

**WHAT'S ON**  
 Shilu Abed Craftperson Award  
 Organiser: NCCB  
 Venue: BRAC Centre Inn  
 Date: March 5  
 Time: 5pm



**Theatre**  
 Dhaboman  
 Troupe: Dhaka Theatre  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
 Date: Mar 4  
 Time: 7pm



**Solo painting exhibition**  
 Artist: Laila Anjuman Ara  
 Title: Joy of Nature  
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka  
 Date: Feb 27-March 9  
 Time: 3pm-9pm



**Theatre**  
 Bangla'r Mati Bangla'r Jol  
 Troupe: Palakar  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
 Date: Mar 3  
 Time: 7pm



**Group Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: The Paradoxical Now  
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya  
 Date: Feb 10-March 3  
 Time: 12pm-8pm



**NEWS bytes**

**Redmayne joins "Thomas the Tank Engine"**

Oscar winner Eddie Redmayne is lending his voice to a new train in the next "Thomas the Tank Engine" adventure. He will be the voice of Ryan on a "Thomas and Friends" DVD titled "Sodor's Legend of the Lost Treasure". The star said he "jumped at the opportunity" to be part of the recording, having grown up with Thomas. The announcement comes days after he picked up the Oscar for best actor for his role as Professor Stephen Hawking in "The Theory of Everything". The film will also feature the voices of John Hurt and Jamie Campbell Bower.



Source: BBC

A silver lining for **BANGLA CINEMA**  
 BCDF announces film plans and projects



Guests with the filmmakers at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Bengal Cinema Development Forum (BCDF) began its journey in 2013 to promote young filmmakers with the potential to usher in a new era in Bangladesh's cinema. As a step in that direction, BCDF invited scripts from filmmakers, and after rigorous selection has zeroed in on five scripts which will receive funding. The winners were announced at a press meet at Bengal Shilpalaya in the capital on March 1. Aspiring filmmakers Ratan Paul, Syeda Nigar Banu, Adnan Kabir, Ashutosh Sujan and Humaira Bilkis will be awarded with financial, technical and logistic supports to finish their films within one year. Moreover, BCDF will also distribute and screen the films as part of the project. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu; director of Bengal Foundation and

**Bengal Foundation has plans to build and renovate 400 cinema halls in different corners of the country.**

project convener Abul Khair; chairperson of the project Luva Nahid Choudhury; filmmakers Nasiruddin Yousuff and Manzar-e-Haseen Murad attended the press meet among others. A bunch of young and enthusiastic filmmakers was also present at the announcement ceremony. In his speech, Hasanul Haq Inu pledged to do his utmost to help cinema

regain its lost glory. Citing the roles film played in consolidating nationalist movements, Inu said the government was working overtime towards this end. He also announced that a residential film institute would be established outside Dhaka where emerging filmmakers could polish their skills. He further assured that his ministry will join hands with BCDF so that the project gets quick implementation. Abul Khair said under this project Bengal Foundation has plans to build and renovate 400 cinema halls in different corners of the country. He also disclosed his plans to build a cultural centre -- combining a library, auditorium and cinema hall -- in every district. Among others, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Luva Nahid Choudhury, Manzar-e-Haseen Murad and Nobonita Chowdhury spoke at the press meet.



**Tête-à-tête with Dinat Jahan Munni**

**A CORRESPONDENT**  
 Dinat Jahan Munni won her first national-level award for singing in 1985, and over the decades, has established herself as a singer, and later as a TV host. She sings old and modern Bangla songs with equal ease, and is quite the pleasant personality on the small screen. The artiste recently spoke to The Daily Star about her music and more. **Between anchoring and singing, what do you enjoy more?** Munni: Singing is always my priority. I have never considered anything apart from singing as my career. It's not that I don't like hosting, but there is a difference between being passionate about something, and just liking something. And to choose between the two, I will definitely prioritise singing. **Are you working on new music lately?** Munni: I am supposed to release a new album in the coming month, but due to the political situation of our country, everything has become rather uncertain. But I am still optimistic of seeing brighter days very soon. **You recently took a trip to Kolkata. What was that about?** Munni: It was a special trip, because it was the first time that I represented my country, the songs of my country and most importantly Ekushey February -- the reason we are able to speak Bangla. It was the best feeling that I have gotten. **Your biggest inspiration?** Munni: My mother is my inspiration. She was the one to encourage me to sing songs. She was the reason to bring out my singing abilities. The other two people who were by my side as my biggest support were -- my husband Kabir Bakul, and Matiur Rahman (Editor, The Daily Prothom Alo). They told me that whatever else I am doing, I should never forget my talent for singing.

