

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



Fareha Zeba tells the tale of a seed through art

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned artist Fareha Zeba's solo art exhibition, titled *Story of a Seed* is underway at Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur in the capital. The unique exhibition, showcasing drawings, objects, sculptures and installations, was inaugurated on September 20. Eminent social activist, feminist and environmentalist, Khushi Kabir, and renowned sculptor Professor Lala Rukh Selim graced the inaugural ceremony as guests. Many environmental aspects the artist has experienced throughout her life, influence her paintings. Fareha Zeba's works depict the reflections of her subconscious mind -- they relay the connotations of surrealism. She attempts to visually represent and



express the subconscious in an organic way. "I became interested in creating art, while contemplating on the ideas of the ways elements keep balance in the environment," explains Fareha Zeba, "I have tried to blend the environmental aspects around us into my works, and that has led me towards my attempts of connecting the natural world to complement my art." The exhibited artworks are from a series, which the artist has been working on for a couple of years, is called *Story of a Seed*. The idea of this series originated from my garden. The seed is considered as 'mother' of the earth. It doesn't have any boundaries or nationalities. As humans are inclined to think that it is their property, they started experimenting and exploiting them for their own

benefit," said Zeba. The artist's works also portray our connection with the natural environment, ecology and ecosystem. She finds a lot of similarity between human organs, especially the female's ones, with forms of different flowers, seeds and leaves. The female body holds the power to create life, as does nature. Women started practising agriculture in the ancient society. In essence, they protect the environment and greenery with their instinctive power. "I got excited when I find the similarities in my garden, then try to capture their sensuousness and sensitivity. I attempt to boldly depict the forms and shapes in my sketch book. It is my way of recording artistic feelings and experiences," asserted the artist. She collected dry flowers, seeds, pods and weeds from her garden to represent the wonders of nature, associated with the sculptures and drawings on display at the art space. Fareha Zeba completed her MFA from the Institute of Fine Arts (now Faculty of Fine Art), University of Dhaka. She has 7 solo exhibitions to her credit. The artist participated in many national and international exhibitions and workshops held in Bangladesh, Denmark, Finland, Canada, Pakistan, England, India, USA, Nepal, Egypt and Germany. She currently teaches at Scholastica School, Uttara. Her art studio is also based in Uttara. Curated by Wakilur Rahman, the exhibition, opening from 4 pm to 8 pm daily, will run until October 8.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

'Bhodropara', directed by Shakal Ahmed, is set in the titular village, where all of the residents are thieves by profession. The satirical tele-fiction started broadcasting from August 20 on BanglaVision, and it airs every Tuesday and Wednesday at 8:15 pm. It features Chanchal Chowdhury and Arfan Ahmed in the central roles, in which they portray the characters of thieves.

"The plot is very interesting. The residents of the village are thieves by profession, and they have nothing else to do other than thievery," says Chanchal Chowdhury. The actors had to shoot during a cold flux, which was very challenging for them. "I was told to get down the pond in the freezing cold," says Shahanaaz Khushi. "However, I had to get this done. This will always be a memorable moment for me." The plot contains an important social message. "The story is allegorical in a sense; which I am sure the audience can relate to. As the story progresses, the messages will be revealed," says Shakal Ahmed.



Frozen 2

Fittingly frosty

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Ever since *Frozen*, produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios, was released, fans have been anticipating a sequel. The trailer for *Frozen 2* released recently, and it looks nothing short of marvelous. In the second installment, Queen Elsa, along with Anna, Kristoff and Olaf, set out on a dangerous yet adventurous journey, to discover the origins of the queen's magical powers in order to save the kingdom. Directed by Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck, *Frozen 2* features the voice cast of Idina Menzel, Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff and Josh Gad, among others. It is set to 'crack' open in theatres on November 22.



Conversations over coffee with team Money Honey

SHABABA IQBAL

The web series, *Money Honey* earned rave reviews upon its release on the popular streaming platform, Hoichoi, during the festive season of Eid-ul-Fitr this year. The series is jointly directed by Tanim Noor and Krishnendu Chattopadhyay. It is produced by Dope Productions, in association with Half Stop Down. Amitabh Reza Chowdhury is the creative producer of the show.

