

WHAT'S ON



16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am to 5pm except Fridays (3-5pm)



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



Kathak Dance Festival
Organiser: Kathak Nritya Sampradaye
Venue: Chhayana Auditorium, Dharmamandi
Date: Dec 24-25
Time: 6:05pm everyday



Solo Painting and Drawing Exhibition
Title: Shifting Sands
Artist: Nasima Khan
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
Date: Dec 13-27
Time: 12pm-9pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: On Borders
Organiser: Bengal Foundation and Goethe Institute Dhaka
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Art Centre
Date: Dec 16-January 04
Time: 12pm-6pm



Zainul Birth Centenary
Organiser: FFA, DU
Venue: Dhaka Circle
Date: Dec 26-29
Time: 9am-9pm



Bangladesh Utsah
Organiser: Banglalink
Venue: Ramna Park
Date: Dec 26
Time: 10am onwards



Let's Beat
Organiser: Dhaka Drum Circle
Venue: Oshorji Hat
Date: Dec 26
Time: 3pm

GOODBYE 2014

A busy year for TV artistes!

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

It's been a hectic year for TV artistes what with as many as 24 TV channels beaming TV plays in 2014. We take a roundup of memorable moment in the lives of TV stars in 2014:



Zahid Hasan



Mosharrar



Tisha



Bindu



Mim

Apurbo's big day: On his birthday June 27, Apurbo became a father first time over. His son was named Zayian Faruk Alish. In 2014, Apurbo also made his debut in the film "Gangster Returns".

Richi's new journey: Popular TV actress and model Richi embarked as anchor and occasional dancer.

Jaya and Mahfuz join forces: The celebrated artistes appeared in a TVC for a motorcycle this year. Besides, they teamed up for the film "Zero Degree".

Bipasha Hayat makes ripples: She acted in a few TV plays in 2014. Animesh Aich's "Maa" earned her fame.

Shokh's first: The popular model emceed a musical programme as anchor on ATN Bangla for the first time.

Three superstars in one frame: Suborna Mustafa, Aupsee Karim and Tahsan were in the jury for the Lux-Channel i Superstar 2014 competition for the first

time.

Tarin after 10 years: After a decade of hiatus, Tarin appeared in the BTV play this year, titled "Delishia Hatya".

Nowshin in films: She acted in two films, "Prarthana" and "Fake". "Prarthana" was critically acclaimed.

Sweetie on stage again: Acting in two TV series "Tomar Doa-e Bhalo Achi Ma" and "10 Million Dollar", she made an appearance in the stage play "Mukti" after a long gap.

Septuagenarians Abul Hayat and Ali Zaker: The two thespians of theatre troupe Nattayadal celebrated their 70th birthday in style.

It's the year of Suborna Mustafa: She has been entertaining the audiences with her TV plays all year round this time.

Besides, the renowned actress emceed a TV programme named "Subornar Mission Television".

Film star Riaz with wife in TV play: The popular actor of the silver screen and his wife Tina acted in the drama "Sugar Free Chocolate Cake" as an on-screen couple.

"Ittyadi" best TV magazine: Like previous years, Hanif Sanket's "Ittyadi" won the hearts of millions as the top magazine show.

Those who tied the knot: Among those getting married this year were actresses Farzana Chobi, Bindu, Sarika and Model Suzana.

Lux Superstar 2014: Nadia Aftreen debuted as TV actress in the play "Rohoshhojal" soon after winning the beauty pageant.

Bliss of becoming parents: TV artistes Mahfuz Ahmed and Srabanti.

Twelve TV directors: They along with several artistes went to Cox's Bazar to shoot 12 TV plays - an unprecedented

incident.

Some other happenings over the last year:

Actress Farhana Mili (of acclaimed film "Monpura") worked in the TV series "Ujan Ganger Naiya" with Riaz. Legendary actor Sirajul Islam appeared in the play "Ekti Oshomapti Kobitar Golpo" after a hiatus of two years. Besides, renowned litterateur of Kolkata Samresh Mazumder acted in the TV play "Pichhutan" of Dhaka for the first time.

On the other hand, Charunirum organised a festival of one-hour plays in Shahbagh. Television Programme Producers' Association of Bangladesh also arranged picnic for TV stars in Ashulia.

