

International Dance Day  
Programmes & Fair  
Organisers: Bangladesh Nitya Shilpi Sangstha & Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



Discussion and Musical Soiree  
In loving memory of Bashir Ahmed  
Organiser: Star Melodies  
Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall, The Daily Star Centre



Group Exhibition  
Title: 1134 - lives not numbers  
Organiser: Pathshala  
Venue: Pathshala, 16  
Date: April 22-26  
Time: 3pm-8pm



Film Festival  
Suchitra Sen Retrospective  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: April 18-26  
Time: 6pm-9pm



NEWS bytes

Third Hobbit film title changed

Director Peter Jackson has changed the title of the final film in his Hobbit trilogy from "There and Back Again" to "The Battle of the Five Armies". The original title felt 'misplaced', he wrote on Facebook. Jackson said the journey to make the trilogy had been "in some ways like Bilbo's own, with hidden paths revealing their secrets to us as we've gone along." The Battle of the Five Armies is in reference to a battle waged between the goblins and the wargs against the elves, dwarves, eagles, men of Dale and a shape-shifter as depicted in JRR Tolkien's classic fantasy novel. Jackson hinted the title "There and Back Again" could be the name of a future trilogy box set. The movie is due out this December. The first two instalments took about \$1bn each at global box offices.



AUW students enthrall audience



A student performs Bharatnatyam at the programme.

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong  
Students of Asian University for Women (AUW) from different countries mesmerised the audience, with by their superb presentations of diverse cultural threads including music, dance and instrumental presentations, on Thursday evening. The cultural programme was organised on the occasion of AUW National Conference on Natural Science and Technology, organised by Science and Math Programme of AUW, in its campus. Parag Mutsuddi entertained the audience, performing the popular Rabindra Sangeet "Ami Chini Go Chini Tomarey Ogo Bideshini" on violin.

Akriti and Christina, two Nepalese students, next came up on the stage wearing their traditional attires, to perform a tribal dance with a melodious song that was greeted with a warm round of applause. The duo was followed by Archana Nayar, a student from India, who came on stage to perform classical dance form Bharatnatyam. Six students from Myanmar, led by Zune came up on stage next. Wearing their traditional dresses, Zune and her troupe performed a group dance. But the audience was most amused by the entertaining performance of six Pakistani students led by Meher, who led presented a group dance with some popular Urdu songs.

More surprise awaited the audience, as 10 students from different countries, including two from Indonesia, came on stage performed an exceptional form of dance, known as Shaman Dance in Indonesia. The crowd loved it, spontaneously greeting it with claps and cheers reaction from the whole audience started immediately after the utterance. Talking to The Daily Star, Tanjila Drishti, a Bangladeshi student of AUW, said it is the beauty of the AUW that the students are here from multicultural background and diversity. Students here get a great opportunity to exchange and know the culture of each other, and thus a feeling of respect for all the cultures in the world develops in them, she added.

PHOTO: STAR

Star Melodies' tribute to Bashir Ahmed today



STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK  
Star Melodies is organising a special memorial discussion and musical programme on the lately departed legendary music maker, Bashir Ahmed. Eminent music exponents such as Ferdausi Rahman, Syed Abdul Hadi, Sheikh Sadi Khan and Subir Nandi will reminisce and reflect on the artist's life and works. Nasima Shaheen Fancy, Alope Kumar Sen, Munir Chowdhury, Bizon Chandra Mistry and Mofizul Huq will sing at the event. The programme will begin at 6:30pm today at the AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre. Those interested in enjoying the event may contact the Administration Department of The Daily Star on 9144330 (Hunting) or 8124944 between 11am-5pm to enroll their names, on the basis of accommodation availability. Seats are limited.

IT'S TRUE!

Music streaming site Spotify has recently taken down an album of silence by American funk band Vulfpeck from its site. Their fourth record, "Sleepify", is 10 tracks of silence which they encourage fans to stream or repeat overnight. The idea was aimed at generating money so that the band could go on tour and not charge admission fees. Vulfpeck's response to Spotify's removal of "Sleepify" also includes a three-track EP, posted on the streaming site, called "Official Statement". The first track, "#Hurt", includes a message from



vocal Jack Stratton which says: "About 5 minutes ago I received an email from Spotify. In light of that uncertainly I want to take 30 seconds silence to ponder the uncertainly."

