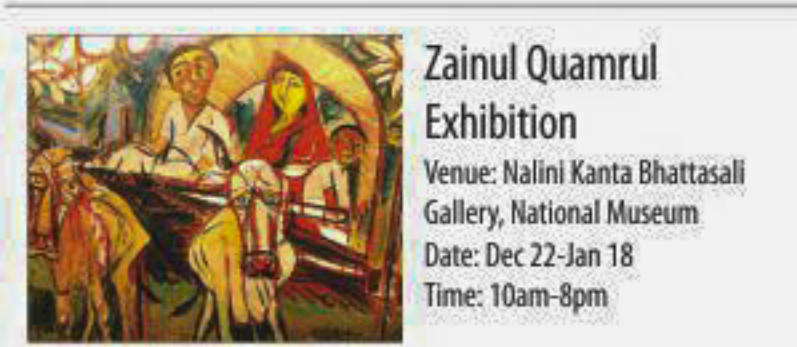


## WHAT'S ON



**Zainul Quamrul  
Exhibition**  
Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya  
Gallery, National Museum  
Date: Dec 22-Jan 18  
Time: 10am-8pm



**Theatre**  
The Trial of Maham Iya  
Troupe: Borfala  
Venue: Matmunda, Dhaka  
University  
Date: Jan 1-3



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Shilpacharya and his Outer  
World of Art  
Venue: Bengali Shilpakala, H-42, B-  
16, Dharmad  
Date: Dec 28-Jan 8



**Concert**  
Band: Chiranjit  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural  
Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: Jan 3  
Time: 6:30pm



**Theatre**  
Play: Savambhava  
Troupe: Theatre  
Venue: National Theatre Hall,  
Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Jan 4



**Concert**  
Band: Shironamin  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural  
Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: Jan 10  
Time: 6:30pm



**Theatre**  
Play: Anya Bibi Pala  
Troupe: Natyayatra  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall,  
Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Jan 4  
Time: 6pm



**Theatre**  
Play: Chaka  
Troupe: Bunon  
Venue: National Theatre Hall,  
Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Jan 5

NEWS  
bytesNasa rebukes  
Beyoncé

US singer Beyoncé has been rebuked by Nasa for using an audio clip from the Challenger shuttle disaster in a new song.

"XO", from Beyoncé's new album, begins with a six-second clip taken from television footage as the shuttle exploded and fell to earth on January 28, 1986, killing all seven crew. Steve Nesbitt, a Nasa public affairs official, is heard saying: "Flight controllers here looking very carefully at the situation. Obviously a major malfunction."

Nasa issued a statement saying: "The Challenger accident is an important part of our history; a tragic reminder that space exploration is risky and should never be trivialised." Beyoncé had said the audio was included "in tribute to the unselfish work of the Challenger crew with hope that they will never be forgotten". But Keith Coving, a former Nasa employee, described the sample as "inappropriate in the extreme".

"XO" is the first radio single from Beyoncé's new album, which was released without advance publicity on December 16.

Source: Guardian



Roland Lamb in his element.



Arnob on his guitar.

Presenting ... The Seaboard  
Roland Lamb's futuristic instrument gets a Dhaka showing

FAHIM FERDOUS

When I was asked to cover a musical programme featuring a musician who has 'invented' a new instrument, I was certainly intrigued, especially because I wasn't told much about the instrument or the event. But knowing that Arnob would be performing there gave me the impression that this would be good.

As I entered the auditorium of the Red Shift Coffee Lounge, I looked on-stage for the said instrument. Apart from the usual guitar, bass and cajon, there it was: a black keyboard-like thing connected to a laptop computer, but with no visible keys.

As the small but discerning audience settled in, writer-columnist Tahmima Anam welcomed the audience, and introduced her husband, Roland Lamb, the mastermind behind the Seaboard. She noted that Roland started the project in 2008, looking to make a keyboard that could bend notes, and play between them. After a few years of research — that included smoke coming out from under the doors, strange machines in the house to Roland himself learning computer programming to design the instrument — and grants from the Royal College of Arts and from the UK government, the seaboard was a reality. Now, musicians like Stevie

Wonder and Hans Zimmer were interested in possessing the instrument.

Roland was accompanied by Arnob (vocal/guitar), Labik (vocal/cajon), Tiash (guitar), Saad (keys) and Samir (bass). They performed a number of Arnob's popular songs, along with two Tagore songs, a Baul song and a Bhatiali.

