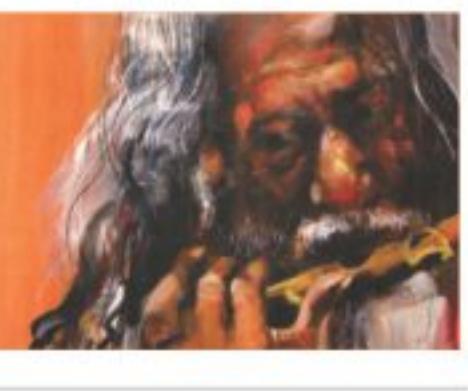


## WHAT'S ON

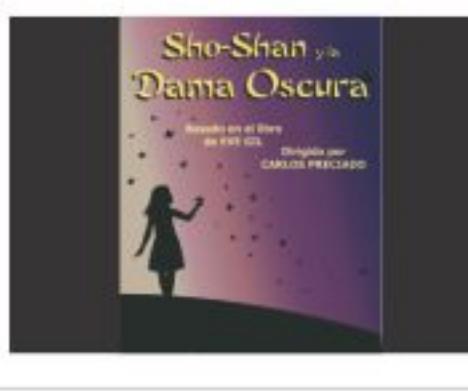
**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Artist: Jamal Ahmed  
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts,  
AJ Heights, Cha 72/1/D, Progati  
Shorani, Uttor Badda  
Date: Jan 9-31  
Time: 10am-8pm (Closed on  
Mondays)



**Chobi Mela VIII**  
Organiser: Pathshala and Drik  
Venue: Different locations in Dhaka  
Date: Jan 23-Feb 5  
Time: 10-8pm



**8th International  
Children's Film Festival**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Children's  
Film Society  
Venue: Central Public Library,  
BNM, BSA  
Date: January 24-30; Time: 10-8pm



**1st National  
Dance-Drama Festival**  
Organiser: BDAA  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala  
Academy  
Date: Jan 27-31  
Time: 6:00pm



**Art Exhibition**  
Chronology  
Artist: Kazi Rakib  
Venue: Galleri Kaya  
Date: Jan 17-30  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

NEWS  
bytes

First 'Fantastic Four'  
trailer released



The first teaser trailer for Fox's new "Fantastic Four" film has been released, giving audiences their first glimpse into Josh Trank's reimagining of the classic Marvel Entertainment series — and for those who've been waiting for something that takes the sci-fi underpinnings of the comic book and pushes them to the forefront, it's a trailer worth the wait.

Instead of featuring the classic team in full superhero mode, the teaser concentrates on the world before the accident that transforms Reed Richards (Miles Teller) and his friends (Michael B. Jordan, Kate Mara and Jamie Bell) into something other than human. While Jordan's Johnny Storm "flame on" and Bell's Ben Grimm turning into the rocky Thing is seen, there's no chance to see Teller's newly elastic body, nor Mara's invisibility.

Written by Trank with Simon Kinberg and Jeremy Slater, "Fantastic Four" hits theaters on August 7.

Source: THR



## MUSIC TO SOOTHE THE SOUL Sufi Fest Dhaka opens



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

FAHMIM FERDOUS

"Mystic and 'Sufi' thoughts are interpreted and practiced in different ways at different parts of the world, and that is what makes this a celebration of cultural plurality."

Amitava Bhattacharya, the founder of the Sufi Sutra festival of Sufi and traditional music, caught the essence of the festival in a nutshell, on the opening night of Sufi Fest Dhaka 2015 on Tuesday. The festival featuring 12 artistes from seven countries — that practice the music and dance of mystic thoughts — was inaugurated shortly after by Asaduzzaman Noor, Minister for Cultural Affairs. "At a time of such political unrest, violence and turmoil, this is exactly what Dhaka needed right now," he said. Praising Abul Khair (Chairman, Bengal Group) for his involvement in fantastic initiatives like the Bengal Classical Music Festival and EngageDhaka, the minister also expressed hopes that the music of peace and emancipation would change people's hearts for the better.

Arnob was the opening act of the festival, and along with Buno (on bass), Saad (on banjo), Karthik (cello and Swaraj), Pantha Kanai and Mithun (on percussion) and featuring Palki Ahmed (on vocal and guitar), the group presented an array of familiar music to a tepid audience. Beginning and closing with Rabindra Sangeet, they took turns in singing a number of Lalon songs in the middle, and Bhatiali. The use of esraj and cello on the one hand and guitar, banjo and swaraj, and two percussionists in tandem created some moments.

