

WHAT'S ON

Open mic night
 Title: Mic Drop - Open Mic
 Date: Today
 Venue: Taro Bangla, Sikder Plaza, Sainik Club
 Time: 5:30 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: Today
 Time: 7:30 pm
 Tickets: BDT 500

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



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

TÊTE-À-TÊTE WITH Shahiduzzaman Selim

SHAH ALAM SHAZI
 Shahiduzzaman Selim, one of the most talented actors in Bangladesh, has become a household name through his performances on television, movies and on stage over the past three decades. He has won numerous accolades including the National Film Award and was recently elected as the president of the Bangladeshi television actors' association, Obhino Shilpi Shongho. To talk about his latest achievement, future plans with the organisation and much more, *The Daily Star* caught up with the actor for a chat.

It was a dream for a select few artistes, including yourself, to create the platform - Obhino Shilpi Shongho. Today, you are the president of the well-established association. How does it feel?

Around 20 years ago, a few of us dreamt of setting up an association that would bring together all television actors. That very association has now reached such a reputable stage. Even though I was not in any governing position for all these years, I worked throughout the entire duration from the back end. Now I believe that I can lead from the front. My fellow actors have given me immense love and support and elected me to this position. I want to work hard and reward them for all they have given me.

What are the primary things on your agenda as the president?

See, there is a certain anxiety that is overcoming the television industry. We need strict professionalism within our structures to aid in eradicating that anxiety in our work process. I want to work to instill that professionalism in people

within the industry and to help engage a larger audience with our works. It is imperative to abide by certain rules and regulations to do good work.

Which rules and regulations are you specifically referring to?

For example, artistes must reach their respective sets on time so that shooting can start on time. There must be contracts in place to ensure that there is a clear exchange of work hours for sufficient remuneration. Work hours are specified in every profession. It should be no different for actors. Acting needs to be established as a respectable full-time profession and abiding by these rules will contribute towards that.

The term is only for two years. Do you think it will be possible to achieve all of it by then?

The previous committee has already laid out the foundation. We are taking further steps forward and will continue to do our best with collective help from all the member artistes. Subsequently, the next committee will pick up where we leave off, and strive for more. It is an evolving process.

Today is the inauguration ceremony for the newly elected committee for Obhino Shilpi Shongho. How are preparations unfolding so far?

We had divided up committees to prepare for today's inauguration ceremony. Everyone is working diligently to make the event a success. It is quite evident that our television actors are a big family and the support I am receiving from everyone is clear proof of that.



A popular weekly musical show titled 'Music Train' will air today on Boishakhi Television at 9:30 pm. In a segment of the programme, viewers can enjoy the musical ensemble of the talented cousin duo, Arnob and Mithila.

'Light from the Cosmos' by Imran Firdaus underway

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 Photographer-filmmaker Imran Firdaus' month-long solo photography exhibition titled *Light from the Cosmos* is underway at Begum Restaurant and Gallery, Dhaka. Renowned artist Ronni Ahmed is the curator of the show.

The exhibition sheds light on Sufi saint Khalek Dewan, who was a renowned folk singer. The artiste is no more with us. He left for the eternity on March 14, 2003. Every year, on his birthday, a number of his fans and followers gather for *Urosh*, a holy congregation at the residence of mystic bard. The showcased images are taken from such a congregation of Sufis on the occasion of Khalek Dewan's 90th birth anniversary in 2016.

The show, inaugurated by musician Sheikh Monirul Alam Tipu on June 22, has been dedicated to Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Hasan (R.). Opening daily from 11 am to 8:30 pm, the exhibition will continue till July 22.

In his curatorial note, artist Ronni Ahmed writes, "Imran Firdaus is a visionary photographer, filmmaker, writer, cultural activist. A bohemian soul wandering like wind and fire, as his earthly existence drives him from a cosmic plan. In our cultural field, he is a silent and selfless contributor, and had a true heart to explore the secret gems around the country. This photo exhibition is about Sufi Shadhok Khalek Dewan. He has captured the spiritual essence of his Majar during the urosh time in 2016."

