

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
Title: A New Testament of Romeo & Juliet
Troupe: Empty Space
Venue: National Theatre, BSA
Date: September 29
Time: 7 pm - 8:30 pm

Concert
Title: Arnob Live 2019
Venue: Jamuna Future Park
Date: September 20
Time: 5 pm

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

Theatre Festival
Title: Syed Mahidul Islam Smaron Utshab 2019
Organiser: Byatikram Natya Gosthi
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Sep 14-18
Time: 6 pm - 9 pm

Live Performance
Title: An English Summer
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Date: September 26
Time: 6 pm onwards
Tickets: BDT 300



PHOTO: COURTESY

Tabibul Islam Babu turns 75

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Today marks the 75th birth anniversary of seasoned theatre actor and director Tabibul Islam Babu. He is the founder of the theatre company, Natyajon, which began its journey in 1997. Babu is a theatre activist who closely witnessed the evolution of Bangladeshi theatre and played an active role in the movement. He has been working in the field of theatre since the 1960s. Babu also acted in tele-plays, where Bulbul Ahmed and Abul Hayat were his co-artists.

"During my childhood, I acted in a few plays in Barishal. Then, I shifted to Narayanganj and played a role in Rabindranath's *Sheshrokkha* in 1963, directed by the late Zia Haider," shares Babu. "Later, I was enrolled into the University of Dhaka. Around the same time, I also got involved in theatre." He is one of the founding members of the company, Theatre, which started its journey in 1972. "Our first play was *Kobor* and we also did a production of Abdullah Al Mamun's *Subochon Nirbashone*," adds Babu.

The artiste was the treasurer of Theatre for 10 years, and took the troupe to Korea as the team manager in 1986. "In 1982, we formed Theatre Arambagh, yet another division of the troupe. Later on, some of the members formed Theatre Topkhana Road as well," says Babu. "My troupe, Theatre Arambagh's first production was *Jamidar Darpan*."

In 1986, Tabibul Islam Babu received an invitation from the Indian government to stage the play in Kolkata, Jaipur and Delhi.

Currently, he is the president of Natyajon, and is still travelling and touring with his productions. "Our production of Jyotirindranath Tagore's *Alik Babu* was staged in India in 2006," he said.

Moushumi

to run as president for Bangladesh Choloচিত্র শিল্পী সমিতি

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

With her illustrious career as an actor in the Bangladeshi film industry for over 25 years, Moushumi won the hearts of the masses with her remarkable acting skills.

The National Film Award winner has recently expressed her interest to run as the presidential candidate for Bangladesh Choloচিত্র শিল্পী সমিতি, even though the election schedule is yet to be declared.

Earlier, she was elected as a member of the current committee's executive council, but decided to resign within three months.

This will mark a new chapter for Moushumi, as she will be the first female presidential candidate to contend for the post in the organisation's history.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Two-day Nazrul Sangeet workshop and festival concludes in Barishal



PHOTO: STAR

SUSHANTA GHOSH, from Barishal

A two-day Nazrul Sangeet workshop and festival, in observance of the National Poet's 43rd death anniversary, concluded in Barishal on Saturday. The programme featured a discussion on the life and achievements of the poet and performances of Nazrul Sangeet. It was organised by Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha (BNSS), Dhaka, and supported by Nazrul Sangskritik Jote (NSJB), Barishal.

Cultural Activist Shanti Das inaugurated the programme. Md Maidul Islam and Tanvir Hasan conducted the workshop, which had 50 participants. Cultural activists Mukul Das, Basudeb Ghosh and Shuvangker Chakrabarty were present. The closing ceremony of the programme was held at Barishal Ashwini Kumar Hall on Saturday. Shanti Das presided over the programme.

S M Ajjar Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Barishal, was the chief guest. Khairul Anam Shakil, General Secretary, BNSS, Prof Moazzem Hossain, Director, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Office at Barishal, were special guests. Eminent cultural activists Kajal Ghosh and SM Iqbal and Gopal Krishna Guha Ripon, NSJB Secretary, addressed the audience as special guests as well. They spoke about how Nazrul was a symbol of revolution and hope against fascism and oppression.



JOJO RABBIT

wins the top prize at TIFF

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Thor: Ragnarok director Taika Waititi's anti-hate satire, *Jojo Rabbit* won the sought-after People's Choice Award of the 44th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The festival's winners were announced recently. The TIFF audience's nod for *Jojo Rabbit*, a black comedy set in the final years of Nazi rule in Germany, is expected to be a huge achievement for the film in its Oscar run. Last year's TIFF People's Choice Award-winner, *Green Book*, bagged the Best Picture Oscar. *Slumdog Millionaire*, *12 Years a Slave*, *Room* and *La La Land* are among the films that won the coveted People's Choice prize and continued their triumphal run all the way till the Academy Awards.

Jojo Rabbit is the story of a 10-year-old boy who admires Adolf Hitler and is faced with a dilemma when he discovers that his mother has hidden a Jewish girl in their home. The film stars Scarlett Johansson, Sam Rockwell, Rebel Wilson and Waititi himself as a clownish, fictive Hitler.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Salman Shah

Jonmo Utshab 2019 to be held

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Commemorating actor Salman Shah's 48th birth anniversary, Dhooli Communication will organise a weeklong festival, titled, *Salman Shah Jonmo Utshab 2019*, from September 20 to 26, according to a press release. Presented by the production company, TM Films, the event will be held in Modhumita, one of the oldest cinema theatres in Dhaka. TM Films will officially begin their journey with this event.

"We are honoured that we can begin our journey by celebrating the life of an actor like Salman Shah," said Farzana Munni, renowned beauty specialist and the chairperson of TM Films. "TM Films aims to build an international platform for actors, filmmakers and audiences."

Six films of Salman Shah will be screened at Modhumita throughout the event. Many artistes of the showbiz world will attend the opening ceremony on September 19, Salman Shah's birth anniversary.

Miss World Bangladesh 2019 audition round held

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After the successful registration of Miss World Bangladesh 2019, the audition round followed.

During a press conference held recently at Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC), it was announced that the winner of Miss World Bangladesh 2019 will participate at the gala event of Miss World in London, on October 4.

Apart from the beauty contest, the participants will also be taking part in social awareness and development activities, according to officials of the sponsor, Omicon Group.

The main judges for this year's contest, Dhallywood superstars Moushumi and Ferdous were present at the programme, according to a press release. Mahfuzur Rahman, Chairman, ATN Bangla, Mehedi Hasan, Chairman, Omicon Group, Apu Khandoker, Managing Director, Xpert Providers, among many others, were also in attendance.



PHOTO: COURTESY