

WHAT'S ON
Bengal Classical Music Festival
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka
 Date: Nov 28- Dec 1
 Time: 5:30pm-5am



BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2013
 Dhaka, Bangladesh
 In association with ITC Sangeet Research Academy

Art Exhibition
 Title: Pater Gaan Banglar Bagh
 Artist: Nazir Hossain
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali
 Date: Nov 15-24



Group Exhibition
 Title: Very Graphic: The Art of Storytelling in Graphic Detail
 Venue: 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
 Date: Nov 16-Dec 7



Fundraising Exhibition
 For Nur A Shafee Ahnaf
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
 Date: Nov 24-26
 Time: 4pm-7:30pm

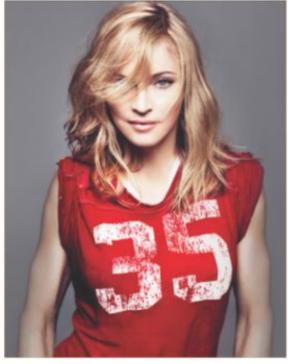


Documentary Screening
 Title: monirartist@
 Filmmaker: AKM Zakaria
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
 Date: Nov 22



NEWS bytes
Madonna
 highest-paid musician on Forbes' list

Madonna has beaten Lady Gaga to top a list of the world's 25 highest-paid musicians. The 55-year-old singer made \$125 million from June 2012 to June this year, according to Forbes. She made her money through her MDNA world tour, merchandise sales, a clothing line and a brand of perfume. Lady Gaga earned \$80 million in the same period with Bon Jovi, Toby Keith and Coldplay in third, fourth and fifth spots. Gaga, 27, made most of her money through her "Born This Way" Ball tour before she injured



her hip and cancelled the remaining dates. Hip-hop artist Dr Dre topped Forbes' highest-paid musicians list last year but is down to 20th place this time. Concert ticket sales, royalties for recorded music and publishing, merchandise sales, endorsement deals and other business ventures are also taken into account. Only living artists are eligible for the list.

Source: BBC



IT'S TRUE!
 The Bechdel test asks whether a work of fiction (particularly visual) features at least two women who talk to each other about something other than a man. The test is named after the American cartoonist Alison Bechdel. In 1985, she had a character in her comic strip "Dykes to Watch Out For" voice the idea, which she attributed to a friend, Liz Wallace. The test was originally conceived for evaluating films but has since been applied to other media. It is also known as the Bechdel/Wallace test, the Bechdel rule, Bechdel's law, or the Mo Movie Measure. Many contemporary works fail this test of gender bias.

LOOKING BACK
From curious first-timer to connoisseur, Dhaka embraces classical music



FAHMIM FERDOUS
 The first edition of the Bengal-ITC SRA Classical music festival was a massive success in terms of audience participation; people from all walks of life came and indulged in the bliss of music by some of the biggest names in Indian Classical music. In the run-up to this year's edition of the festival due to begin in a week's time, we flash back to a late November evening in 2012. Like last year, The Daily Star is a partner to the event this year as well.



Mostafa, an electrical wiring technician from Mirpur, and his wife Taslima Akhi had never heard of Yaswant Vaishnav, not unlike many others present at the Army Stadium on November 30, 2012 (second day of the Bengal ITC-SRA Classical Music Festival-2012). The first weekend evening of the festival saw a considerable turnout from the very beginning, as people from all walks of life gathered at the venue -- many of them close followers of classical music

for years, while many more came just for a new experience. Mostafa said he heard about the festival from one of his neighbours, so he came and registered at the venue, and that he and his wife were both really enjoying themselves. Md. Anisur Rahman had always been a classical music aficionado, and felt that the purest form of the art should be experienced by more people, especially young musicians, for whom it was important to know the foundation of music. He also proudly mentioned that his 10-year old daughter has been taking lessons in classical music from Anil Kumar Saha. The medium and scope for experiencing classical music is very narrow, and that is



possibly the reason why not too many people are followers of the classical forms, said Mahbubul Alam, a student of Islamic History and Culture at Jahangirnagar University. A big fan of Ustad Rashid Khan, Omarkar Dadarkar and Kaushiki Chakravarty, he also said India has advanced in the field of art because of the patronage provided to classical musicians, and termed this festival as a commendable initiative to take classical music forward in

Bangladesh. Rothi, an architect by profession, said she would never have missed the first festival of this stature in the country, and opined that many people say they do not take interest in the art form because it was not on mainstream TV and radio. She also expressed disappointment that due to lack of exposure, the top contemporary artists of classical music in Bangladesh were not familiar or celebrated names in the country. Retired accountant Nazrul Alam was at the festival with his daughter Rohini, and joked that he had been hooked to classical music right from his birth. Proud husband of Hiron Alam, alias Hur-e-Jannat, who is an accomplished singer on radio and television and a gold medalist in music, Nazrul Alam said that his family has been passionate about classical music for ages. Rohini Alam, currently working for Nestle, also said she had grown up in a musical family, and added that her generation in the family had also produced musicians. Her elder sister Sohini is a renowned British singer, lead vocalist of the band Khyo and Lokkhi Tera, Rohini said, adding that she was loving the atmosphere and the music at the festival. Habib Ahsan, a retired director of Bangladesh Television and author of "Gaan-bajna'r Samajhdari", termed the festival a "historic milestone", and said it was like visiting a holy place for music. Asserting that there is a "famine of taste" in the country, he said the festival will help people dream big, and a nation must dream big, to be a great nation. Entrepreneur Rakib Mamood, an avid follower of classical music who travels around to listen to good classical music, said the festival could play a great part in changing the youths' perception of classical music, and establish Bangladesh as a culturally rich nation.

Birthday celebrations for Papia Sarwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Today (November 21) is the birthday of noted Rabindra Sangeet Artist Papia Sarwar. Born and raised in a music oriented family of Barisal, Papia Sarwar had an idyllic childhood. Her mother used to play the organ and her father composed songs. While a first year student of the Department of Zoology at the University of Dhaka, the artiste received a scholarship from the Indian government to study Rabindra Sangeet at Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan in 1973 -- the first Bangladeshi to avail the opportunity after Independence. There she trained in classical music under Pandit Dhruvotara Joshi. Shantidev Ghosh, Subinoy Roy, Kanika Bandyopadhyay and Neelima Sen taught her Rabindra Sangeet and Ashesh Bandyopadhyay oriented her on the tappa genre. It is a matter of pride that, Papia stood first in all four years at Shantiniketan. Prior to leaving for Shantiniketan, the singer took music lessons from Atiqul Islam, Waheedul Haq, Sanjida

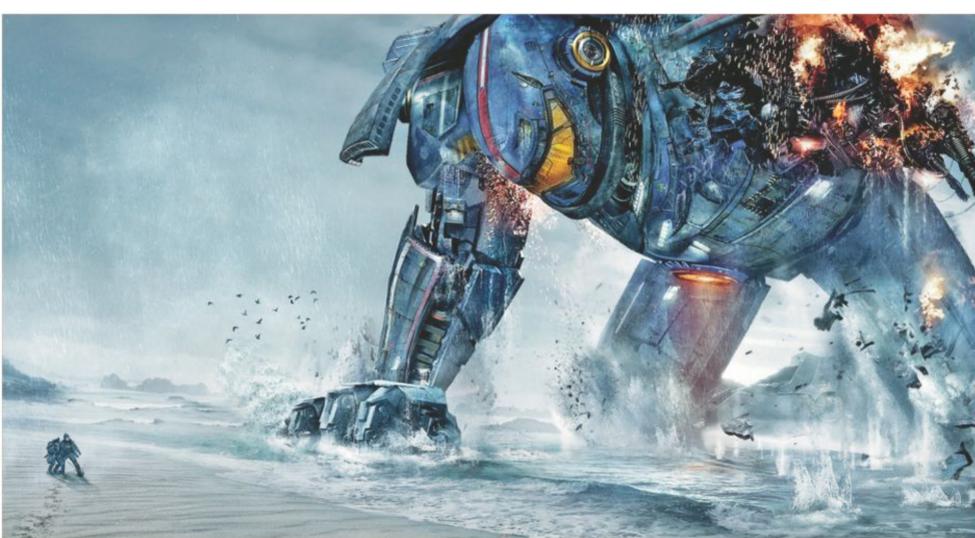


Khatun and Zahidur Rahim at Chhayanaut and Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA). Papia Sarwar runs a musical troupe "Geetoshudha," which was named by the legendary singer Kanika Bandyopadhyay. Coming midway between the zodiac sign of Scorpio and Sagittarius, Papia Sarwar is vivacious, witty, self confident and an introvert. Her lucky colour is violet she says, though she hardly believes in such things and rarely wears violet. "I am drawn towards all colours in our traditional Jamdani, handloom saree--taant and South Indian saree. I wear few gold ornaments, but prefer wearing costume jewellery which makes me feel young at heart," says the singer. "Personally, I feel that it is time to give to dedicated singers what I have gathered through my experience so far, but I am yet to come across such an artiste," Papia says. Marking her birthday, Channel i will air live a solo musical adda at 7:45am while My TV will air her solo musical event at 8pm. With a distinctive yet soothing voice, Papia Sarwar has carved a niche in the hearts of music lovers in her five-decade career. This is to wish her a very happy birthday and years of fulfillment in the coming years.

