

WHAT'S ON

Centenary Programme of National Museum

Venue: Main Auditorium

Date: Dec 22-Jan 22

Time: 10am-8pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: Eternal Japan

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 21-25

Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed

Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 20-Jan 2

Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Return to Eden

Artist: Nasima Khanam Queenie

Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi

Date: Dec 13-27

Time: 3pm-8pm



Architectural Exhibition

Architect: Kashif Chowdhury

Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan

Date: Dec 13-Jan 13

Time: 12pm-8pm



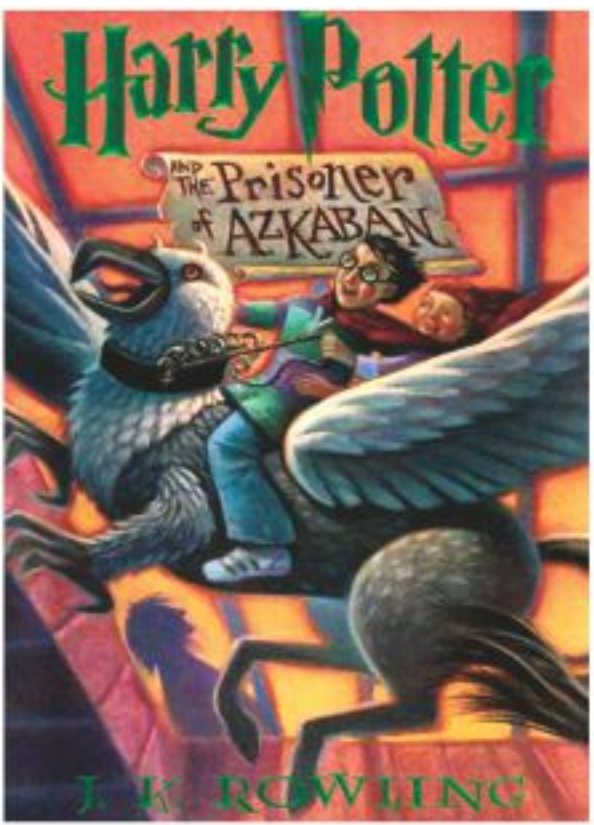
NEWSbytes

Harry Potter to come alive on stage

The early years of wizard Harry Potter will be explored in a new stage play, to be co-produced by author JK Rowling, it has been announced.

Rowling will work with producers Sonia Friedman and Colin Callender, though she will not write the script herself. The author said she had "received countless approaches" over the years "about turning Harry Potter into a theatrical production."

"After a year in gestation it is exciting to see this project moving on to the



next phase."

The play will be staged in the UK and will explore "the previously untold story of Harry's early years as an orphan and outcast," according to its producers.

"Writers and directors are now being considered, and the project will move into development in 2014," they said.

Earlier this year the author revealed she would be making her screenwriting debut on a new Potter-themed film series for the Warner Bros studio.

SSJ observes Victory Day

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) concluded its three-day cultural programme marking Victory Day and Free Pabna Day on December 18 at the Town Hall premises.

The programme featured a discussion, music and dances along with stage plays.

A discussion was held, chaired by Faridul Islam Khokon, president of the SSJ. Speakers said, while soldiers could rest after the battle on December 16, 1971, cultural activists are still fighting to keep the spirit of the Liberation War alive.

Artists of Dorpon Sangskritik Jote, Gonoshilpi Shongshtha, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi and band Atteune performed on the occasion. Dorpon Sangskritik Goshthi also staged play "Surat-hal".

"Alo Adharer Golpo" staged in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhenidah

Muktokantho, a Magura-based cultural organisation, recently staged five shows of their new street play "Alo Adharer Golpo" in several villages in Magura district.

The play, written and directed by Biswajit Chakroborty, is meant to raise awareness of rural people about HIV/AIDS. Coordinator of the programme Mazharul Haque Lipu said, "Save the Children and Matra Foundation are collaborating with us to implement our programme."

Muktijuddher Bijoy Natyotsob kicks off

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY,
Chittagong

On the first day of the 12-day theatre festival titled Muktijuddher Bijoy Natya Utsab-2013, theatre troupe Uttaradhikar staged their acclaimed play "Mrithupakhi" at Shilpakala Academy auditorium, Chittagong on Friday evening.

