

**WHAT'S ON**  
20th National Art Exhibition  
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 22-July 12  
Time: 11am-8pm



**Domestic Film Festival**  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segunbagicha  
Date: July 3-10  
Time: 5pm



**Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Passion for Blue  
Artist: Gopal Chandra Saha  
Venue: Institute of Asian Creatives, Gulshan-2  
Date: July 5-15  
Time: 12pm-8pm



**Borshamongol**  
Organiser: Rabirag  
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh  
Date: July 6  
Time: 7pm



**Celebrating 100 years of National Museum**  
Venue: Main Auditorium, N. Museum  
Date: August 6-8  
Time: 4pm



**NEWS bytes**

**Megadeth launch new music video**

Megadeth have just unveiled a music video for their newest album's title track, "Super Collider." The clip tells the story of two students who fall for each other after a mishap in science class, only to be torn apart by a furious father played by Megadeth's own Dave Mustaine.

"Super Collider" was inspired by the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator. A picture of the engineering wonder was even used for the 'Super Collider' album art, so it makes sense that the science theme continues into the 'Super Collider' music video.

Source: Loudwire



**Fall of a soldier**

**Shabda Shainik Bipul Bhattacharya passes away**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bipul Bhattacharya was among those who used their creative abilities to inspire the nation during the Liberation War. He was a member of the troupe "Bangladesh Mukti Shangrami Shilpi Shangstha" (BMSSS) which travelled to and performed at refugee and freedom fighter camps during the war. Artists like him were able to keep the dream of independence alive through their songs.

Dalia Nausheen, one of his co-artists at BMSSS, reminisced about the artiste to The Daily Star: "Bipul was very young when we started our campaign in India during the war. He was lively, energetic and kept our spirits up. But as the situation in the country worsened, he evolved as an artiste, and his powerful yet melodious voice boomed aloud at freedom fighters' camps. His illness in the last few years broke him down mentally because he could not do music; it's something he always wanted to do."

Timir Nandi, noted singer and Bhattacharya's childhood friend, said "I was very close to him right from our very early days. He was a gifted musician; one of the very few who folk legend Abdul Alim had personally blessed. He has done great things for Bangladeshi folk music; Bipul popularised the songs of our roots to the general people by a great deal. My biggest regret remains that I could not be beside him in his very last moment."

Rafiqul Alam had also recalled the days of the war

with Bhattacharya: "He was very active throughout the mission. Through our songs, we embodied the dream of a liberated Bangladesh. In between, we participated in the programmes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra."

BMSSS' journey was documented on film by American filmmaker Lear Levin during the war. Twenty-five years later, Tareque and Catherine Masud recovered the footage from Levin's basement and used it in their award-winning film "Muktir Gaan".

In an interview a few years back, Tareque and Catherine Masud had mentioned Bipul Bhattacharya as the "soul of 'Muktir Gaan'". His voice, singing uplifting folk songs about the Liberation War, infused the film with power and grace. Without Bipul Bhattacharya, there would be no 'Muktir Gaan', they added.

After the war, Bhattacharya continued his musical journey in the country through countless live performances. He later joined Bangladesh Betar as a music producer, and formed a troupe named 'Mallika Sangeet Shamaroho'. He also served as a teacher for folk music at one of the most prominent music schools in the country, Chhayanaut.

The artiste breathed his last yesterday morning at a hospital in the capital. He had been suffering from lung cancer since 2010.

A number of artistes and cultural organisations expressed grief at the demise of the artiste. His body will be kept at the Central Shaheed Minar today from 11am-12:30pm for people to pay their last tributes.



**Spelling Bee**

**Atiqul Huq strives for excellence**

SHAHNOOR RABBANI

Atiqul Huq, a class 10 student of Anandaniketan School, Sylhet became the second finalist after being the top scorer in the Spelling Bee semi-final on Wednesday. He is no stranger to the competition as he made it to the TV Rounds last year as well but this year he says he is better prepared than he was last year.

"I never stopped practicing for this competition but being the second highest scorer in the Online Spelling Bee Game from Sylhet Division this time was really something I was not expecting. It was a good moment," he says.

