

## NEWS bytes

Hemsworth in first trailer for “In the Heart of the Sea”



The first trailer has arrived online for “In the Heart of the Sea”, Ron Howard’s thrilling tale of ocean-bound misadventure, in which sailor Chris Hemsworth struggles for survival after his ship is wrecked by a rogue whale.

The film is an adaptation of Nathaniel Philbrick’s non-fiction book of the same name, which was in turn the inspiration for Herman Melville’s classic “Moby Dick”.

Philbrick’s account follows the whaling ship Essex, whose crew spent 90 days drifting the Pacific Ocean in a trio of tiny whaleboats, desperately clinging to survival in the face of remarkable odds...

Directed by Howard and co-starring Cillian Murphy, Brendan Gleeson, Tom Holland and Ben Whishaw, “In the Heart of the Sea” will open in the UK and US on March 13, 2015.

Source: **TotalFilm**

## IT'S TRUE!



At age 12, Canadian singer Celine Dion collaborated with her mother and her brother Jacques to compose her first song, “Ce n’était qu’un rêve” (“It Was Only a Dream”). Her brother Michel sent the recording to music manager René Angélil, whose name he discovered on the back of a Ginette Reno album. Angélil was moved to tears by Dion’s voice, and decided to make her a star. In 1981, he mortgaged his home to fund her first record, “La voix du bon Dieu” (“The Voice of the Good God”), which became a local number-one hit and made Dion an instant star in Quebec. Her popularity spread to other parts of the world when she competed in the 1982 Yamaha World Popular Song Festival in Tokyo, Japan, and won the musician’s award for Top Performer as well as the gold medal for Best Song with “Tellement j’ai d’amour pour toi” (“I Have So Much Love for You”).



ZAHANGIR ALOM

There are art pieces displayed every nook and corner of Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU). Marking birth centenary of Shilpacharya Zainul Aabedin, a three-week (December 11-31) Annual Art Exhibition by the teachers and the students of all the departments of FFA is on. A four day (December 26-29) Zainul Mela is showcasing artworks collectively done by the academics of all the departments. Besides, the entire natural settings and ambience of Charukala has mingled with artworks, installations and aesthetic glamour.

AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of DU, inaugurated the Zainul Fair yesterday morning. Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean of FFA, Professor Syed Abul Barq Alvi, former Dean of FFA and a son of Shilpacharya were present.

Annual art exhibition, dedicating to the memory of recently-deceased eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury, is displaying marvelous artworks. Zainul Gallery-1 and 2 is showcasing artworks by the teachers of FFA while artworks by the student are on display at respective departments.

Professor Samarjit Roy Chowdhury depicted “A Scene of Old Dhaka” (acrylic) while Professor Farida Zaman beautifully portrayed “Sufia and Birds” on the same media. Sheikh Afzal Hossain’s oil (“Ayana’s Dream”) has an exquisite texture. Md. Abdul Momen Milton’s wood delineated folksy thoughts, evoking sobriety. Lalarukh Selim’s



The fair is seeing participation from people of all ages.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

mixed media work “Pillar” showcases folded cloths, threads and needle with threads inside a glass. Jamal Uddin Ahmed dexterously portrayed a mixed media work “Pagla”. Professor Abdus Satter superbly portrayed an acrylic titled “The Price of Freedom” while Professor Nisar Hossain depicted “Mother-3” (mixed media). The illusion of blue, red and green lines on black surface has made an artistic appeal. Professor Nasreen Begum’s fantastic acrylic work shows an untainted motherly love. Dr. Azharul Islam Sheikh’s terracotta sculpture titled “Space and Form” is an experimental work. A nuance of Lord Shiva’s genital organ is incorporated in the work. Mukul Kumar Baroi’s

bronze sculpture “Vitality” is innovative in style and form. One can view the work as an experimental one with exerting subtle specific artistic meaning. Dr. Malay Bala nicely portrayed an “Abstract Expression of Sub-conscious Mind-3” in his water-colour. Swapan Kumar Sikder has displayed friendship (two intertwined female visage) on terracotta. GC Trivedi’s “Illusion of Line” (mixed media) took us to an artistic world of bliss. Abdus Shakoor Shah as always depicted a folk literary character “Chandrabati”. Kantideb Adhikari’s watercolour “Uncertain Life-3” displays beautiful floral rhythms of parasite on a broken branch of a tree. The exhibition features portraits of Shilpacharya.

Al Manzur Elahi, an MFA student of the Department of Graphic Design made a striking portrait Shilpacharya using hollow plastic pipes. An unblemished portrait of Qayyum Chowdhury is also on at Zainul Gallery-2.

Artworks by the students are no less important than those of the teachers. Art lovers and collectors are being gathering either to gaze at the art pieces or to buy them at different stalls.

Cultural events, featuring folk songs and much more by the students of FFA with popular bands, are being held every evening. Popular band Joler Gaan enthralled the music lovers yesterday evening. Apart from the band, FFA students also performed on the evening.



## Culture and heritage on display

Banglalink hosts Bangladesh Utshab

A CORRESPONDENT

The second edition of the daylong Banglalink Bangladesh Mela was held yesterday at the Ramna Park in Shahbagh, highlighting the rich culture and heritage of this country. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the fair as chief guest, where high-ups of Banglalink and Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh) Limited – partners of the event – were also present.

