

WHAT'S ON

Comedy Show
Title: Jomjomat Comedy Night
Date: November 23
Venue: Jomjomat Cafe-Gulshan
Time: 5:30 pm onwards

Theatre Festival
Title: BIC Theatre Festival
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 19 - November 23
Time: 5 pm onwards

Architectural Exhibition
Title: Mogomama: The Future of Our Habitate
Venue: Bengal Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 27 - 30
Time: 12 noon - 8 pm

Concert
Title: Rockpeace
Date: November 16
Time: 5 pm onwards
Venue: BIC

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Biren Sengupta
Title: Liberation War Bangladesh
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-4, Rd-6 (Dharmam)
Date: Nov 15-26
Time: 10am-8pm

Art Exhibition
Title: Inktober Dhaka 2019
Venue: EMK Centre, Dharmam
Date: November 9 - November 24
Time: 9:30 am - 8 pm

Sujata to receive the Lifetime Achievement award

Sujata, one of the most celebrated actors of the Bangladeshi film industry, has given back to back hits since her debut in Rupban (1965). She is to receive the National Film Award's Lifetime Achievement award for 2017-18. The veteran artiste talks about her illustrious career with The Daily Star.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
How do you feel about being a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award?
It is a matter of great joy and even greater honour. Every artiste dreams of getting a National Award. Even though my first award ever came later than I had expected, I am elated about it.
You have been acting for 53 years. What is your greatest achievement?
I started acting with the role of Rupban 53 years ago. However, people still remember me by the name 'Rupban'. What more could an actor ask for?
As a star of the golden age of Bangla cinema, who do you think should be credited for the films of that contemporary?
Obviously, the filmmakers! During that era, the directors used to give

emphasis on the stories. They invited good script writers, music composers and artistes. The whole team used to work in harmony and thus, the films are still remembered today.
Artistes, nowadays, seem to be a competitive mood, even outside their acting career. The recent Chalachitra Shilpi Samiti election can be one of the examples of such cases. What are your thoughts regarding this issue?
Back in the old days, we used to be like a family. We competed over our work as actors, but we never had such disputes. FDC wasn't like this, it was a place we loved.
Rupban' is one of the most successful movies in the history of Bangladesh cinema. As the lead actor of the film, tell us about the days you've left behind.
To begin with, Rupban did not get the recognition it deserved.

It was the film that chased Urdu films away from this country. After Rupban's success, there was an influx in Bangla cinema. Filmmakers chose to make films in Bangla over Urdu. While making the film, director Salahuddin had said that he wanted to make such a film that would manage to deviate people away from Urdu films and attract them towards films in Bangla. The folk film became an instant hit and was screened in cinema halls for years. Yet, the film did not get its proper recognition from the industry.
Tell us something about actor Azim, your life partner.
Azim was famous both as an actor and a director. However, I remember him for his kindness. Despite coming from a wealthy family, he never turned anyone away in their times of need. I miss him a lot.



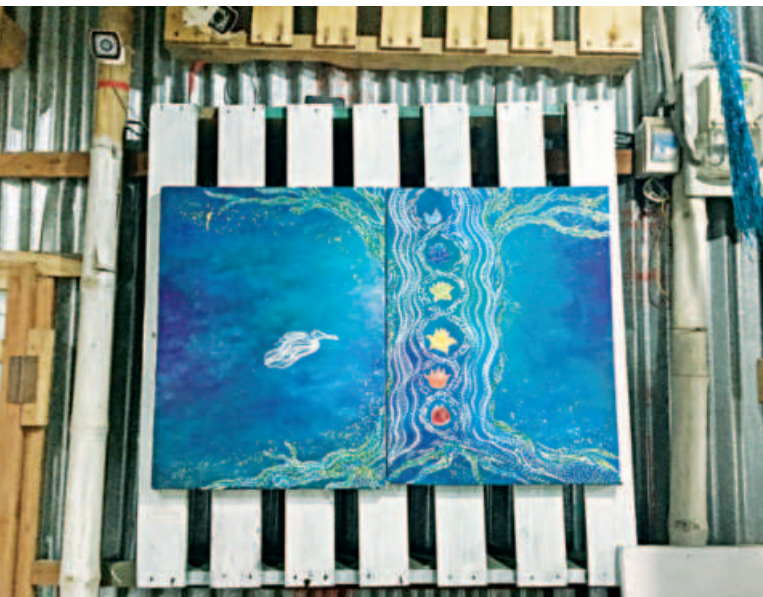
PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

'Akashey Phutechhey Phul': Hridi Haq's third theatrical production

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Actor-director-scriptwriter Hridi Haq's third directorial theatrical production *Akashey Phutechhey Phul* will be staged at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on December 1. The play is scripted by Dr Roton Siddique. The production is in association with Nagorik Nattayangan.
The plot of this drama revolves around the journey of *Leto Gan*, a variant of *Iqbal*, and how its legacy was threatened between 1905 and 1911. Later, National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam attempted to restore it in his teenage with works like *Rajputer Sabog*, *Chasara Sang*, and *Akbar Badsha*.
Besides working on its direction, Hridi will be seen in the role of Shaheda in the drama. "This drama is a *Leto Kahon* and has been scripted after a long period of research. We have been rehearsing since the past six months to make it as perfect as possible," says Hridi.