Being an avid fan of Arnob and Labik — and a regular concert-goer once, I'd heard all these songs live before (apart from one song by Labik), but what struck me was the dimensions brought into them with the Seaboard. It produced sounds ranging from as modern as ambient to as old-fashioned as a church-organ. It was groovy and funky when required, soft and mellow at other times, and sometimes just dark and depressing. The versatility of the instrument was awe-striking; it's no secret that the electronic keyboard itself is a very versatile instrument, throw in the options to slide and sweep between notes and volume modulation just by touch, and you have the one of most 'complete' instruments around. It sounded like the electric guitar, slide guitar, the synth (or to the more imaginative mind, maybe a theremin), and sometimes even resembled the Irish tin flute or sax, and on a few occasions, hit notes with the timbre of a crash cymbal.

Songs like "Ekdin", "Majhe Majhe", "Adhkhana", "Amay Dhore Rakho" got great depth due to the instrument, and it was no surprise that Arnob says he had already ordered one of these.

Roland also spoke a little about the instrument at the programme, saying that the piano — which was the form factor of the Seaboard — is one of the most ancient instruments, and trying to re-invent was difficult, and maybe even a little "audacious", but said he was glad it all came through, thanking his friends and family for keeping faith in him.

After the show, I went to take a peek at the Seaboard. It looked a lot like something out of a sci-fi movie: sleek and minimalist (with just the logo of Roland's company, Roli, placed on a tactile jog dial) with the keys shaped out in soft rubber that is pressed, tapped and even sometimes 'kneaded' to produce the sounds. I went over to talk to him to know more about it, but he, expectedly, was swarmed with a congratulatory audience.

A lot of people crowded the seaboard, their looks a mix of inquisitive and impressed, as I headed out, happy to have started a New Year with some awesome music, and an instrument with endless possibilities and potentially great popularity among musicians cutting through the spectrum of genres.



The audience in rapt attention...

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## Shawkat Osman's 98th birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday marked the 98th birth anniversary of novelist and short story writer Shawkat Osman.

The writer was born in Hughli, West Bengal in 1917. Osman graduated in Economics and did his Masters in Bangla from Calcutta University. His teaching career started at the Institute of Commerce, Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1941. After the partition of India, he returned to erstwhile East Pakistan and taught at Chittagong Commerce College and later at Dhaka

College from 1958 to 1972.

"Jononi", his first novel, was published in 1958, and his "Kritodashe Hashi", a widely acclaimed novel. He wrote several novels, short stories, poems, plays, stories and books for children, essays and more. Some of his notable literary works are "Boni Adam", "Chaurasandhi", "Raja Upakhyann", "Jahannam Haite Biday", "Dui Sainik", "Nekre Aranya", "Patanga Pinjar" and "Rajshakhi".

Osman's writings feature the down-trodden, particularly the disadvantaged

community in our country. Their miseries, struggle and varied social dilemmas are recurring subjects of his works. He wrote about the exploited people in his novels. Osman's writings largely highlight messages against fundamentalism, communalism and extremism. The writer was noted for his political convictions and social perceptions in his works.

Osman received several awards and accolades including Adamji Sahitya Award in 1962, Bangla Academy Award in 1966, Eushey Padak in 1983 and the Shadhinota Padak in 1997. He died in 1998.

Muktijuddher Bijoy Natya Utsab concludes  
A message of hope

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

The 12-day theatre festival Muktijuddher Bijoy Natya Utsab-2013 concluded in the port city on Tuesday with the staging of two plays by theatre troupe Angan Theatre Unit.

In tandem with District Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong's leading theatre troupes' association Group Theatre Forum, organised the festival to disseminate the history of the Liberation War among today's generation.

On the concluding day, Angan's presentation drew a full house at the auditorium of District Shilpakala Academy. The short play "Juta Abishkar", based on Tagore's widely read poem, was received warmly by theatre enthusiasts. Adapted by Achintya Basu, the playlet interestingly depicted the invention of shoes.

Milan Chowdhury directed the playlet while Abdus Sattar, Sanjib Barua, Sharad Mazhar, Supak Das, Shiba Mandal enacted important roles.

Another playlet "Borno Biparjay" came up next. Penned by Mohit Chattopadhyay, the playlet related the story of several apathetic youths who meet with an optimistic young man at an intersection of seven streets. Sanjib Barua and Shyam Prasad Chakraborty played the main roles.

Earlier in the evening, a cultural programme and a short discussion were held. Artist Md Mostafa Kamal of "Sanjaree Shilpi Gosthi" rendered the songs.

Chaired by Khaled Helal, president of Group Theatre Forum, the discussion was addressed by Arindam Natya Sampraday convener Saiful Alam Babu, Gonayon chief M Saiful Alam Chowdhury and theatre personality Golam Murtuza Razzaque.