Sidi Goma, an Eastern-African tribe residing in India's Gujarat for centuries — presented their ritualistic performances next. The 12-piece ensemble sang, danced and played a host of percussions (from hand-drums to shakers) and Malunga, a one-stringed bow. The spirited, energetic display featured dances inspired from animals with zikr-like chants, and climaxed through breaking of coconut shells on their own heads.

Mechket, a Sufi group from Tunisia, was up next, and took the audience by surprise. Beginning slowly and roping the audience in before going expressive and open, the group's chant-like vocal performance along with typically Middle-Eastern sounding string instruments seemingly absorbed the spectators in.

Javed Ali, the Bollywood playback singer known for his sufiyana repertoire, was the final artiste of the night. He went on to perform his Sufi-themed hit soundtracks — including "Khwaja", "Jashn-e-Baraha", "Kun Faya Kun" and "Arziyan".

While the ambiance was nice and cool and amenities were available, the sound engineering, stage and time management needed attention, said many festival-goers. Maybe the organisers will take the cue from them.

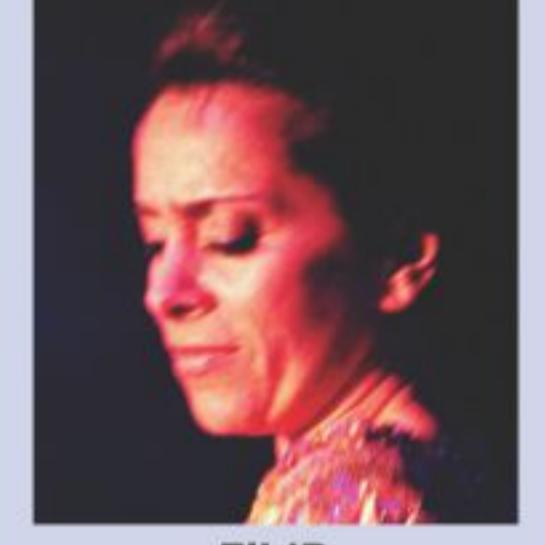
The second evening's performances yesterday included Rob Fakir and Shafi Mandal (Bangladesh), Arko Mukherjee (India) Mawlawiyyah (Egypt) and Munnawar Masoom (India).

Performing tonight at

**SUFI FEST DHAKA**



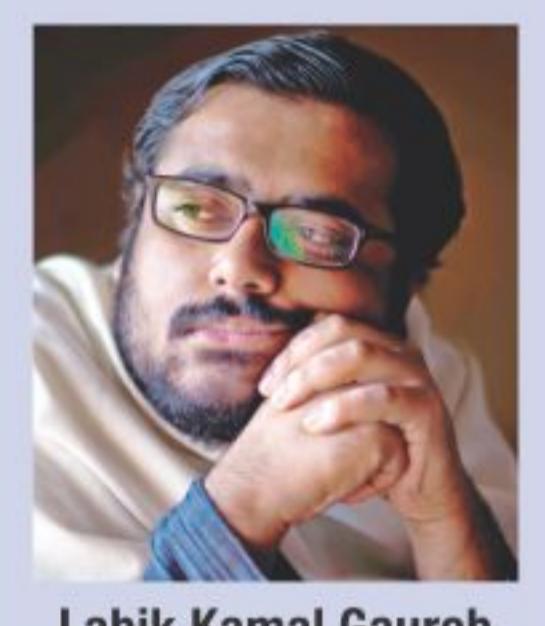
Rahat Fateh Ali Khan  
(Pakistan)



Zik'R  
(Spain)



Serenas  
(Denmark)



Labik Kamal Gaurob  
(Bangladesh)

IT'S  
TRUE!

French artist Henri-Émile-Benoit Matisse is commonly regarded, along with Pablo Picasso and Marcel Duchamp, as one of the three artists who helped to define the revolutionary developments in the plastic arts in the opening decades of the twentieth century. His mastery of the expressive language of colour and drawing, displayed in a body of work spanning over a half-century, won him recognition as a leading figure in modern art.

