

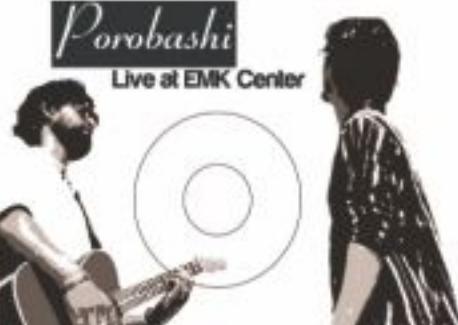
Zainul Quamrul  
Exhibition  
Venue: Nalini Kanta  
Bhattacharya, National Museum  
Date: Dec 22-Jan 31  
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Exhibition  
Title: Gravity-Free World  
Artist: A. Rahman  
Venue: Bengal Gallery  
Date: Jan 18-31  
Time: 12pm-8pm



Concert  
Band: Porobashi  
Venue: EMK Center, H-5, R-16, Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 22  
Time: 6pm



Alamgir Kabir Memorial  
Programme  
Marking 25th Death  
Anniversary  
Venue: National Art Auditorium, Shilpkala Academy  
Date: Jan 20-22, Time: 4pm



Solo Art Exhibition  
Artist: Bilash  
Venue: Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts, Waizhat  
Date: Jan 17-31  
Time: 10am-5pm



## NEWS bytes

### Springsteen scores 10th No. 1 album

Bruce Springsteen has landed his 10th No. 1 album, topping the UK chart with "High Hopes". Less than two years after his last record debuted at No. 1, the New Jersey rocker's 17th album nudged past Ellie Goulding's "Halcyon", Beyoncé's "Beyoncé", Bastille's "Bad Blood" and Gary Barlow's "Since I Saw You Last" to do the same on this week's chart. "High Hopes" wasn't just the chart's highest new entrant; it was almost the only new entrant. According to the Official Charts Company, Springsteen's 10th No. 1 albums mean that he has



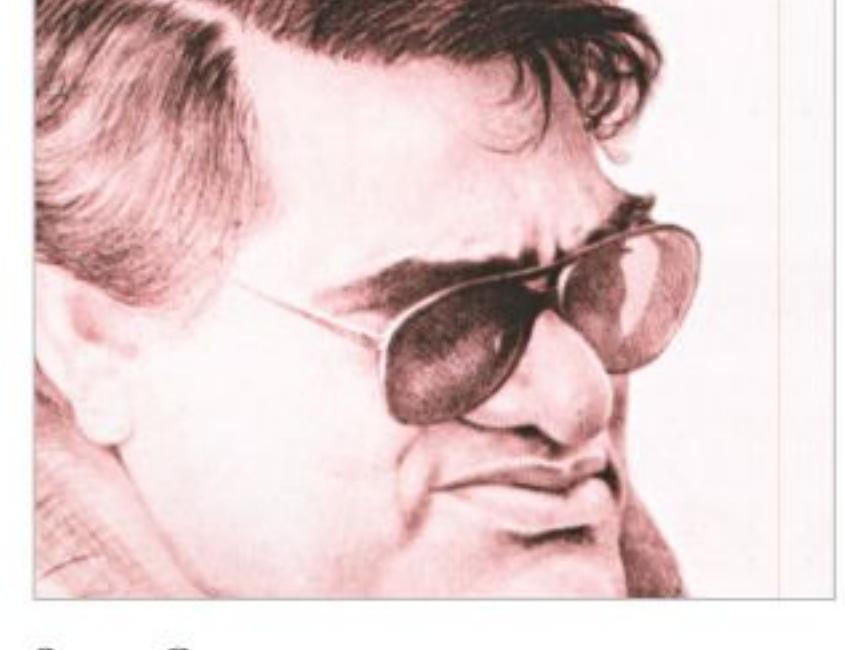
left David Bowie, Abba, Queen and Michael Jackson behind: each of these acts has only nine chart-toppers. He's now tied with U2, the Rolling Stones and Robbie Williams, and only four other acts have racked up more album hits: Elvis Presley, Madonna and the Beatles.