Bulbul  
Chowdhury  
remembered

Bulbul Chowdhury, the pioneer of modern dance in the country, was remembered through a commemorative programme on his 94th birth anniversary at the auditorium of National Art Gallery on January 1, according to a press release. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Bangladesh Nriyashilpi Sangstha jointly organised the programme.

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr. Gowher Rizvi attended the programme as chief guest. Cultural Affairs Secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas, theatre personality Nasir Uddin Yousuff and Additional Secretary of the Finance Ministry Imdadul Haque addressed the event as special guests. President of Nriyashilpi Sangstha Minu Haque and its general secretary Mahfuzur Rahman attended the programme, among others. Liaquat Ali Lucky, DG of BSA presided over the occasion. The speakers elaborated on Chowdhury's life and contributions to dance.

Renowned dance artiste Mohammad Golam Mostafa Khan was conferred the 'Bulbul Padak 2013' for his outstanding contributions to dance.

Later, 18 dancers from 18 dance troupes, including Minu Haque, Deepa Khondaker, Munmun Ahmed, Kabirul Islam Ratan, Tabassum Ahmed, Selina Haque, Fatema Kashem and Farhana Chowdhury gave a scintillating dance performance.

The  
winning  
voice  
Mong crowned the  
first Bangladeshi Idol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Small town boy from Bandarban district, Mong was an unheard of name in the country. But ever since he was crowned the first Bangladeshi Idol on SA TV he has been showered with attention from the Bangladeshi and international music industry.

Mong's success story dates to his emergence in the top ten of the musical reality show. To add to his credentials he reached the top five and top three positions. Finally, to the delight of his admirers and the people of the Bandarban hill district, he walked away with the title of Bangladeshi Idol.

As the first Bangladeshi Idol, Mong received a prize of Taka 10 lakh and a brand new car. In addition, he received Taka 6 lakh from Bandarban Zila Parishad. He also received similar awards from several organisations. But to Mong, the love of the people



is his greatest award.

The marvel of Mong's story is that he never received any formal training in music but was a self-taught artiste. Though he displayed his musical talent early on, his family couldn't afford to engage a music teacher and dissuaded him from following his dream. However, after this outstanding achievement, his family dreams of Mong reaching greater heights.

Mong has no time to spare after his recent success. He is flooded with offers to participate in TV programmes and stage shows. He is also pestered by the media for interviews and photo shoots.

Mong wants to complete his HSC that was disrupted when he went to participate in the Bangladeshi Idol contest. He also wants to train under an Ustad. Needless to say, he wants to dedicate himself to singing and achieve even greater recognition in the future.



Ananta Jalil

## Racy pace

The country's film scene in '13

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

The cinema scene in the country was racy last year, with the release of around 52 movies. One earned international fame, while an actress participated in the Cannes Film Festival. An actor remained at the peak of popularity, while another made it to foreign films.

A look in at the country's celluloid figures who took large strides in 2013:

**Overseas Honour:** Director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's film "Television" received a number of noteworthy awards, including Netpac Award and Asia Pacific Screen Award. "Television" also won the award for best film in Rome. The acclaimed movie was released in South Korea and was selected to represent Bangladesh at the Oscars.

**Director Kamar Ahmed** Simon's film "Shunte Ki Paoi" continued to shine, circuiting a number of international film festivals, and winning the prestigious Grand Prix at the Cinema Du Reel. Simon also won the Asian Pitch late in the year for his new project.

**Jaya holds forth:** Jaya's Tollywood film "Abarto" was released in 2013. She participated in the Cannes Film Festival in France. She also attended the Big Picture Summit-13 in New Delhi as the lone Bangladeshi celebrity. Her first commercial movie was released countrywide at the end of the year; she also signed up for the film

"Zero Degree".

**Shakib Khan still on top:** Shakib Khan has secured top ranking in the industry over the last few years. This year was no different, with the release of nine films, most of them box office hits. Of them, "Debdas" made great business. While he debuted as a film producer, he also appeared as a model in a TVC for the first time. Shooting for the film "Dhaka to Bombay" took him to Mumbai.

**Jalil cements foothold:** Ananta Jalil's film "Nishartha Bhalobasa" received much appreciation. His film was also released in UK. Bollywood artistes Jackie Shroff and Bipasha Basu signed up for his new project "Most Welcome 2".

**Other remarkable events:** Humayun Ahmed and Tareque Masud's films featured at several festivals. Moushumi was appointed as goodwill ambassador of Unicef.

The film, "Nekkaborer Mahaprain" featuring famed writer Nirmalendu Guin received censor certificate.

Sahnur also acted in the film "Apaharan", a Bangladesh-India production. Nipun worked in the Kolkata film "Parichoye" with Prosenjit.