## Nat'l Dance Drama Fest in full swing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nrityashilpi Sangstha (BNS) in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) has organised a five-day (January 27-31) National Dance Drama Festival at National Theatre Hall of BSA. The festival, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, was inaugurated by Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, as chief guest. Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc, secretary to the same ministry, with Nrityaguru Rahija Khanam Jhunu attended the inaugural event as special guests. Minu Haque and Mahfuzur Rahman, president and general secretary of BNS delivered the welcome addresses while Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA presided over the programme.

The festival set off with the much acclaimed production "Hajar Tarer Bina", penned by Dr. Enamul Haque and directed by



Farhana Chowdhury Baby, Hajar Tarer Bina, performed by the artistes of Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts, is based on Kazi Nazrul Islam's fight and struggle during his imprisonment. It reflects how the Rebel Poet's muse kept his fighting spirit alive and glowing in the darkness of prison.

Noted dancer-model Sadia Islam Mou stood out among all

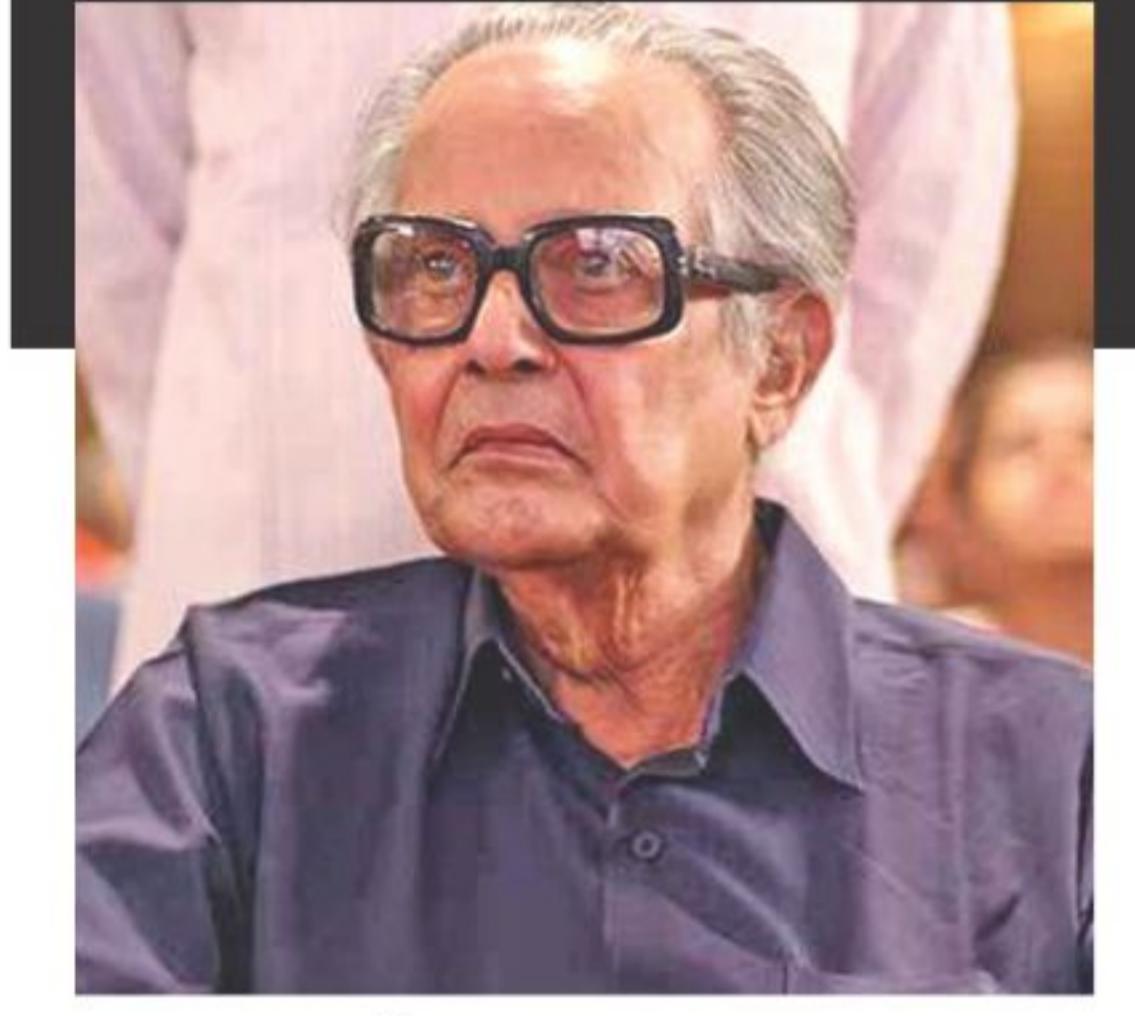
the performers of the dance drama. She enacted the role of Mandira. Abdur Rashid Swapan donned the role of Kobi. The artistes could have depicted better the vigour and spirit of the famous poem "Bidrohi" with their dance. Shaheed Altaf Mahmud composed music for the dance drama. Following the show, director Baby faced noted cultural

personality Nasiruddin Yousuff in a post-performance review with constructive criticism.