Source: Guardian

## IT'S TRUE!



Indian actress Vidya Balan was cast as the female lead in the Malayalam film "Chakram", opposite Mohanlal and was subsequently signed on for twelve other Malayalam language films. However, due to production difficulties, "Chakram" was shelved. The postponement of a film starring Mohanlal was unprecedented, and producers labelled her as a 'jinx' and replaced her in all the films that she had been contracted for. She then shifted focus to Tamil cinema. In 2001, she was cast as the female lead in N. Linguswamy's "Run", but after completing the first shooting schedule of the film, was unceremoniously dropped. "Kalari Vikraman", a Malayalam film that she completed work for, failed to get a theatrical release. After appearing in approximately sixty television commercials and in music videos for Euphoria and Shubha Mudgal, she saw her first release in the Bangla film "Bhalo Theko", and her Bollywood debut "Parineeta" propelled her to stardom.



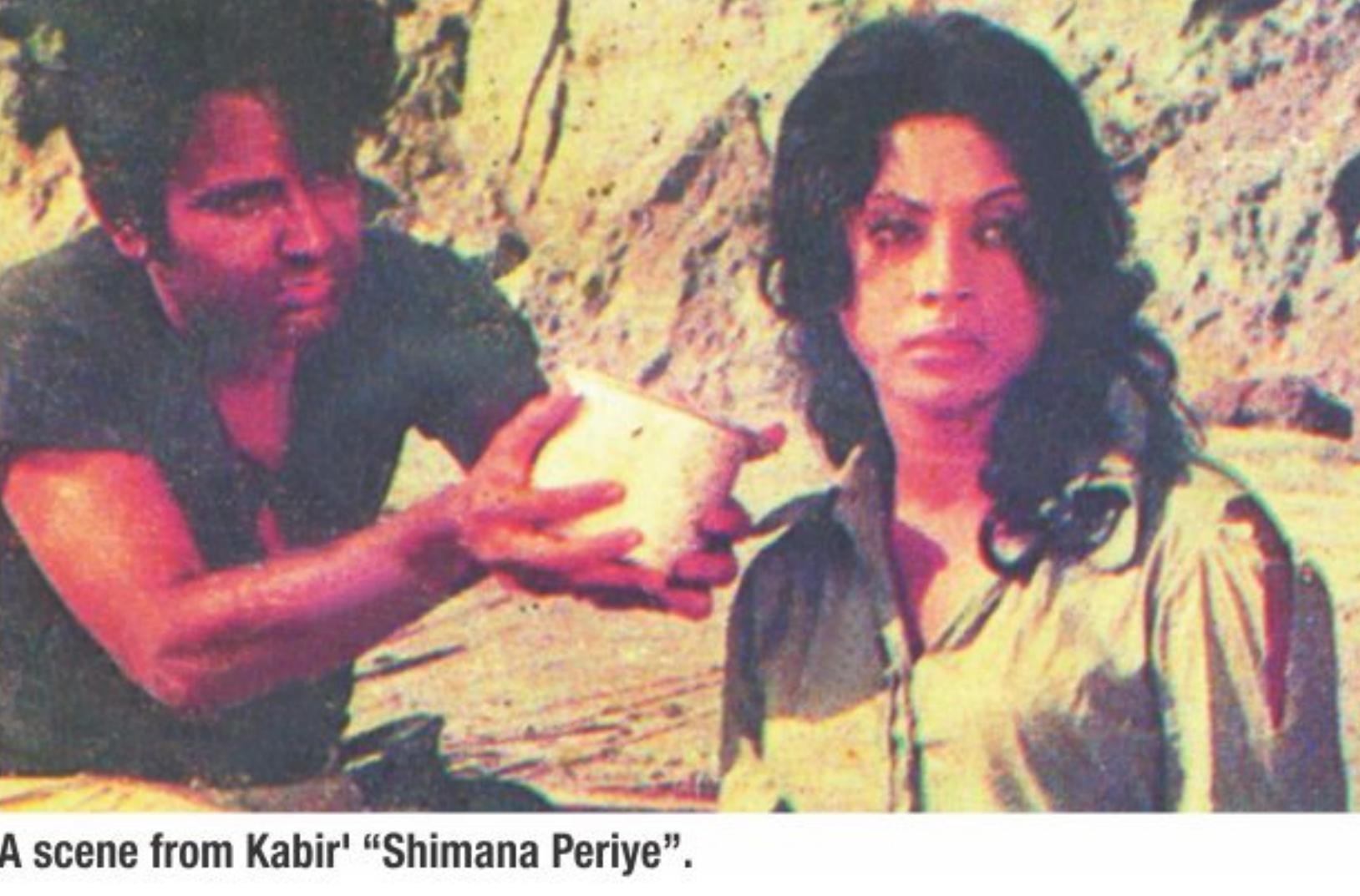
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday marked the 25th death anniversary of renowned filmmaker Alamgir Kabir. On the occasion, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, Federation of Film Societies of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Short Film Forum and Bangladesh Documentary Council have jointly organised a three-day programme. The event was inaugurated yesterday at the National Art Plaza Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, Segunbagicha in the city.