Pacific Rim
 premieres in Dhaka today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Star Cineplex, the country's first multiplex movie theatre, has been entertaining film buffs of Dhaka for a while now, bringing in some of the biggest blockbusters of the year to the big screens. In continuation of that, they are premiering another major hit of 2013, "Pacific Rim", in 3D. The science fiction monster film, directed by Guillermo del Toro and starring Charlie Hunnam, Idris Elba, Rinko Kikuchi, Charlie Day, Robert Kazinsky, Max Martini and

Ron Perlman, is set in the 2020s, when Earth is at war with colossal monsters which have emerged from a portal on the floor of the Pacific Ocean. It released in the USA on July 12, and was highly successful worldwide, the visual effects and action sequences being highly praised. The film will be on the schedule of Star Cineplex from tomorrow (Friday) in 3D, and will definitely be worth a try for those who enjoy the rush of adrenaline at the theatres, even if it lacks top-class storytelling or powerful acting.



VERY GRAPHIC!
"The Art of Storytelling in Graphic Detail" at Bengal Art Lounge

FAYZA HAQ
 There was recently a gathering of foreign and local artists at Bengal Art Lounge, presenting works of graphic art, a booming media of art and storytelling. Titled "Very Graphic! The Art of Storytelling in Graphic Detail", the exhibition opened on November 16 and is set to run till December 7. Among the local graphic storytellers of renown, there is Rashad Imam Tanmoay. He transfers ideas into lines and then tells stories that are hilarious in the local context. His career began at "Unmad" He later worked at The Daily Star, The Daily Sun, Jai Jai Din and Prothom Alo. His comics are found under the title of Dhaka Comics. He is not concerned with style, right now, he says. At the Bengal Art Lounge, he presents "The Defeated". This is to establish the fact that comic art is not new

to the subcontinent. The art of storytelling in Bengal goes back to Pata Chitra or scroll painting. The stories use myth, fantasy plus reality. Anika Mariam paints mostly from her own individual experience. Anika had to go against her parents to study Fine Arts at DU. She has a BA in English Literature too. She uses anti-establishment ideas; she says she is not out to entertain people "Like a TV set". The statement also goes hand in hand with her illustrations. Nuhash Humayun -- son of the great Humayun Ahmed -- another maker of comic strips, studies Physics. His strips were considered "fast" by the authorities to present for publishing. He says that "The unpolished little scraps are meant for the wastebasket". The message is "Keep it or throw it away" Mehdi Haque has won many prizes for his work. He has won the

TIB Anti-corruption Cartoon Award, as well as the "Unmad Cartoonist of the Year." Mehdi is the Founder President of the Bangladesh Cartoonists. Saadi Haque is attracted to the strange and unknown. His parent's home is in Old Dhaka. He began a club that dealt with the unknown and ghostly. A dedicated and sincere photo journalist, he works for the TV and newspapers. Samir Asran Rahman created "Shabash" and "The Legend of Zooey" comics. He is the creator of "Mighty Punch Studios." The exhibition includes his creative works too. Asifur Rahman published his first comic strip in the magazine "Kishore" during Pehela Baishakh. He says that when he makes a cartoon, "it is like making a movie, without going into the trouble of production". He has worked for

Dhaka Comics and Mighty Punch Studios etc. His story is simple but done in a 'hyper' style. Kazi Istela specialises in graphic design. He is currently working for The Dhaka Tribune. His characters include working class superheroes; Shundori, the hijra fighter and Hartal Busters who turn the cocktail blast into laughing gas to calm the hoodlums who are creating the chaos. There is also the Wonder Bua, who fights with her trusty broom. Last but certainly not the least at the event are Ranabi (Rafiqun Nabi) who has fought socio-economic conditions of Bangladesh, for decades with his character "Tokai"; Shishir Bhattacharjee, the reputed cartoonist, Ahsan Habib, founder of popular comic magazine Unmad, internationally-renowned comic artist Karrie Fransman, and Steven Harris.