

WHAT'S ON

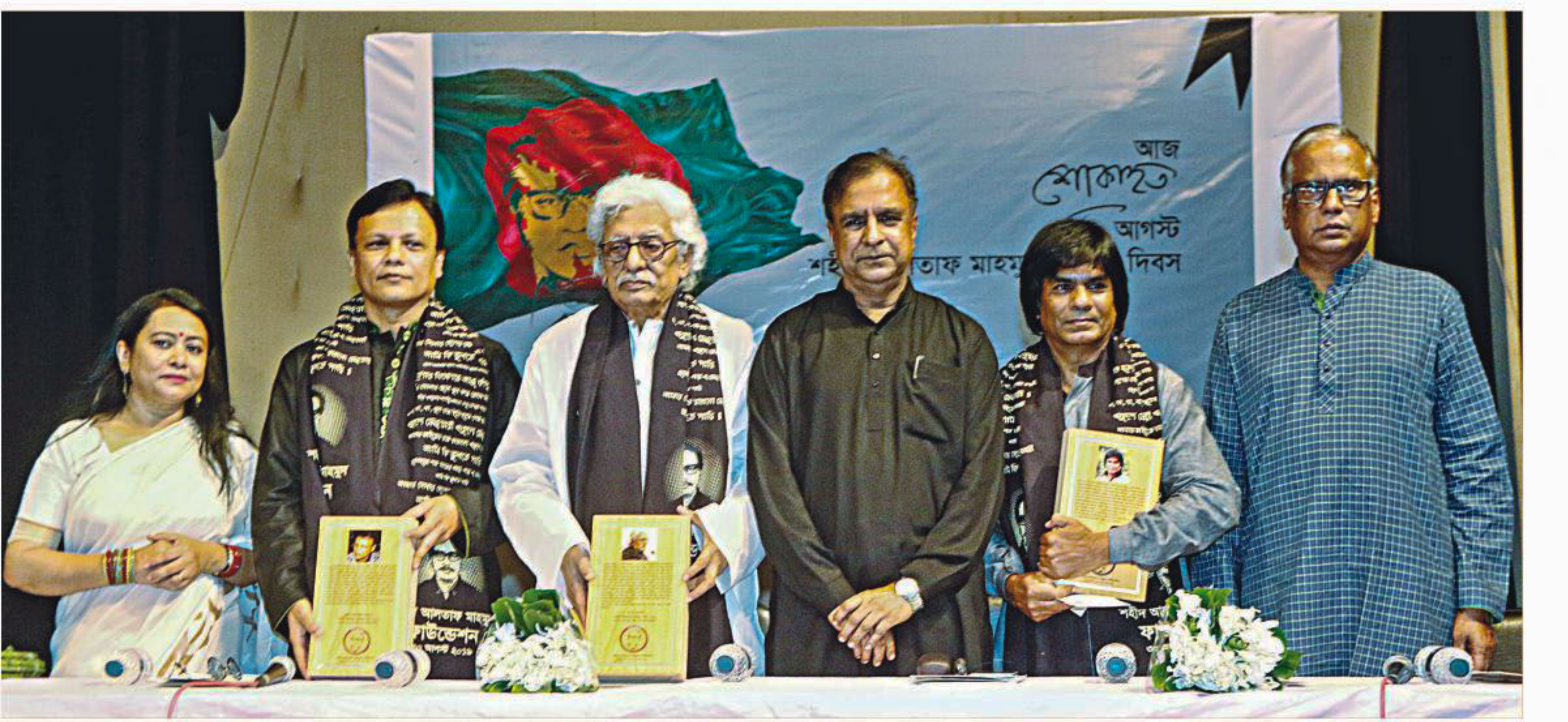
**Rock Concert**  
 Title: Project Generations - Unplugged Tribute Gig  
 Venue: Lyceum Conference Center, Lalmitia  
 Date: September 13  
 Time: 3 pm - 8 pm  
 Ticket: BDT 250

**Exhibition, Screening & More**  
 Title: Shilper Aloye Bangabandhu  
 Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Venue: BSA Premises  
 Date: August 1 - 31  
 Time: 11 am onwards

**Exhibition**  
 Title: Jamdani Festival 2019  
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi  
 Date: September 6 - October 12 (closed on Sundays)  
 Time: 12 noon - 8 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

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



(From left) Shawan Mahmud, Farid Uddin Ahmed, Kamal Lohani, State Minister of Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, Jami Al Shafi and Nasiruddin Yousuff. PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

# Three iconic personalities receive Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Padak

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Ekushey Padak winning veteran journalist and cultural personality, Kamal Lohani, along with two promising architects - Farid Uddin Ahmed and Jami Al Shafi, who jointly designed the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial, received the prestigious Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Padak 2019 for their outstanding contribution to their respective fields.