The event features discussion, documentary and film screening and a keynote paper presentation. "Pratikuler Jatri", a documentary on the life and works of the late filmmaker produced by Kawser Chowdhury was also screened at the venue. A number of Kabir's films -- "Surya Kanya", "Liberation Fighters", "Ek Sagar Rakter Binimoye" and "Shimana Periye" will also be screened at the venue.

## Filmmaker Alamgir Kabir's 25th death anniversary

### Three-day programme begins at Shilpkala Academy



A scene from Kabir's "Shimana Periye".

Alamgir was born in Rangamati in 1938. He completed matriculation from Dhaka Collegiate School in 1952 and intermediate from Dhaka College in 1954. After completion of bachelor's degree from the Dhaka University in physics, he went to England to study electrical engineering at Oxford University. It is during

this period that he came across the "The Seventh Seal" by Ingmar Bergman. He watched it several times and became attracted to filmmaking. He went to the British Film Institute to complete a number of courses on the history of the film industry, film direction and aesthetics. He also got involved with the Communist Party

of England and became a reporter of the Communist Party newspaper, the Daily Worker. Alamgir was the founder of organisations such as East Pakistan House and East Bengal Liberation Front in London and was active in the campaign against racial discrimination.

During the war of independence in 1971, Alamgir joined the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra as the chief of its English section. This period also marked the start of his directorial life with the making of documentaries. After liberation, he started making feature films. He was the coordinator of the film appreciation courses organised by the Film Institute of Bangladesh during 1981-82.

In recognition of his contributions to film industry, Kabir was honoured with Cine Journalists Award, Zahir Raihan Film Award of Uttaran, Syed Mohammad Parvez Award and Shadhinota Puroshkar.

The helmer drowned in the Jamuna at Nagarbari ferry Ghat while returning from Bogra after attending a film seminar on January 20, 1989.

## Shamsul Wares turns 68



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 68th birth anniversary of eminent architect and art critic Shamsul Wares. He was the professor of Architecture Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET). He has attended as juror and speaker in many seminars, art and architecture exhibitions, competition, architecture biennial and triennial in our country and abroad. He frequently writes for the artists' brochures, art and architecture journals and creative publications. He was also featured in the acclaimed documentary "My Architect: A son's Journey", based on Louis I Kahn.

He is currently working as a Professor and Dean of Department of Architecture, University of Asia Pacific.

## Waqeeb wins MTV Silver Disc Award



A CORRESPONDENT

Waqeeb Ahad has won the "MTV Chart Attack Silver Disk Award", for the music video of the song "Amrito Meger Bari" which topped the MTV Bangladesh's chart for three consecutive weeks. The show, MTV Chart Attack, features the most followed songs and videos based on public voting.

Before grabbing the position, "Amrito Meger Bari" held the second position for two weeks on the show. The fusion singer's unique-styled rendition has given a new flavour to the Lalon song, without hampering the originality of it. Regarding the success, Waqeeb said -- "A Lalon song having a very peaceful musical arrangement, was a completely odd inclusion to the MTV Chart Attack. But, the result is a pleasant surprise and I'm thankful to the audience for conveying their supports through votes and good wishes."

Singer-composer-lyricist Waqeeb has spent a remarkable time of his life with the Bauls living in different parts of the country. In his latest album titled Waqeeb-er Gaan, he has fused folk, Baul and Western musical patterns in the songs written, composed and rendered by him.

Waqeeb has recently released five music videos and more is in the pipeline. "I was never regular in the media. I have 40 released songs in the market, and many became hits, but the people do not know me by face. Since I have decided to dedicate myself to music and took it as my profession, it is the demand of time to appear in music videos," he said.