According to Ronni, Bangladesh is a



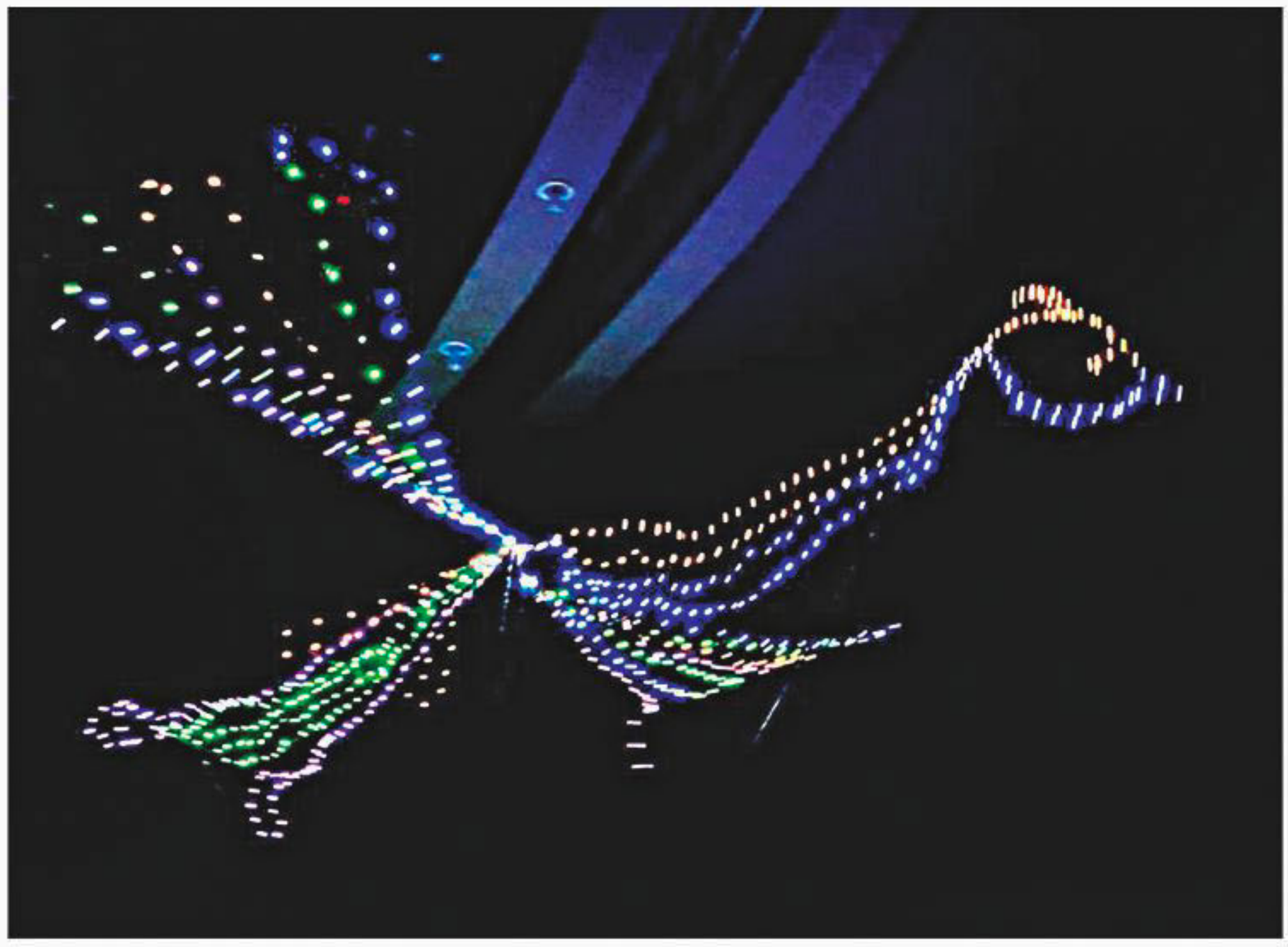
PHOTO: COURTESY

country of Sufi saints or Awulias. They are eternal and alive, and helping people to survive and reinvigorate their dedication towards Allah. There are also many living Sufi saints and practitioners around the country serving people and spreading Allah's order within a divine path. Imran is working on them from the last few years. This exhibition is a very important initiative by Imran Firdaus, as it is a step to explore the divine cosmic light of the great Sufi lineage in Bengal.

Shadhok Baul Abdul Khalek Dewan is

one of the most veteran devotees of the mystical world of Bengal. He was born in the Bamunsur village of Keraniganj in 1910. Through his father Alfu Dewan, the Dewan school or gharana of mystical music was born in Bengal. The Sufi devotee or shadhok Hazrat Alef Chan Shah, also known as Alfu Dewan (1246-1336) was a practitioner of mysticism.

Imran Firdaus is pursuing his PhD from the Department of Media Arts and Production, The University of Technology Sydney, Australia.



Photographs from the ending performance, 'A Light Puppet Show'.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh International Theatre Festival concludes

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
 The week-long programme of Bangladesh International Theatre Festival 2019 came to an enthralling end recently. It was arranged for the first time, by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), International Theatre Institute (Bangladesh Centre) and Bangladesh Group Theatre

Federation. Along with the local artistes, the event was attended by international troupes from Russia, China, Vietnam, France, Nepal and India.

The festival raised its curtains on June 20 with an opening ceremony followed by *Mayar Khela* (Bangladesh), and came to an end on June 26 with the closing play *A Light Puppet Show* (Russia). An interesting array of plays were staged by various talented performers

throughout the week.

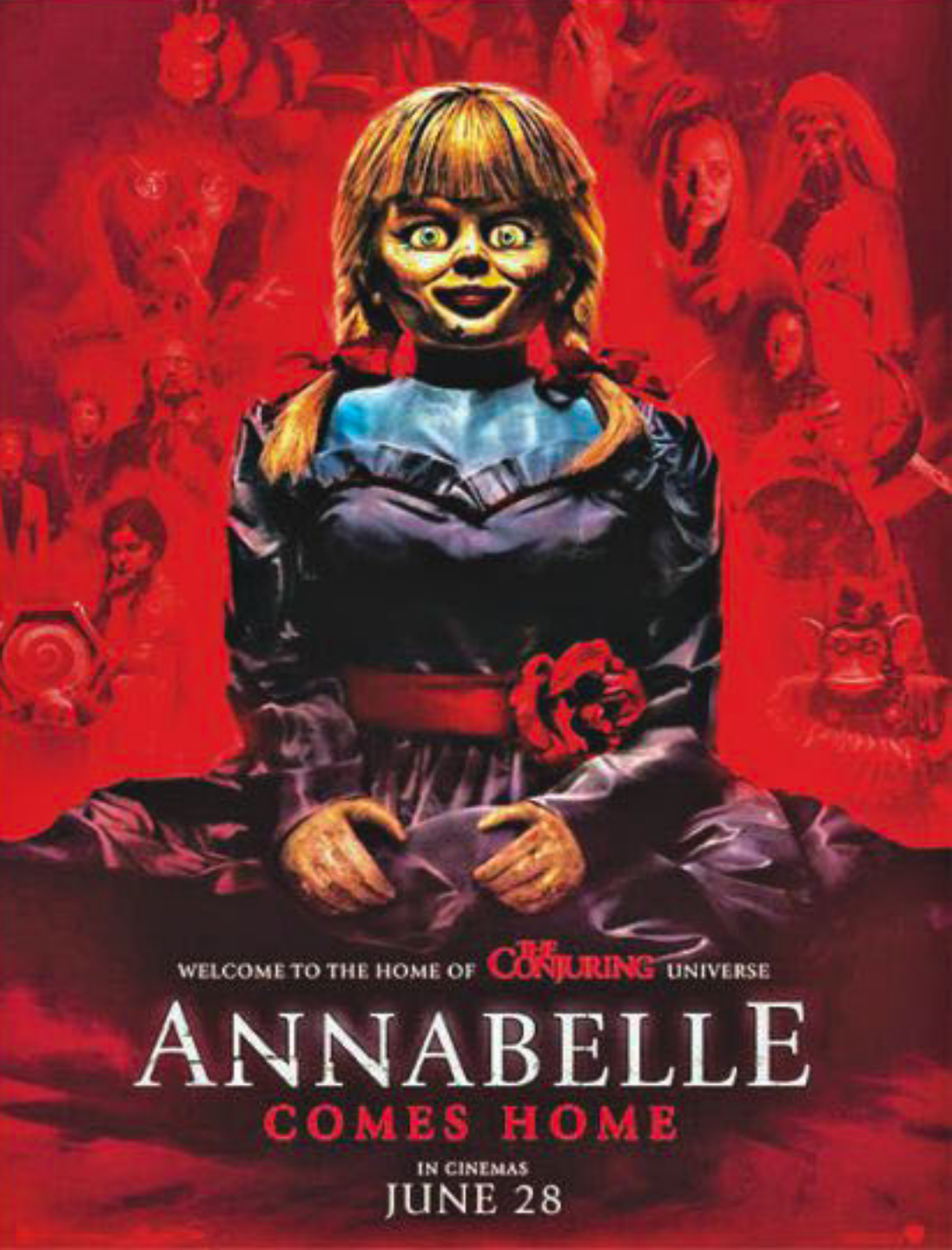
To make the festival more interesting, a seminar along with a masterclass was also conducted. Overall, the arrangement brought together proficient thespians from across the globe, each of whom added to the overall aspect of the Bangladesh International Theatre Festival, proving it to be a success and allowing the audience to look forward to the next installment.

Annabelle Comes Home today at STAR Cineplex

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
 After having spooked the masses over the years, the vintage doll returns with the third installment titled, *Annabelle Comes Home*. Along with its international release today, the film will also open at STAR Cineplex.

After demonologists Ed and Lorraine Warren confine Annabelle in a sacred glass box in their locked artifacts room, she manages to awaken the evil spirits in there, targeting the couple's young daughter.

Written and directed by Gary Dauberman in his directorial debut, the film is produced by James Wan and Peter Safran. Along with Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga in their reprising roles, *Annabelle Comes Home* also stars McKenna Grace, Madison Iseman, Katie Sarife, Steve Coulter and Samara Lee among others.



TV WATCH