"I have always been drawn to crime and thriller stories. *Money Honey* is based on a true incident that happened in Shonali Bank at Kishoreganj, but it is also largely fictional," explains Noor. "I read about the incident in newspapers, and thought that it could be turned into a compelling script." Noor further mentioned that Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, who played an integral role in the making of *Money Honey*, got the team in contact with the frontrunners of Hoichoi, and that is how the project took off.

Money Honey follows 32-year-old divorcee Shahriar Kabir, who works in the Dhaka Stock Exchange. His lifestyle is filled with gambling, partying, women and alcohol. However, things turn upside down for him when the stock market is hit by a major crisis. The series features promising actors Mostafizur Noor Imran and Naziba Basher in key roles.

Imran plays the role of Soheli, a miner who gets wrapped up in the world of crime. Noor approached Imran for the



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

role even before anything was ready. Nevertheless, once the actor heard the script, he was determined to be a part of the show. Imran, who is a method actor, started preparing for the role during the pre-production stages of the project. He thought of every detail about his character, starting from his clothes and accessories to his mannerisms, taking inspirations from his surroundings and the people around him. Basher, on the other hand, plays ASP Maria Gomes, a brave and strong-headed law enforcer. "I

wanted to be a part of the show as soon as I heard that my character is a police officer, but I kept my poker face on when I heard the story, because I did not want to give my excitement away!" laughs Basher. "The more I got to know the cast and crew, the more certain I became of my decision. The directors really helped me to ease into playing Maria." Furthermore, she watched *Criminal Minds* and other such shows that have strong and smart female law enforcers as central characters, to prepare for her

role. The cast of the series also includes Shamol Mawla, Lutfur Rahman George, Sumon Anwar and Nishat Priyom among others.

Money Honey was shot in different outdoor locations, particularly in Kushtia. The overall shooting experience was, at times, challenging for the team. "A lot of strength goes behind playing police officers and thieves. Many of us were injured while filming certain demanding scenes," says Basher. "However, we were all so invested in the project that after every setback, we got right back up and were inspired to finish the job to the best of our abilities."

The team also discussed the changes that they would like to see in the national television industry. "I think that the field of television in Bangladesh has not been industrialised and institutionalised as yet," says Chattopadhyay. "As a result, it lacks the structure to enable artistes, writers, directors, producers and distributors to flourish. Our audience may be ready for bold, original content, but the industry needs a lot more investment and nurturing." Streaming platforms, on the other hand, offer a sense of freedom, both to the storytellers in the way that they create content, and to the audience in the way that they watch programmes. Upon asking what to expect from the second season of *Money Honey*, Noor asks people to fasten their seat belts, as there will be new characters, new twists and more intrigue.

TV WATCH



Channel i will telecast the Standard Chartered – Channel i Agro Awards 2019 today at 5 pm. Several awards in various categories will be presented to individuals who made a positive impact on the nation's agricultural sector. Shykh Seraj will also be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Minister of Agriculture, during the programme, which also features a cultural show.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Cultural workshop concludes in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

A 15-day workshop on different cultural subjects, organised by Shilpakala Academy in Mymensingh, concluded recently.

Around 500 participants from Shilpakala Academy and other institutions participated at the workshop. Later, they also performed on their respective workshop subject at the closing ceremony.

The subjects were: short film, rhythmic instruments, fine arts, classical and contemporary dances, recitation and music.

The trainers were: Md Maruf Hossain and Dr Poritosh Mondol from Dhaka, Ashik Sarker Tushar, Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) for music, Badal Chakraborty and Arif Hossain (fine arts), Rifah Sanjida Sonka (recitation), Ariful Islam Arnob and Tabanuun Mahadi (dance), Ustad AKM Shahabuddin Khan (flute), and Tuhinur Rahman Abanti, Chairperson, Film and Media Studies Department, JKKNIU (short film).



PHOTO: STAR

Poet Amjad Dulon and Sarwar Jahan were the event hosts. District cultural officer Arzu Parves delivered the welcome speech.

A discussion, presided over by additional district commissioner (General) Md Jahangir Alam, also took place on the closing day.

Classical maestro Ustad Sunil Dhar, theatre activist M Ferdous Hira, and recital artiste Mohammad Tareque Salahuddin, with classical artistes Bijon Topder, Prodig Chakraborty and Anwar Hossain were present at the closing ceremony, among others.