## Delvistaa Foundation organises art camp in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mustapha Khalid Palash conducts the art camp.

together a group of over 30 architects -- encouraging exchange of ideas, honing skills and professional development. They have painted in varied

genres of art like abstract, abstract expressionism, symbolism and neo-impressionism. Some participants highlighted architectural lines, forms

and pure compositions, nature and few works are dominated by plain colour. Architect Shahzia Islam, secretary of the foundation also took part at the camp.

Palash said, "Art and architecture have a firm bond. Generally, architects fulfil their projects through varied drawings, compositions and forms. The main aim of the project is to explore oil painting with new techniques and methods. Participating architects will learn several methods, techniques and styles through this project. The application of oil as medium is very exciting and challenging. It provides an opportunity for rethinking, re-examination and reworking. The medium's outcome is amazing and provides a remarkable effect."

## Mithun the Parliamentarian

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Now you can watch film actor Mithun Chakrabarty in a new real life role. As a lawmaker.

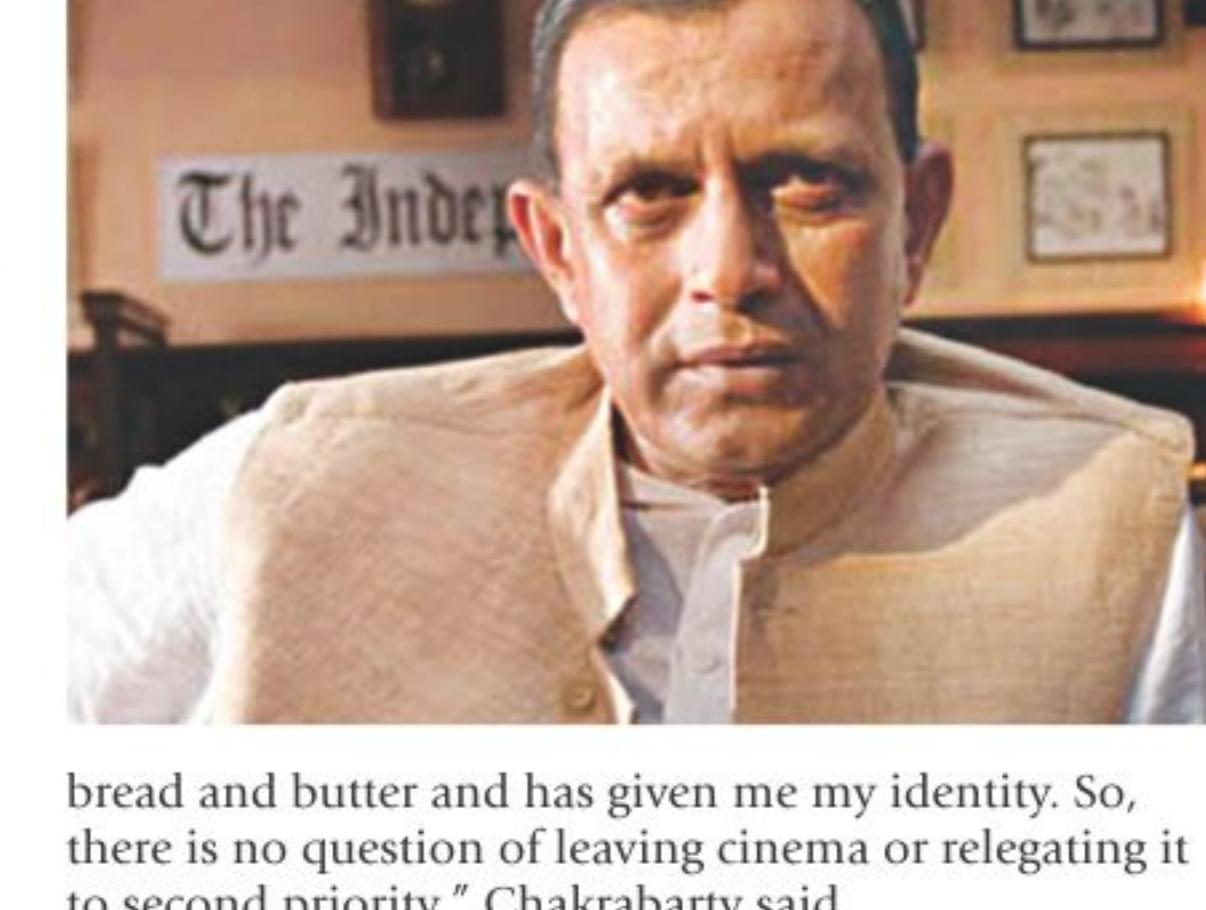
West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has nominated Chakrabarty to the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Indian Parliament, as the representative of her party Trinamool Congress. The membership of the House of Elders is for a six-year tenure.

