

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Stand-up Comedy Show Title: Stand-up Comedy Show, Naveed's Comedy Club Venue: Wind Blows, Uttara Date: December 21; Time: 7 pm Tickets: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqp4UnHtgeIDt_6NUSUbdMr7593rCLxK_45nYfK39nkeA/viewform</p>	<p>Concert Title: 20 years of Artcellism Venue: ICCB Expo Zone Date: December 24 Time: 3 pm onwards</p>	<p>Concert Title: Big Rock Day V.2 Hosted by: Blues Communications Limited Venue: ICCB Expo Zone Date: December 21; Time: 3 pm – 9 pm For more info: https://www.facebook.com/events/825389451251506/?active_tab=discussion</p>	<p>Concert Title: Miles 40th Anniversary Venue: ICCB, Hall – 3 Date: December 24 Time: 6 pm onwards</p>	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall, Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi Date: Dec 17 – Feb 15 Time: 1 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)</p>
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Asha Bhosle



Rahat Fateh Ali Khan



Adnan Sami



Hariharan

PHOTOS: STAR & COLLECTED

Runa Laila's stellar collaboration project with four living legends

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Runa Laila, the melody queen, has been entertaining audiences with her beautiful voice for decades. The singer also composes music. She received her first National Film Award as a music composer recently for the film, *Ekti Cinemar Golpo*, directed and produced by Alamgir. These days, she is busy working with renowned musical maestros from India for her new album, *Runa Laila featuring Legends Forever*. The album's five new tracks has Asha Bhosle, Adnan Sami, Hariharan, and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, singing Runa Laila's compositions. The first song of the album, *Chole Jawa Dheu*, by living legend Asha Bhosle, premiered on December 13 on the official Facebook page and YouTube channel of City Bank Limited and *The Daily Prothom Alo*. The song is written by Kabir Bakul and the music video is directed by Shahrear Polock. The director of photography for the track is Nazmul Hasan.

The next installment from the album, *Aj Eto Din Por*, written by Kabir Bakul and sang by Runa Laila herself, was released on December 15. The track, *Ke Bole Nei Bhalobasha* with music maestro Hariharan on vocals and Moniruzzaman Monir's lyrics, was released on December 17.

The fourth number, *Bhalobasha Por Hoyeche*, featuring Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, was released at 8:00 pm, yesterday. The final installment of the album, *Thako Jokhoni Tumi Chokheri Arale*, featuring renowned singer Adnan Sami in a duet with Runa Laila is set to release soon. Raja Kaasheff has arranged the music for the album. The songs were recorded in Yash Raj Studios, Mumbai, Ajivasaan Studios, Mumbai, In The Mix Studio, Mumbai and Studio REAK, Lahore. The songs are being mixed and mastered in Hi-Street Studio, London. The album is sponsored by City Bank Limited.



Runa Laila

Chhayanaut's 'Shuddha Sangeet Utshab' begins today



PHOTO: STAR

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Chhayanaut's annual *Shuddha Sangeet Utshab*, begins today at their main auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The two-day classical music festival, featuring sessions of vocal and instrumental music, will end on December 21.

The festival will be formally inaugurated by eminent tabla exponent Pabitra Mohan Dey from Mymensingh.

Besides group performances by Chhayanaut artistes, Satindranath Halder, Anil Kumar Saha and Swarnamoy Chakraborty will perform. Murtaza Kabir Murad will present a solo flute recital,

and siblings Sabuj Ahmed (tabla), Shanto Ahmed (violin) and Kamrul Ahmed (flute) will perform on the opening day.

The second session will set off on December 20, and will continue till the next morning. Apart from chorus, vocal and group tabla performances by artistes of Chhayanaut, several noted and promising vocalists, like Khairul Anam Shakil, Razwan Ali, Asit Kumar Dey, Shekhar Mondal and Bizon Chandra Mistry will perform, while Ebadul Huq Shaikat (sitar) and Rajrupa Chowdhury (sarod) will present instrumental recitals, among others, at the nightlong session.

TV WATCH



Today's episode of the popular Channel i programme on agriculture, '*Hridoye Mati O Manush*' will feature actor Moushumi's rooftop garden. Planned, directed and hosted by Shykh Seraj, the episode goes on-air at 3:05 pm.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Victory Day celebrations in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

Marking the Victory Day, a week-long festival, held in Mymensingh, concluded recently. The event, organised by Mymensingh district administration and Muktiyuddha Sangsad Mymensingh district unit, featured various cultural programmes, where over 50 cultural groups performed.

The celebration began with an inaugural ceremony on December 10, reminiscing the history of Mymensingh's liberation from the Pak Occupation Army forces in 1971. State minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain was the chief guest with Md Mizanur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Mymensingh in the chair. A colourful rally, led by freedom fighter and ex-minister for Religious Affairs Principal Motiur Rahman, was also organised prior to the opening ceremony.

The celebrations included discussion meetings on the Liberation War of Bangladesh, cultural performances, art competitions and photo exhibitions. Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, Mymensingh, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Chhayanaot Sahitya Sangskritik



PHOTO: STAR

Academy, Onsumble Theatre, Bahurupi Natya Sangstha, Nrittyadhara, Bidrohi Natya Goshthi, Shilon Abriti Charcha Kendra, Sandipon Sangskritik Sangstha and Mymensingh Nazrul Academy performed at the fiests, among others.

