

WHAT'S ON
4th Kibria Print Fair
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 1-5
Time: 3-8pm



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



Shawkat Osman Memorial Programme
Organiser: Kathashilpi Shawkat Osman Smriti Parishad
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Natona Museum
Date: January 2; Time: 4pm



1mile²
Organiser: Britto Arts Trust
Venue: All over Old Dhaka
Date: Jan 2
Time: 10am-6pm

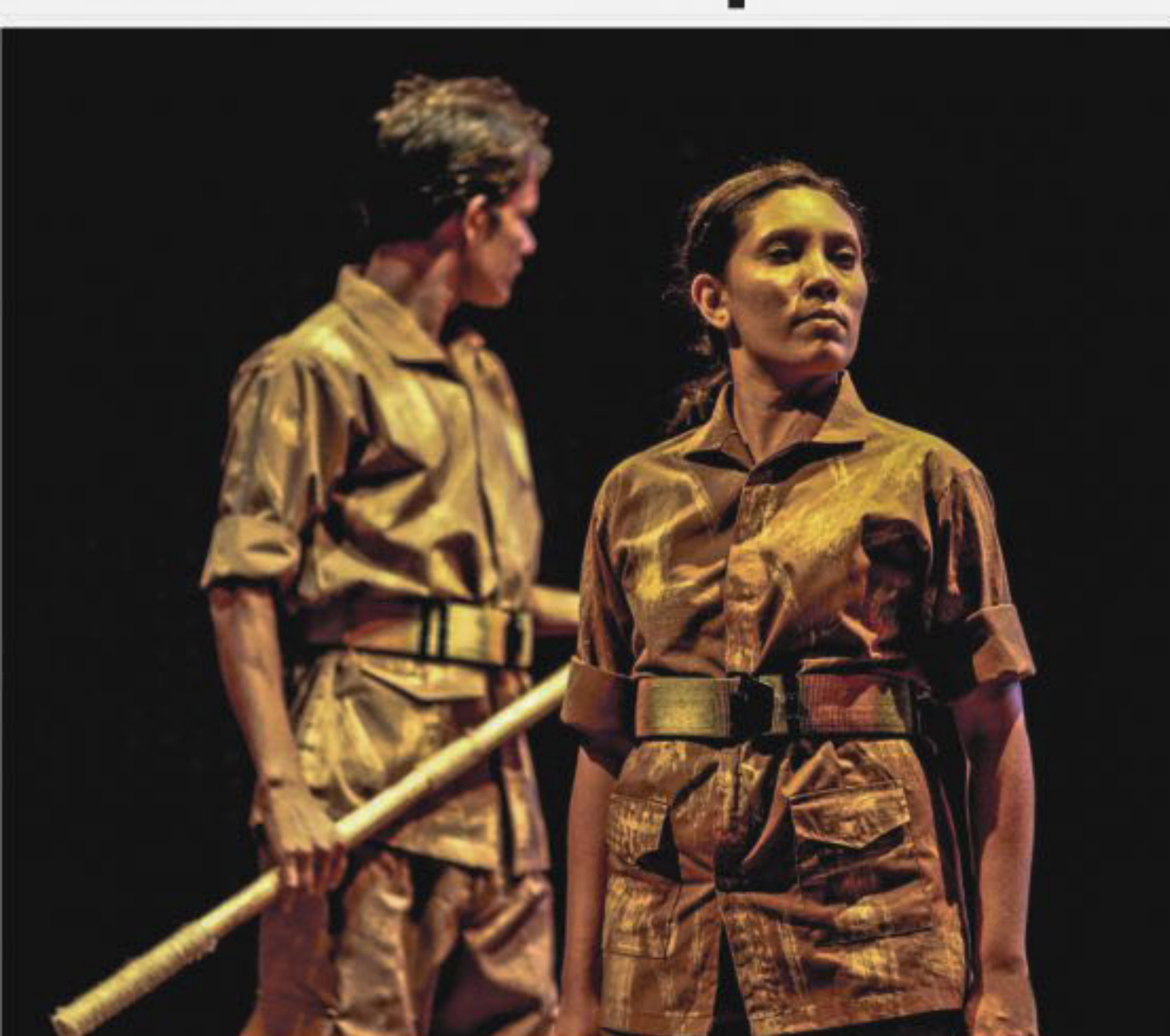


Photography Exhibition
Title: On Boarders
Organiser: Bengal Foundation and Goethe Institute Dhaka
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Art Precinct
Date: Dec 10- January 04
Time: 12pm-8pm



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015: THEATRE

Nandimukh South Asian Theatre Fest opens tomorrow in Chittagong



Scenes from "The Trial of Mallam Ilya" and "Urnajal".

