

Poetry and Music
Title: An Evening of Poetry and Music with The Versemongers and Friends
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Date: April 20
Time: 7 pm – 10 pm
Tickets: At the venue for BDT 300 (BDT)

Art Exhibition
Title: The Work of Creation - Kazi Ghiyasuddin
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
Date: April 5 – May 18
Time: 12 pm – 8 pm

Musical Evening
Title: Star Melodies' Loko Gaaner Shurey Borshoboron
Venue: The Daily Star Centre
Date: April 20
Time: 6 pm onwards

Theatre
Title: DraupadiParampara
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: April 23
Time: 7 pm

Workshop on Songwriting
Title: Artistic Arsenal
Facilitator: Labib Kamal Gaurob
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: April 20
Time: 5 pm – 8 pm



PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

MAYAR KHELA

A complex love story woven in melody

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Love is a magical illusion, and a chance of encounter between two beloveds. *Mayar Khela*, the musical drama (Geetinatya) by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, provides an unconventional take on this concept. Brilliant dancer, choreographer and Nrityaguru Warda Rihab's adaptation of the *Geetinatya* was stellar. She also donned a lead role of 'Pramada' in it. Dance artists from Dhriti Nartanalay, founded by Warda, performed various roles in the dance drama. *Mayar Khela* consists of the exchange of dialogues through melodies. Tagore cleverly mingled Italian opera styled music with Irish melodies in composi-

tion for the drama. Talented singer-composer Nirjher Chowdhury directed music for this particular rendition. National Socio-Cultural Association produced the dance drama, while Warda Rihab infused the pure Manipuri dance form with Kathak and Bharatnatyam styles in it. The production premiered April 12 at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The story, essentially feminine in nature, had been made for the Ladies College and conceptualised in 1880s. It deals with two female and one male protagonist. Tagore explains that love is a maze of illusion that surrounds us. The world we see is a mere series of coincidences intertwined with time. For this, love is required, enchantments comes

with follies, while moments of departures becomes charming. Gurudev Tagore creates an unusual atmosphere of ecstasy with the dream maidens (*Mayakumari*) telling the story in chorus. They spin illusions in the minds of the protagonists. Pramada sees love as an art, as pleasurable as possible while Shanta, donned by Farah Saowar, stands for sacrifice. Amar, enacted by Babrul Alam Chowdhury, faces monotony with Shanta, and swipes at the outer world wondering what more is in store for him, other than Shanta. Pramada rejects Amar, when Amar falls in love with her later. Gradually, Amar gets back to Shanta, and what happens next emphasizes the mastery of Tagore. In the inevitable turn

of events, Pramada seeks Amar, and the story takes an emotional twist. The maidens remain the narrators, they sing and seek love for happiness but happiness eludes them. Hasan Ishtiaque Imran and Prantik Dev donned two other lead roles – 'Kumar' and 'Ashok' – respectively in the production. Subah Akbar, Mahnaz Hossan, Nirjher Chowdhury, Jiban Chowdhury and Ashikur Rahman lent their voices to live songs lip-synced by the lead characters – Pramada, Shanta, Amar, Ashok and Kumar—respectively. With regard to incorporating three classical dance forms, novelty in costume designing and maintaining aesthetic aspects in all respects, *Mayar Khela* is uniquely entertaining.



PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

An evening of contemporary dance

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, recently organised an evening of contemporary dance, under the Young Choreographers' Platform 2019. This platform is an opportunity for young contemporary dancers of Bangladesh to stage their choreographies, addressing various social issues. A total number of eleven enthralling

performances by eleven choreographers left the audience in awe. The choreographers were Mehraj Haque Tushar, Parvin Sultana Kolly, Ariful Islam Arnab, Anandita Khan, Tahnun Ahmedy, Sudeshna Swayamprabha, Farhad Ahmed, Bristi Bepari, Eashin Arafat, Snata Shahrin and Moumita Roy Jaya. Drug abuse, sexual harassment and gender discrimination, amongst a number of other pressing societal issues were reflected through these per-

formances. The dialogues and remarks heard in everyday life were incorporated with music, making the performances relatable. A fusion of classical dance forms with contemporary moves served as a refreshing element on stage. While each dancer was unique in their presentation and story, few of them stood out in terms of their expression, storytelling and dancing prowess. Dancer Ariful Islam Arnab and Eashin Arafat made the crowd whistle and

applaud, whereas Sudeshna Swayamprabha's performance seemed effortless flowing with her moves. The audience also appreciated Mehraj Haque Tushar's striking Kathak moves in his piece. Besides, Snata Shahrin and Tahnun Ahmedy's performances were also quite impressive. The artistic director and technical director for the programme were Tomas Bünger and Fiaz Zahir respectively.



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Melay Jaire' t-shirt launches

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

This is great news if you are a fan of the song synonymous with Pohela Baisakh and festivity, *Melay Jaire*. Shwapno, one of the largest grocery chains in Bangladesh, owned by ACI Logistics, launched a t-shirt recently with the title of the song *Melay Jaire*, voiced by renowned singer Maqsoodul Haque, at the

Shwapno outlet in Gulshan, Dhaka. The event was inaugurated by Maqsoodul Haque and Sabbir Hasan Nasir, Executive Director of ACI Logistics Limited and Professor Deepa of the PFDA Vocational training center. Business Directors of Shwapno, Shohel Tanvir Khan and Saiful Alam, Chief of Sales and Corporate Affairs Shamsudduha

Chowdhury, along with other higher officials of Shwapno, were also present at the event. A portion of revenue from the sale will be utilised in the development of autistic children in the PFDA-Vocational Training Center. This campaign is aligned with Shwapno's long-term goal to contribute to the welfare of children with special needs.

SHILPARATH'S 10th anniversary celebrations

ZAHANGIR SHAH, from Manikganj

Shilparath, a dance school and company based in Manikganj, celebrated its 10th anniversary through a cultural programme at the central Shahid Minar premises in Manikganj on April 12. Shilparath artists, led by Monirul Islam Sajal and Tahmim Raha Khan Supti, performed an array of dance routines, while singers Mohua Akter, Sushanta Sarker and Emon Khan rendered various songs at the event.



PHOTO: STAR

SISIMPUR steps on its 15th year!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

With a mission to make learning more interactive and fun for children, Sisimpur was launched in the year 2005, with support from USAID Bangladesh. The programme has garnered tremendous love from children and parents alike over its fourteen years in operation. Steered by the motto 'Prithibita Dekhchhi, Protidin Shikhchhi' (observing the world, learning everyday), Sisimpur's content aims to provide primary education for children aged between 3 to 8 years.



PHOTO: COURTESY

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