Chakrabarty, who wowed young Bollywood film lovers with his performance in Disco Dancer in the early eighties, said he was not expecting the Rajya Sabha seat offer and asked Mamata twice if she was sure that he would be the right person for it.

According to the actor, every time he asked Mamata the question, she replied in affirmative and pointed out that singer Lata Mangeshkar and former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar were also nominated members of Rajya Sabha.

In fact, Mamata announced Chakrabarty's nomination on her Facebook account on Saturday last saying she is proud to do so to honour a talented actor. But will the role of Parliamentarian mean Mithun will ignore his role as an actor? No, says he. Although he is happy at being nominated for Rajya Sabha, he says he will not put his role as a lawmaker over his acting career.

"My first priority will always be acting as it gave my



bread and butter and has given me my identity. So, there is no question of leaving cinema or relegating it to second priority," Chakrabarty said.

However, one thing is clear: Chakrabarty, who has given impressive performance as a serious actor in films like "Mrigaya" directed by Mrinal Sen and "Tahader Kotha" by Buddhadeb Dasgupta, will have to balance the demand on his time for pursuing an acting career and the role of a lawmaker. So, that guarantees us that we will see the actor hopefully in a riveting performance in double role.

## Fantasy at its finest

### "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" opens at Star Cineplex

FAHMIM FERDOUS

IRR Tolkien made a name for himself through his connected body of work "The Hobbit", "Lord of The Rings (LoTR)" and "The Silmarillion" about a fantasy world called Arda, and is largely credited with the resurgence of the high fantasy genre. Yet, to those who were not keen readers, it was the brilliance of director Peter Jackson's adaptation of the LoTR series on film that has created a massive cult following worldwide. After the colossal success of the LoTR trilogy, Jackson started working on its prequel, "The Hobbit", and much to the delight of the fandom, decided to make another trilogy. The first film

"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" released in 2012 to positive reviews and huge box office success. Releasing in December last year, the second chapter, "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" was met with equal interest from viewers, if not from critics.

The film premiered in 3D on Thursday at the Star Cineplex -- the multiplex that has brought some of the latest and biggest blockbusters for film buffs of Dhaka.

Without giving away too many spoilers, the plot sees Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) in a quest with a group of dwarves, and hobbit Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) to recover the Arkenstone from the Lonely Mountain, where



Smaug the Dragon (Benedict Cumberbatch) sleeps. They are on a tight schedule through a perilous path, and are without the help of wizard Gandalf the Grey (Ian McKellen) for most parts. Bilbo's One Ring (ac-

quired in the first part of the film) does come in handy at times, and with help along the way, including from Beorn the skin-changer, the unexpected ones from the Elven kingdom from Legolas (Orlando Bloom) and Tauriel (Evangeline Lilly) -- the only character in the film added in the screenplay from outside the book -- and Bard (Luke Evans) from the lake-town of Esgaroth, they reach the Lonely Mountain, only to awaken the sleeping dragon Smaug. Gandalf, meanwhile, is on his own quest -- to investigate the tombs of the Nazgûl.

Spectacular landscapes and breathtaking visuals are a given in Peter Jackson's films, and this is no exception. The pictures are so vivid and engaging, it's almost like the film is happening inside one's head; the boundaries of visualisation and imagination are blurred. The action sequences are fast and edge-of-the-seat, albeit a tad stretched at

times, and special effects are off the charts. But with all that in the bag, it's the cast that makes it such a fantastic film. Ian McKellen is in his own brilliant zone throughout; Freeman's heroics are inspiring, as is Armitage's intensity. Luke Evans portrays a superb multi-layered character, and Evangeline Lilly adds to the depth of the story. Even Benedict Cumberbatch (who is merely a voice behind Smaug, and the necromancer) delivers the goods. Being on 3D, "The Desolation of Smaug" is a strong recommendation for anyone who has the taste for good films. It's a tad on the longer side (161 minutes), but it is all -- including the cliff-hanger -- much worthwhile.