

**WHAT'S ON**

**Art Exhibition**  
 Title: When I Grow Up  
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi  
 Date: June 20 - 25  
 Time: 9 am - 7:30 pm

**Solo Print Exhibition**  
 Title: Grits and Grains  
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka  
 Date: June 14 - 29  
 Time: 3 pm - 9 pm (Monday-Thursday);  
 9 am - 12 noon (Friday and Saturday)

**Exhibition**  
 Title: Mukhoshor Aaraley  
 Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi  
 Date: July 12 - 14  
 Time: 3 pm - 8 pm

**Musical Evening**  
 Title: Spanish Harlem  
 Venue: The Junction Dhaka, Niketon  
 Date: June 28  
 Time: 7:30 pm  
 Tickets: BDT 500

**Concert**  
 Title: Summer Session Acoustica  
 Venue: Players Club, Jamuna Future Park  
 Date: June 29  
 Time: 5 pm.

# "Magicians always have to evolve"

- Jewel Aich

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**

Jewel Aich is the pioneering magician in Bangladesh, and the first superstar in the craft. The legendary artiste has performed in many countries, and is constantly travelling from one place to another with this caravan of tricks. *The Daily Star* talks to the magician about his philosophy, the state of the industry, and more.

**A magician from Kolkata recently lost his life while performing. What is your take on that?**  
 It is quite unfortunate that the magician, Chanchal Lahiri, drowned as he was trying to free himself from chains while being submerged underwater. It is a hundred year-old trick and should not have been attempted without adequate safety measures. Magicians always have to evolve, keeping safety at the forefront. That being said, he had a family and I extend my condolences to them. It is indeed a very tragic event.

**What is the state of the magic industry in the country?**  
 You have to understand that in this country, film is considered an art, but magic is not. It is more of a live performing art, where the artistes are in the profession only for love and passion. To be honest, it is not in a very good state. You will find that there are dedicated pages to art, music, film and theatre in newspapers, but there is no

mention of magic in them as an art. I have done four television shows this Eid, and there was no coverage about any of them.

**You have travelled many countries, exhibiting your craft. Do you travel around as often now?**  
 My schedule has not changed a bit, I am still very busy. I am soon going to the USA for three months to do shows. After I come back, I will be busy with shows in the country. My shows are almost always house-full, and I am grateful for that.

**What is the most important part of magic?**  
 I feel like magic is something that has to take you back to your childhood. It has to make you feel the intrigue that you felt when you discovered a new kind of flower, while you're chasing a dragonfly. To be 'magical', you need to have the ability to bring out a child-like enthusiasm amongst people.

**What advice would you give to a budding magician?**  
 You have to research and study extensively about the subject. Only if you do that, you will find the road to eventually become a magician yourself. One must remember that this craft is always changing, so you have to innovate as much as possible. It won't do you any good if you are insistent on displaying the same old tricks that has been done for generations.

## OBHINOY SHILPI SHONGHO ELECTION



The election for the ObhinoY Shilpi Shongho took place in a festive environment yesterday. Stars from the showbiz industry were seen casting votes at the premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Senior actor Khairul Alam Shabuj was the Chief Election Commissioner for this election.



PHOTO: STAR

# Muhurat held for 'Dhaka 2040'

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**

A ceremony for the muhurat (inauguration) of the film, *Dhaka 2040*, was held recently at Dhaka Club. The film, helmed by Dipankar Dipon, stars Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Nusraat Faria and Bappy Chowdhury among others. Many popular names from the film industry attended the event. State Minister for Ministry of Information, Dr Md Murad Hasan graced the event as the special guest. State Minister for Water Transport Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury was the chief guest.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Bangladesh International Theatre Festival in full swing

**ZAHANGIR ALOM**

The maiden Bangladesh International Theatre Festival 2019 is in full swing. The weeklong (June 20-26) festival is featuring the staging of plays by eight theatre troupes from seven countries -- France, India, Russia, China, Vietnam, Nepal and Bangladesh.

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), International Theatre Institute (Bangladesh Centre) and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation has organised the festival at BSA.

State Minister of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, MP inaugurated the festival in a befitting ambience at the main auditorium of the National Theatre Hall (NTH) of BSA on June 20. Planning Minister M.A. Mannan, MP graced the occasion as chief guest. Renowned thespian Nasiruddin Yousuff, also the President of International Theatre Institute (ITI) Bangladesh, delivered welcome address at the event, elaborating the detailed schedule of the festival.

Chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), Liaquat Ali Lucky, also the Director General of BSA; renowned thespian Ramendu Majumdar, also Honorary President of ITI worldwide and internationally famous Indian playwright, Ratan Thiyam spoke at the inaugural event. Dr Md Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal, NDC, acting secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, presided over the programme.



"Under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Bangladesh is progressing in every aspect. Art, culture and literature are no exception of that. We are happy to learn that the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, for the first time, is hosting an international theatre festival that will definitely augment the image of the country and its cultural strength," said M.A. Mannan.

Expressing gratitude towards all concerned who worked hard to make this festival come into reality, the State Minister for Cultural Affairs said, "This is the first international theatre festival that is being organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. International theatre festivals of such kind will be frequently arranged annually and biennially in cooperation with you."

