

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

**Musical Evening**  
Title: Star Melodies' Shurer Badhoney  
Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave  
Date: September 28  
Time: 6:30 pm

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

**Live Performance**  
Title: Another Coffee Shop Gig 2  
Venue: L'Espresso Coffee Shop, Banani  
Date: September 27  
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm  
Tickets: BDT 200

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

# A COLOURFUL BEGINNING

## 14th National Children's Drama and Culture Festival begins at BSA

As the sky slowly cleared after the pouring rain, there was an unusual sight at the premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Children of all ages flocked together, as the curtains to the 14th Jatiyo Shishu Kishor Nattya O Shangskritik Utshab (National Children's Drama and Cultural Festival) was raised. The 9-day long festival will be held from September 20 to September 28, at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The festival is arranged by People's Theater Association (PTA), in conjunction with BSA. It will simultaneously take place at the National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall, Studio Theatre Hall, National Music and Dance auditorium and the Mukta Prangan of BSA.

The festival features performances from children's theatre organisations and cultural performance groups around the country. 94 theatrical performances of different children theatre groups will be present.

Renowned artist Mustafa Monwar,



Mustafa Monwar speaking at the inauguration ceremony. PHOTO: FARZANA AKHTAR



who was also one of the special guests, inaugurated the event.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader was the chief guest at the opening ceremony, alongside K M Khalid, State Minister of Cultural Affairs. Kamal Bayazid, the General Secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, was also present.

The festival features music, dance,

recitation, drawings, acrobatic shows, the Historic speech of 7th March - all performed by children. Performances by differently abled children will also be a feature of this event. Every day, child artists from different districts will perform in 8 venues, across the BSA premise.

"We pledge to create a child friendly society, where no child will ever be abused. That is the motto of our movement," said

Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA, "We are working to spread the practice of art to the most remote parts of our country."

Mustafa Monwar urged parents to not burden their children with academic pressure, and encouraged them to give them the freedom to explore their passion.

Around 400 child artists were awarded with Moncho Kuri, Moncho Mukul and Moncho Shena award. A special award will be given to differently abled children.

10,000 child artists from 64 districts are participating in the festival, which will conclude on September 28.



## Azizul Hakim's 'Neel Pinon'

Azizul Hakim's new tele-fiction *Neel Pinon*, is based on the Chakma community. It is scripted by Zeenat Hakim, and will be telecasted in BTV on September 22. Aparna Ghosh will be seen in the tele-fiction, along with 25 tribal artistes. The shooting took place in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

## Bangladeshi films to be sent to this year's Oscars

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) has selected 3 films for the category, International Feature Film, at the 92nd Annual Academy Awards, this year. The nominated films are -- Masum Aziz's *Shonatonor Golpo*, Tauquir Ahmed's *Fagun Hawa*, and Nasiruddin Yousuf Bachchu's *Alpha*.

The nominations were announced by Habibur Rahman Khan, Chairperson, Oscar Bangladesh Committee, at a press conference yesterday at La Vinci Hotel Dhaka. "September 19 was the last day to send our films to the Oscars. We have been sending films for nominations for quite some time now. However, getting an Oscar nomination is not easy," he said. "Campaigns by various paid agencies is an easy way to Oscars. Sadly, we are yet to employ any agency for our nominations, but we are still hopeful."

Faridur Reza Sagar, Managing Director, Impress Telefilms Limited, was also present at the conference, among others. "Two of our films, *Fagun Hawa* and *Alpha* have been shortlisted this time. I hope we can come up with more such films which prospects praise, internationally,"

The films were shortlisted by a committee of nine members consisting of Prof Abdus Selim, President, BFFS, Mushfiqur Rahman Gulzar, President, Bangladesh Film Directors Association, Iftekhar Uddin Naushad, President, Bangladesh

Film Producers and Distributors Association, actor Misha Sawdagar, President, Bangladesh Film Artist Association, Cinematographer Pankaj Palit, Abu Musa Debu, President, Bangladesh Film Editors Guild, and filmmaker and writer Shamim Akhtar.



## 'Jothorleena' to be screened today at Goethe-Institut auditorium

In the seventh edition of this popular film screening series, a documentary film titled *Jothorleena*, directed by Dilara Begum Jolly, is scheduled to be screened. In addition, some performance arts videos by the same filmmaker will also be shown at the event.

Shabnam Ferdousi, national award winning documentary filmmaker, will moderate the Q & A session after the screening of the film.



*Jothorleena* is the first documentary film by Dilara Begum Jolly. The cardinal strength of this film is its aesthetic presentation. It is a uniquely experimental production in the sense that, it stretched the customary generic parameters of a documentary film to transport it from the veridical to the poetic field.

War initiates the destruction of the womb; yet it is eclipsed by the avowed resoluteness of the survival of humanity -- this is what is irrefutably established by the role Roma Chowdhury played, in contributing to building a post-war society fed on the spirit of the war. The anguish of a brow-beaten mother, who had lost a child and now confronts the turbulent waves of war; nature mirroring her agonising silence; a display of indefatigable zest for life, are the recipes that constitute the soul of this film. The death-defying resilience of human spirit,

a passionate radical mind nestling hidden within a ravaged body, a sapling amidst a wasteland of destruction nourished by nature's regenerative care, and many such unarticulated dialogue, found expression through mind blowing succinct visual images in this film.

In Bangladesh, we currently see a number of women filmmakers actively creating and working in all genres of filmmaking. However, it remains a challenge for women to be directors. Worldwide, relatively few women can carve out that opportunity for themselves.

*Through Her Eyes* gives film enthusiasts, film students, academics, film professionals, funding agencies, broadcasters, rights groups and journalists a regular opportunity to watch films by women filmmakers currently working in Bangladesh, and to interact with them directly at the end of the screening.

## Kathak dance held in Moulvibazar

A cultural programme based on Kathak dance was held recently at the Moulvibazar MA Saifur Rahman auditorium. It was organised by Nupur Nikkan Moulvibazar. The event commenced with a dance performance by children with special needs.

A large audience, along with several other notables, were in attendance to enjoy the charming occasion.

One of the prime attractions of the programme was *Sree Radhar Manvanjan*, directed by veteran cultural personality and Kathak dancer, Saju Ahmed. It is written by Pranab Roy, while the songs were directed by Robin Chhattapadhyay.

A *thaat* sequence by the artistes followed, which also featured slow graceful movements of wrists, neck and eyebrows. After the performances, Saju Ahmed congratulated the artistes.

Biplob Das, President of Nupur Nikkan Moulvibazar, delivered a speech at the end of the programme, which was conducted by Sudipta Das.



The much talked about film, 'Shaap Ludo' starring Arifin Shuvoo and Bidya Sinha Mim, among other celebrated artistes, recently unveiled their official poster. The film marks renowned playwright, Golam Sohrab Dodul's first directorial venture.