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark its silver jubilee, Nandimukh, an active theatre troupe of Chittagong, are organising a nine-day Nandimukh South Asian Theatre Fest from tomorrow at the Chittagong Shilpakala Academy. This is the first of Nandimukh's yearlong celebration programmes. Some nine

troupes from Bangladesh, India and Nepal will stage their productions at the festival.

On the opening day, hosts Nandimukh will stage their production "Urnajal", written by Bakar Bokul and directed by Faiz Zahir. Indian troupe Mangolik will stage "Manush Bhoot" on the second day, written by Syed Mustafa Siraj and directed by



Sameer Bishwas. The following plays at the festival are: "Nirasroy" by Songlap Kolkata (India), written and directed by Kuntal Mukhopadhyay based on story by Subrata Sen; "The Trial of Mallam Ilya" by BotTala (Dhaka), written by African playwright Mohammad Ben Abdallah, adapted by Soumya Sarkar and directed by

Mohammad Ali Haider; "Tobuo Manush" by Nandimukh, written and directed by Abhijit Sengupta; "Poramati" by Padatik Natya Sangsad Bangladesh, written by Babul Bishwas and directed by Irin Parvin Lopa; "Bisarjan" by Biborton (Jessore), written by Rabindranath Tagore and directed by Debashish Bhattacharya Palash; "Jumping

Frog" by Mandala Theatre (Nepal), written and directed by Sajjan Thapa Magar and "Protarok" by Rongasrom (India), written by Kaushik Chattopadhyay and directed by Sandeep Bhattacharya. Apart from the plays, the festival will also feature cultural performances by reputed artistes every day at the Aniruddha Mancha.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015: ARTS

1mile² Exploring Diversity in Old Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Britto Arts Trust has organised a month-long art project titled 1mile², that began on December 5, 2013 and will culminate into display tomorrow (January 2). The Open Studio Day of the festival is the only day where the works of 40 participating artists of 1mile² will be exhibited from 10am to 6pm.

1mile² is a project to collaborate with communities to map their neighbourhoods exploring biodiversity, cultural diversity, and aesthetic diversity (buildings and open spaces) of their respective local square mile.

Artists are participating in the initiative with different community and educational projects on a variety of media like video, film, photography, sound work, installation, performance and research based projects in different locations of Old Dhaka.

Participants are filmmakers, photographers, visual and performance artists, and include Mahbubur Rahman, Tayeba Begum Lipi, Laila Sharmeen, Manir Mrittik, Munem Wasif, Reetu Sattar, Kazi Salaudinn Ahmed, Sarker Protick, Anisuzzaman Sohel, Jamil Akbar Shamim, Yasmin Jahann Nupur and Tejosh Halder Josh. The researchers for the project are Jafrin Gulshan and Shaswati Mazumder

The venues are Bahadur Shah Park, Pogose School, Patuati, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA), Beauty Boarding, Eshwar Das Lane, Jubilee School Market, Lalkuthi, Farashganj Orphanage, Ruplal House, Shyam Bazar, Ruplal Das Lane, Panch Bari, Boro Bari, Dhaka Kendra, Malakotola and Shyam Bazar Ghat.

Britto Arts Trust is an international organisation based in Bangladesh, working to promote young and emerging artists since 2002.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015: FILM

"I have a good sync with Shakib" ... Tisha



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nusrat Imroz Tisha is a popular name in both small screen and cinema. The model-actress is playing against Shakib Khan in an upcoming film called "Mental". The duo will appear as an on screen couple for the first time through the film. Tisha recently spoke to Star Arts & Entertainment about her new cinema.

When did you begin shooting for "Mental"?

Tisha: We started filming on December 11.

Tell us about the role you are playing?

Tisha: I am playing a crime reporter named Simi. She is a rough and tough woman who enjoys dealing with serious assignments. Simi loves challenging tasks and takes risks as well.

How does it feel to work outside Chabial?

Tisha: I am enjoying the work. The script is nice, and most importantly, I am working outside my comfort zone and I came outside my typecast in "Mental". Though I had doubts that I might not be able to adjust outside my comfort zone, I am working in the same way I used to do. We have a very good unit.

Have you done any homework for the role you are playing?

Tisha: I have not worked after last Eid since I was busy with preparing myself for the role of Simi. I have worked hard for the film.

What is like to work with Shakib Khan?

Tisha: Shakib Khan is a very professional artiste; very cooperative. It feels good to work with him. We have worked for a short time, and I already have a good sync with Shakib Khan.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015: TV

"Ujan Ganger Naiya" returns – bigger and better

FAHMIM FERDOUS

BBC Media Action (BBCMA) Bangladesh broadcast the first series of "Ujan Ganger Naiya", a drama series with underlying messages on the negative aspects of early marriages and underage pregnancy last year. Aired on BTV primarily targeting the rural populace of the country, the series was received exceedingly well with a whopping reach of 35 million. This year, the series is returning with messages on serious issues like maternal and neonatal health, and is showing every promise to be a treat even for the urban viewership.

