











(From left) Shashwati Garai Ghosh and Sharmila Banerjee

### **Shashwati Garai Ghosh:** Living and breathing through Odishi

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned Bangladeshi dance school Nritya Nandan recently organised a three-day long Odishi dance workshop at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka. Kolkata-based Odishi 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 Swayamprabha Tathoi 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 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 childhood. Shashwati has been a believe 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 Odishi 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 Durgacharan Ranbir. She also received dance medicine and fitness training from Dr Kannan Pughazendi. She enrolled in a pre-degree course



in dance at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata in 1998 and completed her MA in Odishi dance

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

experience of learning Odishi dance to the next

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

"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 Odishi lessons from her for his film Chitrangada. My Guru and I performed solo pieces in it as well," said Shashwati, while 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-Madhobi Chatterjee Memorial Fellowship, Kalavaahini Senior Fellowship, Nalanda Nritya Nipuna Award, Odissi Jyoti Award, Shringar Mani Award and National Scholarship from Ministry of Culture.

#### FERDOUS AND **PURNIMA** resume filming

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





#### **Shah Rukh Khan and Emraan Hashmi** Nafee Muhammad Anam's 'Uncanny Episodes' for Amazon Prime to feature Misir Ali Shah Rukh Khan and Emraan

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, limericks 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

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

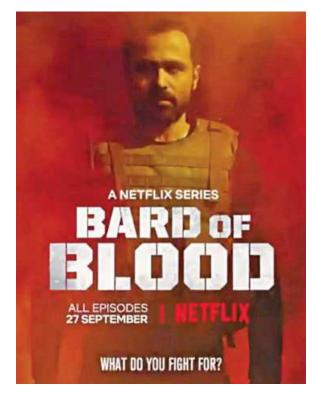
foreign audiences respond to it. Nafee hopes that TV channels in Bangladesh show their interest in airing *Bhoy*, and that fans of Misir

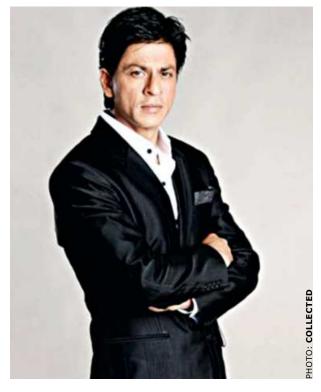
# team up for 'Bard of Blood' promotions

who referred to himself as the "Bard

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

Bard of Blood is an eight-episode spy thriller based on Bilal Siddigi's Hashmi. In the clip, the two seemed to be locked inside an interrogation 2015. The plot revolves around Kabir room, where Khan questions the handcuffed Hashmi. The two engage Anand, a literature professor and a former RAW spy. He is tasked with a in an amusing battle of wits. In the teaser before this one, Khan was seemingly impossible rescue mission appointed as an interrogator by an unknown agency. The new teaser The series also features Vineet Kumar Singh, Shobhita Dhulipala, revealed that the subject of his interrogation was, in fact, Hashmi, Kirti Kulhari and Rajit Kapoor,







## The grisly grenade attack remembered at BSA

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 Binashi Dhongshojoggo Sthapona 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

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

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

makes me tremble with fear.

on their canvases in a peaceful environment, unaware of the ragedy that awaited them. iddenly, 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 shewas seen in tears, staring at her promise of a golden nation

#### Bonna Mirza's latest endeavours

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 Ghor Gerosti, 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 Ghor Gerosti, Bonna Mirza is also working in theatre as a member of the troupe Desh Natok She has been an integral part of their play Nrittyapuran, which completed its 100th staging recently. Bonna Mirza

is also acting in the upcoming play b 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 Bes Actor by Bangladesh Television in 2003 for her performance in the tele-fiction Prottaborton, and the BACHSAS Award in 2001 for her performance in the play





#### Mahatab Rashid

Young cartoonist Mahatab Rashid has worked for numerous popular publications of the country, including Kishor Alo, Rosh + Alo and Unmad. His weekly comic series, Mahakabbo, is published in Chutir 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 Boi 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? 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

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

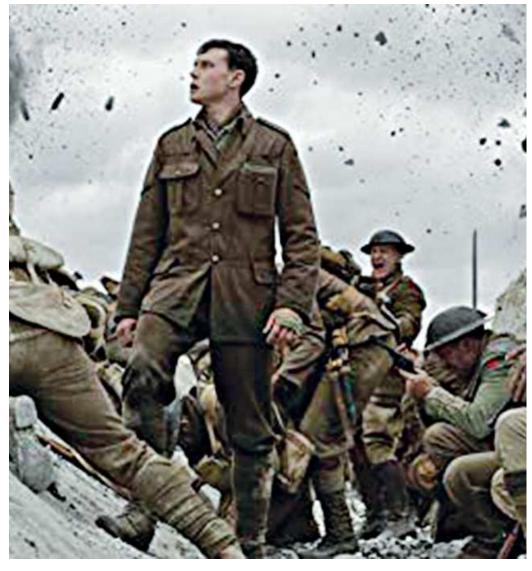
#### '1917'Trailer: Sam Mendes Brings Pulse Pounding First World War movie

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 Duburcq, with Colin Firth, and Benedict

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 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





#### 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' hits **Star Cineplex**

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, Margare 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.