

WHAT'S ON

RIBUTE TO
Exhibition
Title: Tribute to Mad Cartoon
Exhibition
Venue: Dink Gallery, Dharmadi
15A (New)
Date: August 23 - 25
Time: 3 pm - 8 pm

Exhibition, Screening & More
Title: Shipor Moya Bangladesh
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: BSA Premises
Date: August 1 - 31
Time: 11 am onwards

Photography & Poetry Exhibition
Title: Project Debt: Revolutionary
Photography and Poetry Exhibition
Venue: EMU Center, Dharmadi
Date: August 26 - 28
Time: 10 am - 7 pm

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

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Colours
Venue: La Galerie
Date: August 23 - August 31
Time: Mon - Thurs 3 pm - 9 pm, Fri and Sat from 9 am - 12 pm and 5 pm - 8 pm (closed on Sunday)



(From left) Shashwati Garai Ghosh and Sharmila Banerjee

PHOTO: ORCHID CHANGMA

Shashwati Garai Ghosh: Living and breathing through Odishi

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Renowned Bangladeshi dance school Nritya Nandan recently organised a three-day long Odissi dance workshop at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka. Kolkata-based Odissi dancer Shashwati Garai Ghosh conducted the workshop, where around 50 Bangladeshi students participated.

The dancer-choreographer performed two dance pieces, and talked about the classical dance form in an interactive session with Bangladeshi dance exponents, including the likes of Amanul Haque, Benazir Salam, Belayet Hossain Khan and the workshop participants on the concluding day (August 21) of the workshop.

Sharmila Banerjee, Director of Nritya Nandan, along with her daughter and talented dancer Sudeshna Swayampabha Talbot coordinated the workshop. Holding such events regularly will definitely encourage the young dancers of Bangladesh to properly learn the aesthetic and methodological aspects and practices of the classical dance form.

Born in a family of artists, Shashwati transitioned from being a young girl who was far too restless to sit in one place, to a graceful and poised danseuse travelling the world. Her father, Tarak Garai, is a renowned sculptor, while her mother Minakshi Garai is a painter. From her early childhood, Shashwati has been a believer of the idea that art reflects life, and in light of that belief, she chose to experience life through the art of dance.

She began receiving Odissi lessons under the tutelage of eminent dancer-choreographer Smt Sharmila Biswas in 1999. She has had the privilege of receiving special training from legends like Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, Smt Kalanidhi Narayanan, Smt Sonal Mansingh, Shri Duragacharan Ranbir. She also received dance medicine and fitness training from Dr Kannan Pughazendi. She enrolled in a pre-degree course



PHOTO: COURTESY

in dance at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata in 1998 and completed her MA in Odissi dance from there.

Angashuddhi - Home for Odishi, is her own Odissi dance institute based in Kolkata. The school is an initiative to nurture and pass on the

experience of learning Odissi dance to the next generation.

Shashwati regularly conducts workshops for schools and institutions around India and abroad. She has travelled extensively in India and abroad, with the Odissi Vision and Movement Center ensemble, and individually, giving notable performances at prestigious festivals.

"A classically trained artiste never aspires to attain stardom overnight," said the dancer, who harshly criticised the subpar dance festivals that are frequently taking place in Kolkata, where the festival organisers take money from dancers with little to no training or expertise to let them perform at the festivals.

"A classical dancer must know and understand the essence of classical music, raga, rhythm, light, set, stage, theatre and the various aspects of the musical accompaniment to perform the art form," Shashwati asserted.

The dancer has great memories with renowned filmmaker-actor Rituparno Ghosh, whom she regards as a true artiste. "Very few people know that Ritu Da was a regular visitor at my Guru's place for around seven months, and was taking Odissi lessons from her for his film *Chitrangada*. My Guru and I performed solo pieces in it as well," said Shashwati, while elaborating on her experience of working for the Geeto Gobinda Festival.

Shashwati's prolific career has been embellished with many awards, accolades and fellowships throughout, including - Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman (first recipient), Sanskriti-Madhubi Chatterjee Memorial Fellowship, Kalavaahini Senior Fellowship, Nalanda Nritya Nipuna Award, Odissi Jyoti Award, Shringar Mani Award and National Scholarship from Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

FERDOUS AND PURNIMA resume filming

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The shooting of *Gangchil* was met with tragedy when film stars Ferdous and Purnima were faced with a motorcycle accident last year. The good news for fans is that the duo have fully recovered and started shooting again. The film, directed by Imtiaz Neamul, is being shot in remote areas in Noakhali. Purnima is playing the role of Mohona, and Ferdous's character is named Sagor. "We came back to Dhaka after the accident. After a long break, we have started work again. I am sure that the project will be great," says Ferdous.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

The grisly grenade attack remembered at BSA

ASHLEY SHOPTORSH SAMADDAR

Commemorating the victims and their memories of the horrific grenade attack that took place on August 21, 2004, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised *Muktijuddher Chetona Bihashi Dhangshajoggo Shapona Shilpo* at the Nandan Moncho of BSA recently. The initiative was based on an idea developed by Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General, BSA, and later curated by artist Professor Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash.