Meanwhile, Shimla acted in a film in Kolkata with Bollywood actor Govinda as co-artist.

Bapparaj made his debut as a film director. Director Amit Ashraf's debut "Udhao" was critically acclaimed. Lux Superstar Momo signed up

for a film after a long hiatus of six years. National Film Award winner director Sahnewaz Kakoli began shooting for her upcoming movie "Nodion".

Ferdous was very busy in Kolkata films. Apart from this, he acted in a film with Moushumi and Shabnur. He also performed in another movie based on the story of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Amin Khan was busy acting in TV plays.

Of the heroines, Bobby was praised for her outstanding performance in the film "Dehorokkhi".

Four movies of upcoming actress Mahi were released.

Although a few films of Apu Biswas were released, her "My Name Is Khan" and "Debdas" went down particularly well with the audience.

Arefin Shubho's "Bhalobasha Zindabad" was one of the most popular films of 2013.

National Film Award winner Misha Shaodagar made his debut as a TV host.

Former Dollywood heartthrob Shabnoor became a proud mother.

The uncrowned king of filmdom Anwar Hossain passed away.

Starry  
quotes

I have a handful of close friends, and I have family; I haven't known life to be any happier.  
-- Brad Pitt

It's okay to be mad at someone who hurt you.  
-- Taylor Swift

It's a good thing to feel like you have to prove something.  
-- Lauren Conrad

You have to be the best version of yourself, and if that means you have to be a bit self-promoting, then it's okay. It really is. Because who's going to believe you more than yourself?  
-- Reese Witherspoon

It's not about being fearless, but really just embracing your fears and using them.  
-- Kristen Stewart

You can't go backward; I'm not going backward. I'm grateful that I'm here, blessed to have what I have.  
-- Sandra Bullock

If you aren't going to fight for what you believe in, don't even enter the ring.  
-- Madonna



If my director wants me to work with a cow or a buffalo, as an actor, I am ready to do it.  
-- Shahid Kapoor



**Most Exciting Element:** The last time DiCaprio worked with director Martin Scorsese, we got gorgeous noir Shutter Island. This time, DiCaprio's is joined by Matthew McConaughey for what looks like one of this year's Oscar best bets.

6. "12 Years A Slave"

The third collaboration between Michael Fassbender and director Steve McQueen. This time, they're taking a harrowing trip into history as Fassbender plays an evil slave driver who keeps Chiwetel Ejiofor's New Yorker captive.

**Most Exciting Element:** Fassbender's popularity is way up there, but he's never more fascinating than when he's working with McQueen, who seems to know exactly which buttons to press.

5. "Interstellar"

Christopher Nolan moves onto pastures new after wrapping up his Batman trilogy, helming this mysterious sci-fi about space exploration, and apparently, time travelling through wormholes.

**Most Exciting Element:** Like JJ Abrams, Nolan's unmatched in keeping

his movie projects shrouded in secrecy right up to release. Which means the audience will know pretty much nothing about it going on, just like the good old days.

4. "The Amazing Spider-Man 2"

Follow-up to Marc Webb's Spidey reboot, with Andrew Garfield back in the skin-tight outfit, this time going up against Electro (Jamie Foxx) and Rhino (Paul Giamatti).

**Most Exciting Element:** The first "Amazing Spider-Man" felt a little bit déjà vu all over again, so the story is all set to really get cranking in this high-flying sequel. Also, Jamie Foxx as Electro is going to be magnificent.

3. "X-Men: Days Of Future Past"

A sequel to both "X-Men: First Class" and "X-Men: The Last Stand", this time-jumping comic adaptation sees Professor X and co. caught up in a war against robotic Sentinels that could lead to the destruction of all mutants.

**Most Exciting Element:** Bryan Singer's return to the X-verse is huge in

its ambition, not least because it unites the older and younger version of our favourite characters.

2. "Godzilla"

"Monsters" director Gareth Edwards helms this franchise reboot, in which Aaron Taylor-Johnson plays a soldier who goes up against that titular nasty.

**Most Exciting Element:** Though we've only seen artwork for the mighty beast, it looks like Edwards is sticking to a more traditional look for the giant reptile, which has everyone quivering with excitement.

1. "Guardians Of The Galaxy"

Marsel go out of this world for their first full-on space opera, which stars Chris Pratt as the Star-Lord, a cocky Han Solo-esque anti-hero who heads up that stellar team.

**Most Exciting Element:** Rocket Raccoon! Described by Pratt as the best character in the movie, the CGI gun-lover is being voiced by Bradley Cooper and looks set to steal the show entirely.