Performances on the main stage were an assortment of the best music and poetry of this land – songs and poems of Rabindranath and Nazrul, Lalon Geeti, Madhusudan’s sonnets, folk songs of Hason Raja, Shah Abdul Karim and Bhawaiyya and Gambhira. Another special attraction was a 100-feet artwork on canvas – dedicated to master painter SM Sultan. Jobbarer Boli Khela – the traditional form of wrestling -- also entertained the audience. Puppetry, bioscope, traditional wedding festivals, bullock carts, handlooms, village fair, pitha festival and nagordola (small Ferris wheel) also kept attendees busy. A ‘hilly heritage’ stage featured songs and dances of indigenous people all day long.

Renowned anchor Abdun Noor Tushar conducted the entire day’s programme, which also featured a concert. SI Tutul, Bari Siddiqui, Parvez, Kanak Chapa, Samina Chowdhury, Bappa Mazumdar, Konal, Elita, Chirkutt and James kept the audience on their feet. World No.1 all-rounder cricketer Shakib Al Hasan, a brand ambassador of Banglalink, also gave an inspirational address.

Chief Commercial Officer of Banglalink, Shihab Ahmad said Banglalink has been keen to project a unique identity of Bangladesh, and termed the festival a result of their commitment and efforts.

## The highlights of Bollywood in 2014

### 1) Young stars emerge:

When Karan Johar launched his three students in “Student of the Year”, no one had envisaged the extent of their stardom, both in terms of their popularity and their success at the box office. And while the Big Khans still rule the box office, 2014 saw the clear emergence of young stars who made more money for their producers than some of the biggest superstars. They are easy to work with, know how to connect with their audiences and also know how to keep their relationships with the media and industry going. The most profitable films in the 100-crore club (“2 States” and “Ek Villain”) were both films with young stars in it. Youngsters who entered the 100 crore club in 2014 were Arjun Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Sidharth Malhotra and Shraddha Kapoor.

### 2) Women prove their box office worth:

While it is easy for an actress to ride on the back of a big star and claiming box office success, the real test is when a film with a woman-centric role performs well and makes monies for its producer at the box office. Several of the leading ladies managed that in the industry this year: Kangana Ranaut (“Queen”), Priyanka Chopra (“Mary Kom”), Sunny Leone (“Ragini MMS 2”) and Rani Mukerji (“Mardaani”).

### 3) An evolving audience rejects mass-entertainers released on non-big Fridays:



The Indian audiences are evolving and that is reflected in the box office numbers of mass-entertainers, whose appeal is gradually declining unless they are released on big holidays. While films like “Jai Ho”, “Kick”, “Singham Returns”, “Holiday”, “Bang Bang” and “Happy New Year” made money, films like “Entertainment”, “Action Jackson”, “Humshakals” and “Happy Ending” lost heavily. Given the high cost of production is due to the high price of big stars, producers are now beginning to be careful before green-lighting such projects.

### 4) Directors are the new heroes:

More than ever before, the director has become the most important person in the making of the film. Rightly so, good directors were paid well and had producers waiting in queue to sign them up. Going forward, Bollywood needs more and more of good directors who can make different kinds of cinema, most importantly, with controlled timelines and costs, like this year’s “Queen” and “Haider”. Debut directors who made the 100-crore club were Sajid Nadiadwala (“Kick”) and Abhishek Varman (“2 States”), while

the most well-marketed films were “Happy New Year”, “Ek Villain” and “2 States”.

### 5) Some sense in producers:

The most important factor for a film and the industry to succeed is that the producer must make money. The evolving audience and the high cost of producing a film has made all producers wake up to the reality that they need to budget a film well in line with its potential at the box office, without which they will lose out. Producers who have made the most profitable films this year were those who were

efficient in their production costs and marketed their films aggressively. The top producers of the year were those who kept that in mind: Sajid Nadiadwala (“2 States”, “Heropanti”, “Kick”), Ekta Kapoor (“Ragini MMS 2”, “Main Tera Hero”, “Ek Villain”) and Karan Johar (“2 States”, “Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania”, “Hasee Toh Phasee”). However, films that deserved to do better at the box office would be “Happy Ending” and “Rang Rasiya”.

### 6) Music remains the big driver for the success:

Like it has always been, music continued to be a big driver for the success of a film. Two most popular songs of the year were “Baby Doll” (“Ragini MMS 2”) sung by Kanika Kapoor and “Galliyan” (“Ek Villain”) sung by Ankit Tiwari.

### 7) The emerging importance of a trailer:

The trailer emerged as one of the most crucial stimuli for the audience to help them decide whether they want to see the film or not. Filmmakers have realised its importance and that is reflected in the time spent by them in cutting and launching the trailer. The most viewed trailers of the year were “Kick” (19 million) and “Bang Bang” (18 million).

### 8) The first look becomes an important stimulus:

The first look is the new tool of marketing, where filmmakers want to put their best foot forward in designing and launching the first look, as a Bombay Times jacket followed by social media. The first look, much like the teaser, remained an important factor for building audience interest in the film. The top three first looks this year were of “Mary Kom”, “PK” and “Tevar”.

### 9) Bollywood’s hottest couple:

Bollywood has always had romantic couples both on and off screen. And while some stars choose to confess and some do not, many of these pairings become hot favourites with the fans. This year’s hottest couple was clearly Katrina Kaif and Ranbir Kapoor, who moved in together. And though time will tell whether this converts to marriage or not, this was certainly the fan favourite.

Source: **TNN**