The award giving ceremony took place yesterday at the Music and Dance Centre Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. State Minister for Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid, MP attended the occasion as chief guest. Shawan Mahmud, daughter of Altaf Mahmud and Member-Secretary, Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Foundation, delivered the welcome address, thanking everyone for their support throughout the last 15 years. Renowned film director and thespian, Nasiruddin Yousuff, presided over the programme.

The Altaf Mahmud Foundation confers this award every year on deserving personalities to in honour of the late singer-musician, cultural activist and martyred Freedom Fighter of the 1971 Liberation War. The award was presented by K M



Kamal Lohani, one of the awardees, speaking at the event.

Khalid, while Altaf Mahmud's family members presented the prize money and *urtorio*. The awardees were privileged to receive this honour, and expressed their gratitude at the event. "Altaf Mahmud was a pioneering cultural activist, who had a strong political conscience. He had a heart full of courage, patriotism and melody. He sacrificed his entire life to establish the rights of the people. None of us can forget what he did for our nation," said Kamal Lohani, sharing many untold stories that he had with the martyred Freedom Fighter.

"He will forever be remembered for composing the timeless song, Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano, as people all over the world now sing this in different languages on every International Mother Language Day (21 February)," said Farid Uddin Ahmed, who also shared untold stories of creating the memorial for the martyred intellectuals. "We are elated to receive the award named after Shaheed Altaf Mahmud, who played a key role in many glorious cultural and political movements of Bangladesh," said Jami Al Shafi.

Masuf Rasul beautifully wrote the Shangshabachan for the awardees, of which he read out the one he composed for Jami Al Shafi. Sangeeta Imam read out the Shangshabachan written for Kamal Lohani, while Shawan Mahmud eloquently read aloud the one composed for Farid Uddin Ahmed.

Renowned elocutionist Hasan Arif recited a compilation of poems themed Mayer Sathey Chheleer Katha at the event, while Biplob Raihan rendered the famous Altaf Mahmud song, O Bangali.

Shaheed Altaf Mahmud Foundation has been organising this award since 2005, in remembrance of the great Altaf Mahmud. The foundation is run by the family members of the martyred, and the guerrilla Freedom Fighters of the Crack Platoon. This award has so far been conferred on 21 renowned artists, actors, thespians, musicians, writers and cultural personalities.

Altaf Mahmud was posthumously awarded the Ekushey Padak in 1977, and the Independence Award in 2004, for his special contribution to Bengali culture and the Liberation War. He was abducted on August 30, 1971 by Pakistani occupation forces, and never returned since then.

# Sam Smith and Rufus Wainwright duet with Renee Zellweger on 'Judy' soundtrack

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Sam Smith and Rufus Wainwright will each duet with Renée Zellweger on the 'Judy' soundtrack. The biopic of the same name, in which Zellweger plays Judy Garland, will hit theaters on September 27.



A still from 'Judy', starring Renee Zellweger.

Smith will join Zellweger for *Get Happy*, one of Garland's most beloved and best-known songs. She originally performed it in the 1950 film *Summer Stock*, her final film for MGM that also stars Gene Kelly. Wainwright and Zellweger will duet on *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, a Christmas classic Garland first introduced in 1944's *Meet Me in St Louis*. In 1938, Judy was cast in her best remembered role, as the young Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), a film based on

the 1900 children's book by L Frank Baum. In this film, she sang *Over the Rainbow*, a song which is associated with her till date.

*Judy* is based on the five-week residency Garland performed in London just months before her death in June 1969. Directed by Rupert Goold, it captures her addiction, financial strain and the heartbreaking struggle to spend time with her children. The film also stars Jessie Buckley, Rufus Sewell, Finn Wittrock and Michael Gambon.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Agun to play a special role in 'Mayaboti'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

During his music career spanning over 25 years, popular singer-actor Agun appeared in tele-fictions and films at different times.

Keeping up with the trend, he has joined the star-studded cast of Arun Chowdhury's *Mayaboti*. Agun will play the role of someone from the music industry in the film, which stars celebrated actors Nusrat Imrose Tisha and Yash Rohan in the lead roles. Agun made his debut in films with *Ekhono Onek Raat*, directed by his father, the late Khan Ataur Rahman.



