

WHAT'S ON

TRIBUTE TO MAD

Exhibition
Title: Tribute to Mad Cartoon
Exhibition
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: August 23 - 25
Time: 3 pm - 8 pm

Reverie

Exhibition
Title: Reverie
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: August 18 - 20
Time: 3 pm - 9 pm

Revolution

Photography & Poetry
Exhibition
Title: Project Debi: Revolutionary
Photography And Poetry Exhibition
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: August 26 - 28
Time: 10 am - 7 pm

Rock Concert

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

Art Exhibition

Title: Muhurama solo art exhibition by
Shamset Tabreje
Venue: Dwp Gallery, Lalmatia
Date: July 27 - August 22 (except
Mondays)
Time: 5 pm - 9 pm

ZAHIR RAIHAN

The unparalleled legend



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Zahir Raihan is a name synonymous with the Golden Age of cinema in Bangladesh. Even though the legendary Freedom Fighter lived only 37 years before his untimely death, his contributions to the country and the film industry are unparalleled. Besides filmmaking, he was also a talented novelist, journalist and writer.

He weaved magic with both the pen and behind the camera. Having started his career in 1975 as an assistant director with the Urdu film *Jaga Huwa Savera*, his first film as a director was titled *Shonar Kajol*, which he co-directed with Kalim Sharafi. However, one of his most revered works is *Jibon Theke Neyra*, which is a classic to this day. The film is based on the Language Movement in 1951, and is still broadcasted annually on multiple television channels on February 21, the International Mother Language Day. *Let There Be Light* is also one of Zahir Raihan's best works, so is the folk-genre film *Behula*.

Among his novels, *Hajar Bochor Dhore* is his magnum opus, in which he beautifully portrayed the lives of our rural people. *Shesh Bikeler Meye* and *Borof Gola Nodi* are novels in which he intricately told stories about the lives of average people. *Arek Falgun*, based on the Language Movement, is an exemplary piece of writing which is important to the history of the movement itself.

Zahir Raihan was posthumously awarded the Bangla Academy Award (1972), National Film Award (1975), Ekushey Padak (1977) and the Independence Day Award (1992). The director was married to Sumita Devi, and then to prominent actor Suchanda. He left behind four children: Bipul Raihan, Arafat Raihan, Anal Raihan and Topu Raihan.

ILLUSTRATION: YAFIZ SIDDIQUI



A still from 'Mayaboti', starring Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Yash Rohan.

'Mayaboti' to release on September 13

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Arun Chowdhury's *Mayaboti* is set to release nationwide on September 13. The film stars celebrated actors Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Yash Rohan in lead roles. It is jointly produced by Anwar Azad Films and Ananya Srishti Vision. Alongside Tisha and Rohan, the film

stars Raisul Islam Asad, Mamunur Rashid, Dilara Zaman, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Afroza Banu, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Aruna Biswas and singer Agun, among others. The plot of the film revolves around Maya, a young girl who faces many obstacles in her life. Jaaz Multimedia is the distributor of the film.

"Hip hop changed the course of my life" – Black Zang

MINAM HAQ

The presence of hip hop culture in the Bangladeshi music industry was not as prevalent even a decade ago. However, the scene has changed drastically over the years. Asiful Islam Sohan, who goes by the alias Black Zang (BZ), is one of the prominent artistes in the game. One day while playing around with Bangla words, he realised that he could write rhymes in his mother tongue. Ever since then, he has been honing his craft.

BZ came under the limelight with the song *Aie Mama Aie*, featuring his crew Uptown Lokolz, back in 2009. "When I began penning my lyrics from a young age, I observed all that was going on around me," states BZ. "I just took that reality and incorporated it into my lyrics."

Over the years, BZ participated in various shows at home and abroad. He even hosted a programme for a renowned radio channel, which was immensely popular amongst the hip hop community. In 2015, the US Department of State organised a cultural exchange tour, where artistes from six different countries were invited. BZ represented Bangladesh during

that event. Later in 2017, he attended a festival upon invitation in UK. Recently, he also served as one of the judges along with two others, for a domestic reality show. "Hip hop changed the course of my life," says the rapper.

The essential elements that define hip hop are MCing, DJing, break dancing and graffiti painting. According to BZ, the hip hop scene in Bangladesh gained much momentum since its introduction, and now has dedicated and talented artistes in all four sectors. "From what I have seen, I feel that the communities outside Dhaka are even more enthusiastic than we are. Their determination to excel is truly inspiring," explains BZ. "The reason why I feel hip hop resonates so well with Bangladesh is because our nation was born out of struggle, and hip hop too, reflects on struggles."

