

WHAT'S ON



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Najib Tareque
Venue: Dwip Gallery, 1/1, Block-D, Lalmatia
Date: Nov 29 – Dec 15
Time: 3pm – 9pm (Except Mondays)



Theatre
Title: Renulota
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: December 9
Time: 6:30 pm



Art Exhibition
Title: For the Love of Country
Artist: Dr Farida Zaman
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
Date: December 6- December 11
Time: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm



Theatre Festival
Title: 14th Kendrio Barshik Natya Utshab 2019
Venue: TSC and Natyamondol Auditorium, DU
Date: December 1- December 10
Time: 6:00 pm



Film Festival
Title: 15th International Short & Independent Film Festival Dhaka 2019
Venues: Central Public Library, National Museum and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 7 – 13
Time: 4 pm (Opening Ceremony)
For more information, visit <http://siff-bd.org/>

A new chapter in MITHILA’S BOOK

Rafiath Rashid, popularly known as Mithila, is an actor, writer, a development professional, a mother and also an occasional singer – not necessarily in the mentioned order. Last night, she tied the knot with critically acclaimed director from India, Srijit Mukherji, in Kolkata, amidst close family members and friends. Today, she takes out some time to talk to us about herself, and her new chapter in life.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ELITA KARIM

Congratulations on your wedding! We are truly so happy for you!

Thank you so much!

Tell us a little about Srijit. How did you two meet?

Srijit and I first connected through Facebook. We had common friends, and became close down the line. Later on, we worked together on Arnob’s music video, which was made by his production company, Match-Cut Productions. We kept in touch and eventually, love happened!

What are you looking forward to from your new beginning?

I just want to enjoy life as it comes! I am not moving to Kolkata as of yet. However, even if I do move, nothing much will change in terms of my career in the development and entertainment sectors.

What immediate plans do you have shortly after?

I am starting my PhD in the University of Geneva in Switzerland, for which both of us are leaving for Geneva next week. This will be followed by a short honeymoon in Greece.

What kind of work have you been doing on TV lately?

I have been doing some ad-films, as well as photoshoots for products. This year, I was the brand ambassador for some renowned companies and products, such as Maggi, Domex and Meril, among several others. I am also regularly hosting a celebrity talk show called *Amar Ami* on BanglaVision. I usually work on fictions and telefilms only on Eid. But I am also thinking about working on some web based

fictions and series. I usually have to give it a thought before I say yes to a project, mainly because I have a day job and I also travel a lot for work.

Can you tell us a little about your day job?

I work for BRAC International, which implements the international operations of BRAC and currently work in 11 countries outside Bangladesh. I am the Head of Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme and currently overseeing projects in a few countries, namely Uganda, Tanzania and Liberia, where we promote learning through play, for early-years-education. I do a lot of country visits, attend international conferences, trainings, conduct

workshops etc. I am truly passionate about my work and this keeps me going! Seeing my dedication and how much of a workaholic I am, my friends and family at times jokingly tell me that I am married to BRAC!

You work for projects that focus on education for young girls. Can you tell us more about them?

I have a project running in East Africa, at the moment, where young dropout girls are brought back to the mainstream education system. These girls are identified and streamlined under a formal system, so that they can, at the very least, finish their basic education. They drop out for many reasons --- financial constraints to be the most

common one. So, once they are brought back to school after a hiatus for a year or more, we give them the remedial support so that the gaps can be filled. Of course, many would rather work more on their skills development. That is where we come in as well and help them out. Their skills usually include several vocations like hair dressing, using the computer to run a venture and so on. This programme is running quite well in Uganda and Tanzania. The girls, who are usually shy in the beginning, turn out to be confident within a few months.

You recently authored books for children. What was the response like?

I have always wanted to work on children’s literature. Two of my children’s books have already been published from BRAC, this year, for children aged between 1 to 5 years. I am working on my upcoming book project, targeting the Boi Mela 2020. I am collaborating with popular cartoonist Morshed Mishu to work on the illustration, and writer Anik Khan to help me with the edits. I am very much looking forward to this project since this would be a dream come true for me!

As the mother of a daughter, as well as someone who works with young women -- What, according to you, would be an ideal Bangladesh for our young girls?

When girls and women would not have to be scared to walk on the streets; would not be bullied, harassed and abused in public spaces and at home; when women will be respected, equally treated and not judged by the society; when women will be able to dream big, and parents and society would support them to achieve that dream -- that would be my ideal Bangladesh.