"Overall, I think I am better prepared this time around. I knew what to expect so I wasn't as nervous as I was last year," he says.

Currently, Atiq practices two hours every day to prepare himself for the final; he realises that he will face stiff competition in the final.

"I know that everyone in my school and family are expecting me to do well; there is pressure, but I'll just have to give it my best shot and hopefully luck goes my way."

**It's True!**

*Crunk (or Krunk) is a music style that originated in Memphis, Tennessee in the mid-to-late 1990s and gained mainstream success around 2003-04. An archetypal crunk track most frequently uses a drum machine rhythm, heavy bassline, and shouting vocals, often in call and response manner. The term "crunk" is also used as a blanket term to denote any style of Southern hip hop, a side effect of the genre's breakthrough to the mainstream. The word derives from a slang past-tense form of the verb "to crank" (as in the phrase "crank up").*



**Twists in the tales**  
"Revisiting the Epics" staged in Delhi

KAVITA, New Delhi

Plays based on Indian mythological stories have been done to death. But the recently staged "Revisiting the Epics" with its blend of drama, dance and narrative has chartered some interesting territory. The one-hour production features three scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata through a different lens. Says Sujata Soni Bali, the talented director of the play, who braved the challenge of bringing diverse art forms adroitly together: "We have captured the essence and brought forth in a matter of a short duration the power of the tales... Our idea is not to portray the entire tale, nor is the intent to preaching the scriptures. The idea is just to stimulate, provoke thought and have folk today reach out to revisit these amazing tales yet again! To bring out some known and some lesser known aspects."

The opening scene is from the Ramayana. An alternately distraught and hopeful Sita sits forlorn as awaits news from her beloved husband Rama. Abducted by the demon king Ravana of Lanka, she longs to be reunited with Rama. Finally rescued from captivity after a year, she is aggrieved to learn that doubts are being expressed about her chastity. She offers to undergo a test by fire (agni pariksha) from which she miraculously comes out unscathed. But fingers continue to be pointed at her. The scene has some excellent contemporary dance. There is also the narrator Tom Alter, a well known Indian actor of

American origin who in his baritone voice amuses as the perpetually dozy yet moderate Kumbhakama, Ravana's brother and takes on a serious tone when he voices the entreaties of Vibhishana, Ravana's wise brother, to return Sita to her husband.

The second and third episodes centre on the Mahabharata, the complex epic with its plots and sub plots. These scenes cover the famous game of dice, Draupadi's reflection and regrets on her marriage to the five Pandavas, her vastraharan (disrobing) by the Kauravas as well as Arjun's son Abhimanyu's death at the hands of the Kauravas. The Chhau and Kalaripayattu dances in these episodes perfectly convey the famous war that forms the heart of the Mahabharata.

There are lesser known facets of the Mahabharata that also find a place in the production. For example, Draupadi's regrets about her rejection of Karna, when he sought her hand in marriage, her marriage to the Pandavas, all because in her previous life she had asked Lord Shiva to grant her the boon of a husband with 14 qualities.

There are no blacks and whites in the characters of "Revisiting the Epics". As Sujata concludes, "Ravana even after kidnapping Sita, never violated her! He was the most learned man in that era." On the other hand as the play reveals, the revered Rama was a mortal with feet of clay. It is also a pointer to contemporary times be it in the sphere of politics and manipulation, morals, dilemmas or gender issues.

**NOSTALGIA**  
**Unforgettable Jahangirnagar days**

**... Shahiduzzaman Selim**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Shahiduzzaman Selim is a household name in Bangladesh's entertainment arena. For more than two decades, he has left his impression on the stage, TV and the silver screen alike. In recent years, apart from powerful roles in films like "Devdas" and "Chorabali", he has concentrated on direction, and has found success there as well. In a conversation with The Daily Star, the veteran artiste reminisced about his student days.

"I spent my early years in Dhaka, mostly in Shantibaag and Shantinagar. Later, my family moved to the old parts of Dhaka, of which I have some great unforgettable memories. I also stayed in Tangail for a while during my childhood.

