

**WHAT'S ON**  
**Hay Festival Dhaka 2014**  
 Venue: Bangla Academy, Dhaka  
 Date: Nov 20-22  
 Time: 8am-8pm



**Photography Exhibition**  
 Celebrating Life Chapter II  
 Organiser: BMSS  
 Venue: Drik Gallery  
 Date: Nov 26-27  
 Time: 3-8pm



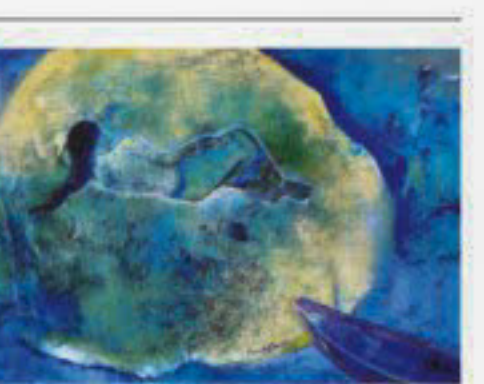
**Theatre**  
 Play: Dui Je Chilo Ek Chakor  
 Troupe: Natyakendra  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: November 18; Time: 7pm



**Bengal Classical Music Fest 2014**  
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation  
 Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka  
 Date: Nov 27-Dec 1  
 Time: 5pm - 5am



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Life is Here  
 Artist: Kanak Champa Chakma  
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1  
 Date: Nov 15-Dec 6  
 Time: 12pm-8pm



**NEWS bytes**

**Tarantino plans to retire after tenth film**



Quentin Tarantino has revealed plans to retire as a director once he completes his tenth film. While he was selling *The Hateful Eight*, he announced that he only plans to make two more films after this one is released. He said "I like the idea of leaving them wanting a bit more. I do think directing is a young man's game and I like the idea of an umbilical cord connection from my first to my last movie." He wants to leave a ten-film filmography and will make two more films. However he said "It's not etched in stone, but that is the plan." Co-starring Samuel L. Jackson, Kurt Russell, Jennifer Jason Leigh and many more, *The Hateful Eight* is expected to release in late 2015.

Source: **Totalfilm**

**IT'S TRUE!**



*Shakira shares Arabian ancestry and her father is a Lebanese. Her Lebanese grandmother taught her the art of Arabian Belly Dancing so she can stay true to her Middle Eastern roots. Steven Spielberg offered Shakira a part in his film "The Mask of Zorro" in 1998. However, she felt unable to accept the offer, as she believed her English wasn't good enough. Shakira has made cameo appearances on Ugly Betty and Wizards of Waverly Place, both times playing herself. Shakira received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2011. She is immortalized with a 5-meter iron statue in her home city on Colombia's Caribbean coast.*

# Celebrating the bounties of a century-old tradition

## Nabanna Utshab on Dhaka University campus



The festival gave city dwellers a unique opportunity to spend their weekly holiday joyously.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

With the theme "Esho Mili Shob-e Nabanner Utshab-e", Nabanna Utshab-1421 (late-autumnal festival) was held yesterday at Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts on Dhaka University campus. Nabanna or "the festival of new harvest" is celebrated by rural people across the country during the Bangla month of Agrahayan (November-December). Jatiyo Nabanna Utshab Udjapan Parishad (JNUUP) has been holding the festival in Dhaka since 1999.

Traditionally poets, painters, musicians, bauls and people from all walks of life come together at this festival. A big attraction of the celebration is food. Nabanna Mela (fair) is generally held in the countryside. The festival that is celebrated by diverse communities brings a smile to hard-working farmers of Bangladesh.

Nabanna Utshab in Dhaka was celebrated with

great enthusiasm. Language Movement veteran Ahmad Rafiq inaugurated the festival. Convener of the festival, Shahriar Salam delivered the welcome address, while Ekram Ahmed, chairman of Public Service Commission and many others spoke at the programme. Laila Hasan, chairperson of JNUUP presided over the inaugural ceremony.

The daylong programme featured solo and choral rendition of folk songs, songs composed by Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, group dance performances, recitation, and a colourful rally that circled Teachers' and Students' Centre (TSC). Children distributed muri, murki and khoi among the audience.