Mithila and Srijit Mukherji

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Legendary cinematographer Mahfuzur Rahman Khan passes away

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ten-time National Award winning cinematographer Mahfuzur Rahman Khan passed away at 12:26 am on December 6, at United Hospital, Dhaka.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her sympathy to the bereaved family members of Mahfuzur Rahman Khan.

The 70-year old artiste had been suffering from diabetes and lung problems for quite some time. Due to his health issues, Khan was hospitalised at the capital’s Green Life Hospital on November 26, where he was then kept in an intensive care unit (ICU) initially, and was later put on life support. With his condition becoming serious, he was shifted to United Hospital where he breathed his last.

The cinematographer received his first national film award for *Obhijaan*, a film directed by eminent actor



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Razzak. In his long career, Khan has cinematographed numerous films, including 8 films by Humayun Ahmed, for which he received 4 national awards. The films were-- *Srabon Megher Din*, *Din Duari*, *Amar Ache Jol*, and *Ghetuputra Komola*. He has also received the Bachsas (Bangladesh Chalachitra Sangbadik Samity) Awards 8 times, along with Meril Prothom Alo Awards.

Born on May 19, 1989, in Lalbagh, Old Dhaka, the acclaimed cinematographer started his career under the guidance of eminent cinematographer Abdul Latif Bachchu. His notable works include, *Kacher Shwargo*, *Meghla Akash*, *Chandragrohon*, *Dhaka 86*, *Nandito Noroke*, and *Ek Cup Cha*, among many others.

Being the eldest among his 8 siblings, Khan had spent his last days at his residence in Chawkbazar. His wife Dr Nirafat Alam Shipra passed away in 2001 due to cancer.

Khan’s *Namaz-e-Janazah* was held at Chawkbazar’s Shahi Mashjid. After the *Jumma* prayers, Khan’s body was taken to Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC). He was buried in Azimpur Graveyard, yesterday.

In memoriam: Khalil Ullah Khan

The classic Dhallywood baddie



PHOTO: STAR

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Today marks the fifth death anniversary of prolific actor Khalil Ullah Khan, who left us in awe of his classy, baritone voice. His voice never failed to assume command over his audience, and would transcend his typecast role, transforming even the character of an intimidating landlord into someone who brought into play a lot more than just being a ‘villain’.

Khalil, a menacing villain in Bangla films, began his acting career on the big screen in 1953 through *Sonar Kajol*. The film was produced by Masud Chowdhury, who discovered him, and directed jointly by Kalim Sharafi and Zahir Raihan.

After being originally cast for Masud Chowdhury’s *Preet Jane Na Reet* opposite Shabnam, (with whom he would go on to later form a successful screen pair), he was replaced by the romantic hero Rahman, who seriously injured one of his legs in an accident during the shoot. Khalil was re-cast in the film after the incident.

There was no looking back for the actor after that. He starred in Pakistan’s first colour film – Zahir Raihan’s *Sangam* – and became

a successful lead actor, working in 11 films, before being detached from the filmdom for a while as Urdu films saw a decline in the erstwhile East Pakistan in the late 1960s. After Bangladesh’s independence, he revived his career through films such as *Utshorgo* and *Ekhane Akash Neel*. Khalil also ventured into the small screen, most notably in *Sangsaptak* and *Bhangoner Shobdo Shumi*, and appeared in numerous adverts as well.

Having spent his childhood in Sylhet, Khalil’s love for acting blossomed early. He was given his job as an Ansar officer back in 1977 – a year after he’d won the National Film Award for Best Actor in the film *Gunda* – and served the force with integrity. He continued to work in films, however, be it as the heroine’s rich father or the kingpin of a notorious gang.

With his sincerity and devotion, Khalil took Bangla cinema to a different height. He acted in more than 800 films in his career. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Film Awards in 2012.

His unique voice, square jaw and cold gaze will remain etched on the minds of film lovers and serve as a source of inspiration for the generations of actors to come.



Notuner Utshab 2019: Lottery

‘Lottery’, directed by Mostafiz Shahin, was staged on the last day of Nagorik Natya Sampradaya’s ‘Notuner Utshab 2019’. The special play, produced by Mongoldeep Foundation, with creative support from Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, featured a stellar performance by visually impaired actors. Abul Hayat, vice-president of the troupe, presided over the closing ceremony. Renowned playwright-researcher, Professor Abdus Selim and renowned actor-director Tarik Anam Khan attended the event as special guests.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED