

WHAT'S ON

Bijoy Utshab 2013
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy Open Premises
Date: Dec 14-16
Time: 5pm Everyday




Weeklong Victory Festival
Organiser: Liberation War Museum
Venue: Liberation War Museum
Premises & Mirpur Graveyard
Date: December 10-16



Victory Festival 2013
Organiser: Sammilito Sangskritik Jote
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka
Date: December 13-16
Time: 4pm onwards



Book Launch
Book: Two Friends, One Cause: Remembering the Concert for Bangladesh
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 15; Time: 4:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Quest for Reality
Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 7-19
Time: 12pm-8pm



NEWS bytes

Beyonce puts surprise album up online

Beyonce has unexpectedly released her fifth album on iTunes overnight, with 14 new songs and 17 music videos. The self-titled record is the follow-up to 2011's "4", and features guest spots from her husband Jay-Z and daughter Blue Ivy.

"Surprise!" wrote the 32-year-old in a press release, adding she was "bored" of releasing music the traditional way. The instantaneous release means "I am able to speak directly to my fans," she continued.

With every track on the album accompanied by its



own music video, it is the one of the biggest recent releases that has not been leaked in advance. The singer explained she had been inspired by her memories of watching Michael Jackson's Thriller video premiere in 1983. "I miss that immersive experience," she said. "Now people only listen to a few seconds of song on the iPods and they don't really invest in the whole experience."

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

US rock band 3 Doors Down started The Better Life Foundation (TBLF) in 2003, with a goal in mind to give as many children as possible a better life. Since its inception TBLF has supported numerous charities nationwide. 3 Doors Down and The Better Life Foundation host a yearly show to raise money for the charity. In addition to a concert from 3 Doors Down and friends, there is also an auction, which includes numerous items from musical



friends, sports icons, and other various supporters of the band and the charity. Past performers at the show include Lynyrd Skynyrd, Shinedown, Alter Bridge, Staind, Hinder, Switchfoot, Tracy Lawrence, Sara Evans, and others. Past auction items include a Paul Stanley guitar played on the KISS Farewell Tour, a total of four Roger Bourget motorcycles, numerous signed guitars and sports memorabilia.

Still some way to go Liberation War in Theatre

SAURAV DEY

Theatre, often considered as the reflection of society, portrays life and other issues related to our surroundings. The present theatre scenario in Bangladesh is a result of the neo-theatre movement that began following the liberation war in 1971. Liberation war and the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation -- the most significant chapter in the history of the country -- found its place in the works of art and literature in different forms and shapes. Beginning from the early years of post-liberation era till date, a number of theatrical productions have been based on the theme of liberation war. There is hardly any theatre troupe in Bangladesh which does not have at least one play on the theme. But do we boast a good number of notable productions which surpasses time? In recent talks with Star Arts and Entertainment, two prominent theatre personalities -- Nasiruddin Yousuff and Mamunur Rashid -- discussed the depiction of liberation war in theatrical productions.

Nasiruddin Yousuff

"The war of liberation has been sketched on the stage many times in many ways since the present theatre scenario is the result of our independence. Even though there is good number of plays based directly or indirectly on the theme, only a few of these are noteworthy. Apart from Dhaka, many plays were staged and brought to theatres in different corners of the country, but to our disappointment, only a handful will stand the test of time.

"The deficiency resulted from a number of issues, and what I think is that the



Nasiruddin Yousuff

Liberation war to us is more of a political and social issue rather than emotional. We talk about liberation in discussions, in political fields, but in our personal lives we do not nurture the spirit. The seed that was sown 42 years ago failed to foster, as a result the output is disappointing. We have moved further from the essence of liberation war that talks about the freedom of humanity. The bloody struggle for freedom is now confined to political speeches, and the reflection is less on art and literature. Yet, there are hopes alive; the new generation has come forth to bear the torch and they have taken a stand. If they can understand the depth and essence of liberation and forge ahead with the spirit, the reflection will be conspicuous on art and literature, and obviously on the stage."

Mamunur Rashid

"There are many theatrical productions on liberation war but the number of meaningful works is small. The works that derived from immediate experience of the event failed to go deeper inside the audience. Many productions, including plays of Syed



Mamunur Rashid

Shamsul Haq directly focus on liberation war and related issues. Yet the number is not satisfactory and we have to wait for insightful productions to come. There are works that deal with the issues of partition, and depict the psychological condition of people during that era, but not enough on our own struggle for freedom. We have to wait for the second or event third generation to fulfill our dreams of making plays depicting the liberation war in a distinctive way. Since it is a performing art, breaking stereotypes will take time."

"There are many shortcomings in this sector: monetary endorsement in theater is poor, theatre halls are insufficient in number; the small number of the activists, scripts and playwrights are also hindering rapid progress of theatre. However, we have been successful in spreading the theme of liberation war in different corners of the country through theatre. We hope one day we'll have movies and theatrical productions which will outperform the present works. One day theatre will break the stereotypes and bring much more innovative productions to the audience.

Victory in colours, rhythm and spirit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Joy Shorbokaler Bangla, Joy Shorbo Dhormer Bangla, Joy Shorbo Manober Bangla", Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) chalked out elaborate programmes at various parts of the capital to mark 42nd Victory Day. Jote President and convener of Victory Festival 2013, Nasiruddin Yousuff presided over and spoke at the programme yesterday at Central Shaheed Minar premises. The organisers along with the family members of those martyred at the Mirpur 'Jolladkhana' inaugurated the event through releasing of colourful balloons in the evening sky.

Prior to that, they placed floral wreaths at the altar of Central Shaheed Minar paying homage to all the martyrs of Language Movement, Liberation War and all who laid down their lives in all democratic and mass movements. A one-minute silence was observed at the venue in memory of the martyrs too.

General Secretary of SSJ Hasan Arif delivered



Dancers of Spondon perform at the Shaheed Minar.

PHOTO: STAR

welcome address at the inaugural event. Jhuna Chowdhury and Golam Kuddus, the joint conveners of the festival spoke at the programme.

Among others, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, noted cultural personality Mafidul Haque and

Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Liaquat Ali Lucky spoke at the programme. The leaders delivered spirited speeches to bring all the war criminals to book.

Vice president of SSJ Poet Muhammad Samad recited two of his poems -- "Projonmo Chatter" and "Mujib" at the event. A cultural programme followed. Artists of the troupe "Spondon" danced to a spirited song "Purbo Digonte Surjo Utcheche" while artistes of Ganosangeet Samannoy Parishad performed three inspirational songs of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra -- "Bijoy Nishan Urchhey Oi", "Bhoy Ki Moroney" and "Teer Hara Ei Dheu-er Sagar". Many people enjoyed the beats of spirited musical rhythms at the event.

The festival will continue till Victory Day on 11 stages in and around the capital, in Gendaria, Bahadur Shah Park, Hajeribagh, Motijheel, Shaheed Minar, Dhaka University premises, Dhanmondi Rabindra Sharobor, Rayerbazar memorial, Uttara, Dania and Pallabi, and will close on December 17 at Mirpur.

Chitra theatre celebrates Narail Mukto Dibosh

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

Marking the Narail free day, a cultural programme was held at Rupgonj in the district Wednesday evening.

Organised by the Chitra Theatre, the programme included a cultural function, felicitation of freedom fighters, a stage play and a discussion.

Members of Chitra Theatre honoured 10 freedom fighters at the event. Among others, Prof. Munshi Hafizur Rahman, Shorful Alom Litu and freedom fighter Shorif Humayun Kobir spoke at the meeting.

The cultural programme that followed went on till midnight, and entertained the large crowd in attendance.



Artistes sing at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This has been a good year for Dhaka's film lovers; they have had their taste of the latest and biggest Hollywood hits coming to screens nearby in very short time, films in 3D, an big new multiplex (albeit a little off-centre in the capital) and good Bangladeshi films as well. And the year just got better, with one of the biggest Hollywood blockbusters coming to Star Cineplex -- the country's first multiplex theatre -- in a month's time from its US release.

The first film of the franchise, "The Hunger Games" was one of the most successful movies of last year, and this one has been no different; right after release on November 11, it stormed to the top of the Box Office, recording the second highest opening of the week (behind "Iron Man 3"), the highest November opening and fourth highest US opening of all time.