The programme began in the morning with classical flute recital by Murtaja Kabir Murad. Artists of Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad presented a choral song "Choron Nimney Utshabmoyi", composed by Rajanikanta Sen. Folk singer Abu Bakar Siddique soulfully rendered "Mone Sadh Loy". Artists of Udichi and Satyen



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

Sen Shilpi Goshti performed choral songs while artistes of Nataraj, Bhabna, Spondon, Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts and Nandan Kalakendra with indigenous Marma artistes danced to folk and traditional songs.

Bangladesh has an age-old cultural heritage. This rich tradition was on the verge of oblivion in the cities of Bangladesh. The celebration of Nabanna begins soon after harvest. There is joy everywhere, the children frisk in the yard as the cattle go round and round threshing the paddy, separating it from the stalks.

The festival gave city dwellers a unique opportunity to spend their weekly holiday joyously. Many came with their families to connect the new generation to their cultural roots. Visitors had the opportunity to enjoy many rural delicacies like pitha, muri, khoi, khir sold at small stalls at the venue. City dwellers also had a taste of traditional delicacies. In the evening the audience enjoyed baul songs, poetry recitation and dance.

# Musical on Tagore creations at National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To further India-Bangladesh joint cultural collaboration, Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in association with Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) arranged a Tagore musical titled "Tomar Oshime", featuring rendition of songs, recitation and dance recital based on Tagore creations at the main auditorium of BMN on November 14.

Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Sharan inaugurated the event as chief guest while noted theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar, Cultural Affairs Secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc and director general of Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) Prakash Chandra Das spoke as special guests.

Bangladeshi singer Shwapnil Shojib set off the soiree by chanting a "mantra". He rendered several songs including "Amar Mukti Aloye Aloye", a Telegu classic with a Tagore song "Labonye Purna Pran", "Je Raat-e Mor Duarguli", "Kotha Hotey Bajey Prem o Bedona" and "Majhey Majhey Toba



Dekh Pai" while Indian singer Shreya Guhathakurta's repertoire included "Bo(n)dhu Kon Alo", "Bipulo Torongo Rey", "Morilo Mori Amaye", "Bhora Thak Smriti Shudhaye", "Phul-e

Phul-e Dhole-e Dhjol-e".

Elocutionist duo -- Dalia Ahmed and Samiul Islam Poluck read out from "Bhanusingher Padabali", letters from "Chhinnapatra" and English translations from "Geetanjali". In their solo parts Dalia recited from "Chitrangada", "Shapmochan" and "Paribarik Chal Chitra" while Poluck recited poems -- "Jhulan", "Lover's Gift" and "Sanai".

Based on Manipuri dance style, Samina Hossain Prema, with her troupe, danced to several numbers from "Bhanusingher Padabali", focusing on Radha's tryst, love and longing for Krishna. Asha Hossain performed a Kathak dance based on a Tagore song "Kotha Hotey Bajey", Abu Naim presented a Scottish, a folk and a number from the play "Kalmrigaya". Asha and Naim also danced to a duet "Sedin Dujooney" from the play "Shapmochan".

Several Marma artistes performed a dance piece to Shojib's live rendition of a folk song "Mati Toder Daak Diyechehe".

# Carnival of short films begins on December 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 13th International Short & Independent Film Festival (ISIFF), Dhaka is set to begin from December 4. The festival—considered as one of the oldest and most prestigious gatherings of independent film makers in South Asia—is organised by the Bangladesh Short Film Forum. Two years after its inception in 1986, the forum first organised this festival in 1988 and since then the festival has been organised biennially.

A press conference was held yesterday at the VIP Lounge of National Press Club to announce the festival. Chairman of festival committee, Nasiruddin Yousuff; director of the festival Tarek Ahmed and president of Bangladesh Short Film Forum, Manzar-e Hasin Murad were present at the press conference.

This year's festival will take place simultaneously at Bangladesh National Museum, Central Public Library Auditorium and National Music and Dance Center Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. ISIFF will host independent film makers and film critics from different parts of the globe and will see the screening of 200 films, selected from among 400 films submitted by filmmakers of different countries.

Apart from film screenings, the event will feature international lectures, national



seminars, filmmaking workshop and special exhibitions. The weeklong festival is segmented into different parts and will feature award distribution, competition and felicitation of noted filmmakers. The first day of the festival is dedicated to children's films.

