

WHAT'S ON

16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh
 Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: December 1-31
 Time: 11am to 8pm except Fridays (3-8pm)

Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha
 Venue: Café Mango Gallery, H-3/A, Rd-72, Gulshan
 Date: Nov 14-Jan 14
 Time: 10am-10pm

Classical Music Recital
 Artist: Pt. Santanu Bandhopadhyay
 Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Room, The Daily Star Centre
 Date: Dec 21
 Time: 6:30pm

Solo Painting and Drawing Exhibition
 Title: Shifting Sands
 Artist: Nasima Khan
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: Dec 13-27
 Time: 12pm-8pm

Photography Exhibition
 Title: On Borders
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation and Goethe Institute Dhaka
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Art Precinct
 Date: Dec 10-January 04
 Time: 12pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

School of Rock set for Broadway



The musical version of the hit 2003 Jack Black film "School of Rock" is to open on Broadway next year. The show will be written by "Downton Abbey" creator Julian Fellowes, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Producers say it will closely follow the film's plot, about a wannabe rock star -- who poses as a substitute teacher and forms a band with his fifth grade students to enter a music competition. Casting is set to begin in January, with the show due to open at the Winter Garden on December 6. Although Lord Lloyd Webber will write new music for the production, the show will still include some of the rock classics featured in the original film. "School of Rock" grossed more than \$131m at the global box office when it was released in cinemas. Directed by Richard Linklater, it featured songs by AC/DC, The Doors, Cream, The Black Keys and Led Zeppelin.

Source: BBC



A MUSICAL HIGH
 Chhayanaut's Shuddha Sangeet Utshab closes

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 Chhayanaut's two daylong (December 18-19) Classical Music Festival 2014 wrapped up on a high note. The nightlong concluding session of the festival featured many evocative moments. Bishwajit Roy Chowdhury on sarod enthralled the packed audience with a grave pathos-arousing Raga Darbari Kanada at the session. Chowdhury, (from Delhi, India), together with Biplab Bhattacharya (of Kolkata, India) on tabla styled a musical high that earned them rounds of applause every now and then. The artiste duo was immensely balanced on their respective instruments, generating a musical force-field in the auditorium. They played with notes, laya and rhythms, produced fabuluous murki, exquisite ragdari, gat and compositions. Their jugalbandi and solo pieces marveled all. The beauty of Darbari Kanada seemed to blossom at midnight with the symphony of their recital. Bishwajit's recital of the raga displayed the ecstatic ups and down of melody. Chhayanaut Guru Rezwan Ali



Rezwan Ali performs; (Above) A capacity-packed auditorium enjoyed the festival.

Lablu performed raga Ahir Bhairav, a morning raga, at the festival. Iftekhar Alam Pradhan on tabla and Sanjiban Sanyal on harmonium accompanied the artiste. Later, the vocalist rendered a chhoto kheyal set on raga Bhupal Todi. Dr. Sudhir Haribhau Pote (of Mumbai, India) impressed the audience performing a lesser-known, yet very sweet Raga Swanandi at the festival. The vocalist first presented a vilambit bandish "Jiyara Manat Nahi" and later, performed another lesser-known raga and ended up with rendering raga Jhinjhoti. Classical vocalist Dr.

Yaman Kalyan by the artistes of Chhayanaut. Asit Dey directed the piece. Sanjiban Sanyal presented an evening prayer Raga Yaman at the festival. Mahmudul Hasan beautifully rendered an evening raga Shuddh Kalyan while Ardhenduprasad Bandyopadhyay (from Jessore) rendered a melancholic Raga Jaijivanti. Swapan Ghosh on tabla accompanied the singer. Promising artiste Nishit Dey recited Raga Jogkauns on his sitar. Talented vocalist Susmita Debnath Shuchi performed a romantic Raga Behag. Enamul Haque Omar, Goutam Sarkar, Bishwajit Natta and Zakir Hosen presented a brindo taalbadyo (group percussion recital) that seemingly earned accolades. Eminent Chhayanaut guru Asit Dey wrapped up the eighth festival with performing a kheyal based on Raga Bilashkhani Todi. The performer was on melody throughout his presentation. The chalan of the raga depicts the essence of pathos. He ended up the festival performing a sweet morning Raga Bhairvi on teentaal.

Liberation War Film Festival underway



A scene from Joyjatra. A CORRESPONDENT
 Dhooli Communications, in association with Versatile Media, are holding a weeklong Liberation War Festival at the capital's Balaka Cineworld. State Minister for Information and Communications Technology, Zunayed Ahmed Polok inaugurated the festival on December 19. The festival features one film screened at 10:30am every day. The films to be screened at the festival from today onwards are "Amar Bondhu Rashed", "Joyjatra", "Guerilla", "Megher Pore Megh" and "Mati'r Moyna". The opening film of the festival was "Ora Egaro Jon", while "Aguner Poroshmoni" was shown yesterday. Injured war veterans are also being accorded special honours at the festival.



Mohajoner Nao to be staged at Tower Hamlets

Subachan Natta Sangsad's much-acclaimed production "Mohajoner Nao" has travelled to the UK to take part in the extended Season of Bangla Drama in Tower Hamlets. Two shows of the play will be staged today and tomorrow at the Brady Arts Centre in Hanbury Street, Whitechapel, says a press release. The musical play is a biographical sketch of Baul Shah Abdul Karim. It is an insightful foray into philosophy which celebrates the Baul Samrat's philosophy and life. Because life is a journey with numerous perils and challenges, the boat, in this musical play, becomes a metaphor for the self, with inherent elements around navigation and safety. Existential musings are reflected through the tradition of Baul folk songs of mystic bard Shah Abdul Karim.

