

ITI Theatre Fest
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 13-21
Time: 7pm



Concert
Concert for the Burned
Bands: Arbivirus, Powesurge, Owned + more
Venue: National Library Auditorium
Date: Mar 14
Time: 11am-9pm

Exhibition
Organiser: Bengal foundation
Title: Qayyum Chowdhury: Selected illustrations from Kali O Kalam
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: March 10-April 4
Time: 12pm-8pm

Dance Drama Badi-Bandar Roopkatha
Marking Fifth Anniversary of IGCC
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 14, Time: 6:30pm



Gaudiya Nritya Workshop 2015
By: Rachel Priyanka Peris
Venue: National Music & Dance Centre, BSA
Date: March 12-14; Time: 10am



NEWS bytes

Tim Burton to direct live-action DUMBO

Tim Burton is to direct a new live-action version of the Disney film "Dumbo", according to reports. The 1941 film told the tale of a young elephant who is mocked for his large ears which he learns to use to fly. Burton's version will use a mix of CGI and live action, said the Hollywood Reporter. His re-imagined "Alice



in Wonderland" earned \$1.02bn worldwide while last year's "Maleficent", starring Angelina Jolie, made \$758.4m. Fairytales have become big box office business in the past 12 months with the musical "Into the Woods", starring an Oscar-nominated Meryl Streep, earning \$173m. Jon Favreau is directing a new version of Disney's "The Jungle Book" with the voices of Scarlett Johansson and Idris Elba. The 1967 animation was previously made into a live-action film in 1994.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Tota Kahini mesmerises Chittagong audience
Sonar Tari's Homage to Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong
The play "Tota Kahini", staged by kids from Sonar Tari -- a cultural platform of Chittagong city's renowned alternative educational institute Fulki, drew full house at the auditorium of Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) on Thursday.

Sonar Tari staged the play to pay homage to the country's eminent scientist Prof Emeritus Jamal Nazrul Islam -- who was also involved with the organisation, on the eve of his second death anniversary. Panned by Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, the play allegorically uncovered how the existing education system of children: memorising, examinations and running towards success kills the inner innocence and creativity of children. The whole auditorium remained at over-capacity with theatre enthusiasts, children and guardians in the two shows of the play, one held at 4:00pm while another at 6:00pm. Mubidur Rahman Sujat planned and directed the play. Uses of many popular Tagore songs like "Akash Bhora Surjo Tara" and "Aj Dhaner Khete" were worth mentioning. "If we do not create proper environment for children, perhaps they would survive but their minds would dry up", said Fulki Principal Shila Momen after the staging of the play, adding that the Tagore's understanding is still relevant in the existing society. Expecting regular shows from Sonar Tari, Md Masud, a member of the audience came with his family, said he was amazed to see the kids' performances. Earlier, a brief discussion was held where Poet Abul Momen and Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam's widow Suraya Islam spoke, among others.



A scene from the play. PHOTO: STAR

A theatrical extravaganza begins in Dhaka
Dhaka Int'l Theatre Fest opens at BSA

SAURAV DEY
The second edition of Dhaka International Theatre Fest began at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) premises on March 12, amid much enthusiasm. International Theatre Institute (ITI), Bangladesh Centre in association with BSA is organising the fest. Finance Minister AMA Muhith inaugurated the festival in presence of distinguished guests including Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Cultural Affairs Secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas, honorary president of ITI (worldwide) Ramendu Majumdar, BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky, president of ITI Bangladesh Centre Nasiruddin Yousuff and general secretary Debaprosad Debnath.

Muhith said people should develop a taste for culture so that they can prevent the rise of the evil forces, while Asaduzzaman Noor insisted on the power of theatre and how it can present Bangladeshi culture on global platforms. Theatre Designers' Institute (TDI) along with a group of theatre activists from different troupes participated in the grand opening ceremony called "Buke-Biswas Paye Urbar Pali". It featured the age-old cultural heritage of this land and the glorious phase that the country went through. Chintak Theater of Gobindagonj, Gaibandha staged their production "Shashoto Bangla" at the inaugural ceremony at Nandan Mancha. The 10-day long fest -- from March 12 to 21 -- is being held simultaneously at three halls of BSA-- National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and

Studio Theatre Hall. About 23 troupes from four countries will stage their productions at the fest. A number of dialogues and workshops on different aspects of theatre are also on the festival calendar. An exhibition hosting portraits of theatre icons across the world will be on display throughout the festival at the lobby of National Theatre Hall. The festival is dedicated to theatre legend Shambhu Mitra to mark his birth centenary. Today BotTala will stage "The Trial of Mallam Ilya" at Experimental Theatre Hall, Srishti Cultural Centre will stage "Badi Bandar Roopkatha" at National Theatre Hall and TheatreEX will stage "Dokkhina Sundori" at Studio Theatre Hall. The performance begins at 7pm every day.