The other segments are short film, independent world cinema, Asian independent cinema, retrospective programme featuring documentaries of contemporary British filmmaker Kim Longinotto, country focus segment featuring films from particular countries including North Russia's Siberia and film school session featuring films from different film schools of the world.

The festival includes five awards: Lifetime Achievement Award, Award for Best International Fiction, Best International Documentary, Network for Promotion of Asian Cinema Jury Award and crest and certificates distribution among Asian filmmakers.

Renowned Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal will attend the festival as the special guest while Sri Lankan filmmaker Prasanna Vithanage, Russian critic Sergey Anashkin, Nepalese documentary maker Kesang Sten Lamais, and filmmakers from Thailand, Sweden, India, Poland and Indonesia will form the jury.

The festival has received financial aid of one million taka from the Bangladesh Government. In addition it is supported by Bengal Foundation, Square Group, IGCC and some other organisations.



# Window on Kanak's new artistic phase at Bengal Art Lounge

A CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Art Lounge opened "Life is Here", a solo exhibition of paintings by Kanak Champa Chakma, on November 15. Acclaimed for her colourful depiction of daily life in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region, Kanak Champa has conceived this first solo in two years as a tribute to the Chakmas, a community of which she

is herself a member. Women feature dominantly in Kanak Champa's canvases. Carrying baskets or dreaming by the pond, they show strength and grace at once. "Life is Here" opens a window on the latest phase of the development of Kanak Champa's immense artistic talent. The exhibition will run until Saturday December 6 and will be open daily from 12 to 8 pm.

# Humayun Ahmed's birthday celebrated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The 66th birthday of renowned writer and dramatist Humayun Ahmed was celebrated at his hometown Mohongonj in Mohongonj upazila of Netrakona district on Thursday. The event was organised by Mohongonj upazila administration. A daylong programme included Milad Mahfil, cake cutting, a rally, discussion and cultural function.

A colourful rally was brought out from Mohongonj upazila Parishad premises that paraded the thoroughfare. Mohammad Mozammel Haque UNO of Mohongonj presided over the discussion, addressed by Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman maternal uncle of Humayun Ahmed, Dr. Zafar Iqbal younger brother of Humayun Ahmed and elite of the town. The speakers discussed the life of Humayun Ahmed and his contributions to Bangla literature.

## "1971" staged

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur  
 A play by eminent novelist late Humayun Ahmed was staged in Dinajpur on Thursday evening marking his birthday. Nayan Bartle directed the three-hour play

"1971" that was staged at the auditorium of Dinajpur Nattya Samiti, which is celebrating its centennial.

"We staged the play to recall the contributions of Humayun Ahmed to Bangla literature," said Md. Rezaur Rahman Rezu, general secretary of Dinajpur Nattya Samiti.

The play is based on a true incident during the Liberation War. The main character in the story is Rafiq, who was not directly involved in the Liberation War, but supported the freedom fighters. Rafiq pretended to collaborate with the Pakistani Army but in reality thwarted their nefarious actions against the freedom fighters.

He even torched some houses in his own village so that the villagers were compelled to flee and so did not fuel the fury of the Pakistani Army. When the army found out his true intentions and identity, he was shot dead by the occupying army.

The performers in the play put in their best to portray the writer's dismay that even 43 years after independence the contributions of unsung heroes like Rafiq go unnoticed and unrecognized.

The actors and actresses were Nayan Bartle, Babul Das, Tariqul Alam, Safi Maksud Nuru, Tarikuzzaman Tareque, Chanu, Birшти and Harun ur Rashid.

# Iconic scene to be recreated in Batman v Superman will



Eyewitness reports have revealed some new plot details from *Batman v Superman*. The new film will recreate the famous scene in which Thomas and Martha Wayne are shot dead.

Zack Snyder has apparently drawn heavily from the Frank Miller comic-book *The Dark Knight Returns*, in which the Waynes are murdered after a visit to the cinema to watch *Zorro*, a known inspiration for the character. It also seems that Zack Snyder filmed the entire sequence using IMAX cameras.

Directed by Zack Snyder and starring Ben Affleck Henry Cavill, Amy Adams and Jesse Eisenberg, *Batman v Superman* will open in the UK on 25 March 2016.

SOURCE: TOTALFILM