

WHAT'S ON

**PROJECT GENERATIONS**  
 DISCONNECTED  
 Title: Project Generations - Disconnected  
 1.1 - Unplugged Tribute Gig  
 Venue: Lyceum Conference Center, Lalmitia  
 Date: September 13  
 Time: 3 pm - 8 pm  
 Ticket: BDT 250

**ORCHESTRATION OF COLORS**  
 Solo Art Exhibition  
 Title: Orchestration of Colors  
 Artist: Uttam Kumar Basak  
 Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, Badda  
 Date: September 7 - 14  
 Time: 11 am - 7 pm

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

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

**AN ENGLISH SUMMER**  
 Live Performance  
 Title: An English Summer  
 Venue: Jatra Bhitti, Banani  
 Date: September 26  
 Time: 6 pm onwards  
 Tickets: BDT 300



# 10th death anniversary of Shah Abdul Karim

Ten years ago, on this day, Baul Shah Abdul Karim passed away. His compositions, lyrics and philosophy, play a valuable role in our culture.

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, from Sylhet

Shah Abdul Karim always referred to his compositions as *Baul Gaan*. He explored the roots of Baul philosophy through his music, much like Hason Raja, Radharaman Dutta, Ulkil Munshi, Durbin Shah and many others.

Born in 1916 in Derai, an upazila of Sunamganj in Sylhet, Bangladesh, Shah Abdul Karim was raised in a musical family. Growing up in poverty, he did not attend school, and started expressing his emotions musically from a very young age.

He gained the knowledge of music and spirituality under the tutelage of Baul Shah

Ibrahim Mastan Baksh. In 1957, Shah Abdul Karim started living in Ujan Dhol, a village near his home, with his wife, who greatly inspired his music. The atmosphere and the people of the village also played a key role in his life. Shah Abdul Karim's compositions showcase deep thoughts of spirituality. Some of his notable songs include *Murshid Dhono He Kemone Chinito Tomare*, *Nao Banailo Banailo Re Kon Mestori*, *Ashi Bole Gelo Bondhu* and *Mon Mojale Ore Bawla Gaan*, among many others.

He also wrote *Gono Sangeet* (songs of the masses), through which he expressed his feelings about the sufferings of mankind in a capitalist society. He has written and composed over 1,600 songs, which were compiled into six books. These books are *Aftab Sangeet* (1948), *Gono Sangeet* (1957), *Kalnir Dheu* (1981), *Dhormela* (1990), *Bhatir Chithi* (1998) and *Kalnir Kooley* (2001).

Before his death, Shah Abdul Karim was honoured with the title of Baul Samrat.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Jaya Ahsan and Prosenjit Chatterjee team up for 'Robibaar'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Acclaimed actor Jaya Ahsan has started shooting for her Kolkata-based film, *Robibaar*, directed by Atanu Ghosh. Indian actor Prosenjit Chatterjee stars opposite Jaya in the film. *Robibaar* is produced under the banner of Echo Entertainment. "I have always wanted to work with Prosenjit," says Jaya. "He is an actor that I respect, and I am

happy that I am finally working with him in this film."

Jaya is also shooting for *Bhoot Pori*, another Kolkata-based film, where she plays the role of a ghost. The film is directed by Soukarya Ghosal.

In addition, she is gearing up for the release of Nurul Alam Atiq's *Payerar Shubaash* and Mahmud Didar's *Beauty Circus*, two films based in Bangladesh.

## 'The Sky Is Pink' trailer shows promise

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Priyanka Chopra and Farhan Akhtar star in *The Sky Is Pink's* trailer released recently. The film is produced by Ronnie Screwala and Siddharth Roy Kapur. It is directed by Shonali Bose. Based on a true story, the film revolves

around a couple's 25-year journey, narrated by their daughter, Ayesha, played by Zaira Wasim. The trailer showcases the struggles and hurdles in the relationships between the three central characters.

*The Sky Is Pink* is a compelling story that features Pritam's music and Gulzar's lyrics. The film is set to release on October 11.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## BBFA to be held for the first time

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

During a press conference held recently, it was announced that the Bharat Bangladesh Film Awards (BBFA) will take place for the first time. The occasion is scheduled to be held in Dhaka at International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB), on October 21.

Film Federation of India (FFI) will organise the award ceremony. Superstars Alamgir and Kabori, along with renowned

media personalities, Imdadul Haq Milon, Khorshed Alam Khosru, Bappy Chowdhury, Symon Sadik, Firdausal Hasan (FFI President) and Tapan Roy (FFI Executive Committee Member), spoke at the press conference.