IT'S TRUE!

"Golapi Akhon Train-e" (1978) was a brilliant film made by Amjad Hossain on the oppressed have-nots of rural Bangladesh. It enjoyed phenomenal success at the cinemas, and backed by the acting of Rowshan Jamil, Bobita and Anowara also brought to attention the issue of inequitable treatment of women. The film won 11 National Awards, which was a record until broken this year (for 2013) by "Mrittika Maya".

Disney Announces "Frozen 2"

Disney has officially announced plans to produce a sequel to "Frozen." The company revealed plans during the Walt Disney Co.'s annual shareholders meeting on Thursday from San Francisco. The first film's directors Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck are developing the project with producer Peter Del Vecho for Walt Disney Animation Studios, which took home the Oscar for animated feature for the film. A release date and production details are yet to be announced. The sequel doesn't come as much of a surprise, considering how the first film continues to be a major money-making force for Disney's divisions since its release Nov. 22, 2013 -- and helped reinvigorate Walt Disney Animation Studios. "Frozen" generated nearly \$1.3 billion at the box office and has become a merchandising juggernaut, breaking sales records on home-video and at Disney's stores. Outside of a Broadway show and the animated short "Frozen Fever", Disney has kept its "Frozen" sequel plans quiet until now. "Frozen Fever", which reunites the toon's characters and song writers, will unspool in front of Disney's live-action adaptation of "Cinderella" that came out in theatres this weekend.



"We enjoyed making 'Frozen Fever' so much and being back in that world with those characters," Lasseter said. "Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck have come up with a great idea for a sequel and you will be hearing a lot more about it and we're taking you back to Arendelle. We are so excited about that." Disney used its shareholder meeting to also announce details of its next "Star Wars" films, with Rian Johnson's "Star Wars: Episode VIII," to bow May 26, 2017, and Gareth Edwards' standalone Star Wars film, "Rogue One" to star Felicity Jones and be released Dec. 16, 2016. Source: Variety

Music Archive opened at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A music archive at the Dhaka University Music Department was opened on Thursday, with a promise to contribute to the education and research of the students of this department. The archive, named "Music Department-Bengal Foundation Music Archive" is jointly developed by the department and Bengal Foundation. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the archive, along with a group of distinguished personalities including Pro-Vice Chancellor Nasrin Ahmed, Bengal Foundation Director General Luva Nahid Choudhury, editor of Kali O Kolom Abul Hasnat and Music Department Chairperson Shahnaz Nasrin. The archive hosts digital records of 2000 songs which released with the label of Bengal Foundation. The archive is equipped with modern facilities and will help in preserving the musical heritage of Bangladesh.

Children's art exhibition at National Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
An art exhibition and competition by child artists is on at Nalini Kanta Bhattashali auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum, Department of Health under Health And Family Welfare Ministry, in association with Unicef, organised the art competition titled "Tika Shishur Jibon Bachaye" where 900 children from the country took part. The judges of the competition, artists Syed Abul Barq Alvi, Kanak Chanpa Chakma and Rashid Amin selected 60 artworks from three groups (20 from each group) for the exhibition. The inauguration of the exhibition and prize-giving ceremony was held at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on March 11.



Apart from the organisers, theatre personality Mamunur Rashid and artist Mustafa Monwar attended the opening ceremony as guests. Later, Mustafa Monwar inaugurated the exhibition that will be on display till today. Wasifa Afsara, Nusaiba Ahmed Diea and Muhammad Tahsin Anwar received awards from "Ka" Group (aged between 5-7); Nafiz Ahmed, Jarin Tasnim (Arika) and Sajia Afreen Prapti bagged awards from "Kha" Group (aged between 8-11) and Fatima Nazmun Nahar, Robin Ahmed and Anik Roy received awards from "Ga" Group (aged between 12-16). Zareen Nuder Zaman Sparsho also received a special award in the competition.

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