Set in the coastal location of Cox's Bazar, the series is set to depict a dramatic story of family life affected by crime, love and the daily struggles of a fishing community. Written by Rafikul Islam Poltu and Shubhashish Sinha, the series is being directed by Bashar Georgis, and casts Orchita Sporshia (the only returning character from the first series), Riaz, Farhana Mili, Tariq Anam Khan, Lutfur Rahman George, Titash Zia and others. The drama has been produced with funds from the UK's Department for International Development.

As with any production by BBC, it has been done meticulously –

from scriptwriting to casting to set design to shooting, everything proceeded like clockwork. This correspondent visited the shooting location last month on invitation from BBCMA to speak to the cast and crew, and was seriously impressed by the professionalism and compactness of the entire unit. For an

entertainment for families, and one of the reasons the audience inclines to shows on foreign channels is the lack of good productions on local channels. With the amount of effort and close attention to detail, "Ujan Ganger Naiya" looks to stand aside, and could be well worth marking the calendar for. The series is expected to begin airing in late January.



instance, to shoot a couple of sequences of a child-birth, the production flew in Therese Scott Juppe, one of the UK's preeminent midwives and a senior technical advisor to the popular television drama in the UK, "Call the Midwife", to bring authenticity into the scene.

Shooting of the Cox's Bazar sequences wrapped up on December

30, with only a few scenes to be completed in Dhaka. Director Bashar Georgis told The Daily Star his expectations were exceeded by a fair distance with the outcome of the entire two-month ordeal, and he was eyeing a double viewership from last series.

Despite its positives and negatives, TV is still a major source of

"PK" soars, but also runs into rough weather

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Cash and controversy brought by "PK", directed by Rajkumar Hirani, have ensured that Aamir Khan ended the year 2014 on a high note.

Made on a budget of Rs 100 crore, the film -- released in 4,000 screens on December 19 -- fetched the highest box office revenue of the year, collecting Rs 236.24 crore, surpassing Salman Khan-starrer "Kick" which had a box office collection of Rs 233 crore in India.

As producers and exhibitors

count the cash return from the film, "PK" is also facing a fair share of countrywide controversy following street protests and violence by right wing Hindu groups which allege the movie hurt the religious sentiments.

Some theatres in northeastern states of Assam and Odissa were vandalised on Monday, after protests in other states like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Protesters burned posters of the movie -- which takes a swipe at organised religion and godmen -- and burnt effigies of Aamir Khan.

They also demanded a ban on the film throughout the country.

Rajkumar Hirani said in a statement that he had no intention to hurt anyone's sentiments and maintained that the film upholds the true spirit of religion while condemning "only the abuse" of it. "Our film is inspired by the ideas of Sant Kabir and Mahatma Gandhi. It is a film which brings to fore the thought that all humans who inhabit this planet are the same. There are no differences," he said.

Censor Board Chief Leela Samson defended the decision to give a go-ahead to "PK" and said "political and ideological groups" may advise their followers not to watch it.

India's Information and Broadcasting Ministry said it cannot act on a film once it has been cleared by the Censor Board. Speaking to reporters here, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore however added that state governments could act depending on the law and order situation. Citizens are also free to approach courts in case they have grievances, he said.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015: MUSIC

"I took inspiration from James bhai" ...Imran

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

One of the most popular youngsters in pop music, Imran's has also ventured into music direction. He debuted as playback singer for a film in Bollywood last year. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the talented singer talked about his music life.

You first did playback for a Bollywood film, what's your feeling about this?

Imran: I felt very happy to get such chance. Like every artiste, I wanted to work internationally, and finally my dream came true through singing for an Indian film.

Tell something about the playback song for the film?

Imran: The song is called "Tere Liye" for the movie "Jabse Mile Hain Wo". I did the lone title song in August.

How did you get the opportunity?

Imran: In 2013, Preetam da (noted Bollywood music director) came to Dhaka from Kolkata and was very impressed by my songs. Later, he recommended Indian filmmaker Nehal Dutta to sign me, and I received the call.

What's the first thought that came to your mind when you landed in Mumbai?

Imran: I thought it would be really cool to meet Alia Bhatt, the young Bollywood heartthrob. I like her very much!

Any further plans to work in the Indian industry?

Imran: I want to work more in Bollywood. I hope to hold a secure position there. Frankly, I got the inspiration from James bhai, who won the hearts of millions of music lovers in India through his powerful voice.

What are you currently busy with?

Imran: My new album is keeping me occupied these days. Of the 10 tracks for it, six have already been done. I'm planning to release the album this Pehela Boishakh.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON