

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Coronavirus concerns delay Shyam Benegal's film on Bangabandhu

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

The coronavirus, which has been rapidly spreading across India, has taken a toll on the shooting schedule of Shyam Benegal's forthcoming film on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The film is a joint venture between Bangladesh and India, commemorating Bangabandhu's birth centenary.

According to Esha Yousof, the producer of the project from Bangladesh, the film's shooting was set to start from March 18 in Kolkata, but the outbreak of the virus has resulted in schedule disruptions. "We cannot risk the lives of our cast and crew," she added. As of now, shooting for

the film's first schedule is expected to begin in September, Esha said. Sequences showcasing the early life of Bangabandhu would have begun at Tetia village in Narayanganj, according to her.

Esha further said that the opening slot of the shoot was planned for about a month, including some days in a studio in Dhaka, with a total of close to 300 members of the cast and crew from India and Bangladesh.

On the other hand, Benegal said that the delay will let the cast and crew have some more preparation time for the large-scale production. "Besides, the house in Tungipara needs to be built, keeping the ambience of that period in mind," added the internationally acclaimed director.

Dhaka Padatik celebrates 40 years of excellence

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Dhaka Padatik, one of the leading theatre groups in the country, arranged a two-day long event at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, commemorating the groups' 40 years.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA yesterday. Eminent theatre and television personality Asaduzzaman

Noor graced the event as chief guest while Mizanur Rahman, President of Dhaka Padatik presided over the event.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote President, Golam Kuddus and Secretary of Bangladesh Group Theater Federation, Kamal Bayezid were present during the celebrations.

Dramatist and theatre personality, M Hamid received the Abul Kashem Dulal

Smriti Padak this year, while Asma Akhtar Liza received the Jakir Hossain Smriti Padak.

Dhaka Padatik's popular play, *Kotha-71* was staged at the event.

Trial of Surya Sen, written and directed by Masum Aziz, will be staged today at the Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA, concluding the two-day long event.



'Bloodshot' hits Star Cineplex today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bloodshot is an American superhero film directed by David S F Wilson. It is set to hit all branches of Star Cineplex today, along with its US release.

With the story from Jeff Wadlow, the screenplay of the film is written by Wadlow and Eric Heisserer.

Bloodshot is based on the Valiant Comics character of the same name and it is intended to be the first instalment in a series of films set in the Valiant Comics cinematic universe.

Apart from Vin Diesel, the film also stars Eiza González, Sam Heughan, Toby Kebbell, and Guy Pearce, among others, in different roles.

'Jolkonya' draws a positive response

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The group art exhibition, *Jolkonya*, showcased works by emerging female and male artists concluded recently at Bishwo Sahitta Kendro. The paintings at the show depicted the lives of rural women, mother-daughter relationships, Goddess Durga, women's contributions to the society as well as incidents of violence against women.

The four-day exhibition was arranged by Jolkonya, an organisation of female artists who have been working together for establishing women's rights through art. The exhibition featured 39 paintings by 19 artists, which were created using a range of media, including watercolour and acrylic on canvas and paper. Writer and novelist Hasnat Abdul Hye inaugurated the exhibition on March 8 as the chief guest.