Afsana Mimi once again came into the spotlight with a culinary show "Nostalgia". She also started directing a new TV serial. Meanwhile, Ishita hosted a new programme for BTV.

THE INTERVIEW
opens after much ado

Comedy film "The Interview" has opened in some US cinemas and online, after a cyber-attack and row over its release.

Sony Pictures had originally pulled the film, about a fictional plot to kill North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. But it reversed its decision after critics - including US President Barack Obama - said freedom of expression was under threat.

Some cinemas organised midnight showings for Americans determined to see "The Interview" on the big screen. Several hundred independent cinemas across the US have come forward offering to show the title, after larger cinemas decided not to screen it following threats.

The film is also being offered through a dedicated website and via Google services YouTube and Play, and Microsoft's Xbox Video platform, but only in the US.

A spokesman for Sony told the BBC the release was US-only "at this point".

Sony Pictures initially pulled the film after suffering an unprecedented hacking attack at the hands of a group calling itself the Guardians of Peace. Last week, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said its analysis pointed the finger at North Korea. North Korea denied being behind the attack but described it as a "righteous deed".

The hackers threatened to carry out a terrorist attack on cinemas showed the film on its scheduled release date of Christmas Day. After many cinemas pulled out, Sony cancelled the release.

That move was described by President Obama as a mistake. The Sony spokesperson said digital distribution had now been chosen to reverse some of that damage.

In a blog post announcing its involvement, Google's top lawyer David Drummond said the firm had weighed up the potential fallout.

"Last Wednesday Sony began contacting a number of companies, including Google, to ask if we'd be able to make their movie The Interview available online," Drummond wrote. "After discussing all the issues, Sony and Google agreed that we could not sit on the sidelines and allow a handful of people to determine the limits of

free speech in another country (however silly the content might be)." As experts predicted, by using several services and its own site, Sony will not only manage the load of people flocking to see the movie, but also the stress it may come under from any possible cyber-attack. Knocking one service offline is doable for most competent hacking groups - but

Google, Microsoft and Sony all at once is far more unlikely. And with people already flocking to Twitter to live-tweet the film's plot as they watch, it's well on course to be the biggest movie download of all time.

And for movie and tech-watchers, there's also a geekier angle to all this. If "The Interview" smashes records as an online download, could this be the future of film releases - a tandem online launch as well as in cinemas? Perhaps that's too far in the future, but the numbers will certainly be totted up at the end of this exercise.

Source: **Internet**Ranveer learns
Kalaripayattu for
BAJIRAO MASTANI

Sanjay Leela Bhansali leaves no stone unturned in making his film to perfection. He is now getting his "Bajirao" - Ranveer Singh - trained in one of India's oldest forms of martial arts, the Kalaripayattu.

The training is done near the set, where Ranveer comes and practices every day after the shooting of the film.

The film narrates the story of the Maratha Peshwa Bajirao Rano and his second wife Mastani. Ranveer Singh,

Deepika Padukone, and Priyanka Chopra star in lead roles, with Tanvi Azmi portraying a supporting role. "Bajirao Mastani", originally casting Salman Khan and Aishwarya Rai when announced in 2003, was shelved for 10 years as Bhansali went on to make "Black" (2005), "Saawariya" (2007), "Guzarish" (2010) and "Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela" (2013). Speculation remained about the resurfacing of the project, with Shahrukh Khan,

Ajay Devgan, Hrithik Roshan and Katrina Kaif linked to it at various times.

In July 2014, it was confirmed that Bhansali had revived the project with Ranveer and Deepika playing the titular roles and Priyanka Chopra playing Bajirao's first wife Kashibai.

"Bajirao Mastani" scheduled for release on 25 December 2015.

Source: **TOI**Tagore songs
at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in association with Asian Paints and Marico Bangladesh is organising a music evening of Tagore songs by promising artistes Avik Deb and Avaya Dutta at 6:30pm today (December 26) at House 35, Road 24, Gulshan-1.

Deb is an upcoming Tagore singer trained at Shurer Dhara under the tutelage of Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya. Avaya Dutta has trained in under eminent exponents Waheedul Haque, Sanjida Khatun, Rashbihari Chakravarti, Mita Haque and others.