Celebration of literature Two festivals in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh  
A three-day literary festival is being held at Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium, including discussions, reception to eminent writers, poetry recitation sessions, a book fair, cultural functions and literary gathering of writers and poets from across the country. The festival, with the theme "Sahityer Aynae Jege Uthuk Manusher Mukh" is organised Sahitya Bazaar, a literary newspaper in Dhaka, marking its 7th anniversary. Prof. Dr. Mohit Ul Alam, vice-chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University inaugurated the festival as chief guest. Poet Farid Ahmed presented a keynote paper titled "Boier Sathe Alokito Sannidho" at the opening session. Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqui chaired the session while Swadhin Chowdhury, coordinator of the festival delivered the welcome speech. A number of poets recited their



A scene from "Hamlet in Love".

PHOTO: STAR

own poems at the poetry recitation session. Eminent writer Syed Shamsul Haque, Zatin Sarker and Tareque Salah Uddin Mahmud were honoured on the opening day of the festival. In the evening session, poet Nirmulendu Goon was the chief guest with noted lyricist Shahidullah Farayazi in the chair. The festival closes today. Meanwhile, marking the 450th birth anniversary of English wordsmith William Shakespeare, a two-day Shakespeare Festival

concluded at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) in Trishal on April 23. The festival included discussion on life and works of Shakespeare and staging and screening of plays and films written by the bard. The students of the Natyakala Department staged Shakespeare's "Othello" while "Hamlet in Love" was staged by the students of English Language and Literature Department. Both the plays were adopted by Prof Dr. Mohit Ul Alam, vice-chancellor of the uni-

versity. "Othello" was directed by Al Zabir, a teacher of Natyakala Department while "Hamlet in Love" was directed by Arpana Awal, a teacher of English Language and Literature Department. Films based on Shakespeare's classics "Romeo and Juliet", "Macbeth" and "The Taming of the Shrew", were also screened at Arts Building auditorium. On the opening day of the festival, a photo exhibition on the poet was held at the corridor of the Arts Building. Organized by Fine Arts Faculty, the photo exhibition drew the attention of hundreds of students, teachers and employees of the university. On the concluding day of the festival, a seminar on life and works of the bard was held at the conference hall of the university. Prof. Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam of English Department, Dhaka University was the chief guest while Prof. Dr. Abul Bashar, treasurer of JKKNIU was the special guest.



Cameron Diaz is 41, an age that strikes fear into the heart of many an actress. Not this one. "It is the best time of my life. I love being this age, are you kidding?" she exclaims, sitting bolt upright on a jade velvet sofa in an airy Los Angeles hotel suite. Not that Diaz looks her age, of course. Lean and athletic, from rigorous hours logged at the gym, she is dazzlingly pretty, with sparkling blue eyes. No wonder she isn't concerned about the passage of time. But Diaz, who recently co-wrote "The Body Book", a self-help manual that encourages women to be more accepting about their appearance, goes further. "I can't wait to be older," she says with an ear-to-ear dimpled smile. It's an unusual thing to hear from an A-list in Hollywood, where the cult of youth still rules supreme, though Diaz sees it differently. "This is something we really need to reframe," she says. "The most interesting parts are for women who are over 40. We don't see it that way, because they're not the sexy parts. Look at the Oscar nominees in the last decade." Diaz reels off a list that includes Meryl Streep, Helen Mirren and Dame Judi Dench. "We're not giving those women enough credit for what they're accomplishing, which is beautiful performances."

Sunny and spontaneous, she has an unshakably optimistic perspective on life, which she puts down to a happy childhood in Long Beach, with her Anglo-German mother Billie, Cuban-American father Emilio and sister Chimene. The idea of acting for a living seemed far-fetched. "Where I grew up, the options were slim to nothing. In any given year there were at least seven to 10 girls walking around school pregnant. A lot dropped out. A lot ended going to jail, dying or falling victim to drug abuse. But there were also a lot who pulled themselves out of it - [like] Snoop and I," she says, referring to the rapper Snoop Dogg, who was also at the school. "And some of them have a family and a nice job and live comfortably." "The thing about fame is that it doesn't change you - it actually makes you more of who you are. People who are famous are held more accountable than other human beings. You can't go out into the world without somebody taking a picture and sharing it with everybody else. So you do your best to be the person that you want people to see you as. For me, that means being as authentic as possible. I'm no different when I am with you than with anybody else." Diaz's rise is well documented. A model as a teenager, at 22 she auditioned for "The Mask" (1994) and became an overnight success. She is now one of the industry's top female earners (and reportedly the highest-paid actress over 40), and her films have made nearly \$3 billion. There have been mainstream hits such as "Bad Teacher" (2011) and the Shrek franchise, but also riskier roles such as "Being John Malkovich" (1999), for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe. Despite all her acting success, she regards her book as one of her biggest accomplishments. "I wrote it because a lot of women don't see themselves as beautiful. I'm talking about having a real relationship with your own body. Getting older is not just about your butt dropping, it means that our bodies start to break down and we die. But the journey from here to there doesn't have to be one of hatred, wishing you looked like you did when you were 25." Neither does she have a fixed opinion on motherhood. "I've never said never to anything in life. If I wanted kids, at any point in life, I would have them. I can't see the future, but one thing I do know is that I'm not childless. I have a ton of children in my life. I can have a kid any second, if I want," she says with a laugh. "I also, by the way, have a lot of girl friends who don't have children. I just didn't do that in life -- and I'm okay with that. I know the choices I made. I know why I made them. I'm very much a person who lives in the moment. When you come from where I do, there are so many ways my life could have gone."

Source: Telegraph

"2 States": Exploration of complex relationships

KAVITA, New Delhi  
It's unusual to see long winding queues outside movie halls in Delhi anymore. What with mushrooming jazzed up shopping malls that offer luxurious viewing or the spate of pirated DVDs, the somewhat rundown cinema halls are spoiled for competition. The crowd outside a movie hall in the heart of South Delhi was a rare exception. As one jostled to get tickets for "2 States" one wasn't sure what to expect. The word of mouth publicity was great and so was the storyline but then witness the success of atrocious films like "Dabaang" or many other pot-boilers. "2 States" -- that is still playing to full houses, is a rare combination of entertainment and full-blooded emotion. Based on a book, "2 States: The Story of my Marriage" by prolific novelist-screenplay writer Chetan Bhagat, the semi-autobiographical film explores the theme of how the polarisation of cultures between two Indian states can impede a symbiotic relationship between

two students of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A). Krish (played by Arjun Kapoor) and Ananya (Alia Bhatt) who are madly in love but don't want to get married without their parents' consent. That's at one level. "2 States" is also a funny, moving story that has its rough side: the tortuous relationship between Krish and his alcoholic father (TV actor Ronit Roy), the cultural divides between a typically Punjabi and conservative Tamil family and the subsequent havoc played on two young lives. Old hat? Not the way Bhagat's story unfolds or the great sensitive handling of the characters by the director. Every frame in "2 States" makes one laugh, cry or hold one's breath for what's to come. Krish is not your average good-looking big city slicker, nor is Ananya the run of mill heroine. Yet the two are great together; funny yet passionate, light and yet heart-rending when parental opposition threatens to keep them apart. What makes "2 States" stand apart from other such films is that it follows relationships artistically



Arjun-Alia's on-screen chemistry is fantastic in the film.

and sometimes unforgettably. In an interview with IBNLive, Bhagat says of his father, "It was a tumultuous relationship, where there were unmet expectations on both sides. I tried very hard to fix it but

beyond a point it was difficult. I had to forgive him to move on in life, and I did so by writing '2 States' where the boy's father plays a positive role in the end. That helped me heal."