

WHAT'S ON

Star Melodies Musical Soiree
 Title: Desh-e-Desh-e Shadinata O Muktir Gaan
 Organiser: The Daily Star
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, The Daily Star Centre
 Date: March 24, Time: 6:30pm



Musical Workshop with Shawjeeb
 Venue: Jatra, 60, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani
 Date: March 24
 Time: 3-6pm



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



Photography Exhibition
 In the name of ...
 Organiser: AMRA
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
 Date: Mar 20-28
 Time: 3pm-8pm



NEWS bytes

Gordon-Levitt to star in 'Fraggle Rock' Movie

Joseph Gordon-Levitt will produce and star in the live-action "Fraggle Rock" movie. The bigscreen adaptation of the musical puppet series created by late Jim Henson has been in the works for nearly a decade, but the attachment of Gordon-Levitt constitutes a major boost. "Fraggle Rock", debuted on TV in 1983, centers on the adventures of cave-dwelling creatures called Fraggles who have to deal with the industrious Doozers and furry giants called Gorgs.



"The first screen personas I ever loved were Henson creations, first on 'Sesame Street,' and then on 'Fraggle Rock,'" Gordon-Levitt said. "Jim Henson's characters make you laugh and sing, but they're also layered, surprising, and wise. I've never stopped loving his work, even as a young frisky man, and on into adulthood," he added.

Source: **Deadline**



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka will remember Draupadi
 Curtains on Int'l Theatre Fest at Shilpakala

SAURAV DEY

Theatre troupe Kalakshetra from Manipur, India staged their much-acclaimed production "Draupadi" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The show was held as part of 2nd Dhaka International Theatre Fest on Friday evening. The play has been directed by noted thespian Heisnam Kanhailal based on Mahasweta Devi's story about the marginalised people living in the far-flung hilly regions of India. "Draupadi" depicts a striking tale of neglected humanity and how indigenous women in the Indian state of Manipur are

subjected to sexual harassment at the hands of the military. The one-hour piece was bold enough to strike the audience with its dramatic representation of gruesome reality. It's a tale of rebellion by the protagonist named Draupadi, a Santhal woman. Failing to bear the agonies of being gang-raped by army personnel, she finally opens her mouth and protests the injustice that had been done to them. The play inspired by a true story that tremendously moved Kanhailal and his wife Sabitri, who play the elderly Draupadi in the play. However, the play was not welcomed in his state Manipur as a certain class of society thought women should keep their mouth

shut to keep chastity. In the play, Draupadi represents sexually oppressed women in general who have for long undergone this torture and could not say anything. Her silent cries bring tears to the audiences' eyes. The Dhaka audience could easily relate to the play as scores of women in this country also went through similar situations during the Liberation War in 1971. Not only did the actors show their outstanding acting prowess on stage but the music -- produced in the backstage combining folk instruments -- was brilliant too. The 10-day long biennial theatre festival came to end yesterday.



AN OFFERING OF SONGS OF FREEDOM
 Star Melodies' musical programme on March 24

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
 As part of our regular musical programmes, Star Melodies will host a special musical evening on the occasion of Independence Day, titled "Deshe Deshe Shadinata O Muktir Gaan" (Songs of Liberation and Freedom of different countries). The programme, organised by The Daily Star in co-operation with Eastern Bank Ltd. and Simantic Creative Concern, will be held on Tuesday March 24 at 6:30pm, at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct at The Daily Star Centre. Noted artistes Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury Moina, Dinatr Jahan Munni, Badrunnesa Dalia and Mahmudul Hasan will sing at the event, while clippings of songs of freedom and struggle will also be shown. Sadya Afreen Mallick will comper the programme. Invitation cards to the event may be collected by contacting The Daily Star during office hours. Seats are limited.

Mehzabien motors along

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Lux-Channel i Superstar Mehzabien has come back full throttle into acting, working in a number of TV plays. She will be seen alongside Arifin Shuvo in "Surovi'r Rupkotha" -- Shuvo's first TV play in a long time. The Rajiv Ashraf-directed drama was shot at various

locations in Gazipur, where Mehzabien plays a model -- something she has been doing in real life with great success over the years. Mehzabien has also already completed work for "Puttuler Golpo" and "Unmarried", two other single-episode plays. She also informed that a number of TV adverts of hers are in the pipeline as well.



"We will spread the fire of theatre"

...Lin Chau Jun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Chinese opera troupe Youngfu Promotion and Protection Centre performed at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy as part of the 2nd Dhaka International Theatre Festival. In a recent interview, Lin Chau Jun, the team leader of the troupe and secretary general of Theatre Association of Guangxi Province, China shared his views on theatre in his country and more. Excerpts: "It feels great to be here for the first time for a theatre performance. I love Bangladesh as I learned that the great poet Rabindranath Tagore who has written its national anthem called this country a golden land. I was looking forward to coming here." Asked about their performance, he said "We gave you a very interesting traditional Chinese opera. This is very popular in different parts of China. We call it beautiful melodies. Also the troupe comes from a beautiful place called Youngfu which literally means 'forever happiness'." About his country's cultural heritage and how culture helps develop human beings, Lin said, "China has a long history and a rich heritage indeed. So culture has been the reflection of the inner being of the Chinese people." He further added, "I believe that a dance piece can make people happy and sad. It is very natural. So, we Chinese people express our emotions through arts like theatre." He believes that this festival will boost friendship between the two countries. "This



PHOTO: STAR

year also marks 40 years of the diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and China. We believe that this is only a start and it is part of the exchange that will happen later." Asked what can be done to exchange culture on global platforms he said, "I think there should be a universal platform where theatre troupes from every country can display their productions. We must focus on the exchange of young theatre activists, particularly university students." "In China we organise a national campus

where youths participate; I have organised four such sessions. We will spread the fire of theatre from generation to generation," he added. About the essentials of a good production, Jun said, "Firstm one needs a good story which people can appreciate. Take the stories of Shakespeare; they are accepted everywhere. Then there comes expressions which is crucial for theatre people. A performer should have techniques to create rapport with the audience to make the performance more interactive."

NAZRUL NATYATASHOB begins today

A CORRESPONDENT
 Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is arranging a three-day theatre festival titled Nazrul Natyatashob 2015 from today. The festival features five plays of Kazi Nazrul Islam by five troupes

at the Experimental Theatre Hall. This evening, Theatre Department of Rajshahi University will stage their play "Shilpi". The four other plays are "Shetubondho", "Shilpi", Roti-Aroti Kabyo" and "Droho Prem Nari".



THAPPOR on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT
 Today at 9 pm ntv will air a single episode TV play "Thappor". Written by Zakir Hossain with the directorial touch of Shamim Zaman the play depicts story of Afsar who gets slapped every time he lies. Actors like Zahid Hassan, Hasin Roushon and Shamim Jaman are in the cast.

'Masti' triquel to return as "Great Grand Masti"

The triquel of Bollywood's popular comedy series "Masti" has finally been titled as "Great Grand Masti" featuring Riteish Deshmukh, Vivek Oberoi and Aftab Shivdasani. Confirming the news, writer of the film Tusshar Hiranandani said, "The third installment is titled 'Great Grand Masti' and we are looking at going on floors within short." When

asked about the cast he added, "Riteish, Vivek and Aftab will be featuring in the film; however we are yet to lock the lead actresses for the film." The film will be co-produced by Balaji Motion Pictures and Ashoke Thakaria and is slated to go on floors in mid-May this year.

Source: **Indian Express**