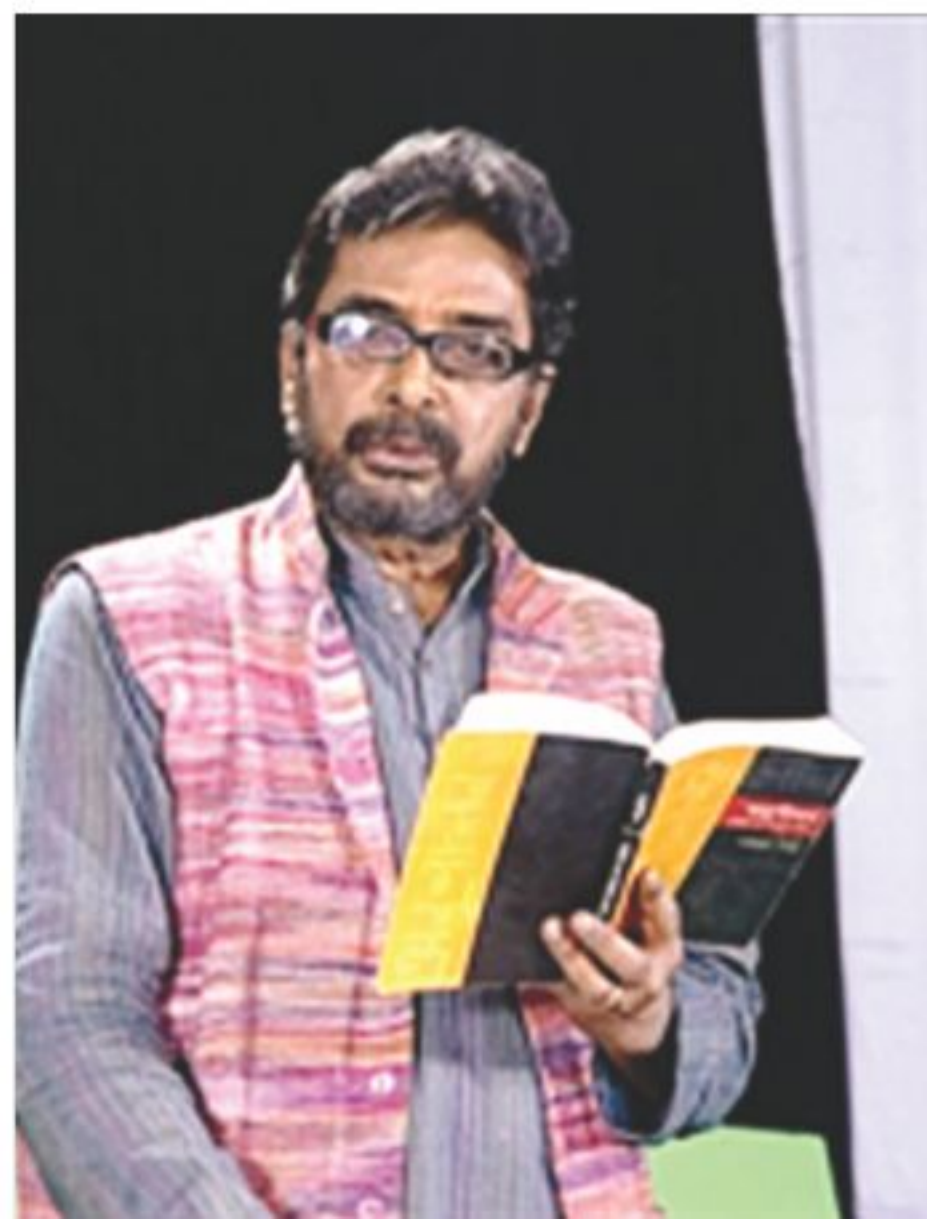
Directed by Francis Lawrence and produced by Lionsgate based on the Suzanne Collins novel "Catching Fire", it has a power-packed cast including Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson,

Elizabeth Banks, Lenny Kravitz, Stanley Tucci, Donald Sutherland, Toby Jones, Willow Shields, and Paula Malcomson reprising their roles.

The story picks up where the first film ended; after surviving the 74th Hunger Games, 'tributes' Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) return home to District 12. President Coriolanus Snow (Donald Sutherland) orders Katniss to convince the country her and Peeta's love was real and the reason for their actions. As they go on a victory tour of the country, their mentor Haymitch Abernathy (Woody Harrelson) tells Katniss and Peeta the 'show' of their relationship must continue for the rest of their lives. Katniss suggests a public engagement between herself and Peeta, which is carried out and celebrated at Snow's home in the Capitol.

Without giving too many spoilers, a new edition of the Games expectedly constitutes the bulk of the story, building up to the thrill and action that the fans of the franchise would go to the cinemas looking for.

The film premiered at Star Zone of Cineplex on Thursday, and is on regular showtime roster.



TV WATCH

Special programme on Martyred Intellectuals' Day

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the Martyred Intellectuals' Day, a special poetry recitation programme titled "Hey Shok Ami Ashok Hobo", will air on Boishakhi Television at 5:20pm today. Four of the most noted elocutionists of the country -- Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Shimul Mustafa, Rokeya Prachi and Laila Afroz will recite poems on the Liberation War of Bangladesh, and in loving memory of the martyred intellectuals.

S Ali Sohel has produced the programme.