


WHAT'S ON
Children's Art Exhibition
 Bangabandhu and the Liberation War
 Organiser: Bangladesh National Museum
 Venue: BNM lobby
 Date: March 17-21; Time: 2pm



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



Solo painting exhibition
 Living in Inferno
 Artists: Krishna Chattopadhyay
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery
 Date: March 14-28



5th Oriental Painting Exhibition
 Organiser: Oriental Painting Study Group
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-1&2, FFA, DU
 Date: March 17-23
 Time: 11am-8pm



Dhaka Comedy Festival
 Organiser: Naveed's Comedy Club
 Venue: Baridhara DOHS Convention Centre
 Date: March 20
 Time: 4pm - 10pm



NEWS bytes

PAC-MAN on a rampage in "Pixels" trailer

The first trailer for "Pixels" has arrived -- with an enormous Pac-Man roll through the streets of New York on the rampage that is enough to bring a smile to the face of even Adam Sandler's biggest critic.

There's plenty of good about the debut trailer. There are a few laughs, while the supporting cast looks stellar and the visuals look stunning.

The basic plot suggests that "Pixels" could follow in the path of both "Wreck It Ralph" and "The Lego Movie". Based on the 2010 viral video that depicted Donkey Kong and Pac-Man



destroying New York, "Pixels" is set to reimagine these iconic video game characters from yesteryear in a fresh, albeit slightly evil fashion.

Kevin James is playing President William Cooper, who calls upon his childhood best friend Sam Brenner (Adam Sander) to save the world. Alongside them are Josh Gad and Peter Dinklage, who play old-school gamers. The rather impressive cast is then rounded off by Michelle Monaghan, Brian Cox, Ashley Benson and Sean Bean.

"Pixels" will hit cinemas on July 24, 2015.

Source: **Cinemablend**



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Actor Iresh Zaker is one of the most avid followers of cricket and keenly follows the fortunes of the Bangladesh cricket team -- be it a bilateral home series or a global tournament. He has been following the ICC World Cup closely, and ahead of Bangladesh's first-ever World Cup quarterfinal -- that too against the current champions -- he shared his opinions and formula for Tigers' success.

"To look at it objectively, this current Indian team does not really have a weakness. Their batsmen have been in form, their seamers are bowling well, and they are enjoying a great run. So it's going to be a tough ask. Our boys will have to

play within themselves. They cannot set a mental target of 350-370 batting first; that is not our brand of cricket. If everything goes our way, we may be up to 300-320, but we have to ensure we get up to 280. And then, our bowlers have to also keep in mind that it's an in-form batting lineup, and just keep chipping away. If we can do the basics right, we have every chance to push them over the brink. In the England and New Zealand games, the wides and no-balls our bowlers bowled were next to nothing, and we have to keep at it: bowl tight, field sharp.

"In terms of the team combination, I think it's a little too much to ask of Imrul. Since Soumya is playing virtually an opener's role, if he can open the bat-

ting, that gives us the option to pick maybe a fourth seamer or an extra batsman. Nasir I think is a crucial part of the team; I hope he has more of a role to play. I am hoping for contributions from all the boys. Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur have been in superb touch, but Shakib hasn't really shone with the bat yet -- I think it might be him playing an anchoring role. Sabbir and Soumya are doing well, as are our quick bowlers.

"This last week has been a little nerve-racking. All the excitement and anticipation building up ... it's not letting me sleep at night. I'm just looking forward to the game, and wishing good luck to our boys, and to everyone in the country!"



Aarshinagar staged their acclaimed play "Se Raate Purnima Chhilo" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Tuesday evening. The play, based on a novel by Shahidul Zahir, captivated a packed audience. The play has been adapted by Tanvir Ahmed Sydney and directed by Reza Arif.

PHOTO: STAR

Oriental painting exhibit inaugurated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Oriental Painting Study Group (OPSG) in association with The Daily Star has organised a weeklong (March 17-23) 5th Oriental Painting Exhibition at Zainul Gallery-1 and 2, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka.

Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka inaugurated the exhibition on March 17. In his speech, the VC thanked all concerned for holding such a timely show. "March 17 is a special day for Bangladesh. The Oriental painting show, organised on the 95th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has added a different dimension. It is a laudable effort to showcase country's history, heritage and culture through the artistic touch of brushes, said the chief guest.

Managing Director of Mahin Group Abdullah Al Mahmud declared a grant of Taka 5 lakhs for flourishing Oriental Painting in Bangladesh.

Later, the guests handed over certificates among participants of the weeklong wash painting workshop that was held last year.

The exhibition is featuring artworks by 47 contemporary oriental painters including the participants and trainers of the workshop. The exhibition will remain open from 11am to 8pm daily till March 23.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

BANGABANDHU'S birthday observed in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The 95th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day was observed amidst festivity.

The programmes included cultural functions - recitation, dance, rendition of songs, placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu, colourful rallies, discussions and more.

The district administration, along with socio-cultural organisations such as Shishu Academy and Shilpakala Academy, educational institutions and others participated in the programme.

Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, minister for labour and employment expatriates cut a cake to celebrate the event.

The speakers recalled Bangabandhu, his life and struggles.

CHINESE TROUPE stages opera at Shilpakala Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing 2nd Dhaka International Theatre Fest, Chinese opera troupe Yongfu Promotion and Protection Centre presented two comedies "Gambler Wang Er prepares for the New Year" and "Romance in beating the birds" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Tuesday evening.

The troupe started off showing the features of traditional "Cai Diao Opera in Yongfu". The Sheng (Young male) and Dan (Young female) performers sang and

danced joyously, making it a type-cast of the nature of Cai Diao Opera.

The first story, a traditional Chinese comedy, zoomed in on Wang Er who has been married for years. The lethargic man, who earns his livelihood by gambling, racks his wits to prepare for the New Year Festival.

The second story, "Romance in beating the birds", is a romcom showing how a young man and woman date. It shows Wang San who falls in love with Mao Gu. They cannot meet as the local convention forbids their love.



Performers display traditional Chinese movements. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

IT'S TRUE!



Before Ang Lee took over directorial duties for "Life of Pi", the project had numerous directors and writers attached. M. Night Shyamalan was first tipped to direct the film, who also wrote a new screenplay for the film. Ultimately, Shyamalan chose to film "Lady in the Water", and Fox 2000 Pictures entered talks with Alfonso Cuarón to become the director. Cuarón decided to direct "Children of Men" instead, and in October 2005, Fox 2000 Pictures hired Jean-Pierre Jeunet to direct the film. Jeunet began writing the adapted screenplay with Guillaume Laurant, but eventually left the project, before Ang Lee finally took over. The film, of course, scored 11 Oscar Nominations, and bagged four -- including Best Director.



BRITNEY SPEARS

"Slowly but surely" working on new album

Britney Spears has performed nearly 100 shows at Planet Hollywood Las Vegas since the release of her eighth studio album, 2013's "Britney Jean". And though the singer has been back in the studio as far back as September, don't expect a proper follow-up anytime soon.

"I'm gonna do [a new album] slowly but surely," Spears told Billboard for the latest cover story. "There's a lot going on with my kids and schools and adding new sports and stuff like that. I'm gonna try to do my best to do an amazing album, but it's not my full priority right now." The mother of sons Sean Preston, 9, and Jayden James, 8, then added with a laugh, "Kids can drive you crazy."

However, Spears and Planet Hollywood are currently in negotiations about extending the show another two years through 2017, so a new full-length album may still prove harder to squeeze in. "Right now we're just concentrating on putting out a few great singles as they come," says Spears' manager Larry Rudolph. "We're not really talking seriously about a new album yet. Albums just aren't as important in the digital age as they used to be. Britney will get to one eventually, but not right now."

Source: **Billboard**