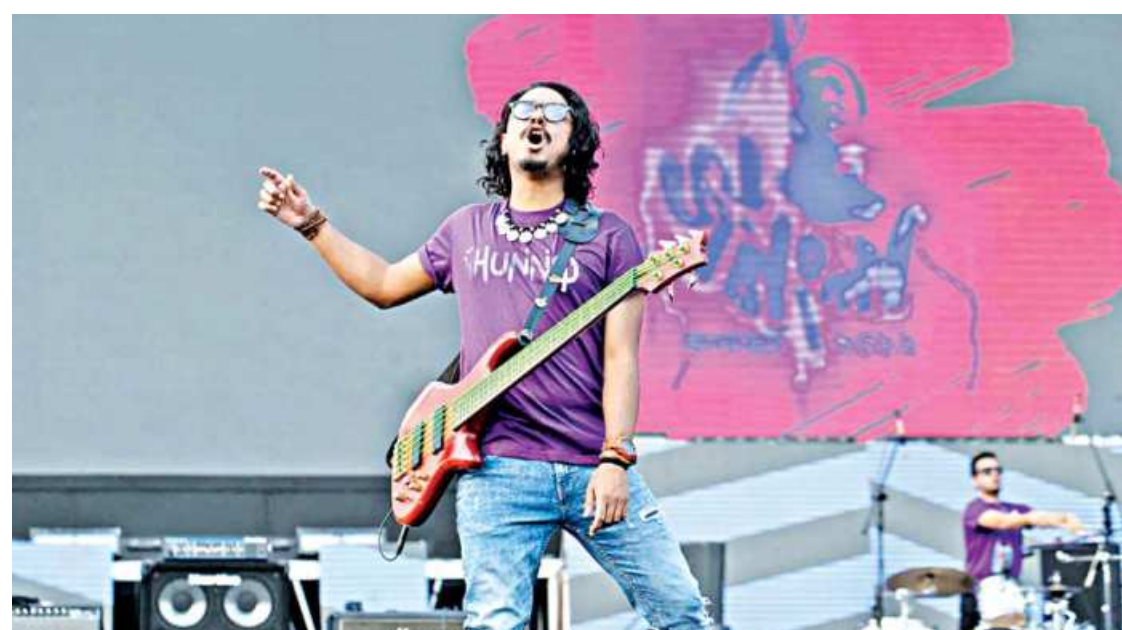
The participating artists at the exhibit included Suporna Alice Gomes, Sabia Nasrin, Alina Chakma, Anamika Sur, Afrin Sultana, Alicen Griffith Gomes, Farhana Ferdausi, Farzana Alam, Hridi Arddra Ahmed, Jaquiline Ria Rozario, Meghamala Aka, Mustari Fahmida Afrin, Nibadita Mondol, S B Nusrat Jahan, Shuchita Saparya, Sneha Caren Gomes and Tania Farabi along with male artists Palash Kumar Das and Mahfuzur Rahman.

Suporna Alice Gomes's acrylic painting, *My Mother 2*, represented the bond between a mother and daughter. Afrin Sultana's acrylic and mixed media painting, *Break the Silence* showed a woman screaming as a perpetrator approaches her. In the background, the artist used newspaper cuttings that showed news headlines of violence against women.

Meghamala Aka's acrylic painting, *Durga Rupri Chhatri*, symbolised the power of women portrayed through Goddess Durga, while Tania Farabi's *Reddish Wounds in Violent Swings*, a realistic rendition, depicted a woman's head grabbed from behind, while she was being gagged by another pair of hands. Alina Chakma's watercolour, *Kaj*, portrayed ethnic women working in a jhumfield.



PHOTO: COURTESY



"Mik-L" Gomes was recently endorsed by international musical brand, Yamaha. The bass player from Shunno is the first Bangladeshi artiste to be an official ambassador for the brand.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Tom Hanks announces positive test for coronavirus

Tom Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson have both tested positive for coronavirus, the US actor announced recently. Hanks said he and Wilson came down with a fever while in Australia, where he is reportedly filming the upcoming movie about the life of Elvis Presley.

"To play things right, as is needed in the world right now, we were tested for the coronavirus, and were found to be positive," he wrote in a statement posted to Instagram.

The pair will now be isolated and monitored, wrote Hanks.

"We'll keep the world posted and updated," he added, along with a photo of a surgical glove placed inside a biohazard trash bag.

Hanks is the first major Hollywood star to publicly state that he has the virus that is sweeping around the world.

According to a reports, the Elvis film, directed by Baz Luhrmann, features Hanks as the legendary singer's longtime manager Colonel Tom Parker.

SOURCE: AFP

