

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)

Selected Nakshi Kantha Exhibition
 Collection of Zainul Abedin
 Venue: Bengal Gallery
 Date: Dec 23-Jan 10
 Time: 12-8pm

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

Homage to Zainul Abedin
 Organiser: Ministry of Cultural Affairs
 Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: Dec 29; Time: 2:30pm (for invitee only) 4pm (open for all)

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

J-Law

highest-grossing actor of '14

The actors and actresses who generate the most money for Hollywood aren't always the ones with the highest salaries. Forbes magazine tallied the highest-grossing actors of the year overall this week. Jennifer Lawrence was the highest grossing actor in Hollywood with "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1" and "X-Men: Days of Future Past" that combined to a total of \$1.4 billion worldwide. Chris Pratt, with his lead roles in "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "The Lego Movie", came second. Scarlett Johansson was next, with "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," "Lucy" and "Under the Skin" all doing well.

Mark Wahlberg came fourth, Chris Evans stood at five, followed by Emma Stone - who starred not just in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" but also in two indie hits: Woody Allen's "Magic in the Moonlight" and "Birdman". Angelina Jolie's earnings as the director of "Unbroken" don't figure into this list, but it doesn't matter since



"Maleficent" was her biggest hit to date as an actress, taking her to seventh spot. "X-Men: Days of Future Past" stars James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Hugh Jackman completed the top 10.

Source: **Variety**

THE YEAR IN THEATRE
A bustling year on stage



(Clockwise, from top left) Snapshots from "Naamgotroheen", "The Outsider", "Dokkhina Sundori" and "Dog, Woman, Man".

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The theatre scenario of the country saw a bustling year in 2014, with a number of new plays being brought to stage by leading troupes, pulsating festivals and some productions traveling to prestigious events abroad.

The notable new plays that came to stage included some adaptations of classics - from Camus' "Outsider" (produced by Dhaka Theatre) and Sadat Hasan Manto's shorts (made into "Naamgotroheen - Manto'r Meyera" by Naborik), while some were more contemporary and experimental works, like CAT's "Macabre", Teerondaz's "Konthonalite Surjo" and Reetu Sattar-directed contemporary work "Dog Woman, Man" - which had the rather concentrated staging: 12 shows in a row at the Goethe-Institute, particularly challenging to the only three people in the cast. "Macabre", meanwhile, was a lavish production in terms of budget, but failed somewhat to strike the chord.

"Naamgotroheen" was special in terms of its cast: Sara Zaker returned to the stage with it, while her daughter Sriya debuted with it. Aupee Karim, a once-regular of the circuit, also made an appearance. While "Outsider" featured a predominantly younger central cast, Aranyak Natya Sampraday's new play "Bhongobongo"

saw veterans like Mamunur Rashid continue to stamp their authority - in writing and acting. Aranyak also brought out another production, "Swopnopohtik" (based on the Rana Plaza tragedy). The other troupe to bring multiple plays on-stage was Swapnadal, with "Spartacus" and "Tringsho Shatabdi".

But it was not just the Western classics that made it to the stage: BotTala's "The Trial of Mallam Ilya" that was the first play of the year, premiering January 1, is written by African playwright Mohammad Ben Abdallah, while Shilpakala Repertory Theatre's "Badh" was an adaptation of a Shawkat Osman short story. The last play to be premiered in the year was Padatik Natya Sangsad's "Poramati", based on martyred intellectuals.

TheatreX Bangladesh's new play "Dokkhina Sundori", based on folklore of Sunderbans, was invited to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this year, while Subachan Natya Sangsad's acclaimed production "Mohajoner Nao" went to London late in the year to partake in Season of Bangla Theatre. On the other hand, of the theatrical productions that came to Bangladesh - Akram Khan's multi-award-winning "DESH" stood head and shoulders above all others, while Komola Collective's

(UK) powerful play on war heroines - "Birangona" also had a number of shows across the country in December.

Like every year, a number of festivals happened in the year, notable of them being the Ganga Jamuna Theatre Fest (in early September) was the most illustrious, featuring three troupes from India and a Jatra troupe, and a number of other cultural organisations. BotTala's Rongomela also featured an exciting lineup of new plays, along with a solo by US theatre personality Kaiulani Lee. In terms of number of plays staged, Dhaka University's theatre fest at TSC hosted the most - 20, while Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's (BSA) national-scale festival saw Shilpakala repertory troupes from all 64 districts stage a play. Selim Al Deen's 65th birth anniversary was also celebrated in a two-day festival, including a play from Bogra. Theatre practice outside the capital also remained active in Chittagong, Hobiganj, Bhola, Bogra, Pabna and most notably in Mymensingh, from where a troupe, Niravaran Theatre, arranged a festival at BSA.

One the most exciting news for theatre connoisseurs of the country came on November 6, when noted thespian Aly Zaker announced at a programme to mark his 70th birthday, that he was planning to come back to stage.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

Homage to SHILPACHARYA

Monirul Islam and Nasir Ali Mamun's collaborative visual



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Today marks the birth centenary (December 29, 1914-2014) of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, the pioneer of Bangladeshi art and art education. On November 10, eminent artist Monirul Islam overlapped drawings on a famous photo of the Shilpacharya that celebrated photographer Nasir Ali Mamun clicked on June 7, 1974, as homage to Zainul Abedin. The duo shared their memories of the visionary master painter with The Daily Star.