PHOTO: STAR

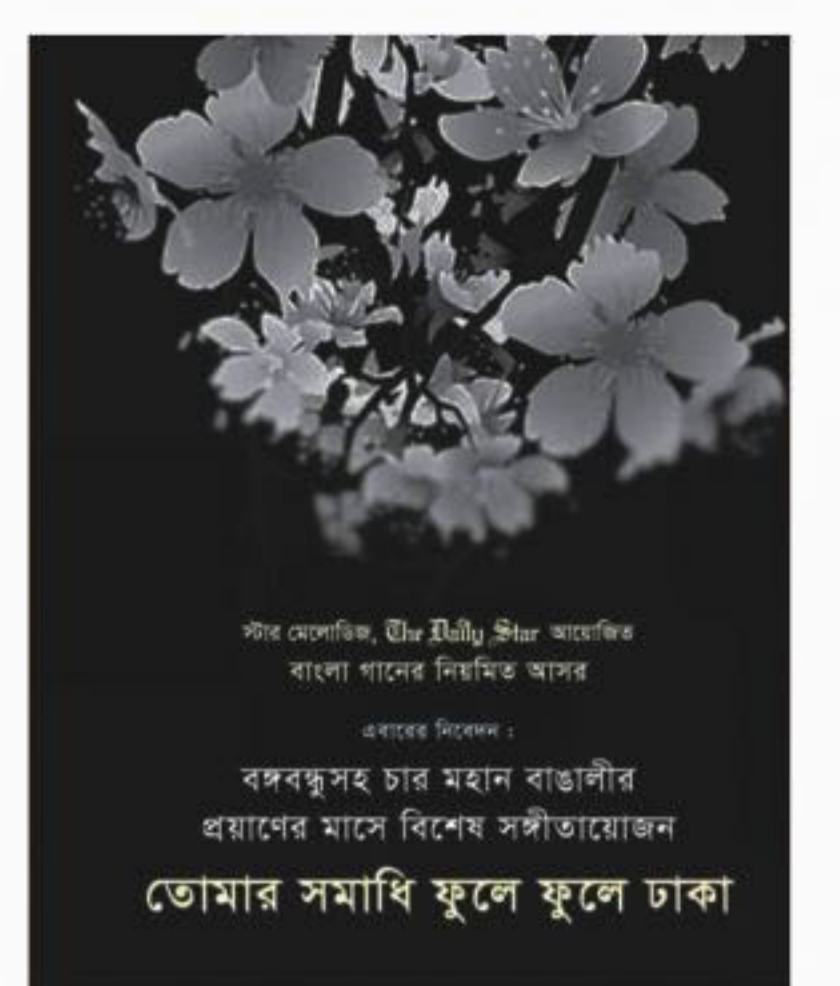
# Star Melodies to host 'Tomar Shomadhi Phule Phule Dhaka' today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In the month of August, Bangladesh mourns the death of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bishwakabi Rabindranath Tagore, National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and Netaji Subash Chandra Bose also passed away in August.

In honour of such illustrious individuals, *Star Melodies*, an initiative of The Daily Star to promote Bangla music, is set to arrange a special programme titled, *Tomar Shomadhi Phule Phule Dhaka*. It will be held today at 6:30 pm at The Daily Star Centre. The programme is conceptualised by Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, The Daily Star. She is also the host of the musical evening.

Noted singers Shelu Barua, Mafizur Rahman, Shaheed Kabir



Palash, Alif Laila, Shemonty Monjari and Luipa will perform at the programme. Guests can register their names on arrival at The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.

# APU BISWAS on her latest endeavours

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

One of Dhallywood's most prominent actors, Apu Biswas starred in multiple super hit films throughout her career. The actor is rather selective about her films now. Her latest venture was *Shoshur Bari Zindabad 2*, directed by Debashish Bishwas.

Having completed the film earlier, the team was waiting for a suitable time to release it. It will now be released during the festive season of the upcoming Durga Puja. "I am optimistic about my role, as I gave my

best during the shoot, and hope that the audience will admire the film," mentioned Apu. "I also appreciate the dedication of my co-star in *Shoshur Bari Zindabad 2*, Bappi. This was our first film together."

Apart from her films in Bangladesh, Apu has also worked in a film in Kolkata, titled *Shortcut*, which is yet to be completed. She is also selectively going through other films to act in, in the near future. Besides acting, Apu also keeps busy with modelling and is currently in talks regarding her upcoming shoots.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Pandit Sudarshan Das performs at the port city

AMIT HASAN SHAHRIAR, from Chattogram

The four-time Guinness World Record holder percussionist, Pandit Sudarshan Das, mesmerised the audience of the port city with his performance on Thursday evening.

He performed at a cultural ceremony organised by Shishumela at Theatre Institute Chattogram.

"I am a son of Chattogram. It is always a pleasure to perform here," said Sudarshan.

He set the World Records in 2016 by playing Tabla for 557 hours 11 minutes, at a stretch. In 2017, he set the record for 27 hours playing the Dhol, and played

14 hours of drums in 2018. His latest achievement was playing drums for 140 hours 5 minutes in 2019.

It was his last performance of his world tour, which also included performing in Singapore and India.

Anindya Banarjee, Assistant High Commissioner of India, also the chief guest at the programme, said that music is a source of inspiration for people. "Music also played an important role in the Liberation War of Bangladesh. The essence of music keeps the soul alive," he said.

Keyboardist Michael Brod also performed in the programme, while a Tagore song was rendered by Kanta Dey and Anurina Chowdhury Tuli.