PHOTO: MADHIA ATHAR KHAN



MADHIA ATHAR KHAN

Begum Restaurant & Gallery is hosting a month long exhibition, titled Fana Fillah by artist Ayreen Khan, at its premises. The exhibition was inaugurated recently by a musical performance that featured Arnob, among others.

Ayreen Khan has been working on artworks for only about a year. Yet, her exploration of her own self and Sufism is relayed in her artworks



in a mature manner. Since her understanding of Sufism comes from passion, her emotions taken over her work and the observer



is mesmerised by her concepts. Paying lesser attention to technical skills, people's eyes tend to roam across the hues and shapes in the

paintings which seem to be in perpetual movement, mentions curator Ronni Ahmmed.
"Sufism is a path of purification that investigates the truth about self," said Ayreen about her journey in both the art and spiritual world. "This exhibition is the expression of a deeper desire to find my roots while unravelling the truth of universe."
What makes the exhibition most interesting is the location. Unlike other prominent galleries where audiences are expected in large numbers, this is located outside the main city. Visitors here will not only be treated with art but also with a serene environment, free from the hustle and bustle of Dhaka city. It also has a backyard amidst a small pond, bamboos and trees, open to all visitors.
This exhibition will conclude on November 30.

177th Ras Lila Festival held in Moulvibazar



PHOTO: STAR

MINTU DESHWARA, from Sylhet
The three-day long Maha Ras Lila festival of the Manipuri community of the Kamalganj Upazila in Moulvibazar district concluded yesterday. This was the 177th iteration of the festival.
Thousands of people, irrespective of religion, were present at the festival, which was held during *purvima* (full moon). The message of the event was of peace, harmony and humanity.
Shaym Singha, general secretary of Maha Ras Lila Seba Sangha, told *The Daily Star* that the love trysts of Krishna and Radha, are enacted through Manipuri music and dance drama.
Besides Ras Lila, a discussion, reception, presentation of martial arts, handicraft fair and other cultural events were also held at the festival.

PHOTO: STAR



'Charlie's Angels' premieres at Cineplex today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
The much talked about reboot of the Charlie's Angels franchise will premiere today at Star Cineplex. Starring Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott and Ella Ballinska, the film is directed by Elizabeth Banks. Charlie's Angels will release in Cineplex alongside the international release, and is expected to be a commercial success worldwide.

Face to face with Daler Mehndi

SHABARA IQBAL
Regarded as the undisputed king of Bhangra and the biggest pop sensation in the 90s in India, Daler Mehndi singlehandedly helped escalate Punjabi music on the global map. His debut song *Bolo Ta Ra Ra* (1995), redefined Bhangra, a genre previously considered to be strictly folk. Wearing his colourful turbans and long, flowing robes, he went on to deliver successful songs such as, *Nia Na Na Re* (1997) and *Tunak Tunak Tun* (1998), among others. Singing for the Indian film industry was probably a natural progression for Mehndi, who, with his uniquely resonant voice, had hits like *Rang De Basanti* (2006) and *Zor Ka Jhatka* (Action Replay, 2010). More recently, he sang for *Dangal* (2016), *Bahubali 2: The Conclusion* (2017) and *Uri: The Surgical Strike* (2019). Mehndi rocked the stage at the Dhaka International Folk Fest yesterday. Ahead of his performance, he sat down with *The Daily Star* for a candid chat.
Before we jump into music, tell us a little about your fashion style. You have created a very distinctive style for yourself which is instantly recognised worldwide. How did you come up with your iconic wardrobe?
I wanted a unique look for myself which would stand out from the crowd. It was also important for me to keep evolving my sense of fashion. So, I have tried different colour combinations for my turbans and different styles for my clothes throughout the years. Thus, my wardrobe became a part of my personality.
How does it feel to be in Bangladesh for the Dhaka International Folk Fest?
I have performed at weddings in Bangladesh before, but this is my



PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

first public concert here. I think it is a really nice place. I love the food here, especially *chingri maach*, *bhaat*, *alu bhaaji*, and of course, the *biryani*. I actually only came to know about the Dhaka International Folk Fest a few months ago. I hope that the audience enjoys our performance.
You were one of the forces behind the success of independent music when it was just taking off in India. How do you think your music helped the industry in the early years?
I am happy that my music helped the industry in a big way and carved a path for independent music. Before *Bolo Ta Ra Ra*, what worked most at discotheques and parties was English music. After that song came out, hotels, night clubs and other places started

playing it. I was producing honest and authentic Punjabi music that resonated with audiences across the globe.
Your song 'Kudiya Seher Diyan' was remade for the film, 'Poster Boys'. How do you see the trend of remakes in India?
Many popular songs of the yesteryears are reaching the younger generations because of the trend of remakes. It is good that they are remaking our own songs, and not going after or copying music of other nations.
Would you like to collaborate with any artistes from Bangladesh?
Absolutely! I have sang *Jiya Re Bahubali* in Tamil, Telugu and Hindi. And I would love to sing with any artist from Bangladesh. I don't know the language of the country, but I would love to try singing in it.



