

National Sculpture Exhibition

Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy

Date: May 11-20

Time: 11am-7pm & 3-8pm



Group Mask Exhibition

Title: Mukh O Mukhosh 5

Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara

Date: May 17-30

Time: 11am-8pm daily



Photography Exhibition

Title: Bicycle & Bangladesh

Organiser: BDCyclists

Venue: Drik Gallery

Date: May 15-16

Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Musical Soiree

Artiste: Ferdous Ara

Venue: IGCC, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1

Date: May 17

Time: 6:30pm




27th Anniversary of Swapanakuri

With memorial programme of Bashir Ahmed

Venue: Music & Dance Centre Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

Date: May 15; Time: 6:30pm



## NEWS bytes

### New Power Rangers movie to be made

A new movie starring brightly-coloured Spandex-wearing heroes the 'Mighty Morphin Power Rangers' has been announced. Film studio Lionsgate, home of the hugely successful 'Hunger Games' franchise, is working on the film with the original creators, Saban. Power Rangers, which first began in 1993 based on a Japanese TV show, ran for three series before it was renamed. It spawned a lucrative toy line and a critically-maligned feature film. It was, however, a box office hit making more than \$66m worldwide. After the initial TV run, the franchise was relaunched as the Power Rangers and has continued for another 17 seasons and another film in 1997.

Another hit children's series from the 1990s, the 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles', has also been given the big screen treatment with a new film, produced by Michael Bay, due out in August.

Source: BBC



## IT'S TRUE!

US singer-actress Nancy Sinatra, daughter of Frank Sinatra - made her mark on the American (and British) music scene in early 1966 with her song "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'". It received three Grammy Award nominations, and sold over one million copies. Sinatra traveled to Vietnam to perform for the US troops, where many soldiers adopted the song as their anthem, as shown in Pierre Schoendoerffer's academy award winning documentary "The Anderson Platoon" and reprised in a scene in Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket". Today, Sinatra still performs for charitable causes supporting US veterans who served in Vietnam.



FAYZA HAQ

As one entered Shilpakala Academy with its splendid array of statues, comes across Habiba Akhter Papia's three metal pieces, two of which this correspondent had viewed before at the Bengal Gallery's exhibit. The National Sculpture Exhibition opened at the National Art Gallery of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on May 11, and will continue till May 20. A total of 105 works of 78 sculptors from across the country are being featured here.

In her latest endeavour, Papia had a dozen angles, flitting over an egg-shaped creation, marked over with Bangla calligraphy. Her bottle with three leaves had Bangla calligraphy all over it as well. She also had a metal jug containing frozen roses. Her attempt at delineating life through metal was admirable indeed.

As one entered the Shilpakala Academy building display, one encountered a magnificent pile up of light, a fantastic piece of chopped wood, glued together with the appearance of a huge wooden enclosure, which seemed like a mosquito net without a top. Another piece included two men lei-

surely reading books.

Syed Abdullah Khalid's "Attobishhash" was represented with a man's carved head in white cement. There were folds in the neck as one ventured to get a closer view.

Joyashish Ashjejo has "Bibroti", which presented a well carved-out cupid in white cement under a tree. There are instances of couples making love, in the same white cement plaque. The image of a mother and child was also visible with considerable dexterity. Sheikh Sadi Bhuyia had "Atto Prokriti Roshayon", in black metal, near at hand. This depicted a female nude carved with elegance.

Devdas Kumar's "Prokiti Gothan" had two idyllic swirls of metal, which recalled two people lying down as if sunbathing, on the seashore, among the sand, under some imaginary umbrella. Swirls of cement brought in "A farm of Alien" with a woman's head sprouting from a piece of vegetable. What was stunning, in contrast, was Goshai Pahal Lobby's huge yellow ball with two brown beaks at two ends. Nurul Amin's "Composition" contains two blocks of burnt sienna colour, which contain a traditional hand-fan from the villages, a dhol,

a winding, curling, venomous snake and a "Hukkah" (hubble-bubble).

Sigma Huq had her "Mukhosh 5 and 6". She also had "Eka Eki" -- two birds rearing three chicks, done in glazed, cracked white cement. Faizullah has a chilling scene to present. The white creation from cement was crawling with human skulls and hungry buzzards. The scene was moving and recalled 1971, when the mindless Pak army fell on the hapless Bangladeshis, who tried to flee, in vain. Rajib Kumar Shaha has "New Life", with three heads emanating from a vegetable.