Monirul Islam

Nasir Ali Mamun's image provides the main frame, while my drawings can be treated as ornamentation. Abedin Sir was a man of great heart. His masterpieces are priceless assets for us. His contributions to art creation and education through establishing Dhaka Art College (DAC) are immense. He would love DAC like his own child. I have many fond memories with Sir. Once, sir went to my home district Chandpur where we painted together on a boat around the confluence of the rivers -- Meghna, Padma and Dakatia. It was a rare contribution of him to depict the miserable situation of the starving people during the great famine of Bengal (in 1943). He made his own ink by burning charcoal and using it on cheap ordinary packing paper, he depicted those starving people. In his sketches, the famine showed its sinister face through the skeletal figures of people. Sir depicted this inhuman story with very human emotions. These sketches helped him find his way in a realistic approach that focused the human suffering, struggle and protest. The Rebel crew marks a high point of that style.

Nasir Ali Mamun

It was an exciting experience for me to take Shilpacharya's portrait. I shot it with a 35mm, an old Japanese Kowa camera, with assistance from one of Shilpacharya's favourite students, Shahabuddin Ahmed. I was informed of his friendly, amiable demeanor but on the day I found none of those traits; rather, I noticed his gloomy face with grave silent thoughts. Later, I knew from him that he had just been diagnosed with cancer. Those who have seen his jovial side are lucky, and I was unlucky in a sense. But what I have captured and experienced with him is priceless.

IT'S TRUE!

Pharrell 'Happy' to Be #1 for the Year

Jennifer Love Hewitt, known widely as an actress-producer and TV director, had her debut music album "Love Songs" (1992) launched at the age of 12, funded by Japanese music and video game company Meldac. The album was released exclusively in Japan, where Hewitt became a pop star. She signed a deal with Atlantic record, but after her two albums with the label failed to make the charts, she did not return to the music industry for three years. She has recorded soundtracks for her movies and TV shows since then, and released a fourth album in 2002, but has been inactive in music since 2004.



No wonder he's so darn "Happy". Pharrell Williams, who was featured on the best-selling song of 2013, Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines", will have the best-selling song of 2014 all to himself. With less than week to go in Nielsen SoundScan's tracking year, "Happy" has an insurmountable lead over its two closest challengers, John Legend's "All of Me" and "Dark Horse" by Katy Perry.

This will be the fifth time in the past seven years that Perry has had a song in the year-end top 10. She's the only artist who can make that claim. (Rihanna is in second place, finishing in the year-end top 10 in three of the last seven years.



The top R&B song for the year-to-date is "Talk Dirty" by Jason Derulo featuring 2 Chainz, which is #5 overall, behind Meghan Trainor's "All About the Bass". Iggy Azalea is the only artiste with two songs in the top 10 for the year. "Fancy" (featuring Charli XCX), and Ariana Grande's "Problem," on which Azalea is featured.

"Happy", which Williams wrote for the animated movie "Despicable Me 2", isn't the only song from an animated blockbuster to appear in the top 10 for the year-to-date. Idina Menzel's "Let It Go" from Frozen is also on the list. The other two songs in the top 10 for the year are "Turn Down for



What" by DJ Snake & Lil Jon is and Sam Smith's "Stay with Me".

"Happy" is also #1 on Billboard's already-published recap of the top songs of 2014. At 41, Williams is the oldest lead artist to rank #1 on Billboard's recap since 1999, when Cher, then 53, finished first with "Believe". It is also the first song from a movie to rank #1 for the year on Billboard's recap since "Gangsta's Paradise" by Coolio featuring LV in 1995. Iggy Azalea is the only artiste with two songs in the top 10 on Billboard's recap. Her own "Fancy" is #4 while Ariana Grande's "Problem" on which she is featured, is #9.

Source: **Yahoo! Music**

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Admission of International Students, 2015-16

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Applications are invited from International students to the following programmes at its Hyderabad Campus for Academic Year 2015-16. The campus is fully residential. All admitted students, faculty members stay on campus.

01 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES (also known as Integrated First Degree programmes)
 4-year Bachelor of Engineering (Honours): Chemical Engg., Civil Engg., Computer Science, Electronics & Communication Engg., Electrical & Electronics Engg., Electronics & Instrumentation Engg., Mechanical Engg., Manufacturing Engg.
 4-year Integrated Master of Science (Honours): Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics, Physics.

02 ELIGIBILITY

- Only citizens of a country other than India are eligible.
- The candidate should have passed the qualifying examination (grade 12) with Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics conducted by the country's or province's, Board of Higher/Senior Secondary Education, including those in India, or its equivalent examination recognized by Association of Indian Universities such as the "A" levels (conducted by Cambridge International) or the International Baccalaureate, etc.
- The candidate should have obtained a minimum of 75% aggregate marks (or grade of 7.5 on 10 point scale), in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics in the above examination. Additionally, he/she should have scored at least 60% marks (or grade of 6.0 on 10 point scale) in each Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics.
- The candidate should have a minimum aggregate score of 1600 (out of maximum of 2400) in SAT, as also a minimum aggregate score of 1600 (out of maximum of 2400) in SAT Subject Tests in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics Level 2.

Admissions will be based on merit determined by score obtained by candidates in SAT Subject Tests in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics Level 2, subject to candidate meeting above eligibility criteria. For more details on SAT & SAT Subject Tests visit website: www.collegeboard.com. SAT & SAT subject test scores have to be sent to BITS Pilani directly through College Board using the Designated Institution (DI) code: 7759 - BITS Pilani.

Candidates who have passed the above qualifying examination in 2014 or 2015 may apply. Students who are appearing in the examination in 2015 are also eligible to apply. Students whose qualifying examination results are not available by the date admission is finalized may be offered "provisional admission". They will be required to submit results of qualifying examination no later than September 15, 2015.

03 SCHOLARSHIPS
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04 HOW TO APPLY
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