Competing with himself on a regular basis to enhance his skills, his last hit was BZ BARZ, produced by Los Angeles based Bangladeshi music producer, MOGZ. BZ intends to continue working with him for his upcoming tracks, including the latest, *Grateful*.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SAF 2019 in the offing

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Samsara Art Festival (SAF) simultaneously features visual art and music. Aiming to create an interactive and diverse artistic realm within a public sphere, the festival sheds light on the unconventional approaches, strong views, individualism and dynamism of the artists. The first edition of SAF took place at Santiniketan Society of Visual Art & Design (SSVAD) on November 23rd, 2018. SSVAD was founded by the eminent Indian artist Jogen Chowdhury.

Santiniketan is undoubtedly one of the most culturally rich places in the subcontinent. Established by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore and later expanded by his son Rabindranath Tagore, who was the founder of Visva-Bharati University, this place is also an attraction for the Bengali community.

Promising artist Promiti Hossain, also the artistic director and organiser of SAF, talked about the festival. "We feel that Santiniketan is the best place to introduce an art festival, inside the natural environment, away from metropolitan life," she said. "As residents at Santiniketan for the last few years, we have noticed that most of the institutional art forms are conventional and practised separately. We wanted to create a space for multidisciplinary art forms, bringing together



alternative music and visual art on a single platform. Our aim was to focus on "totality"; how musicians and visual artists interact with each other through individual art forms."

They organised musical performances, live art shows, performance art, outdoor exhibitions, installations and interactive art sessions in the presence of art enthusiasts, observers and the general audience. "We selected most of the artists and musicians through open call submissions. Our selections brought forward twenty promising visual artists and six musical acts from all over India, Bangladesh and China. Their artistic endeavours, practices and performances focused on socio-political issues, natural menaces, gender issues and other matters," added Promiti, the daughter of Nisar Hossain,

Dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka.

The essence of the festival was augmented with a collaborative performance by the guest musicians, Shubhayu Sen Majumdar on esraj and Professor Biswajit Sahu on tabla, from Sangit-Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University. Sanghamitra Das Banerjee was the guest visual artist while the guest of honour was the Principal of Kalabhavana, Visva-Bharati University, Professor Gautam Das. Neel Sarkar was the festival director and organiser.

"This year we are planning to incorporate some new ideas and expand artistic disciplines. We will organise the upcoming festival around December, this year. We will soon announce the open call for SAF 2019 on our Facebook page," concluded Promiti.



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Who Framed Roger Rabbit' animator Richard Williams passes away

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Richard Williams, the Canadian-British animator who worked on the bouncing cartoon bunny in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, passed away at the age of 86.

The Oscar-winning artist died from cancer at his home in Bristol, England.

His best-known work may be as director of animation for *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, a 1988 film that married live action cinema and cartoons from all eras, a process that involved the complicated insertion of animated characters into each individual frame and complex lighting effects. The result — a madcap and slightly dark comedy where "toons" and humans interact seamlessly against a live action film noir background — was a commercial and critical hit and helped revitalise Disney's dwindling animation department.

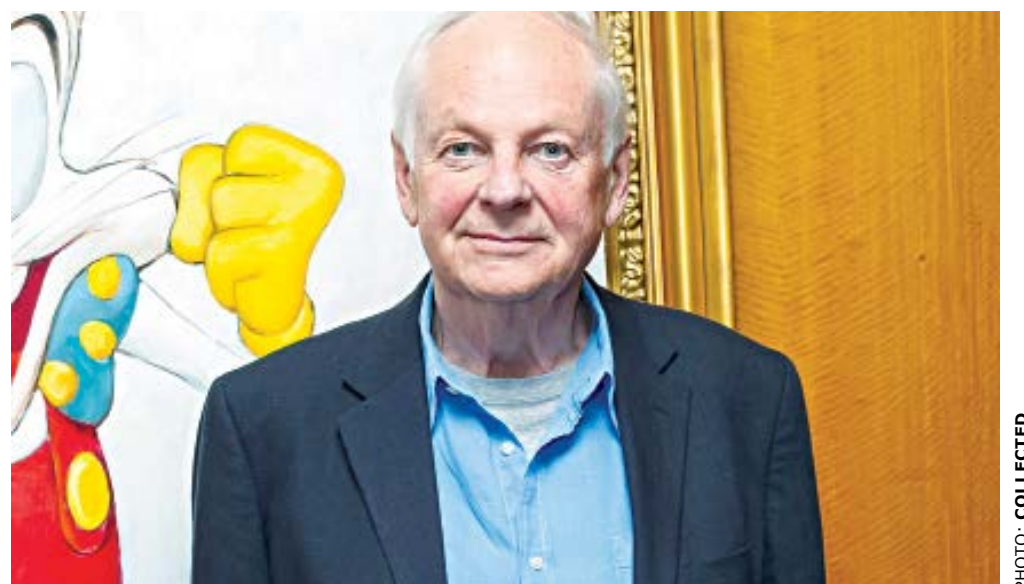


PHOTO: COLLECTED