Six-day TV drama
festival on Gtv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-day TV drama festival, "Lux Star Year End Drama Festival" begins today on Gtv, featuring six special TV plays at 6pm every day that will feature Lux Superstars.

Today's play, titled "Elong" written by Tomal and Khalish and directed by Sujon Barua, casts Kochi Khondokar, Marzuk Russel, Nadia Nadi and Imtu. "Probesh Nishedh" will be telecast tomorrow. Written and directed by Imraul Rafat, it features Arfan Nisho, Aparna, Rawnak Hasan, Arabi and Hasan Azad. On the December 28 schedule is "Je Jibon Golper Moto", casting Nisha, Shamol Mawla, Sporshia and Jhuna Chowdhury. It is written by Mostafa Mono and directed by Shaheen Shadhin. On December 29, the play screened will be "Credit Card", while O2 - featuring Hasan Masud, Azmeri Haque Badhon, DJ Rahat, Raha and Kashfia - will be shown the next day. Humayun Sadhu has directed the play written by Shahidul Shakil. On the final day of the festival, Imel Haque's "Binu Theke Binu" will be screened, which will see Tisha, Shatabdi Wadud, Toya and Hasan Azad playing various roles.

"Bajirao Mastani" scheduled for release on 25 December 2015.

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The grace and ghungru of Kathak
Three-day festival ends today at Chhayana

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Kathak Nritya Sampradaye (KNS) organised a three day (December 24-26) Kathak Dance Festival at the main auditorium of Chhayana. The festival, inaugurated by Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu as chief guest, featured an array of solo and group performances by noted and promising dancers of Bangladesh along with several dance troupes. Dance artistes displayed a number of Kathak styles including bandana, chhandamalika, tukramalika, gautmalika, meghmalika, composition, nritya nirmity and tarana at the festival.

Noted danseuses - Laila Hasan, Lubna Mariam and Sharmila Banerjee - graced the occasion as special guests. The organisers also honoured Sultana Haider by conferring her on the Zinat Jahan Memorial Award on the opening day.



The festival was set off with a bandana. Artistes presented a total of 12 dance pieces on the opening day. The director of KNS, Saju Ahmed directed 10 dances while choreographed by Suparna Datta, four artistes performed prothom chhondo (first rhythm) and Tabassum Ahmed directed a solo piece presented by Abantika Al

Reza. Saju Ahmed with Emon, Pappu, Suparna, Tattwika, Jyoti, Aruna, Oishee and Ruhu of KNS wrapped up the opening day's festival with performing beautiful a Tarana.

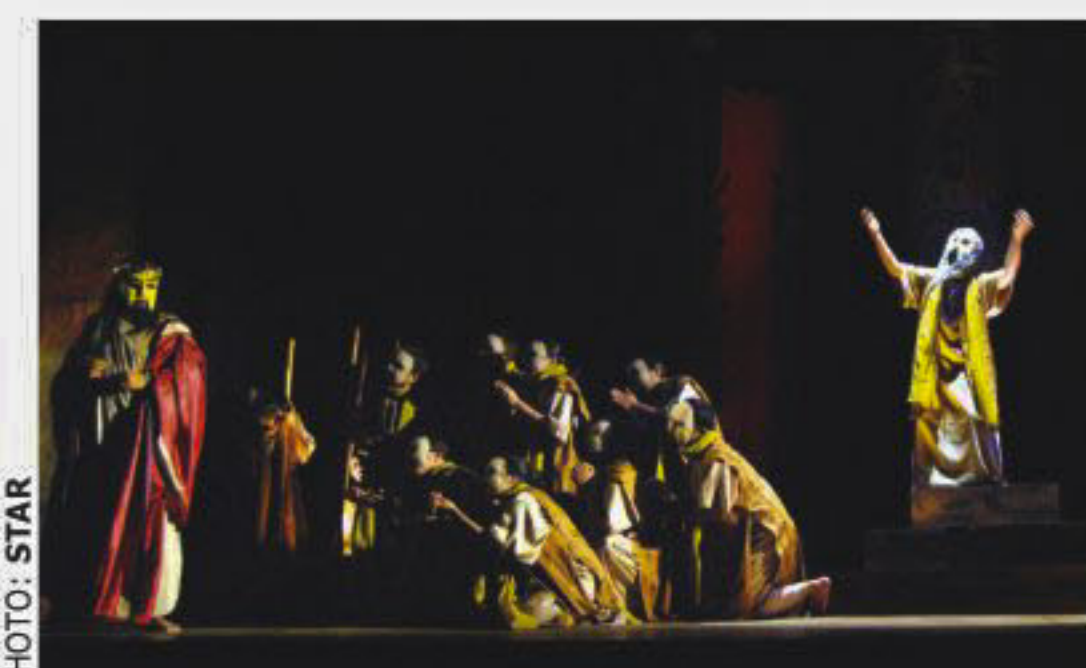
On the second day, a seminar on the title "Satyen Sen-er Shilpo Sambhar", was held at Chhayana where Sheikh Mehedi