The event was presided over by Liaquat Ali Lucky and inaugurated by K M Khalid, State Minister for Cultural Affairs.

The programme began after observing a moment of silence to honour the memories of the deceased victims of the August 21, 2004 grenade attack at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka.



This was followed by a welcome speech by Badrul Anam Bhuiyan, Director (Secretary), BSA. "Over 400 people were injured and 24 had lost their lives, including AL Women Affairs Secretary, Ivy Rahman. Luckily, our current

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina managed to survive the attack," he said. "What shocks me the most is, the attack was held in broad daylight at a rally which was promoting anti-terrorism. Thinking of the incident still

makes me tremble with fear."

The welcome address was followed by a short introduction by artist Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash. "We are artists, and our only tool to express any emotion, be that joy or sorrow, is the stroke of our brush. Through this performance today, we only mean to express our sorrows," mentioned Shahjahan.

The performance started with young artists sketching on their canvases in a peaceful environment, unaware of the tragedy that awaited them. Suddenly, a number of grenades took over the stage and drops of red started raining all over the artists as the devastating incident ensued. The show ended with a portrait of Sheikh Hasina by Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash, where she was seen in tears, staring at her promise of a golden nation.

Bonna Mirza's latest endeavours

SHAH ALAM SHAUZI

Prominent actor Bonna Mirza is known for her unique ability to mould herself into a broad range of characters. Her illustrious career so far has been ornamented with stellar performances on television, the silver screen, as well as on stage.

Bonna Mirza is currently working on a new film titled *Ghar Gerosi*, directed by Ranim. The movie is based on a story revolving around the Liberation War of 1971, written by renowned author Hasan Azizul Huq. The film has received a grant from the Government of Bangladesh.

Apart from working on *Ghar Gerosi*, Bonna Mirza is also working in theatre as a member of the troupe Desh Natok. She has been an integral part of their play *Nrityapuran*, which completed its 100th staging recently. Bonna Mirza

is also acting in the upcoming play by Desh Natok, titled *Jol Bashor*, directed by Masum Reza. "The stage is my primary address. I will always keep working on stage," said Bonna Mirza.

Besides acting on television, stage and in films, Bonna Mirza is also a successful emcee and elocutionist. She was the conferred with the title of Best Actor by Bangladesh Television in 2003 for her performance in the tele-fiction *Prottaboron*, and the BACHSAS Award in 2001 for her performance in the play *Nrityapuran*.



1 MINUTE PLEASE



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Mahatab Rashid

SHABARA IQBAL

Young cartoonist Mahatab Rashid has worked for numerous popular publications of the country, including Kishor Alo, Rosh + Alo and Ummad. His weekly comic series, *Mahakabho*, is published in Chutur Dine, in addition to enjoying a huge fan base online. Mahatab also has a keen interest in the field of cover art. He began designing book covers for the Ekushey Bô Mela in 2016, mainly working with children's books. He takes out a minute for *The Daily Star* to answer some fun questions.

Name one character that you would like to draw.
Dream (Morpheus) from *The Sandman*.

What was the last movie you watched?
Hereditary.

What is your favourite comfort food?
French fries.

Who is your favourite author?
That would be a tie between Neil Gaiman, Isaac Asimov and Shahidul

Jahir.

Name three things that you cannot live without.
Soundcloud, books and tea.

'1917' Trailer: Sam Mendes Brings Pulse Pounding First World War movie

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Oscar-winning director Sam Mendes returns this year with his war film *1917*. The first teaser trailer of the film was released recently. The film stars George MacKay, Dean-Charles Chapman, Mark Strong, Andrew Scott, Richard Madden, Claire Dubuque, with Colin Firth, and Benedict Cumberbatch.

Like the title suggests, the film is set during the height of the first world war, in the year 1917. The trailer of the intense war film opens with

two young British soldiers, Schofield (George MacKay) and Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) as they are given a seemingly impossible mission. In a race against time, they must cross enemy territory and deliver a message that will put a stop to a deadly attack on hundreds of soldiers - Blake's own brother among them. They have only a day to complete the task.