Loko Natya Dal will perform their new play, 'Amra Teen Jon' at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's National Theatre Hall at 7 pm today. This is their 6th showing of the play.



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Iti, Tomari Dhaka' hits theatres today

SHABARIN JOYA
The first Anthology film of Bangladesh, *Iti, Tomari Dhaka*, is set for release today. The Impres Telefilm production is an assortment of eleven short feature films by eleven exceptionally promising young filmmakers, with the city of Dhaka as its central theme.
The film has already made successful rounds at 25 different international film festivals across the globe, including the 23rd Busan International Film Festival (a window of Asian Cinema Section, World premiere), 13th Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival, Jogja, Indonesia (Asian perspective section) and 9th Asian Film Festival, Pune (Official Selection), among others. It won two awards under the category of Best Original Screenplay at 11th Jaipur Film Festival, and the prize of the Guild of Film Critics of Russia at Kazan International Muslim Film Festival.
Noted actors, including the likes of Fazlur Rahman Babu, Lutfur Rahman George, Nasrat Imrose Tisha and Shatabdi Wadud, alongside many other talented artistes of the industry, are featured in the film.
Nuhash Humayun's segment titled *The Background Artist* is the first film of *Iti*



PHOTO: COURTESY

The filmmakers with Faridur Reza Sagar, Managing Director, Impres Telefilm Ltd and Channel I, and Abu Shahed Emon, Creative producer of the film.

Tomari Dhaka. It features Fazlur Rahman Babu, Mostafizur Noor Imran and Irfan Sajjad, among others. "The beauty of being associated with this project was, I really got to sit and think about what story of Dhaka I want to tell," shared Nuhash. "The film is a comedy drama, that features a background artiste. It is a love letter to classic Bangla cinema."
Jinnah is Dead is the segment directed by Krishnendu Chattopadhyay. "My story depicts the Geneva camp, who supported Pakistan during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971," shared Krishnendu. "It is basically a film on the identity crisis of the Bihari community."
Syed Ahmed Shawki directed *Cheers*. "My story portrays two friends, I played by Orchina Sponshia and Saba played by Tanin Tanha, who plans to have liquor. They went off searching for it and face a great adventure around," said Shawki. "It is worth mentioning that consuming alcohol is illegal in Bangladesh."
Jiboner Gun/Jibon's Gun is directed by Rahat Rahman. "Allen Shubhro is the lead artiste in

this film," said Rahat. "The eleven stories are not directly connected to each other but each story is individually connected to Dhaka city." Tanvir Ahsan's *Where, Nowhere* features Tropa Majumdar and Shahnaz Shumi. "I am excited because this is my first work for the big screen," shared Tanvir.
The other stories are *Magfirat/Wounded Lies* by Md Robiul Alam, *Sounds Good* by Golam Kibria Farooki, *Obishshash e Dhaka* by Mir Mukarram Hossain, *Dhaka Meri* by Mahmud Hasan, *At for Mom's Murder* by Abdullah Al Noor and *Juthi* by Syed Saleh Ahmed Sobhan.
The creative producer of *Iti Tomari Dhaka*, Abu Shahed Emon shared his experience of making this project effective. "I don't believe that a filmmaker can bring change in the industry single-handedly." Emon believes that this was a great opportunity for him to bring the eleven promising young talents together, and make the first Anthology film of Bangladesh.
The film will be released in 16 cinema halls including STAR Cineplex, Blockbuster (Jamuna Future Park), and Balaka, among others.

Farooque Bhai Project's 'Golapi' dreams

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ
Farooque Bhai Project, helmed by talented funk-pop artist Issa Nibras Farooque, has captured the adoration of the ever-growing indie fan base in Bangladesh. *Golapi*, an upbeat pop song with a hilariously funny music video, was released by the project yesterday, and was instantly viral on social media. "First off, I would like to thank Nuhash Humayun for directing the wonderful video," says the artiste, "*Golapi* was more of a flex than an actual song. It is a fun and relatable experience."
Issa Nibras Farooque, who claims his music to be a "reflection" of his musical preference, resides in Toronto, Canada. However, he wants his music to resonate with the audience in Bangladesh. "Contrary to the trend of musicians aiming for an international audience, I want to go local. I want my people to like my music first."
Nuhash Humayun, a director who needs no introduction to the youth, faced quite a challenge while directing the video. "After the success of *Khola*, I received a lot of request for music videos," said Nuhash. "Directors are often spoiled



with high budgets, and this time, I had very little. However, there was something compelling about *Golapi* that instantly made me want to direct it." The director feels that Farooque Bhai Project is severely underrated, and more people should listen to the artiste.
"If you like the song, please go back and listen to the previous songs from my catalogue. I guarantee that you will enjoy it," says the artist known as Farooque Bhai, a rising star in the Bangladeshi music scene.



Renowned singer Kaderi Kibria will perform on Boishakhi TV's 'Boishakhi Shokaler Gaan' at 8:20 am today.