Solo Art Exhibition

Venue: Bengal Art Lounge

Solo Art Exhibition

Different Strokes



Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and multiplatinum icon Billy Joel will be headlining the 2015 edition of the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival. The initial lineup for the 13th annual mega-fest announced earlier this evening via an interactive social-media blitz - also includes Mumford and Sons, Deadmau5, Kendrick Lamar, Florence and the Machine, My Morning Jacket and Robert Plant with his latest band, the Sensational Space

Notable inclusions include arena-R&B legends Earth, Wind and Fire; new-wave epic-crafters Tears for Fears; rising hip-hop star Dej Loaf and extreme metal's most famous band, Slayer. Bonnaroo producers are promising more than 125 musical artistes and more than 20 comedians, so they will be announcing more in the coming months. The

four-day extravaganza will play out on 12 stages. The fest, held in Manchester, Tennessee (USA) on June 11-14, is expecting more than 80,000 attendees. Tickets go on sale Saturday at the offi-

The Daily Star at 24

# Stars share their views



**Ataur Rahman** 

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Inching ever so close to its silver jubilee, The Daily Star has just turned 24. In this period, the Arts & Entertainment page has grown from a black and white half-page daily publication to a full page published six days a week and a full-blown two-page centre fold on weekends.

Over the course of nearly two -and- a- half decades, the page has brought readers deep insights into the arts and entertainment scene of Bangladesh. A big part of that credit goes to those working in the field of arts and media, whose work has inspired the content produced on the page. Here's the second installment of the series, where they shared their observations and expectations about the publication.

Ataur Rahman, thespian I regularly read The Daily Star, and the paper is on par with international standard. But to me Arts & Entertainment page often seem to miss out on priorities to important events.

I think the page should give more coverage to big events, and publish regular updates. Between the elderly and youth, I would rather prefer that young generation gets more priority. I am personally satisfied with the coverage they give me. I would suggest the page give equal priority to established artistes and emerging artistes without taking into consideration any personal requests



**Zahid Hasan** 

of big artistes. Zahid Hasan, actor I read The Daily Star regularly, as it never fails to live up to my expectations. There was a time when we used to prefer Observer, but now The Daily Star is the one that we look at. As a reader and as an

artiste, it is great news for me that it has completed 24 years of its journey. As I am an artiste, I always read the Arts and Entertainment page. My expectation from The Daily Star is they will provide more news about the mainstream media. Giasuddin Selim, filmmaker The Daily Star has continued working the way an ideal English daily should do. I hope it will prac-

tice the same culture in the future. It is now the country's No. 1 English daily, because it can feel the pulse of the readers, and has put in a sincere effort to provide well-presented news and features. Due to this, the number of its readers has increased gradually. As a filmmaker, I want the Arts and Entertainment page to allocate more content from our field of work. Konal, singer

The Daily Star is one of my favourite newspapers. I really like the presentation because whenever I open the newspaper I find the Arts and Entertainment page in the middle of the paper. I think The Daily is a very neutral paper and it covers other arenas of our culture well, which encourages me to read the paper more.

SHAHID

to romance Kangana in "Mr. Chaloo"

Shahid Kapoor has stepped into

Saif Ali Khan's shoes in Reema

venture "Mr. Chaloo" after Saif

left the role due to remunera-

tion issues. The production

house has roped in Shahid

opposite Kangana Ranaut.

Kapoor for the role where he

will play a charming womanizer

This will be the first time

that Shahid and Kangana will

be paired opposite each other.

Shahid has responded posi-

tively to the story as it's the kind

of character that he hasn't done

in a while. The makers are now

locking the dates and finalizing

locations for shooting. The

project will start rolling soon.

