

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Self Deception
 Artist: Afrida Tanzim Mahi
 Venue: Kalakendra, Mohammadpur
 Date: October 21 – November 12
 Time: 4 pm – 8 pm

Art Exhibition
 Title: Feeling the Void by Hamiduzzaman Khan
 Venue: Dwip Gallery
 Date: October 7–November 3
 Time: 3 pm – 9 pm

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Pracher Prachin Dhara / The Ancient Lineage of The East
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New DOHS, Mohakhali
 Date: October 25 – November 10
 Time: 12 noon – 8 pm

Book Carnival
 Title: Worthy Unboxing
 Venue: Batighar
 Date: Today
 Time: 11 am – 5 pm

Musical Evening
 Title: Ghaashphoring Choir at Jatra Biroti
 Venue: Jatra Biroti
 Date: November 2
 Time: 7:30 pm – 10 pm

International theatre fest 'BotTala Ranga Mela 2019' to open on November 16

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The eleven-day international theatre festival, *BotTala Ranga Mela 2019*, organised by BotTala, a performance space, will begin from November 16. This is the third edition of the festival, which will take place at the premises of the Liberation War Museum, Agargaon. The opening programme will be inaugurated by renowned theatre personality Aaur Rahman, and State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid, MP, will be present as the chief guest. At the same time, young playwrights Sadhana Ahmed, Ruma Modak and Shubhashish Sinha will attend the opening ceremony as the special guests. Noted playwright-director-actor Mamunur Rashid will be conferred with the lifetime achievement award on the concluding ceremony of the festival, on November 26. A total of 10 troupes from five countries will perform in this year's

festival, including Bangladesh. The other participating countries are India, Iran, Nepal and Spain. Two troupes from Bangladesh including the host troupe BotTala and eight from the abroad will stage their plays everyday at 7:30 pm during the festival. *BotTala Ranga Mela 2019* will present the plays, *Crutch-er Colonel* (Bangladesh), *Amar Mukher Anchalkhani* (India), *Dilemmas Witch My Flamenco Tailcoat* (Spain), *Mysterious Gift* (Iran), *4.48 Psychosis* (Nepal), *Biswa Mangal* (India), *Macbeth* (Bangladesh), *Shluk* (India), *Blackhole* (India), *Acharya Profulla Chandra* (India) and *Khona* (Bangladesh). The festival will also feature screenings of documentaries, discussions, songs, dances and recitations. Like the previous years, eight theatre activists from eight divisions, who have been working diligently to promote theatre in the country, will be awarded at the festival.



PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEENEL

TÊTE-À-TÊTE WITH Ferdousi Majumdar

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Ferdousi Majumdar has been entertaining her fans with her phenomenal talent for the last five decades. Remembered for her acclaimed performances in the television show, *Songsoptok* and film, *Shonkhoneel Karagar*, the legend speaks to *The Daily Star* about her upcoming projects and more. **Tell us something about your upcoming film.** Throughout my career, I have been more involved with theatre and television dramas. Being less involved with films has now become a regret for me as an actor. Currently, I am working on Shahnewaz Kakoli's *From Bangladesh*. The film is based on the Liberation War. **Tell us about how you came across this project.**

Shahnewaz Kakoli first contacted my daughter Tropa, and expressed her interest in casting me in the film. After reading the script, I was impressed by the plot and I took it up. **Tell us a little about your character in the film.** *From Bangladesh* spans through 1947 to 1971 and I am playing the character of Kanonbala. She is the head of a family. Everything in the household happens according to her wishes. We are nearly done with the shooting of the film and it will be released soon. **What is your take on films and telefilms based on the Liberation War of Bangladesh?** I feel that films and television shows are a good way of letting the younger generations know about the history of our nation. I would want more projects to be done based

on the struggles of our independence. **You said you have regrets from your acting career. Can you elaborate a bit on that?** I have no regrets from my journey with television shows and theatre. I only regret that I have not acted as much in films, despite receiving many offers from acclaimed directors. I was offered a role in *Shurjo Dighol Bari*, but could not do it as my daughter was very young at that time. The role was later played by Dolly Anwar. **In what way does theatre play an important role in your career?** I have been very involved with theatre since the beginning of my career. I love this field, and I cannot even think of leaving it behind. I will always choose theatre over everything, when it comes to acting.

Samin Ahmed's 'Blue' dives deep into the senses

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Young singer-songwriter and entertainer Samin Ahmed has been singing since the age of four. The Maquarie University student has also formed a band in Australia, named Packing Dhaka. The talented artiste recently released a song, called *Blue*. The indie love ballad has been praised for its soothing tune and amicable presentation. Shot primarily in the Curl Curl Beach in Sydney, the music video is a treat to the eyes as well. "Sometimes, things just fall into place. When I sat down to write this song, I was able to finish it in about 20 minutes, as if it came from somewhere inside me," says Samin. The song is available on YouTube, and other online streaming platforms.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Taylor Swift set to receive Artist Of The Decade Award at 2019 AMAs

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Taylor Swift is set to receive the prestigious Artist of the Decade award at this year's American Music Awards (AMAs). She will also commemorate her career with a medley of her greatest hits throughout the years at the show. Swift not only has won more AMAs than any other artiste, but she also reigns as the female artiste with the most American Music Award wins with 23 awards, in total. Whitney Houston previously held the crown for the most wins for a female artiste. Swift has also won Artist of the Year at the AMAs four previous times. This year, the pop star is nominated in five categories, including Artist of the Year, Favorite Pop/Rock Female Artist, Favorite Music Video, Favorite Pop/Rock album and Favorite Adult Contemporary Artist.