Rukhsana Bahar has a strange, out of this world creation, made by piecing together bits of wood, metal and a blob of plastic. There were four cows in clay in Md. Rabiul Hossain's "Shongram". MI Mithu's "Jibon Boichitra" had two curling pieces, suggesting female forms in black. There was also Aminul Islam's "Face of Life" with two heads sharing an earphone, in white cement. Produt Kumar Das had woman in blue metal pieces, welded together. Md. Mujahidur Rehman displayed a white canvas shoe.

Such is the post-modern vision of some of our artists --- with clay, cement and metal.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## Preliminary round of Spelling Bee begins

### Top 96 spellers compete for quarter-final spot

TAHRIMA AHMED TRISHNA

The battle for the coveted Spelling Bee Champion title begins tonight. The show promises to be glamorous and intense. This year the audience doesn't merely sit back and watch the show but can also participate and win a tablet computer.

The top 96 spellers have emerged after competing neck to neck against approximately 2,600 others in the Divisional Round. Most of the spellers came through school visits and later divisional rounds but there are four Wild Card entries as well. Chosen by the judges, spellers who did exceptionally well in the written round but were disqualified in the oral round, were invited to be a part of the final 96 team.

Everybody is familiar with 'Spell It', the round where the pronouncer utters a word and the speller has to spell the word. In this round the part of speech, English and Bangla meaning of the word are given to help the speller. In the TV round, participants will also compete in 'Spell Hive' and 'Spell Buzz' rounds. The top scorer of the 'Spell Hive' round will present books to a rural school, to enrich or to start a new library, courtesy of BSRM.

The competition is expected to be fierce as the number of participants has increased, from 72 to 96, and many spellers are making their second or third appearance this season. This year, the competition will be held in five stages: Preliminary, Quarter-Final, Semi-Final, Semi-Final Playoff and Finale. As before, host Rumana Malik Munmun and Spelling Bee's official pronouncer Zunaed Rabbani will guide the participants throughout the journey.

The first Preliminary Round will be aired tonight on Channel i at 7:50pm where six participants will battle it out for their place in the Quarter-Final, with the two top scorers making the cut.

This year, the audience can participate by downloading an Android Smartphone App 'Spell Champs' from Google Play Store, play daily and the highest scorer of the week will win a tablet computer.

The Daily Star is a partner of the programme.



The stage is all set for the spellers.

## European Film Fest begins

A CORRESPONDENT

The weeklong second European Film Festival in Dhaka, a joint endeavour of the European Union (EU) and Star Cineplex, opened in the city on Tuesday with a grand ceremony at the Star Cineplex, in presence of European Union Ambassador William Hanna, Star Cineplex Chairman Mahboob Rahman, and High Commissioners and Ambassadors of 12 EU countries. Organisers said the goal of the film is to acquaint the country cinema lovers to the best films from Europe and thus strengthen cultural ties. German film "Almanya" was also screened at the premiere.

The other films set to screened at the festival are "A Hijacking" (Denmark), "All That Glitters" (France), "The Selfish Giant" (UK), "Loose Cannons" (Italy), "The Blitz" (Netherlands), "99% Honest" (Norway), "The Near East" (Spain), "Palme" (Sweden), "Recycling Lily" (Switzerland), "White Palms" (Hungary) and "You Kiss Like a God" (Czech Republic).

The festival closes on May 20.



A scene from "Almanya".

## CANNES 2014

### New blood in short supply as festival begins

Round up the usual suspects. The 67th Cannes film festival opened yesterday beneath azure skies, with hundreds of movies in the market, thousands of delegates on the prom and a roll call of luminaries gracing the red carpet, from Mike Leigh to Jean-Luc Godard, David Cronenberg to the Dardenne brothers. Of the 19 directors competing for the crowning Palme d'Or award, no fewer than 13 have been nominated before. New blood runs thin at the front end of Cannes.

For festival director Thierry Frémaux, the issue of selection largely takes care of itself. "Great directors make great films," he says, "and they will always have a place in Cannes." Yet critics claim that the world's most prestigious movie showcase increasingly runs the risk of becoming too cosy, too predictable, and too reliant on its rotating supergroup of international auteurs.