Aiming at disseminating the history of 1971 among the present generation, Chittagong Group Theatre Forum, a leading association of theatre troupes in Chittagong, has organised the festival in association with District Shilpakala Academy with the theme "The Liberation War mirrored on stage". Twelve theatre troupes of the port city are participating in the festival.

Editor of a local daily Azadi,



A scene from "Mrithupakhi".

PHOTO: STAR

MA Malek inaugurated the festival as chief guest, followed by a short discussion.

Presided over by Group Theatre Forum President Khaled Helal, the discussion was addressed among others by The

Daily Star bureau Chief Raisul Huq Bahar; Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Rabbi Miyan and cultural personality Saiful Alam Babu.

Featuring group and solo patriotic songs and dance, a cultural

programme was also held where artistes of Shilpakala Academy gave performances.

Later, a full house enjoyed "Mrithupakhi".

Penned by Tanvir Ahmed Sidney, the narrator -- featuring a bird in the play -- describes the real stories of the killers of 1971, known as Al-Badr and Razakars, which were published in the newspapers.

Through the bird, the audience learns about the roots of massacre carried out in the country in 1971.

Directed by Moslem Uddin Sikdar, the cast of the play included Asit Das, Mazharul Alam, Jahedul Alam and Roshnara Akhter.

The light was designed by Moslem Uddin Sikder while Ali Ahmed Mukul planned the sets and costumes of the play.

Pre-Christmas excitement



MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

People in Moulvibazar district celebrated Pre-Christmas with singing, dancing, drama and performing traditional arts in Lakhipur Mission under Kulaura Upazila and Srimangal Mission under Srimangal Upazila of the district on Tuesday. Lakhipur Mission Parish priest Father Joseph Gomes inaugurated the event.

The roots of pre-Christmas go back to celebrations of the Advent during the 1800s. In the 1920s and 1930s, the pre-Christmas festival started catching on with the general people. Nowadays, several organisations, clubs and schools hold its own "little Christmas," implying a head start on the season.

The period in the run up to Christmas conveys Christ's message of peace, justice, love and self sacrifice. The mass was conducted by Father Sudhir Gomes and Father Bawal Valentine Talang for Lakhipur Mission and Father Dominic Sorkar for Srimangal Mission.



"Dhoom 3" sweeps 9.5m opening worldwide

Yash Raj Films' action thriller "Dhoom 3" opened with a roaring \$9.54 million worldwide total on its opening day. The motorbike-heavy film, starring Aamir Khan (in a secret double role) as the antagonist, clocked up \$6.1 million in India and a further \$3.44 million in the rest of the world, according to company sources.

That total included \$1.28 million from the Gulf and Middle East, which YRF claims is a record, and \$1.1 from North America, which also would be a record for a Bollywood film. The film plays on 236 screens in North America and with close to \$4,500 per screen average on Friday, is comfortably the best performing film in the top ten.

In Australia it took \$172,000, or some \$100,000 higher than previous record holder "Jab Tak Hai Jaan". In the UK it managed a more moderate estimated \$400,000.

Directed by Vijay Krishna Acharya, the third film of the franchise features Abhishek Bachchan and Uday Chopra reprising their roles as ACP Jai Dixit and Ali Akbar respectively, along with Katrina Kaif and Jackie Shroff in other major roles.

Source: Internet

Tête-a-Tête Nipun on her war film

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award winner Nipun's latest project is a movie based on the Liberation War. In a recent interview, The Daily Star spoke to the talented artiste about her new project:

Tell us about your upcoming movie...

Nipun: "Ekattorer Maa Jononi" is based on popular author Anisul Hoque's novel "Jononi Sahoshini 71". I play the eponymous character in the film directed by Saha Alam Kiron. It was a special experience, as I have never played such an unusual character before. Earlier, I played roles in commercial movies. The days of 1971 echoed in my mind while shooting for the movie.

But this was not your first appearance in a film on the Liberation War ...

Nipun: No, it's not. I've done "Shobhoner Shadhinata", directed by Manik Manabik with Ferdous as my co-artist before. It was a heart-warming story.

How are these films different from the others you do?

Nipun: I feel very proud to be in films based on the Liberation War. Artistes have a larger role to play. If more such movies are made, the next generation will get a thorough perspective on the country's Liberation War.

What is it that drew you to the silver screen in the first place?

Nipun: I have always wanted to be a dedicated actress. I love acting and take my work very seriously, and the big screen felt like a good platform to exercise that.

You've won two national film awards. What movies were they for?

Nipun: I feel very fortunate to have bagged such a prestigious award. First, I got the National Film Award for "Sajghar" based on a novel of famed writer Humayun Ahmed, and then another one for "Chander Motho Bou".



The charm of cherry blossoms and Mount Fujiyama

Photo exhibition at Bengal Gallery

FAYZA HAQ

Geisha girls, Mount Fujiyama, cherry blossoms, gardens of stones, rounded bushes and rocks and ancient temples these make up the beauty of Japan and its manifold aspects. Manzurul Huq, who has spent two decades living and discovering Japan, and has a daughter by his Japanese wife, has had every opportunity to know and photograph the historic places of Japan. The camera becomes the third eye, as the famous Bangladeshi photographer Anwar Hossain, puts it, he "sings the ballad of the samurai land", in the exhibition titled "Eternal Japan" at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts.

Huq was there in Japan during the tsunami and earthquake and saw the ruination of 2010. He has done his Masters in Oriental Studies in the University of London. He had served as the president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan and is a part of all the activities of the club.

The beauty of the land is not just how nature has created it but how the Japanese men have put in their effort and imagination to preserve and develop it. The islands are sharp contrast to the deserts. Against the blue waters are the mountains, where nations have attempted to conquer after Hillary and Tensing.

Japan has endeavoured to showcase its old archery as a rich cultural heritage. In Kyoto, 2004, as special day marked the

thousand anniversary of the "The Tale of Genji", the first piece of fiction writing in the world. Photos of Samurai are seen with ordinary people -- the warrior in full battle gear, with

warlord standing in front. Even the kimono, worn with its ten layers, is a fabulous display of the layers of multi-coloured cloth and sash. It is there to enhance the limbs of the wearer.

socialise, with food, fans, wreaths, dancing in traditional costumes to recall the forgotten days.

The shrines and temples are not so much the places of medi-



helmet, leggings and swords. The archery of the girls on horseback, wearing white and red with white helmets is picturesque, with the swarm of audience. The castle gates have the



Even the geisha girls with their powdered faces and mandolins are wonderful to behold. As for summer festivals, as summer is for a short time in Japan, this is the time people take out time to



tation and worship but a display of culture -- with wreaths on the head and flowing garbs in red and white. At one time people went there for blessings for health and good harvest. The

orange-coloured gates and bright orange buildings are surely charming. The shingles on the roof make them more attractive, as they go with the tiled grounds and the jade shrubbery. The stone garden of Rewanji temple, with its seventeen stones, has its own mystic rhythm of greens and grays.

The photographer has not left out the importance of the stage performances, with the masks and multi-coloured clothes that blend with the joie de vivre of the performers. Theatre performance has its own long history in the land of the rising sun. Huq has taken a group of smiling children, who have enormous satisfaction in presenting a fairy tale with success. In the Niigata prefecture in winter, the stage too has its share of snow.

As the place is not far from the arctic zone, the place in this season is as pretty as any part of Europe or the US. The barren white land has resulted in pristine white pictures -- here even the lake is frozen. Mt. Fuji, another symbol of the mountainous country, is snow-capped and has a long history of climbers -- even from Bangladesh. At times, even on not so foggy days, Mt. Fuji is not seen by the clear eye.

Having relished the images of kimonos and cherry blossoms, one would certainly think of saving for a trip to Japan for their next visit abroad. The warmth and courtesy of the people there is overwhelming.

The exhibition, which began on December 21, ends on December 25.

IT'S TRUE!



Gospel is a music genre, the creation, performance, significance, and even definition of which varies according to culture and social context. It is composed and performed for many purposes, including aesthetic pleasure, religious or ceremonial purposes, and as an entertainment product for the marketplace. Gospel music in general is characterized by dominant vocals (often with strong use of harmony) referencing lyrics of a Christian nature. Several forms of gospel music utilise choirs, use piano or Hammond organ, tambourines, drums, bass guitar and, increasingly, electric guitar. In comparison with hymns, which are generally of a stately measure, the gospel song is expected to have a refrain and often a more syncopated rhythm. Subgenres include contemporary gospel, urban contemporary gospel, Southern gospel, and modern gospel music.