Bangla films released between June 2018 to June 2019 in Bangladesh and India, will compete for the awards. A total of 24 awards will be handed out, in three different categories - Popular, Technical and Regional. The awards will cover Best Film, Best

Producer, Best Actor (Male) and Best Actor (Female), Best Co-Actor (Male) and Best Co-Actor (Female), Best Singer (Male and Female), Best Music, Popular Film of the Year, Life Time Achievement, Best Story, among others.

The jury board from Bangladesh will include Alamgir, Kabori, Imdadul Haq Milon, Khorshed Alam Khosru and Hasibur Reza, while the other half will comprise of Goutam Ghosh, Bratya Basu, Gautam Bhattacharya, Anjol Bose and Tanushree Chakraborty.

## Karam Utshab concludes in Sylhet

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Sylhet

The indigenous communities of the tea gardens in Sylhet celebrated their largest traditional festival, Karam Utshab, with a call for the enactment of a law to protect their tradition, culture, language and environment. The festival began on Thursday and concluded on Tuesday, at Khan Tea Garden under the Jayantapur upazila of Sylhet.

People from different districts attended the festival and performed their rituals. On the opening night, the community people, led by the chief, prayed under the 'Holy Karam' tree. They brought out a colourful procession, accompanied by dance, songs and traditional instruments. They paraded across different villages, to which they

belong. A discussion meeting, organised by Sujit Baraik, a resident of Khan Tea Garden, was also held on Monday night, where indigenous priest, Angat Baraik, led the festival. He said that young girls observed a fast from dawn to dusk, on the first day of the festival. During the afternoon of the fourth day, the youths went out from the village in a colourful procession to collect branches of the Karam tree from their vicinity. The girls took the branches back to their village, while the boys joined them to sing and dance.

At sunset, an altar was built, where they planted the branches of the Karam tree. Young men and women danced around the altar when the branches were being

planted according to their ritual. Later, a *puja* began, where the priest recited verses explaining the significance of the festival. The event ended on Tuesday morning, through the immersion of branches of the Karam tree in the local canal.

AFM Zakaria, Head of the Anthropology Department in Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, attended the programme as the chief guest. He said that Karam Utshab is one of the major festivals celebrated by the tea gardens' indigenous families. It is a way for them to express their affinity towards nature. However, the unique culture is on the verge of extinction. Zakaria claimed that the government should enact a law to protect the tradition, culture and language of the communities to preserve the heritage.



PHOTO: FARZANA AKHTAR

## DUFS's Short Film Festival on Cultural Diversity and Peace concludes

TIASHA IDRAK

With an aim to embrace diversity for a peaceful future, the Dhaka University Film Society (DUFS), in association with ActionAid, hosted their first international short film festival recently. The festival was organised at the Teacher Student Center (TSC). The theme of the event was cultural diversity and peace. The film festival featured screenings of 50 short films from 16 countries around the world. The films were chosen out of 116 entries. All of the films were screened in the TSC auditorium.

The first day of the festival included a panel discussion session and film screenings. The topic of the panel discussion was "Film as a medium of spreading cultural diversity and peace". Filmmaker Zahirul Hasan, Professor Mesbah Kamal from University of Dhaka, and Faria Chaudhuri, Deputy Director Programme, ActionAid Bangladesh, attended the panel discussion. The 1959 film *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, directed by Alain Resnais, was also screened on that day.

The second day featured short film screenings as well as the award-giving and closing ceremonies. It also featured the screening of Satyajit Ray's *Aguntuk*.

The honourable guests on the second day were Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, AAMS Arefin Siddique, Moderator of Dhaka University

Film Society (DUFS), actor Mamunur Rashid, Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh and Aman Ashraf Faiz, Managing Director of GTV.

Among the 50 short films screened at the festival, 20 were chosen for award nominations. The award categories included Best National Film, Best International Film, Best Cinematography, Best Story and Best Editing. *A Flying Child*, directed by Fazle Rabbi, won the Best National Film award. The Best International Film award was given to *A Country in Moving Pictures*, directed by Arjanmar Rebata (Philippines). *Antaraal*, directed by Joy Chowdhury (Bangladesh), won the Best Cinematography award. The Best Story award went to *Landless Song of Earth*, directed by Pradip Ghosh (Bangladesh), and the Best Editing award went to *The Third Identity*, directed by Farid Ahmed (Bangladesh).

The call for entry for the short films began on July 4 and concluded on August 25. Short films from Philippines, Turkey, Kosovo, India, Lebanon and the UK among others, were submitted.

The festival ended with the screenings of two short films, that were productions of the seventh film workshop by DUFS. The films were *Jatragolpo* and *Sara Dupur*.

The festival concluded on September 9.

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PHOTO: STAR