Nick James, editor of Sight and Sound, says the lineup looks strong - at least on paper. But that's not the problem. "What I'm concerned about is the development of new people to replace the established names," he says.



Workers set up a giant official poster of the 67th Cannes film festival.

"The film-makers that Cannes typically relies on are all of a similar age; they are all knocking on. In a bad year they might very well all leave us, and then who are they left with?"

This year's event, however, looks likely to be dominated by the Cannes elite and the repeat offenders. The Dardenne brothers are two-time winners making their sixth appearance in competition with "Two Days, One Night". Godard, the 83-year-old mainstay of French new wave, hopes to make it seventh time lucky with his 3D abstraction, "Goodbye to Language". All, however, are way behind

Britain's Ken Loach; "Jimmy's Hall", a period drama set in Ireland, has earned its director his 12th nomination for the Palme d'Or. Might the organisers be guilty of an excess of loyalty - of basing decisions on the names in the credits as opposed to the film in the can?

Writer Agnès Poirier, who helps pre-select films for inclusion, disagrees. "Critics say that it's always the same clientele on the red carpet," she says. "But that's not always the case. I think as much consideration is given to the film as to the director." Poirier points out that competition favourite François Ozon was

recently bounced to the Un Certain Regard sidebar, while two-time champion Francis Ford Coppola played further up the Croisette, in the boisterous atmosphere of the directors' fortnight section. Nor does Poirier think the main competition would benefit from an injection of fresh blood. "Fresh blood? That's what the sidebars are for. All the people we see in competition started off in critics' week, or the directors' fortnight." Awarding the Palme d'Or to an untitled director, she suggests, would be like giving the Nobel Prize for literature to a first-time novelist.

Mark Cousins, a critic and film-maker, feels the festival, by and large, gets the balance right. "If there was no Cannes, we'd be desperate for one," he says. Cannes, he adds, is a very Catholic affair. "It anoints, it beatifies, it sends up its white smoke after a conclave. To be sure, its decision-making is obscure and its choices often questionable. But its belief in cinema sainthood is exciting and fun."

Source: Guardian

## TV WATCH

### Meril-Prothom Alo Award on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

The 16th "Meril-Prothom Alo Star Award" was conferred on April 25 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Maasranga Television will air the Red Carpet of the ceremony at 7pm today, followed by the main ceremony at 2:30pm tomorrow.

Jointly emceed by Rumman Rashid Khan and Deepali, noted film, music and cultural personalities including Nayak Raj Razzak, Faridur Reza Sagar, Raisul Islam Asad, Masud Ali Khan, Subir Nandi, Tapan Chowdhury, Sharmili Ahmed, Kazi Hayat, Diti, Pijush Bandyopadhyay, Mosharraf Karim, Jaya Ahsan, Apu Biswas, Abida Sultana, Deepa Khandakar, Tarana Halim, Apurba and others were present at the red carpet reception. The programme will also air significant parts of the main programme with rehearsals.



Jaya Ahsan (R) on the red carpet.

## Quiz Contest

### The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Test your knowledge to win FREE Premium Tickets to The Amazing Spider-Man 2 with

The Daily Star Cineplex

Spider-Man QUIZ.

10 winners everyday! 2 Premium tickets for each winner

To participate for your chance to win TWO FREE PREMIUM TICKETS, email your answers to [marvels.spiderman@gmail.com](mailto:marvels.spiderman@gmail.com) by 4.00pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in the newspaper and through email.

Quiz No-13

1. Who played the role aunt may on amazing Spider man 2?
2. Who is Spider-Man's first true love in the comics?

\*A Joint initiative of The Daily Star and MARVEL

Answers of QUIZ 12 :

1. Benjamin
2. New York City

Winners of QUIZ 12:

1. Joana Mazumder, Mirpur-10
2. Nirjona Shehri, Banani
3. Deepta Dibakar Saha, Eskaton Garden Road
4. Sharen Khan, Dhanmondi
5. Parumita Rahman, Brac University
6. Tansin Jahan, Shantibagh
7. Waliul Haque Sohann, Mohammadpur
8. Murad Ahmed, Kollanpur
9. Shishir Ibrahim, Uttara
10. Nurunnabi, Uttara