

## WHAT'S ON

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

**Scrap Metal Sculptured Fountain Exhibition**  
Title: Duets in Metal and Water  
Venue: Gulshan Society Lake Park  
Date: April 20 – May 4  
Time: 10 am – 7:30 pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Chartera Edition 0: Junkyard  
Venue: Dwip Gallery, Lalmita  
Date: April 12 – 25  
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm

**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

**Theatre**  
Title: Draupadi Parampara  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
Date: April 23  
Time: 7 pm



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## A 'fearless' story

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Dhaka Theatre, in association with British Council Dhaka, recently staged the story of a visually impaired girl, titled *Fearless*, at the Experimental Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Scripted by Ruma Modok and directed by Samiun Jahan Dola, *Fearless* featured three physically challenged artists.

The play began with Rini, played by Lovely Khatun, narrating happy memories from her childhood on a butterfly-themed stage. Her vibrant attitude harmonised with the theme of the stage.

Lovely Khatun, a visually impaired artiste gave a marvelous performance as Rini. She maintained a bright smile throughout the story, until she was met with a brutal incident in her life.

In the dialogues, Rini kept mentioning blue, red and green amidst various different colours. When she lost her eyesight, it was heart-breaking for her as she was unable to see those colours anymore. However, she continued her journey with utmost bravery, fulfilling her dreams in life.

Hawa Akhter, a hearing-impaired artiste, played the role of Rini's mother, and other minor roles. She

also narrated the story to the audience using sign language. Rini and Hawa were unable to see and hear each other respectively. Yet they had brilliant coordination on the stage. Rabbi, another differently abled artiste, played his part with equal dedication. He played the role of Rini's husband, who abandoned her, and other minor male roles.

Wasim Ahmed, who was behind the stage and light direction, choreographed the play as well. State Minister for Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid, attended the show and gave an encouraging speech at the end.

## Subir Nandi's condition remains unchanged

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

*Renowned singer and composer Subir Nandi, was put on life support at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) after suffering a heart attack. His condition remains unchanged as of today, according to the ISPR release.*

A team of eight members examined Subir Nandi's condition. Consultant Physician General, Major General Azizul Islam, Chief Physician and Cardiologist, Brigadier General Syed Asif Iqbal, CMH Commandant Brigadier General Toufique Hasan Siddique and Professor Samantalal Sen were present during the examination.

The team has decided to run an MRI to check the condition of his central nervous system.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

## Ferdous voices apology regarding campaign controversy

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Renowned actor Ferdous has a fan base that reaches beyond borders. Equally popular in both the Bengals, the actor's recent presence in Kolkata came at a time when the campaigning for the Indian national elections was underway.

While there, he got involved with a campaign controversy with TMC (Trinamool Congress). According to Indian authorities, Ferdous was committing visa violations and was asked to leave the country. Upon his return to Dhaka, the actor cleared the air in a statement he shared with The Daily Star.

According to the Ferdous, due to the cultural similarities, and his involvement with their entertainment industry there, he often visits Kolkata. However, he feels guilty to have meddled with the foreign election campaign and seeks apology for his behaviour. "My only passion is to act and entertain my fans. I had no intentions to participate in any form of campaigns whatsoever," explains Ferdous. "As the Indian democratic election is a matter of interest for many across the globe, I too was interested about it; and in the spur of the heightened moment, I tagged along with my colleagues to the campaign." He also clarified the fact that he has no intentions to support any particular political group and undermine others. As per his statement, Ferdous respects all the political parties and the laws of the Indian government and deeply regrets his mistake.

## Star Melodies to present 'Loko Gaaner Shurey Borshoboron' tomorrow



PHOTO: STAR

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Star Melodies, an initiative of *The Daily Star* to promote Bangla music, will host a special musical programme, titled, 'Loko Gaaner Shurey Borshoboron', tomorrow, welcoming the Bengali New Year. It will be held at The Daily Star Centre (Level - 3) at 6 pm.

Noted singer Abu Bakr Siddique, along with his group, Banglar Dugdugi, will perform at the programme. In addition, local crafts will be on display at the venue.

Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, The Daily Star, will host the programme.

Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.

## GAZI ABDUN NOOR asked to leave India



PHOTO: COLLECTED

SUBRATA ACHARYA, from Kolkata

Even though Ferdous has returned to Bangladesh, Noor is yet to depart India. The Bangladesh Embassy in Kolkata has instructed Gazi Abdun Noor to return to Bangladesh in an urgent notice. During a conversation over the phone with *The Daily Star* yesterday, Deputy High Commissioner, Toufique Hasan stated, "This is an embarrassing situation. Those who have caused it should have been aware about the consequences. We are rather upset about their actions."

Meanwhile, a media source in Kolkata reported that Noor has also been directed to return home from the Ministry of Home Affairs. According to a source, Noor was already facing problems regarding his visa, as it has already expired. He will now have to pay a hefty fine before his departure from India. When the actor was contacted over the phone for confirmation, he was unreachable.

On April 15, Noor was seen partaking in a campaign for Professor Saugata Roy, Trinamool candidate of Dum Dum Lok Sabha constituency, near Kolkata.

*The controversy regarding the involvement of two Bangladeshi actors in the Indian political campaigns have stirred quite unease since the allegations were brought forward by the Indian authorities.*

According to the BJP Election Commission, the picture of Noor's publicity spread through social media rapidly. BJP leader Jay Prakash Majumdar told *The Daily Star*, "We have no issues about any Bangladeshi actor. However, we have submitted a written complaint to the Election Commission against those who used the foreigners for their political campaigns."

Earlier, actor Ferdous was asked to leave India within 24 hours due to his participation in a campaign. Sources also confirmed that he has been "blacklisted" from entry into India.



Anjam Masud's acclaimed magazine show, 'Poriborton', will be broadcast on BTV at 8 pm. Themed around Pohela Boishakh, the programme will feature a special dance performance by Kona.

## Rickshaw Girl in the making

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After tremendous success with his debut feature film *Aynabaji*, national award-winning filmmaker Amitabh Reza Chowdhury is currently in the production phase for his next project *Rickshaw Girl*. The upcoming film, based on Mitali Perkins' bestseller novel of the same name, is being shot in Pabna, with an expected release date in December 2019. "We are guarding the film's plot, cast, and other details with utmost secrecy so I can't really divulge much," said director Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, "but we are scheduled to go into post production after Eid, so promotions should begin sometime in October, revealing more details about the film."



PHOTO: STAR