"This festival has come into being with the

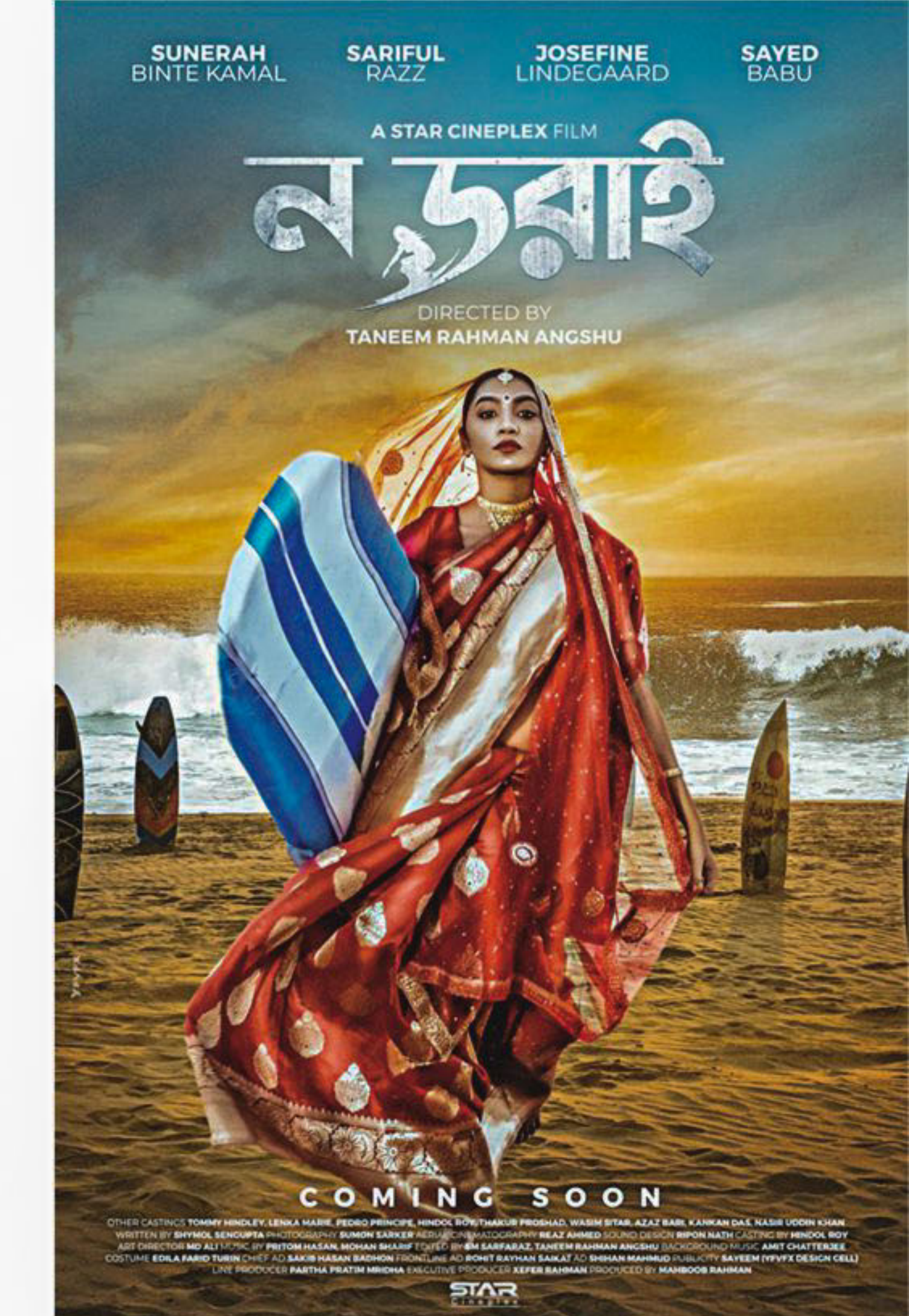
enthusiastic spirit of our State Minister for Cultural Affairs, K.M. Khalid. Many have worked hard to make this festival happen, but one person Debrasrad Debnath, also the festival director, work ceaselessly to arrange it in the shortest possible time," said Ramendu Majumdar. "It is the government that should make proper use of our creative efforts."

Liaquat Ali Lucky elaborated on various upcoming cultural projects and their execution in the days to come.

Following the opening ceremony, artistes of Dhriti Nartanalaya (Bangladesh) staged their dance drama *Mayar Khela* at the venue. *Mayar Khela*, is a complex love story woven in melody. Rabindranath Tagore provides an unconventional take on this concept. Dancer-choreographer Warda Rihab's adaptation of the *Geetnatya* was stellar. She also donned a lead role of 'Pramada' in it. Dance artistes of Dhriti Nartanalaya, founded by Warda, performed various roles in it.

A French production of *Oh My Sweet Land* was staged yesterday at the Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA by Théâtre de Vidy Lausanne and the Young Vic London. Chorus Repertory Theatre (India) also staged *Macbeth* on the day at the main auditorium of NTH.

A seminar, along with a masterclass, will take place at 3 pm today at the seminar room of BSA while Annesha Theatre (Bangladesh) will stage a folk play *Joytun Bibir Pala* at the main auditorium of NTH, BSA.



# NO DORAI trailer hits the shores

Star Cineplex announced its first venture into film production with 'No Dorai', a film based on the life of a surfer in Cox's Bazar. Directed by Taneem Rahman A ngshu, the film features Sunerah Binte Kamal and Sariful Razz in central roles. The first trailer of the film, along with a poster, was unveiled recently.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED