

WHAT'S ON

**Musical Evening**  
 Title: Star Melodies presents Emon Diney Tarey Bola Jai... Srabon Shonaha-e  
 Date: Today  
 Time: 6 pm onwards  
 Venue: The Daily Star Centre

**Rock Concert**  
 Title: Legacy of Rock N Roll  
 Date: September 13  
 Time: 3 pm - 10 pm  
 Venue: ICCB, Hall 04 (Naboratri), Bashundhara  
 Hotline: +8801707975206

**Concert**  
 Title: Samin and friends live at 3rd Space  
 Date: Today  
 Time: 5 pm onwards  
 Venue: Counter Culture Club, Dhanmondi

**Album Launch**  
 Title: Dibhashik Audio Album Morok Unmochon  
 Date: Today  
 Time: 6:30 pm onwards  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

**Art exhibition**  
 Title: Muhurtama solo art exhibition by Shamsat Tabreej  
 Date: July 27 - August 22 (except Mondays)  
 Time: 5 pm - 9 pm  
 Venue: Dwip Gallery, Lalmatia



PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Paul McCartney writing a musical for 'It's a Wonderful Life'

18-time Grammy award winner, Paul McCartney has collaborated with Britain's Lee Hall, the screenwriter of *Billy Elliot* and the Elton John biopic *Rocketman*, for an upcoming musical. British theater and film producer Bill Kenwright, who secured the rights, will produce the show. The musical is scheduled to launch later next year.

Now in its final phase, the songs are for the stage adaptation of the beloved 1946 Hollywood Christmas film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, directed by Frank Capra, which stars Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed among others. "Writing a musical is not something that had ever really appealed to me but Bill and I met up with Lee Hall and had a chat and I found myself thinking this could be interesting and fun," McCartney said in a statement. "*It's a Wonderful Life* is a universal story we can all relate to."

Since the Beatles broke up in 1970, McCartney has released more than 25 studio albums, including five of original classical music.

SOURCE: REUTERS



## In conversation with Sharmila Biswas

**APORAJITA MOSTAFA**  
 Odissi dance virtuoso and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award recipient Sharmila Biswas is inarguably one of India's top Odissi exponents. A disciple of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, Sharmila Biswas has performed extensively in a number of his productions, both in India and abroad. The ever so magnificent Odissi danseuse recently came to Bangladesh to conduct a three-day long workshop at one of the country's leading dance schools, Kolpotoru. On the concluding day of the workshop, *The Daily Star* caught up with the artiste for a quick chat on her teaching experience in Dhaka and more.

**First things first. What has the experience been like conducting this workshop at Kolpotoru?**  
 It was a wonderful experience. Working with the team at Kolpotoru has been inspiring.

Every member here stands testament to Lubna Ji's vision behind the school, which is to train dancers from the ground up under the guidance of reputed Gurus and subsequently provide them a platform for performing in feature-length productions with the dance company, Shadhona.

**In your opinion, what are some of the biggest challenges that aspiring Indian classical dancers face today, in terms of learning, practicing or even considering performing arts as a full-time career path?**  
 I think the first challenge they face is finding a good teacher, because most academic institutions do not possess the infrastructure required to provide Indian classical dance and music lessons since it is a system that is still predominantly gurukul-based. Often, young children are also misguided and resort to taking lessons

from inexperienced teachers. The second challenge I believe is arranging finances and receiving their family's support. Classical music and dance require investing years of time and effort into learning the art form first and for that, it is imperative to have a strong support system to consider it as a full-time career path.

**What do you think can be done by Indian classical dancers to ensure patronage, or at least measures for sustenance in some cases, so that they can pursue their careers without woe or worry?**  
 As the first rule of thumb, I think we, performing artistes collectively, should stop performing for free. We are causing grave harm to ourselves in doing that as it distorts the industry's economic structure. Having said that, chasing down finances while preparing for a show can take away the

attentiveness from the art itself. I personally do not take sponsorships for shows. If a performance is worth the audience's evening, I am sure they can and will buy tickets to enjoy the show. So, I think understanding the economics of the industry and using that knowledge strategically to work for money can ensure financial stability for the dancers.

**Do you feel hopeful about the future of dance, particularly Indian classical dance, in both Bangladesh and India?**  
 Yes, absolutely. Art lies in the very roots of both the nations and, music and dance play a big role in the people's lives. They are instinctively drawn to performing arts and I believe there is a great future ahead for dance itself, and of course, Indian classical dance as well. I don't think there will ever be a time when there is no dance and music in either Bangladesh or India.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Shabdabali to travel entire country for BAISHAKHINI

**SUSHANTA GHOSH, from Barisal**  
 Shabdali Group Theatre (SGT), a theatre troupe of Barishal, is starting a tour with their production, *Baishakhini*. The liberation war based drama has already been staged in Bhola on June 12 and Barishal on June 14, and would be staged in Gopalganj, Jenaidah and other districts, according to Syed Dulal,

president and director of the troupe. The drama was designed by Mahafuja Hilali, and directed by Syed Dulal. The light, stage and costume were handled by Aminur Rahman Mukul, while Sahan Ara Begum was the production in-charge. Tandra Mallik, Sonia Akther, Moni Akther and Surovi Jahan Nishi were the lead characters in *Baishakhini*.



PHOTO: COURTESY



Telefilm 'Shobar Ekta Golpo Thake', directed by Dipu Hazra, will be broadcast on Maasranga Television on 8:30 pm today. It features Sajal, Aporna Ghose, Kalyan Corraya and Orsha among others.

## Remembering Rahman

### A star of the 60's

*In the beginning of the 60's, a dashing actor made his name as a romantic film protagonist, one whose popularity was on par with all the Hindi and Urdu actors of the time. His name is Rahman, who, unfortunately is not here with us today. However, his films will forever have a place in the history of Bangla cinema.*



PHOTO: COLLECTED

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
 Rahman's first film was *Edesh Tomar Amar*, directed by Ehtesham in 1960. He played the part of a villain in the film. It was a huge success, as was *Rajdhanir Buk-e* by the same director, with which Rahman debuted as the conventional 'hero'. His pairing with Chitra Sinha was also well received. The actor's success continued with *Harano Din*, directed by Mostafiz. Having paired with Shabnam, the film was a phenomenal hit, establishing him

as a 'romantic hero' of the time. Having released in 1961, Rahman received BDT 3000 for the film, which was a lot during those times. *Harano Din* is still remembered as an exemplary early Bangla film. In 1963, his *Preet Na Jaane Rit* was a sensation among cinema goers as well. *Devdas*, directed by Chashi Nazrul Islam, was one of his finest performances in the role of Chunilal. After the film, he also started his career as a director, in which *Milon* was a milestone. In 1963, the actor faced a tragic

accident, in which he had to lose one of his legs. His career as a romantic protagonist was also affected by the incident. In the latter part of his career, *Shorgo Norok*, *Takar Ahonkar*, *Bishal* and *Beprowa* are among his more notable films. Rahman first came to Dhaka after a spat with his family, and worked as a waiter at a restaurant in Shabbagh. From there, he went on to become one of the most recognisable faces in Bangla cinema at the time. The legendary actor breathed his last in 2005.



Marking their 36th anniversary, renowned theatre troupe Mohakal Nattya Shamproday organised an event at National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday. As part of the programme, the company staged their acclaimed play 'Srabon Tragedy', which is also scheduled for today.

PHOTO: COURTESY