Marking the occasion, different socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions, including Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU), hosted day-long programmes.

Shilcharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala organised an art competition on 'Liberation War' for children at its premises where around 76 children participated.

Alokchitra Shilpi Sangsad organised a day-long photography exhibition at the city's Baishakhi Moncha at Zainul Park. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mayor of Mymensingh City Corporation Ekramul Hoque Titu. Around 220 photographs, mostly on Liberation War, were on display at the exhibition.

Quintessence of stage creativity

ABDUS SELIM

With the slogan, *Aai Natoker Ongone*, seven new plays, written by young playwrights and directed by young directors, were staged throughout Nagorik Natya Sampradaya's Notuner Utshab 2019 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, from November 29 to December 5. We chronically complain about the severe dearth of original plays for our stage, and that in turn, makes us sadly reliant on translations. But this festival clearly endorsed that if incentivised properly, our theatre sector can shine. Nagorik Natya Sampradaya not only undertook and sponsored the project, but also meticulously implemented it. Aly Zaker, Sara Zaker and their team deserve praise for accomplishing this cultural mission and being productive mentors of the event, which was a quintessence of stage creativity.

Kalo Joler Kabbo, the opening play of the festival, is a subtext story, adapted by Pantho Shahrar from Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. He metamorphosed Shylock into a Bangladeshi shipbreaker, Bhanganari, and set the story inside a huge broken ship. In spite of the implicit disintegration in the storyline, the set, props, lighting and music, the play had a lasting impact on the audience. The cast was remarkably rich with actors like Asaduzzaman Noor, Aupi Karim, Pantho Shariar, Mahfuz Reezvi and Mostafiz Shaheen.

For the biographic play, *Radharomon*, produced by Shunamganj Proscenium and Bondhon Theatre, the playwright and director Shameem Sagar focused upon the Baul songs composed by Radharomon. With its vast canvas and pervasiveness, the play had a compelling appeal throughout its run. The use of bamboos, local fabrics and a lantern

was aesthetically pleasing. With a mix of traditional and contemporary musical and choreographic notes, the play was one of the highlights of the event.

Aakashe Phuitech Phul - Leto Kahon, written by Dr Ratan Siddiqui, directed by Hridi Haq and produced by Nagorik Natyangon Bangladesh, is a historical and political collage through *Leto Gaan*, a modification of



Kalo Joler Kabbo

PHOTO: STAR

jatra, combining mingling discourses, songs, dance, and music. Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam had his association with this genre for a long time, which came as a relevant reference in the play. Haq used the scope and space for musicals to full effect in the story. Though the set, light, props, costumes, and music were brilliant, as *Leto* is has reached its phase of extinction, some of the acting and gestures appeared to be too raw and out of place, for those who are

unfamiliar with the genre.

Sayedur Rahman Lypon directed *Aruproton*, an earlier version of Tagore's famous play, *Raja*, on behalf of Porishor. Lypon retold the tale in his own way, by splitting the storyline and putting plenty of Tagore songs in between scenes, which went very well with the temperament of the play. However, many critiqued it as a transformation of a serious play into a musical.

Khoabnama, an acclaimed novel by Akhteruzzaman Elias, was adapted for the stage by Mohammad Showkat Hossain for Prachyanat. The director of the play, Kazi Toufiqul Islam Emon, gave visual shapes to the stream of consciousness narratives in the play, laden with surrealistic images and abstractions, which was challenging for him. The set and light, apart from the costumes, acting and dialects, were good, but the play did not achieve the full effect.

O Mon Pahiya, produced by Monipuri Theatre, constructed and directed by Subhasis Sinha, focused on the deepest desires of the human heart. The play built a bridge between myth and reality by means of the group's inimitable teamwork and a mix of Monipuri and progressive choreography. The set had its root in *moirang* motif, the costumes were exploratory, and use of light was engaging.

The last play of the festival, *Lottery*, written by Siddique Ahmed and Aunup Aich and directed by Mostafiz Shaheen for Mongoldeep Foundation, featured visually-impaired actors, who did wonders on the stage. The dramaturge Sara Zaker, light designer Nasirul Haq Khokon, set designer Junaied Yusuf, music composer Shimul Saiful, designer Joyita, props designer Monira, chorographer Farhad, and other members of the Mongoldeep team, deserve a sweeping applause for their effort.



Riva Ganguly Das, the High Commissioner of India in Dhaka, inaugurated the exclusive art exhibition, titled '*Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition*' as the chief guest at Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall of Bengal Shilpalay in Dhanmondi on December 17. Renowned artist Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, attended the event as the special guest. The exhibition is showcasing selected artworks by 13 modern and pioneering Bangladeshi and Indian artists from the collection of Abul Khair, the Chairman of Bengal Foundation. The show, opening from 1pm to 8pm daily except Sundays, will conclude on February 15, 2020.

PHOTO: COURTESY

CORPORATE BOOKING

Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will be reserved on 19th December (Thursday), 2019 for Corporate Booking.

From 20th December (Friday), 2019 Fantasy Kingdom and Water Kingdom will remain open for all.

Contact: 01913531474, 01913531522