IT'S TRUE!



Leopold Mozart, a concertmaster of the court orchestra in 18th century Austria, came home from church and found his young son, Wolfgang, busily writing at his desk. He was at first stern with the boy for using his ink and paper, but upon examination, was amazed to discover that the five-year old had created a concerto for the harpsichord. Leopold then declared it a bit difficult, to which Wolfgang said "not without some practice," and proceeded to play his new composition. The incident is considered the first public performance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, one of the most gifted and influential classical composers of all time.

Incubus to release two EPs in 2015

When Incubus appeared at night-one of KROQ's Almost Acoustic Xmas this past Saturday, it marked the band's first proper public show in a year. The reason for the band's absence from the live circuit is they've been heavily immersed in recording, which has gone well. "The recording has been fantastic, it's been amazing," guitarist Mike Einziger told Billboard.



The band performs at Almost Acoustic Xmas.

"We didn't have any plans to make this record," Einziger said. "Just having no horizon to look at was important for us. We needed that." And now the quintet, who just finalized a deal with Island Records this week, can work according to their own vision, which includes a non-traditional release. "We're planning on releasing two installments that will total an album; two

EPs," Einziger explained. "We're hoping to put out the first one in February or March, then the summer." Einziger also spoke about a few songs on the two EPs, which the band is producing. "We've always been a self-reliant band," he said. Incubus debuted the lead single, "Trust Fall," at the Almost Acoustic Xmas concert. Of the song, Einziger said, "It's pretty indicative of where we are now. It's pretty ambitious."

He further said fans can expect diversity from the new material. "Most of the music we've written is high energy," he said. "But we've written our slowest song, but also our heaviest song." There's a track called "Dance Like You're Dumb," which Einziger calls, "Our version of a loud aggressive rock song. It's definitely not what someone would expect from us." Einziger is happy with the diversity on the two EPs. "This is what the band sounds like in 2014-2015."

Source: Billboard

Bipasha 's "Alone" trailer grabs attention



Bipasha plays a dual role of conjoined twins in the film.

The trailer of Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover's much-awaited horror film "Alone" was unveiled late Tuesday night and has got an overwhelming response from the audience. With over 4.4 million views on YouTube, it has set a new benchmark by becoming the No.1 video in less than 48 hours. This is a feat in itself for big banners that are featured on YouTube channels with huge subscriber bases, but Panorama Studios, the film's presenter, is a new company making its debut production. The film revolves around the novel concept of conjoined twins where Karan Singh

Grover's character Kabir falls in love with one of the twins and then a series of twists and turns take place. This intriguing trailer has managed to entice the viewers' curiosity. Audiences have given a double thumbs-up to the trailer and now, they are quite keen to watch the movie. Directed by Bhushan Patel, "Alone" is produced by Kumar Mangat, Abhishek Pathak, Pradeep Agarwal and Prashant Sharma, and is slated to release on January 16, 2015. Source: TOI

BotTala to stage "Trial of Mallam Ilya" today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Theatre troupe BotTala is set to stage their latest production "Trial of Mallam Ilya", at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today. The play, written by African playwright Mohammad Ben Abdallah, is translated into Bengali by Soumya Sarker, while Mohammad Ali Haider is the director. The play revolves around Mallam Ilya, the fallen leader of a revolution who is also a narrator. "The Trial of Mallam Ilya" is written in the context of political instability in a post-colonial African country where one coup follows another, symptomatic of a deep socio-political malaise. With its gripping narrative, the play articulates the semiotics of revolution. The story of coups, conspiracies and political turmoil is subtly presented to the audience. Pankaj Majumdar, Mizanur Rahman, Toufiq Hasan Bhuiyan, Kazi Roksana Ruma, Samina Luthfa and Sheyuti Shahgufta play various roles in it.

"Mockingjay" soaring over Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Star Cineplex, the country's first multiplex cinema, has released one of the biggest blockbusters of the year, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1", weeks after its worldwide release. The third film of the "Hunger Games" franchise, released on November 19, has secured the second biggest opening of the year (behind "Transformers: Age of Extinction"), bolstering Jennifer Lawrence's year right at the very end, after she has had a tumultuous year off-screen. The science fiction war film, directed by Francis Lawrence with a screenplay by Peter Craig and Danny Strong, is the first of two films based on the novel "Mockingjay", the final book in The Hunger Games trilogy, written by Suzanne Collins, produced by Nina Jacobson and Jon Kilik and distributed by Lionsgate. Apart from Jennifer Lawrence,

the film also stars Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harelson, Elizabeth Banks, Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Jeffrey Wright, Stanley Tucci and Donald Sutherland. It is the sequel to "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and will be followed by the concluding entry, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2". The story continues to follow Katniss Everdeen (Lawrence); having twice survived the Hunger Games, Katniss finds herself in District 13. Under the leadership of President Coin and the advice of her trusted friends, Katniss reluctantly becomes the symbol of a mass rebellion against the Capitol and fights to save Peeta (Hutcherson) and a nation moved by her courage. Grameenphone has partnered with Cineplex for the release, and their Star subscribers can avail one free ticket with purchase of every ticket, for the first week of release of the film.