Source: Mumbai Mirror

The film also features Richa

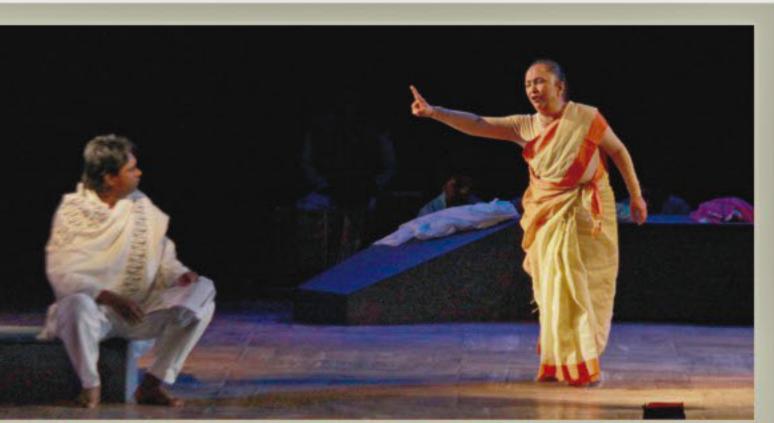
Chadda and Pooja Bhatt in

pivotal roles.

Kagti's upcoming directorial







Noted theatre actress-director Shimul Yousuf plays a collage of Selim Al Deen's plays at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Selim Al Deen Foundation paid tribute to the playwright marking his 7th death anniversary on January 14. PHOTO: STAR

#### Ah! Sunderban at Chhobi'r Haat

A CORRESPONDENT More than a month after a cargo boat capsize on the Shela river that spilled a staggering 3.5 lakh litres of hazard ous furnace oil into the Sunderban the world's largest mangrove forest, action from authorities have been fickle, while local people have risked their health to clean up the spill that has left the delicate ecosystem of the river and the forest in tatters. With waterbound communication open once again on the route, and the government moving forward with its proposed heat-based power plant, a group of cultural activists are holding two-day programmes, titled "Ah! Sunderban" at the Chhobi'r Haat (in

Shahbagh). The two-day event, from 10am today, will feature exhibitions, art installations and performances, all surrounding Sunderbans Photographers, graphic and visual vationists and young activists are jointly holding the event that will



## IT'S TRUE!

Raj Kapoor -- a stalwart of Indian Cinema -first appeared in films at the age of eleven, in the 1935 film "Inquilab". In 1948, at the age of only 24, he established his own studio, RK Films, and became the youngest film director of his time, making his directorial debut with the film "Aag" starring himself, Nargis, Kamini Kaushal and Premnath. He launched the careers of a number of Bollywood stars, including Dimple Kapadia, Mandakini, and his sons Rishi, Randhir and Rajiv.



### SD Burman Music Festival ends at Public Library

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day Sachin Dev Burman Music Festival ended on January 14 at Shawkat Osman memorial auditorium of Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the festival on January 13 organised by cultural organization Boinhishikha. Hasan Arif, general secretary of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote and Shah Alam Sarwar, managing director of IFIC Bank, attended the event as special guests. Rupu Khan delivered the welcome address while Golam Kuddus, president of Boinhishikha, presided over the programme

Boinhishikha artistes set off the cultural event with a dance performance to an S.D. Burman record "Nitol Paye Rinik Jhinik". Artistes of Spondon also performed two dances set on the songs "Jhilmil Jhilmil Jhiler Jol-e" and "Shono Go Dokhina Hawa".

Among the singers -- Sandipan skillfully performed a solo song "Ke Jash Rey Bhati Gaang Baiya", Sumon Chowdhury sang a thumri-ang song "Modhu Brindabon-e Dol-e Radha" along with a Nazrul Sangeet, "Paddar Dheu Rey". Iffat Ara Nargis presented two songs "Tumi Jegi Achho" and "Banshi Shuney Ar Kaj Nai". Bangladeshi artistes Kiron Chandra Roy, Rupu Khan, Mamun Zahid Khan and Shivprasad Dhar, Tanuja Dev Burman, Rakesh Dev Burman and Dhananjoy Sarkar from Tripura, India performed solos at the event.

On the concluding day, Cultural Affairs Secretary Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc attended the festival as chief guest. Singer Fakir Alamgir was special guest at the event. Subir Nandi, Sujit Mustafa, Priyanka Gope along with artistes of Boinhishikha and several solo artistes from Bangladesh and India performed songs at the festival.



# Injecting music into society

#### In conversation with Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya is one of the most recognizable names in the country's music arena. Be it with her distinctive style of rendering Rabindra Sangeet, or founding and nurturing a musical school for over two decades, she continues to leave an impact on the country's cultural arena. The Daily Star caught up with her on her recent work, a special project of hers and her views on people's cultural identity.

You've recently released a large volume of works. Tell us about it.

Bannya: Yes, an anthology of love songs by Tagore, "Prem Bhalobashar Geetoponchashika", was released recently under the banner of Impress Audio Vision. It has a total of 50 songs in a 3-CD set, many of which I put together from my previous records - many of them from Shruti Geetobitan. The songs were written at various stages of Tagore's life so there's that variety, and they have been arranged by a number of renowned music directors, so there's a wide range there too.

Your music school Shurer Dhara is also involved with a project called "Music for Development". What is it about? Bannya: It is a wonderful project that we've been carrying out for five years now, where underprivileged children are given a cultural education: they do classes in music, dance, recitation, art and drama, and also get academic support for their school-work. We also make them aware about their rights, and about the abuses that happen in their

communities. They, in turn, act as catalysts

in their own schools and neighbourhoods.

We brought these kids in from the Beribadh slum, where we primarily selected 150 kids and eventually made a group of 30 that has been with us throughout this time. It's a very successful project we have been running, which began as a pilot project of UNDP, and is now continuing with support from a few multinational companies and generous patrons. I everything goes right, these kids will visit England in March, on invitation from an organisation there, where they will perform and also do school visits. They are a glorious example of what a vital instrument of persona development music can be, to anyone. You received a pleasant surprise on your birthday a few days back when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called you up on live TV programme. How did that make

Bannya: I was happiest about the fact that

the Prime Minister listened to a musical

programme. She has also been a student of violin at Chhayanaut. In our country, cultural practices have become somewhat superficial. Nobody is really cultural-minded deep within. I think if people are culturalminded and practice the arts; it will have a positive impact on the country itself, particu larly to stay away from the violence and unrest that our country is going through right now. If a person listens to good music, watches good films, their minds will be elevated and they will themselves shy away from destructive and wrongful activities. And what really gave me hope is that if a country's leader is cultural-minded, the people will also be directed that way, and if a country's people are culturally aware, no vested quarter can rise up in the country.



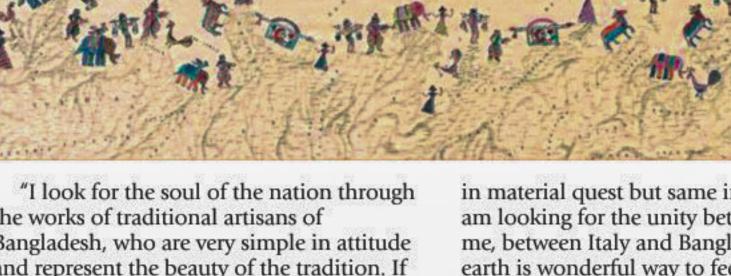


#### Nakshikantha as a muse Tarshito's "Embroider the World" opens today

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Italian architect, professor and artist Nicola Strippoli Tarshito's solo art exhibition titled "Tarshito: Embroider the World" opens this evening (January 16) at Bengal Gallery of Fine Art, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Mario Palma will be the chief guest at the exhibition while Chandrashekhar Saha, President, National Crafts Council Bangladesh, will be special guest. In conversation with The Daily Star, the artist shared his experiences of working with Bangladeshi artisans, the exhibit and his artistic vision.

One can easily perceive the influence of indigenous heritage of different countries in Tarashito's works. He came to Bangladesh to attend a family event and later, with the help of Bengal Foundation, discovered the folk art of Nakshikantha. It left its mark on Tarshito and he thus incorporated the kantha stitches into his acrylic works.



the works of traditional artisans of Bangladesh, who are very simple in attitude and represent the beauty of the tradition. you go deep into the Italian culture and Bangladeshi culture, you find one thing common: obeisance to the divine through the creation of art. We are the same in the case of finding love, space and life. We are different Tarshito.

in material quest but same in spiritual quest. am looking for the unity between you and me, between Italy and Bangladesh. And the earth is wonderful way to feel this, to understand this beautiful thing. For this reason, roam around villages to see how the simple people embroider the world every day. Their artistic efforts seem like their prayers," said

Tarshito has done a wonderful job of weav ing within his artwork the traditional Nakshikantha stitches particular to craftspersons of Jessore. With the help of Mahbub Zamil Shamim of Charupeeth, he was able to collaborate with a group of craftspersons of Jessore and produce the pieces for this exhibition. Chandrasekhar Saha has been invaluable in terms of provid- 8pm, ends on 30 January.

ing him advice as well as overseeing the work of the craftspersons, over a period of six Nature, people, daily life, as well as some mapping can be seen in Tarshito's

work and the use of Nakshikantha lends an added dimension and brings his works to life. Although his work is contemporary in outlook, Tarshito has been successful in retaining the essence of traditional art, giving it a somewhat grounding effect. It's almost as if an implicit understanding is reached between the contemporary and the

The exhibition transcends geographical boundaries, race, religion, heritage and differing cultures, to chart a new course and open up new possibilities. The artist hopes to gradually showcase the works in India, Nepal and

The exhibition, open daily from 12pm to

# Spielberg turned down

Imagine if Steven Spielberg had directed "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"? It could have happened, as Spielberg was offered the job, but he turned it down, deciding to take his career in 'another direction'. That direction, as it happened, was "Minority Report" and "AI: Artificial

It was around this time fifteen years ago that Spielberg's name was linked to the anticipated Philosophers/Sorcerer's Stone adaptation. This was back when JK Rowling's nowbeloved magical series was only just starting to generate real buzz stateside.

The new Harry Potter Highlights page, which was recently added to the Harry Potter site's Collections feature, has photos and clippings related to the making of the Harry Potter movies, one of which is the "Morning Report" from the LA Times. It notes that Spielberg opted out of adapting Harry Potter for the screen, in favor of the sci-fi thriller "Minority Report", which starred Tom Cruise and grossed more than \$35 million domestically. The Academy of



Oscars.org released the clipping, dated February 2000. It was a follow-up to a report in January that noted that "the buzz is that Spielberg's next project will be a Harry Potter film for Warner Bros." Then In March, news broke that Chris Columbus was confirmed to helm what would go on to be the first of eight Harry Potter movies. The rest is Harry Potter history.

So, what if Steven Spielberg had directed Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone? It's possible we would've gotten a series of animated movies. Back in 2010, right around the time that "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1" was set to arrive in theatres, LA Times ran an article recounting the history of the franchise, which included a comment from Alan Horn that revealed Spielberg's plans for the adaptation. That included combining some of the books and

making it animated. "One of the notions of Dreamwork's and Steven's was, 'Let's combine a couple of the books, let's make it animated,' and that was Source: CinemaBlend

because of the [visual effects] Pixar had demonstrated that animated movies could be extremely successful. Because of the wizardry involved, they were very effectsladen. So I don't blame them. But I did not want to combine the movie and I wanted it to be live-action." It's interesting to look back at the history

of bringing Harry Potter to the screen, particularly now as "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" is in the works, with "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix", "Half-Blood Prince" and "Deathly Hallows" director David Yates attached to helm. Will the spinoff, which is being penned by JK Rowling herself, go on to be as huge as the Harry Potter franchise? Will fans someday look back and wonder what might have been had the rumour about Alfonso Cuaron possibly directing been true? Perhaps, if the film(s) leave as big an imprint on pop culture as Harry Potter has. "Fantastic Beasts" is

expected to begin filming this summer.

#### RAPID FIRE

National Film Awardwinning actress Simla is very selective about her roles, that include a film in Kolkata. That's not all--she has appeared on the small screen occasionally. The celebrated artiste recently took head on some quick questions from The Daily Star:

First thought after waking up? Simla: Why do mornings come

What is your biggest fear? Simla: People who say something and do something else. Are you scared of ghosts? Simla: I used to be in my child-

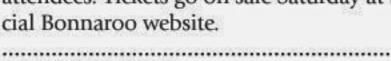
If you encounter one in a dark

Simla: I'll hang out with them. If you can't deliver a dialogue before the camera... Simla: I'll burst into tears. If you had superpowers, what would you do? Simla: Try to quell unrest in the country.

Who do you fear most?

Simla: The Almighty





Source: Yahoo! Music