

WHAT'S ON

Theatre Festival

Title: BotTala Rongomela

Organiser: BotTala

Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Oct 24-31

Time: 6:30pm



Art Exhibition

Title: Searching Myself

Artist: Monjur Rashid

Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

Date: Oct 21-Nov 3

Time: 12-8pm



4th Death Anniversary of Kalim Sarafi

Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra

Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha

Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Syed Hasan Mahmud

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi

Date: Oct 24-Nov 15

Time: 12-8pm



Manipuri Dance Recital

Title: Nupur Beje Jaye by Shadhona

Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi

Date: Oct 28

Time: 6:30pm



# NEWSbytes

## 1D members earned £6m each in 2013

One Direction earned more than £49m last year, according to their latest accounts. The papers reveal the pop group's turnover in the UK amounted to a wage of £134,000 a day during 2013.

The documents also show Harry Styles, 20, Liam Payne, Niall Horan and Zayn Malik -- all 21, and 22-year-old Louis Tomlinson each paid themselves a salary of £5.6m.

However, the figure doesn't include the band's US income.

Each member of the pop group owns a fifth of the business, which is listed as



1D Media Limited at Companies House.

So far One Direction have sold 45 million records worldwide and had sell-out tours in the past two years. They came to the scene after finishing third on The X Factor UK in 2010.

The boys have reportedly spent some of their cash on luxury homes.

SOURCE: BBC

# BHONGOBONGO

## Life along the barbed wires

### BotTala Rongomela continues to draw spectators



Aesthetically, "Bhongobongo" does a commendable job.

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The vibrant and festive BotTala Rongomela 2014, being held at the National Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, saw audience turn up in very encouraging numbers on the second day (October 25), as Aranyak staged their new play "Bhongobongo", following a puppet show at the hall premises by Puppetiana.

Written by Mamunur Rashid and directed by Faiz Zahir, the play essentially is about the partition of Bengal (Bongobhongo) of 1905, although it is never portrayed concretely. Instead, it shows life on the border of the Benapole-Haridaspur land port border between Bangladesh and India. Characters

like smugglers, human traffickers, drug addicts and a prostitute are developed initially in the play, alongside customs officers and authority and law enforcement figures. The arrival of a mysterious man, held after trying to cross the borders, causes tensions to rise on both sides and borders to be closed, stranding people on both sides. The mysterious man is metaphorically portrayed as Rabindranath Tagore (or his spirit), and the rise in tensions eventually cause political intervention, and a shootout leaves two lovers, who lived on either side of the barbed wire, dead on their grounds.

Acting was good across the board, as is expected of Aranyak, and the script has its moments too, but in

entirety, the play remains on the obscure side. Although director Faiz Zahir said at the Rongo Adda -- a post-staging Q&A session with the director -- a lot of the play was left for audience's interpretations; the clarity of the plot itself seemed to be off at times. The set design fits well, but is not all too striking; the music is placed well but is a little one dimensional, with only percussive sounds. A number of Tagore songs are used, tying to the presence of Tagore in the play. The choreography was often predictable and purposeless, despite having its moments. The use of a third-person narrator on-stage nearly the entire time was a nice touch, while the costume, props and light were also done neatly.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

# IT'S TRUE!



French footballer Eric Cantona is known best as a legendary no.7 at English club Manchester United, but following his retirement from football in 1997, he took up a career in cinema and had a role in the 1998 film "Elizabeth", starring Cate Blanchett, and later in "French Film" and "Looking for Eric", among many others. In 2010, he also debuted as a stage actor in "Face au Paradis", a French play directed by his wife, Rachida Brakni.

## Aggravation of war heroes under spotlight

### Shabdabali stages Phona at Shilpakala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shabdabali Group Theatre staged its latest production Phona on October 24 at Experimental Theater Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Promising playwright Shahman Moishan has written the play while accomplished director Sudip Chakraborty has directed it. The play deals with a universal message: disappointment of the war heroes after winning a war. Phona features the sacrifices that the soldiers make during the war for the motherland. But, after winning the war, they gradually become frustrated seeing the negligence and deviation from the spirit of the war.

A full house enjoyed the brilliant performance and expressed their satisfaction. The light design was good as well. The synchronised fluctuation of white light with the sound effects symbolizes a war scene aptly. Al Mamun has designed light. The actors'



A scene from the play.

marching appeared so real that it looked as if they were real soldiers. Abu Saleh, Nabila Nasreen, Shahidul Islam Shishir, Anwar Hossain Shamim and Mahmudul Hasan Manna were cast among others in the play. Syed Dulal has produced the play.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## Fazlul Haque

### Memorial Award conferred

A CORRESPONDENT

Noted film director Syed Salahuddin Zaki and cine-journalist Arefin Badal were honoured with the 11th Fazlul Haque Memorial Award '14. The award giving ceremony was held at Westin Hotel yesterday.

Fazlul Haque Smrity Committee conferred the awards on the duo for their contribution to Bangladeshi cinema and cine-journalism respectively.

Noted Litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq handed over the awards as chief guest while novelist Rabeya Khatun presided over the event.

Fazlul Haque was born in 1930 in Bogra. He is the father of Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Channel i. Haque was the editor of "Cinema", the first newspaper on film of the country. He was also the director of "President", the first film for children of the country. Rabeya Khatun, widow of Fazlul Haque and a litterateur -- initiated the award in 2004. Every year the awards are given to two individuals for cine-journalism and filmmaking.

## MTV Bangladesh Campus Soundbox and VJ Search underway



The new selected VJs will follow the footsteps of Anya and Yazdani.

ARMAN R. KHAN

Creinse Limited, the official Program Syndication Partner of MTV/Viacom in Bangladesh, is organising a talent hunt called "Campus Soundbox," presented by Samsung Galaxy Grand 2 and powered by UCash.

The team of Campus Soundbox are visiting six different universities looking for previously unheard of singers, and spend two months hunting for talent in each university. They have already covered Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), and are currently accepting registrations from University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) that will continue till November 5. The other universities they plan on visiting are North South University (NSU), East West University (EWU), BRAC University and American International University Bangladesh (AIUB).

Bayezed Hassan Shawon, Marketing Lead of Creinse Limited recently elaborated on the process. "We spend 20 days registering in each university. The selected budding musicians' songs are recorded and released online for voting, from where 40 percent of the total marks of each participant are taken. The top few from that university gets a chance to compete against each other in a finale, judged by Romel Ali and Shafin Ahmed, whose marks account for the remaining 60 percent."

The winner is announced on the final day of the programme in that university, and this artiste gets to record and release a single track with a music video that is played on MTV Bangladesh's programmes. Moreover, the winning six from six different universities will ultimately feature in the Campus Sound Box Music Fest in early 2015.

The partners of the event are Incursion, Radio Foorti and Shout.

On the other hand, these same people are organising the VJ Search 2014, where they'll look for young and talented individuals to become the new VJs of MTV Bangladesh. People interested are to register via a Facebook app available on Creinse Limited's Facebook page, or visit Creinse.com web site. After initial judgements and live sessions, the top five participants will go through a grooming session, and one of them will finally become the new face of MTV Bangladesh alongside last year's winner VJ Anya. The registration will remain open till midnight of October 30.

The partners of the VJ Search 2014 are Maasranga, Radio Foorti, Ecstasy, Persona, Shout, Aamra and Bitspearhead.

## "Noashal" set to air 100th episode tonight

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The 100th episode of popular drama serial "Noashal", directed by actor Mir Sabbir, will air tonight on Rtv.

ATM Samshuzzaman, Khairul Alam Sabuj, Doly Zahur, Chitralakha Guhu, Rawnak Hasan and Faruq Ahmed play major roles in the play that also features Azizul Hakim, Dr Ejaz, Tazin Ahmed, Ishana and Sayeed Babu.

The director also plays a character in the series, based on the story of two families from Noakhali and Barisal. The 100th episode was shot recently at Ashulia's Barobari and Dhaka.

"How many episodes the serial will run will depend on viewers," Mir Sabbir told The Daily Star.

"I'm playing an important role in 'Noashal'. The serial has already entertained the audiences, as its story is very powerful," said ATM Samshuzzaman.

Through his works, Mir Sabbir proved it that he is very potential as a director, said Khairul Alam Sabuj.

"Noashal" airs Monday through Wednesday at 9pm every week.



Mir Sabbir briefs ATM Shamsuzzaman and Azizul Hakim.

## Happy New Year breaks records

The release of a Shah Rukh Khan movie during Diwali came as no surprise. The fact that the film, titled Happy New Year, went on to break box office records also wasn't a shock. However, the critic's reaction to the movie and its subsequent success is what makes Happy New Year's tale so intriguing.

No one denies Shah Rukh Khan's prowess as an actor. The mega star has always been something of an enigma, like the Khans of Bollywood are perhaps genetically engineered to be. Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and Amir Khan have all been universally admired and acclaimed, but their movie selection has often come in for criticism and so have the similarity in the roles they select. Amir Khan, with his Dhoom 3 released last year, has broken free of his stereotype but Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan have yet to take a bold new direction. The 45 crore that Happy New Year's opening day collected during the Diwali holiday



goes someway to explain why the Khans don't need to do much. Trade pundits have already stated that this weekend the movie's receipts are sure to exceed a 100 crore, great plot line or not. They have a winning formula and they have not yet been given a reason to change it.

Happy New Year, which also features, Deepika Padukone, Sonu Sood, Abhishek Bachchan, Boman

Irani and Vivaan Shah in pivotal roles, managed to collect 42.62cr in Hindi, 1.43cr in its Telugu version and 0.92cr in its Tamil version, on Friday itself. Though the movie may not make it to Bollywood's Hall of Fame, Shah Rukh Khan's star power and amazing publicity drives have ensured it a respectable position at least in terms of Box Office revenue.

Compiled by Correspondent