two weeks.

"I liked the stories and characters of these tele-fictions," said the actor. "I am hopeful that the viewers will enjoy all four of them." Two of the four shows consist of seven episodes while the other two are one-hour tele-fictions.

From Monday onwards, Chanchal Chowdhury will also be filming for a one hour telefilm, directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud. In addition, a new serial, titled, *Sonar Khancha*, directed by Sagar Jahan, starring the actor, will be aired from January 24.

## CHT Theatre Festival concludes

**ANVIL CHAKMA, from Rangamati**  
 The three-day CHT Theatre Festival, organised by Khudro Nrihosti Cultural Institute and supported by Rangamati Hill District Council, concludes today.

Brisho Ketu Chakma, chairman of Rangamati Hill district council inaugurated the programme at the Rangamati Cultural Institute on January 19.

Ronel Chakma, director of Rangamati Khudro Nrihosti Cultural Institute, cultural activist Sugoto Chakma Nonadhan and Monoj Bahadur Gurkha, teacher at Rangamati Sur Niketon were present at the programme. Several cultural activists, poets and writers were also present.

On the first day, *Adei Dhan*, a native Chakma play, written by Nirupam Chakma and directed by Nonabi Chakma was staged. Nirupam Chakma is the founder of Jhumful Theatre. He received the Joy Bangla Youth Award in 2017.

The native Tripura play, *Kiyokkha*, was staged by the Yamuk Natya group from Khagrachhari district on the second day and on the third day, the native Tanchangya play, *Gingili*, was performed by the Fu-Kalang Cultural Academy.

The festival has been implemented and sponsored by our government for the development of the indigenous culture in Chattogram Hill Tract (CHT).



Actors performing in the play, 'Adeni Dhan.' PHOTO: STAR



'The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel' took home The Danny Thomas Award for Outstanding Producer of Episodic Television - Comedy. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 2019 Producers Guild Awards

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**  
 One of Hollywood's most notable events, the Producers Guild Awards celebrates the finest producing work of the year, and gives the Guild an opportunity to honour many living legends who have shaped the entertainment industry.

At the 2019 Producers Guild Awards held recently, the race-themed road trip drama, *Green Book*, drove off with the top honour, winning out over presumed front-runners like *Roma*, *A Star Is Born* and *Black Panther*. The Fred Rogers film, *Won't You Be My Neighbor?*, won for documentary, and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* collected the animation award to much applause.

On the other hand, the producers of nine television programmes were recognised, including *The Americans*, for drama, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, for comedy, *RuPaul's Drag Race*, game and competition television, *Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown*, for non-fiction television, and *The Assassination of*

*Gianni Versace* for limited series. *Sesame Street* won for children's programming, *Being Serena* for sports programme and *Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee* for short form.

Furthermore, multiple special honours were bestowed throughout the evening to people like Marvel chief Kevin Feige, Jane Fonda, *Black-ish* creator Kenya Barris, Warner Bros Pictures Group Chairman Toby Emmerich and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* creator Amy Sherman-Palladino.

## Soumitra Chatterjee records Masud Karim's poems

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**  
 Eminent Indian actor-elocutionist Soumitra Chatterjee has lent his voice to a recitation album titled, *Ma*, featuring 11 poems composed by Bangladeshi poet Masud Karim. National Professor Anisuzzaman unveiled the album as the chief guest at Poet Shamsur Rahman Seminar Room of Bangla Academy on January 18. Bangladesh Documentary Filmmakers' Association has published the album.

Poet Nasir Ahmed, elocutionist Bhashwar Bandopadhyay and actor Nader Chowdhury attended the ceremony among others. It is worth mentioning that Masud Karim made a

documentary film titled, *Krishnakoli*, delineating life and works of Soumitra Chatterjee.

It premiered in Kolkata in 2015 while Chatterjee recorded the album in 2017.



PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Padatik Natya Sangsad's 'Shey' staged at BSA

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**  
 Recently at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), the play, *Shey*, was staged by Padatik Natya Sangsad.

*Shey*, directed by Debashish Ghosh, stars Mizan, Kamal, Sadia, Mamun, Milton, Pavel, and child artiste Samia, among others. Stage and light direction was done by Selim Chowdhury and Nasirul Haque Khokon, respectively.