Hasan presented a keynote while cultural personality Golam Mohammad Idu, dance researcher Amanul Haque and Saangeeta Imam, organising secretary of Uldichi, discussed. Dance performances followed on the day. Today, solo dance artistes and several dance troupes will perform at the venue.

Kathak is one of the eight forms of Indian classical dance. This dance form traces its origins to the nomadic bards of ancient northern, known as Kathakars or storytellers. Its form today contains traces of temple and ritual dances and the influence of the bhakti movement. From the 16th century onwards, it absorbed certain features of Persian dance and central Asian dance which were imported by the royal courts of the Mughal era. Now it has become a popular and an established stage performing art form.



PHOTO: REDWAN ADIB RUPON

Triyak celebrates
40th anniversary
in Chittagong

"King Oedipus" was one of the plays staged.

ARUN BIKASH DEB, Chittagong

When Srijami Sanskritik Angon performed a chorus "Badar Badar Badar Heiya" on the open stage at the premises of Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC), the audience gave a big round of applause to appreciate them.

They performed in the inaugural ceremony of the festival organised for marking 40th anniversary of Chittagong-based theatre group Triyak Natyadal. The colourful programmes commenced from Wednesday afternoon in the port city.

The cultural troupe also performed "Mathe Mathe Sonali Dhan", "Swadhinota Amar Mayer Oshru Bheja Anchoi", "Teer Hara Ei Dheuer Sagar Pari Debo Re" and "Joy Bangla Banglar Joy".

Then little artistes of School of Oriental Dance took on the stage and performed an eye-catching dance show with different patriotic songs.

In the first phase of three-phase festival, the theatre group organised a four-day "Triyak Natyamel" from Wednesday to Saturday.

Minister for Cultural Affairs, thespian Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the festival. Terming the theatre movement as the highest achievement of the Liberation War of Bangladesh, Noor said theatre activists of the country have shown their talent despite many limitations and lack of facilities. He underscored incorporation of cultural activities with formal education in educational institutions.

Ahmed Iqbal Haider, group leader of Triyak Theatre Group, in his address said Triyak has produced 43 plays with 2,494 shows on stage so far.

Poet Arun Dasgupta, a member of the theatre group, said Chittagong has a long history of staging plays. The first stage was established in Chittagong in 1895, he said.

Professor Dr Anupam Sen, vice chancellor of Premier University Chittagong, said people get mental pleasures through cultural practices. He praised Triyak Theatre Group to stage the plays of Rabindranath Tagore successfully.

The
FIVE
greatest
Christmas
MOVIESMAHI
ON A ROLL
"DESHA - THE LEADER"
RELEASES TODAY

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Of the leading ladies in Dhallywood in the last few years, Mahiya Mahi has probably had the strongest foothold in the industry. She continued building on her success throughout the year in 2014, and only looks to move forward as her new film "Desha - The Leader" releases countrywide today, produced by Jaaz Multimedia.

Mahi plays a journalist in Saikat Nasir's debut film, opposite newcomer hero Shipon. She has also written a song for the film's soundtrack.

Mahi's last film - "Onek Sadher Moyna" - also did well in the box office. While "Desha - The Leader" is the 2014's last release in Dhallywood, the first film of 2015 will also feature the glamorous actress, in the film "Warning" where she is cast with Arifin Shuvo. Another film, "Romeo Versus Juliet", is also slated for release early next year.