The screenplay is cowritten by Sam Mendes and Krysty Wilson-Cairns. The film is set to be released on December 25th, 2019.



'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' hits Star Cineplex

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood is a comedy-drama film written and directed by Quentin Tarantino. Produced by Columbia Pictures, Bona Film Group, Heyday Films, and Visiona Romantica and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing, it is an international co-production between the United States and the United Kingdom. The film stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Emile Hirsch, Margaret Qualley, Timothy Olyphant, Austin Butler, Dakota Fanning, Bruce Dern, and Al Pacino. They are part of a large ensemble cast who star in multiple storylines in a modern, wonderful tribute to the final moments of Hollywood's golden age. The film is set in 1969 Los Angeles, where an aging television actor and his stunt double and longtime friend navigate the changing Hollywood film industry. The film releases at Star Cineplex today.

Nafee Muhammad Anam's 'Uncanny Episodes' for Amazon Prime to feature Misir Ali

SHABARA IQBAL

Promising author Nafee Muhammad Anam discovered his interest in reading from a young age. He spent most of his time reading mystery, horror and thriller stories as well as fairytales, for the better part of his high school days. His interest in reading led him to writing his own stories, limeticks and poems. His first story, *The Miracle Hours*, was published in *Kishor Tarokalok* in October 2001. Since then, his writings have been published by many prominent publishers in Bangladesh. Currently, Nafee resides in London.

Nafee is the editor of *Horror Potrika*, the first Bengali fiction magazine printed and distributed by Amazon. "Horror Potrika is a really personal project of mine. I published it because I wanted to read stories by other people," says Nafee. "The mission of the magazine is to captivate the readers with tales of murder, rape and corruption among other things, and hopefully, deliver good lessons along the way."

He is developing an anthology web series titled, *Uncanny Episodes*, for Amazon Prime Video. One of the standalone episodes of the series, a psychological thriller titled *Bhoy*, will feature Misir Ali, the popular



character in a series of novels by legendary author Humayun Ahmed. *Uncanny Episodes* is a dream project of Nafee's. He aims to bring well-known Bangladeshi stories to a global audience through the anthology series.

He further opened up about why he picked the character of Misir Ali for the episode, *Bhoy*. "I took permission for this from Humayun Ahmed a long time ago,

but I stopped working on it after he passed away," explains Nafee, who is an avid fan of the *Misir Ali* series. "But many established writers and directors, especially Animesh Aich, who played a role in *Debi*, encouraged me to make it. While working on other stories for *Uncanny Episodes*, I suddenly remembered that I have the permission to produce projects on Misir Ali and I was determined to make the character a part of the series." Nafee is in the last stages of developing the script for *Bhoy*. The cast of *Bhoy* has not been finalised yet.

Uncanny Episodes will be produced by London-based production company Cup of Tea Studio. The project also completed a fundraising campaign on JustGiving, a global online social platform for fundraising. It is not an Amazon Prime original, but will be jointly released on Amazon Prime Video, as video on demand, and on YouTube for the Bangladeshi audience. The series will be shot in Bangla with English subtitles. It will be dubbed in English later on, depending on how foreign audiences respond to it.

Nafee hopes that TV channels in Bangladesh show their interest in airing *Bhoy*, and that fans of Misir Ali enjoy the story.

Shah Rukh Khan and Emraan Hashmi team up for 'Bard of Blood' promotions

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Netflix's spy thriller series, *Bard of Blood*, starring Emraan Hashmi, is set to release on September 27. While superstar Shah Rukh Khan might not be acting in films at the moment, he is investing his time in production work. Khan, one of the co-producers of the espionage thriller has taken an interest in the promotional campaigns for the series.

Recently, Netflix released a

promotional teaser featuring both Shah Rukh Khan and Emraan Hashmi. In the clip, the two seemed to be locked inside an interrogation room, where Khan questions the handcuffed Hashmi. The two engage in an amusing battle of wits. In the teaser before this one, Khan was appointed as an interrogator by an unknown agency. The new teaser revealed that the subject of his interrogation was, in fact, Hashmi, who referred to himself as the "Bard of Blood".

Bard of Blood is an eight-episode spy thriller based on Bilal Siddiqi's novel of the same name, released in 2015. The plot revolves around Kabir Anand, a literature professor and a former RAW spy. He is tasked with a seemingly impossible rescue mission in Balochistan.

The series also features Vineet Kumar Singh, Shobhita Dhulipala, Kirti Kulhari and Rajit Kapoor, among others.



PHOTO: COLLECTED