"I cherish my days in Old Dhaka; I stayed there through class seven to nine. I was deeply involved in sports. We played football all around, and I even had the chance to be on the field as a hired player. Another fun experience was roaming around the streets of Old Dhaka. The variety of food Old Dhaka has to offer was also a key ingredient of my teenage years.

"My first school was Tangail Bindubashini Government High School, where I stayed till class two. After coming to Dhaka, I was admitted to a school in Shantibaag and later went on to pass my SSC from Motijheel Ideal School.

"I was a restless kid. I never had a shred of calmness in my bones. Our batch in school was the most notorious one. There was not a single naughty thing that we



didn't do. We would bunk classes to watch films, steal fruits from trees etc. Back then, we had to go to Modhumita or Obhishar cinema hall to catch a silver screen feature.

"It's no wonder that I was punished a lot too. In our days, Ideal School was the strictest among all Dhaka schools. They used to make us stand up on the bench and hit us with canes.

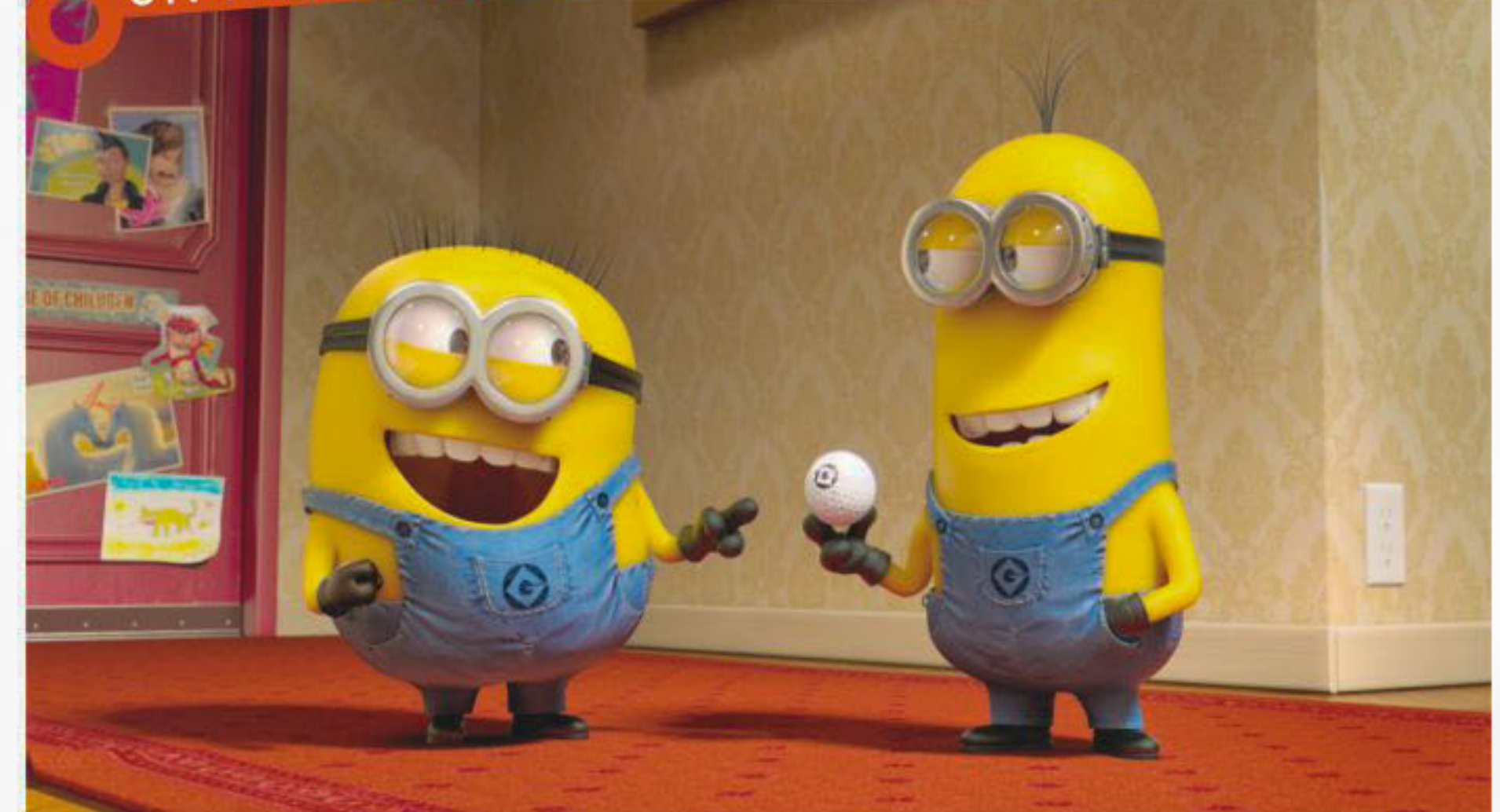
"On some days, my friends and I would decide on skipping the class of a particular teacher. We would leave the classroom together and the teacher would arrive to find the class half empty. Naturally, a notice would be waiting for us all in the following class, and the final penalty was dealt using a cane.