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS
CAROL (1992)

There have been countless variants of Dickens' yuletide redemption story, including versions starring Mickey Mouse, The Jetsons and Mr Magoo. But the greatest of these by far is "The Muppet Christmas Carol". Having Jim Henson's famous felt creations anchor the film automatically punches up the fantastical elements of Dickens' narrative - after all, this is a story of ghosts, magic and time-travel. But it is Michael Caine's performance that makes it, and he acts opposite the Muppets as if they are flesh and blood. The seriousness with which he invests his performance makes it an explosion of emotion, a deeply felt interpretation of Dickens' story rather than a parody of it - showing that the smartest way to renew a classic isn't always with irony, but sincerity.

THE SNOWMAN (1982)

Only 26 minutes long, director Dianne Jackson's low-fi animated film adaptation of Raymond Briggs' children's book "The Snowman" plays like visual music. Completely wordless, the story of a young boy in the English countryside who builds a snowman then flies off to the North Pole with him is full of stunning images: wild horses charging across a field, revelers on an

ocean liner, a whale slapping its tail into the sea, the northern lights shimmering over the Pole. Jackson makes her film look like crayon drawings in motion, suffused with wonder and melancholy - the result is as direct a line into a child's imagination as has been put on film.



The Snowman

MEET ME IN ST LOUIS (1944)

Projecting a world of gabled houses, picket fences, homemade ketchup and romances with the 'boy next door', Vincente Minnelli's 1944 Technicolor extravaganza has probably done more to define a particular

idea of America than any other film. A panoramic slice of family life in the year leading up to the 1904 World's Fair in the Missouri city, "Meet Me In St Louis" also presents what may be the original 'blue Christmas': distraught that she will spend her last one ever in her family



Meet Me in St Louis

WHITE CHRISTMAS

home, Judy Garland sings "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", a song shot through with wistfulness.

WHITE CHRISTMAS (1954)

As much of a Christmas confection as a candy cane, "White Christmas" is one of the holiday season's great

explosions of joy. It's a movie that really is the sum of its parts: perfectly constructed Irving Berlin songs, the peerless baritone of Bing Crosby, the manic comedic energy of Danny Kaye and the athletic dancing of Vera-Ellen. The story is compelling too: a couple of song-and-dance men want to stage a lavish tribute to their former commanding general in the US Army. But the decisions they make about the spectacle they're preparing involve thought-provoking questions of taste.

A STAR IN THE NIGHT (1945)

Before he directed hard-boiled tales of conspiracy and crime like "Invasion of the Body Snatchers", "Dirty Harry" and "The Shootist", director Don Siegel made this delightful two-reel short film that serves as a subtle contemporary re-enactment of the birth of Christ. Somewhere in the American Southwest, three cowboys ride their horses toward a shining star in the sky - It's not a divine or celestial object but a blazing road sign for a small highway motel. There, Mary and Joseph seek shelter for the night, despite the no-vacancy sign outside - and Mary and Joseph are reimagined as penniless Mexican migrant labourers.

Source: **BBC**

NEWS bytes

Sting 'electrifying' in own
Broadway musical

Singer Sting is "a huge presence" in the Broadway musical he wrote and now appears in, according to one review.

The ex-Police frontman is "electrifying in his two big solos" and has had a "galvanising impact" on the cast of "The Last Ship", Variety wrote. "Sting seems very much in his element," said USA Today's reviewer, praising the "blazing charisma" he gives his role.

The 63-year-old is playing shipyard foreman Jackie White in his self-penned musical until January 24.

Previously lacklustre ticket sales have seen a boost since the singer confirmed he was joining the show for a limited period.

Set in Sting's home town of Wallasey, "The Last Ship" tells of a group of unemployed shipbuilders who take over a closed factory to build one final vessel.

Sting wrote both the music and lyrics for "The Last Ship", which continues at New York's Neil Simon Theatre.

Source: **BBC**

IT'S TRUE!

Indian cinema icon

Dilip Kumar had refused to work with another all-time great of the industry, Nargis - in "Mother India". While the film became one of the most memorable ones in the history of Indian film, the actor had his own reasons to not be a part of the film.

