

WHAT'S ON

PROJECT GENERATIONS
DISCONNECTED
1.1 - Unplugged Tribute Gig
Venue: Lyceum Conference Center, Lalmaia
Date: September 13
Time: 3 pm - 8 pm
Ticket: BDT 250

Adda Session
Title: Golpoghor
Guest: Nuhash Humayun
Venue: Children's Film Society Bangladesh, Mohammadpur.
Date: Today
Time: 4 pm - 7 pm

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 (Naboratni), Bashundhara
Date: September 13
Time: 3 pm - 10 pm
Hotline: +8801707975206

Dance Theatre
Title: Ho Chi Minh, First Ever Biography
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: September 5 - 6
Time: 7:30 pm onwards

Lutfur Rahman George opens up about television, films and more

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Lutfur Rahman George started his acting career in theatre in 1985, working with the renowned company, Nagorik Natya Sampradaya. He went on to essay the role of Mojnu, in Humayun Ahmed's hit television series, *Kothao Keu Nei*. His role in Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's *420* was also highly praised. He has worked in films like *Aguner Poroshmoni* and *Aynabaji*. We caught up with the artist to find out more about his work in films



and television.

How was the experience of working in Humayun Ahmed's 'Kothao Keu Nei'?

Frankly speaking, I never wanted to work in front of the camera. I have always wanted to work in theatre. In 1993, Asaduzzaman Noor called me, and asked me to come to the BTV office. When I reached there, I saw that Humayun Faridee, Suborna Mustafa and many other actors were rehearsing for *Kothao Keu Nei*. Humayun Ahmed was observing me. At the time, I was not ready for

television at all, but nonetheless, I played Mojnu.

Tell us a little about Mojnu, your character in the hit television series.

My character, Mojnu, was not a part of the novel. He was just created for the series. Mojnu rides a bike. Asaduzzaman Noor knew that I can ride one, so, he recommended me. Initially, Mojnu was supposed to appear in only three episodes. But after I finished three episodes, they called me in for more. I was getting restless because I missed being on the stage. I still worked on the series till it ended.

How do you feel about the popularity of 'Kothao Keu Nei'?

Baker Bhai, played by Asaduzzaman Noor, is an iconic character till date. People asked me for spoilers for the upcoming episodes wherever I went. In fact, the audience was so emotionally invested in the series that they protested against the execution of Baker Bhai, which was unlike anything I had seen.

Between theatre, cinema and television, which field interests you the most?

I have a soft spot in my heart for theatre. In fact, I could never imagine myself acting in front of the camera. I did not actually want to do television ventures. I was talked into it. I have consistently worked in theatre till 1998, especially with Nagorik Natya Sampradaya. My last show was *Roktokorobi* in Egypt.

How do you think the industry has changed over the years?

I see a sense of rush and competition in the industry today, as people are running after quantity and not quality. As a result, many of the projects are not up to the mark, and we also have problems with budgets in television and films.

How do you feel about the success of 'Aynabaji'?

I usually do not watch any of my work, but Shatabdi Wadud forcefully made me watch *Aynabaji*. I am pleased to see that people have appreciated my work in the film.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Biranganar Bayan' to stage 100th show today at BSA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Theatre troupe Shobdo Natyacharcha Kendra will stage their acclaimed production, *Biranganar Bayan*, for the 100th time. The show will take place at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) today, at 5 pm and later at 7 pm.

To celebrate their 100th show, Shobdo Natyacharcha Kendra arranged a list of programmes, including a seminar, discussion session and more. State Minister of Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid is scheduled to attend as the chief guest at the event.

Biranganar Bayan is written by Rowshan Jannat Rushni, who plays the protagonist of the play which is directed by Debashish Ghosh.

Jamdani Festival 2019 opens today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Jamdani Festival 2019, organised by National Crafts Council of Bangladesh and Bengal Foundation, opens today at Bengal Shilpalay in Dhanmondi. It is a celebration of the proud heritage of Jamdani weaving in Bangladesh, which demonstrates the outstanding skills and artistic finesse of our weavers. A press conference regarding the festival was held at Bengal Boi on Tuesday.

The event will be inaugurated by Minister for Education Dr Dipu Moni. The Minister of State for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, Mayor of Narayanganj Dr Selina Hayat Ivy and President of the World Crafts Council Asia-Pacific Region Dr Ghada Hijjawi-Qaddumi will be present as special guests. President of the National Crafts Council of Bangladesh Md Rafiqul Islam will chair the inaugural ceremony. The Mastercraftpersons Award ceremony will also be held on the same day to honour the most gifted master weaver and apprentice for their skills and contributions to the community.

The festival is open to all, and can be visited every day, except Sundays, from 12 noon to 8 pm, till October 12.



PHOTO: DRIK

Drik celebrates 30 years of resistance

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Over thirty years, Drik Picture Library has used the power of visuals to challenge the abuse of power. Drik's 30th birthday was celebrated with a series of events. An exhibition and panel discussion were organised at Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi on Wednesday. People who have stood by the Drik throughout their challenging times were present at the event to express

solidarity. Drik plans to purpose-build premises which they will share with Pathshala, their sister organisation.

Works of pioneering Bangladeshi photographers were displayed at the exhibition along with a visual documentation of Drik's journey. The celebration was a reunion of friends, well-wishers and former colleagues of Drik. Prominent photographers and journalists were also present.

A panel discussion titled, *The Struggle for Democracy and the Silence of the Intellectuals*, was held. The panelists were Shahdeen Malik, Advocate, Supreme Court, Anu Muhammad from the Economics Department of Jahangirnagar University, Nurul Kabir, Editor, *New Age*, and Mirza Taslima Sultana from the Anthropology Department of Jahangirnagar University.

The celebration ended with songs, poem recitations and performances on resistance.



Veteran actor Prabir Mitra made his debut in the film industry in 1969 with the film 'Jo! Chhobi' and went on to become one of the most prominent actors. Lately, he distanced himself from the entertainment industry due to ill health. Channel i will feature the talented artist today in the programme 'Samoiki', hosted by renowned journalist Abdur Rahman. The show will be broadcast at 6 pm, where Prabir Mitra will talk about memorable moments from his illustrious career.

PHOTO: COURTESY



In memory of eminent writer Rizia Rahman, a programme was organised yesterday at Bangla Academy. The programme was presided over by National Professor Anisuzzaman. Poets, writers, publishers, and family members of Rizia Rahman were present at the event.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

TVWATCH