"Looking back, I will never forget the ceaseless addas I had during my years at Jahangirnagar University. I loved my room, which was 458(B) at the Mir Mosharrif Hossain Hall. I was a student of economics and we had a great staircase near our department. It was right behind a theatre stage. That staircase was our preferred adda venue.

"We would chat whenever we had a break between classes. A second round of Adda would begin in the evening and continue till early hours of the day.

"I miss a lot of things from my past, but what I miss the most is the Jahangirnagar University campus, its classrooms, my dorm room. I've visited many countries, but no place had been able to claim a place in my heart like the Jahangirnagar University campus."

**ON THE SCREEN**



**Despicable Me 2**

**Naughty but too nice**

Previously on "Despicable Me"... Supervillain Gru (Steve Carell) traded in his badge of dishonour to adopt three adorable moppets. He also attempted to steal the moon, but that's OK because he put it back afterwards.

"Despicable Me 2" finds him happily ensconced in malevolence-free bliss, hosting balloon-strewn birthday parties, dressing up as the ugliest fairy princess you've ever seen and setting up his own jelly-making industry. Oh, and he's falling head over pointed nose in love with Lucy Wilde (Kristen Wiig), the spunky Anti-Villain League agent who needs his help.

There's a lot rammed into this soapy sequel to Universal's surprise 2010 hit. Where that film zapped superhero flicks with a convention-flipping 'subversion ray' to laugh-out-loud effect, DM2 is about as straightforward as they come. As Gru goes undercover at a mall in search of an evil scientist who's concocted a monster-making serum, there's nary a hint of his former wicked humour, fatherhood seemingly having dulled his penchant for anarchy. But who are we kidding? The real stars

of the "Despicable Me" series are, of course, Gru's sweetcorn-shaped minions (Kevin, Stuart et al). Infante, indestructible, impossible to keep a straight face around, they're deployed in full force here as gag polyfills. They're as dependable as Scrat from "Ice Age" when it comes to inflating pancake-roll scenes and by the time the climax rolls around, they've become the focus of an increasingly scattershot plot that's part parenthood lecture, part romantic comedy.

Between a crackpot scheme to explode a volcano (we're still not sure why), too many mall scenes, and its insistence on turning Gru's lovably unlikely brood into a nuclear family, DM2 is a pale imitation of its fresh and frisky predecessor.

If you've come for the sidekicks, though, you'll be reminded that good things come in small packages. The film, directed by Pierre Coffin and Chris Renaud, released in USA on Wednesday, has so far received ratings of 8 and 7.5 from film database and rating sites IMDb and Rotten Tomatoes respectively.

Source: Totalfilm



Dancers perform during a rehearsal of the ballet "Robot!" by Spanish choreographer Blanca Li during the 33rd Montpellier dance festival in France. Featuring eight dancers whose movements trigger musical robots, the performance ends at the Opera Comedie today.

PHOTO COURTESY: BBC