**Cultural programme on Int'l Mother Language Day**

**MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra**  
 Uchcharan Academy, a leading cultural organisation of Bogra, arranged a cultural programme on International Mother Language Day and Shaheed Dibosh at its office in Wood-burn Municipality Park in

Bogra town. The chief coordinator of Uchcharan Academy, Atiqur Rahman Mithu presided over the function. Among the speakers were noted human rights activist Anwarul Islam Bacchu, president of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote Monowarul Islam, noted social worker Akram Hossain, poet Selim Reza Kajal and

director of the academy Adv. Polash Khandakar. At the event about 40 children gave a group performance, 20 children performed solo songs and 15 children recited poetry from the writings of different poets. Of the performers, three were from a school for the differently-abled, who were awarded crests by the academy for their brilliant performance at the recent international Olympiad.



**IT'S TRUE!**

**US actress Gillian Anderson, best known for portraying agent Dana Scully in the TV series "X Files", is an honorary spokesperson for the Neurofibromatosis Network. Her brother Aaron died from the disease and was diagnosed when Gillian was just a teenager. She also supports Children with Tumours, a UK group devoted to helping children with NF. She is also a member of the board of directors for Artists for a New South Africa and a campaigner for Action for Southern Africa. Anderson is an active member of PETA, and supports animal rights. She also supports tribal rights charity Survival International, leading to her performance in a London stage fundraiser in early 2010.**

**Iron Maiden's new album ready to go!**

It's a bittersweet time for Iron Maiden. About a week ago, news broke out that vocalist Bruce Dickinson is currently battling cancer. However, a new update from drummer Nicko McBrain says the legendary heavy metal act has completed their 16th studio album. McBrain broke the news of Maiden's next album, which will hopefully still see a 2015 release, during an interview with a radio station -- 98.7 the Gater. "We have made an album," McBrain says. "The album was ready to go this year... and it still is. We were planning on going out and doing some work around the album, which now, we're all just holding on, and once Bruce is up and running, hopefully in the next couple of months, we'll... You never know when this might happen. You just never know, do you?" he



considered one of the most successful and influential heavy metal bands in history, and despite little radio and television backing (as is true for the genre itself) have sold over 85 million records online (till 2010). Their latest studio album "The Final Frontier" (2010) reached the top of the charts in as many as 28 countries. **Source: Loudwire**



**Sonam hospitalised with swine flu**

Bollywood actor Sonam Kapoor, who was admitted to a private hospital in Rajkot, has tested positive for swine flu. She was admitted with symptoms of high fever, sore throat and body ache, prompting doctors to take samples for a swine flu test. It has now been confirmed that the actor has caught H1N1 infection. Swine flu has become an epidemic in Gujarat where since January 1, 256 people have died while more than 4000 cases have been reported from across the state. The actor has not been isolated and is stable and under the treatment of Dr Chirag Matravadia of Sterling multispeciality hospital. The Bollywood star's trainer too has tested positive for swine flu. Sonam Kapoor is in Gujarat for the shooting of Surat Barjaty's upcoming film "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo". The shooting is under way at a royal palace in Gondal, a town which was a princely state before independence in Rajkot. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam" was also filmed at the location. Salman Khan and Anupam Kher are other actors camping in Gondal for the film's shooting which, as per its original schedule, is to conclude in second week of March. **Source: Hindustan Times**

**TV WATCH**

**"Lake Drive Lane" on ntv**

**A CORRESPONDENT**  
 New drama serial "Lake Drive Lane" will air on ntv at 8:15pm tonight. Scripted by Mezbah Uddin Sumon and directed by Nazrul Islam Raju, the play engages in the struggles of an upper class family. Shahiduzzaman Selim, Sumaiya Shimu, Apurdbo, Tania, Sweety, Syed Hasan Imam, Sabiha Zaman and others are in the cast.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDID RUPON

**Bangladesh Street Theatre Council has organised a weeklong (March 1-7) Street Theatre Festival at the Central Shaheed Minar. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor MP inaugurated the festival as chief guest on Sunday. On the opening day, four street plays -- "Pangshun" (by Sattwik Natya Sampradaye), "Keramat-er Kondol" (by Subachan Natya Sangsad), "Aguner Jabanbandi" (by Aranyak Natyadal) and "Ekjon Mayer Ahajari" (by Mahakal Natya Sampraday) were staged at the venue. The festival starts everyday at 5pm.**