Artistes of Mymensingh Nrityashilpi Sangstha staged a popular folk production "Mahua", directed by Maksudul Alam Milton. Based on an oft-heard story from Mymensingh Geetika, a collection of folk-ballad, "Mahua" is a lyrical dance drama. Pratima Barman Tumpa played the title character of the dance-drama. Maksudul Alam Milton performed another lead role of Nader Chand for the production.

The story features a troupe of snake charmers approaching Kanchanpur, a peaceful village. The son of a Zamindar, Nader Chand falls in love with the strikingly beautiful gypsy girl Mahua who reciprocates his love.

The story meets a tragic end when the lovers commit suicide, after being attacked by the gypsy community.



## Cartoonist R.K. Laxman passes on Chronicler of the common man

KAVITA, New Delhi

The creator of the famous "common man" cartoons has had his last laugh. Even as the nation celebrated its 66th Republic Day grandiosely, complete with US President Barack Obama as chief guest, iconic illustrator and humourist R.K. Laxman slipped away quietly in Pune at the age of 93 after multi-organ failure.

He leaves behind many faithful fans who began their day with a smile at the wry humour of his pocket cartoons that ran for over 50 years in English daily The Times of India. After all who can forget the bewildered, bespectacled elder cartoon character who haplessly peers at political figures, businessmen and other bigwigs who make a field day of corruption, official apathy and self aggrandisement? Of his common man, the cartoonist said in 2002: "He remains the same and has not spoken a word. Quietly watching the world, he represents the silent majority of India, who have no voice."

A sampler: As two poverty stricken villagers miserably survey the aftermath of a horrific cyclone, one says to the other, "Sixty thousand crores loss! But for the cyclone we would never have known we were so rich!" Or a grubby father and son duo as they peer at a hoarding in a big city. Explains the father: "I don't know what it is. If I could read I would have been able to tell you whether it is an election poster or cinema poster!"

Laxman's merciless lampooning extended to the leading political figures of the day. Among them was late Indian prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru who had the generosity of spirit to tell Laxman to continue to caricature him. But Laxman's wit did not always go down well with later establishments. He was hauled up for his temerity during the infamous Emergency. There was a rumbling too Delhi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) circles when Laxman repeatedly caricatured the party's stalwart L.K. Advani after the notorious rath yatra.

However, Laxman stood tall in the face of his critics' sniping. Recognition came his way when he won the Ramon Magsaysay Award and the Padma Vibhushan. The pity is that nothing has changed for his well loved common man.

## "Data Horischandra"

Pala staged at JKNU



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The artistes of Theatre and Performance Studies Department Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNU) staged a pala "Data Horischandra" based on the epic "Ramayana".

Directed by Syed Mamun Reza and written by Krittibas, the pala was staged at Gahil Sammyar Gaan Mancha of JKNU Sunday evening, marking Saraswati Puja on the campus.

The students of Music Department of the university also performed at a cultural programme. The spontaneous rendition of songs of Tagore, Nazrul and Lalon went down well with the audience.

The students of Fine Arts led by Utpal Dutta assisted the programme.

Vice-chancellor of JKNU Prof. Dr. Mohit Ul Alam, earlier, inaugurated the day's programme as chief guest.

Acting is my  
first concern  
...Ayushman

Ayushmann Khurrana who made a successful foray into Bollywood with "Vicky Donor" in 2012, said, "The industry can put you down anytime."

"I'll be lying if I say I don't want commercial success or that I only want critical acclaim. I hope my next does well. But, for me, the most important thing is to deliver as far as acting is concerned," he added.

He also said that "Acting in films is something I have achieved after a very long time, after a lot of hard work and several unsuccessful auditions."

Source: Hindustan Times

