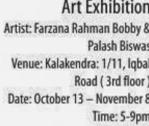


Group Exhibition
 Title: ERA
 Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi
 Date: Oct 30-Nov 09
 Time: 12-8pm



Art Exhibition
 Artist: Farzana Rahman Bobby & Palash Biswas
 Venue: Kalakendra: 1/11, Iqbal Road (3rd floor)
 Date: October 13 - November 8
 Time: 5-9pm



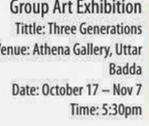
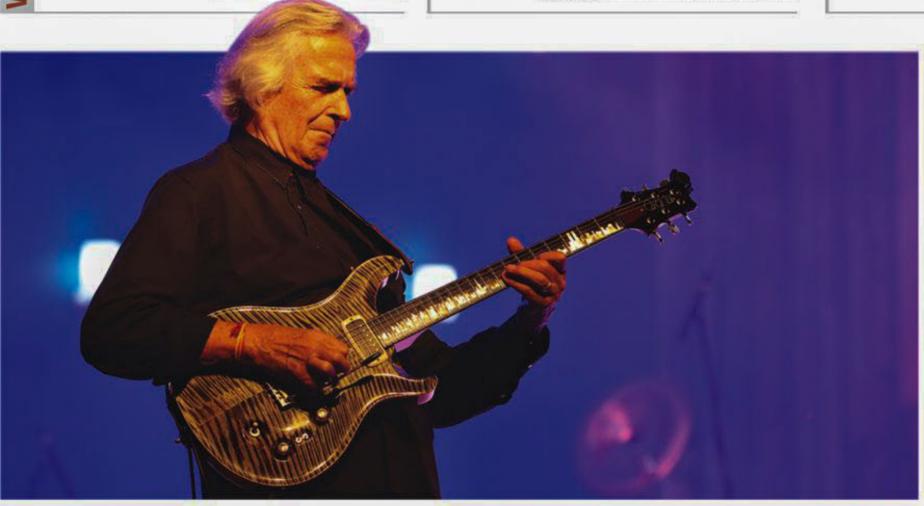
Solo Exhibition
 Chromatic Delusions
 Artist: Maksuda Iqbal Nipa
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: Oct 31-Nov 21
 Time: 12-8pm



Jazz & Blues Fest Dhaka
 Organiser: Blues Communications
 Venue: Army Museum Field
 Date: Nov 5-7
 Time: 6pm-midnight



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Three Generations
 Venue: Athena Gallery, Uttara Badda
 Date: October 17 - Nov 7
 Time: 5:30pm

TO A NEW DIMENSION OF MUSIC

Dhaka audience baptized to jazz and blues

FAHMIM FERDOUS

"Jazz is not just a sound or a specific set of techniques; jazz is a mindset," Vasundhara Vidalur, the new sensation of Indian Jazz, summed up the genre of music in a single sentence last night, as an eager Dhaka audience ventured into relatively uncharted territories of jazz and blues music, and thoroughly enjoyed the ride.

Curtains rose on the first Jazz & Blues Festival Dhaka 2015 on Thursday night at the Army Museum field, with Dr. Gowher Rizvi, foreign affairs advisor to the prime minister as chief guest. Italian Ambassador Mario Palma, Brazilian Ambassador Wanja Campos da Nóbrega, Abul Khair, Chairman of Bengal Foundation and Advisor of organizers Blues Communications and Nehal Ahmed, marketing director of title sponsors Grameenphone also spoke at the inauguration.

Imran Ahmed quintet, an ambitious jazz group from Dhaka, opened the festival with their own compositions showcasing modern jazz sounds. They opened their set with "Lights", and went on to present "PTO to 35", "Splash", "Tiles of Times" and "Key-riosity".

The audience settled in nicely at the venue that offered ample food and beverages, enjoying the start of the weekend in chitchat and music. Vasundhara Vidalur then took the stage, and won the hearts of many even before she started to sing when she said one of her grandmothers were born in Barisal. Opening with a

surprise jazz adaptation of an all-time grunge rock classic, Nirvana's "Come As You Are", Vasundhara put her incredible vocal range and expressions on display as she went from playful to sultry to booming big voice to downright melodious. Backed by a compact set of instrumentalists, she put the groove in the audience with numbers like "Dog Days", "In a Turn of Events" and a vocal-added version of Joshua Redman's "Jazz Crimes".

The Shai Maestro Trio took the stage next, and without a fuss made it theirs in a beautiful piece titled "Girl". Sitting between perpendicularly-placed piano and keys, he faced his drummer Ziv Ravitz, with Jorge Roeder on the double bass not too far left. In a blissful set, Shai

showcased the piano's tonal and textural richness while leaving enough room for his other members to shine through. Particularly in a track called "From One Soul to Another", his closing number "Paradox" and a piano solo sandwiched in between, music connoisseurs were left in awe of his prowess.

Close to midnight, the anticipation peaked as Shai Maestro left the stage, because it was time for the entire festival's headliner to come on. John McLaughlin, considered by many as the greatest jazz guitarist alive and the 49th ranked guitarist on Rolling Stones Top 100 Guitarists of All Time, kicked the concert to a new gear with the first notes he hit on his PRS. With multi-instrumentalist Gary Husband (on

keys and drums), Etienne Mbappe (bass) and Ranjit Barot (drums) who form his band 4th Dimension, his display was as riveting as it was soulful. Be it tracks from his new album "Black Light" featuring insane keys and synth to more mellow numbers like "New Blues, Old Bruise", or the two tribute numbers to his band mates from Indian Classical Music super-group Shakti, sitar legend Pandit Ravi Shankar ("Panditji") and mandolin genius U Shrinivas ("Here Come the Jiis"), the 4th Dimension elevated the audience to a new high of music.

The festival closes today, with performances by Esdras Nogueira Quartet (Brazil), China Moses (France), Soulmate (India) and AB Blues Club (Bangladesh).



The incomparable John McLaughlin in his element (top); Vasundhara Vidalur (L) and Shai Maestro perform.



A scene from the play.

Nirmol Jatra Utsab opens

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

With the performance of "Nichu Tolar Manush", an 11-day Jatra festival began at Mymensingh Gymnasium on Thursday evening.

The festival, titled Nirmol Jatra Utsab, drew a huge audience at the venue to come back to the traditional form of entertainment. The festival is being organised by Nirmol Jatra Utsab Udjapon Parishad, a local organisation to promote tasteful jatra pala.

The jatra pala, written by Ranjan Devnath, was directed by Shah Alam Siddique.

"Jibon Nodir Teere", another popular jatra pala was staged yesterday, the second day of the festival, drawing a capacity packed audience at the venue.

Sirajul Islam, a veteran jatra artiste from Satkhira said this ancient and traditional art form is now on the verge of extinction and should be preserved for better interest of country's traditional culture, and the thousands of artistes involved with it as well. "We want a good environment for this creative art and the initiative taken here will surely put a positive impact for survival of this art," Sirajul said.

Princess Ela, a young artiste said, as jatra artistes we want to live with dignity, and so we want proper patronization from the government and other corners of the society.

Earlier, State minister for Social Welfare, Advocate Promod Mankin inaugurated the festival as chief guest. Milon Kanti Dey, president of Bangladesh Jatrashilpa Unnayan Parishad was the chief discussant.

The speakers urged all to extend their helping hands for distressed artistes.

007 lands in Dhaka



Robert Gibson speaks at the premiere.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-awaited Bond film, "Spectre", released in Bangladesh on November 6, on the date of its US release, at Star Cineplex in the capital's Bashundhara City Shopping Mall.

Ahead of its release, Star Cineplex arranged a special premiere of the film on November 5 evening to welcome Bond.

Robert Gibson, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh; Mahbubur Rahman, Star Cineplex chairman and film stars Ananta Jalil and Barsha unveiled the film in Dhaka in presence of celebrities, media per-

sonalities, Bond fans and others distinguished guests.

After its premiere in UK and Ireland on October 26, the Daniel Craig-starrer film has already made it to the top of Box Office in UK and a number of European countries.

French actress Lea Seydoux and Italian actress Monica Bellucci play Bond Girls in the film. The film also casts Christoph Waltz, Ralph Fiennes, Ben Whishaw, Naomie Harris and Dave Bautista, among others. The film unfolds as a cryptic message from Bond's past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organisation. While M battles political forces to keep the

secret service alive, Bond peels back the layers of deceit to reveal the terrible truth behind SPECTRE.

"Spectre" has all the best of Bond: car chases, a perfect bad guy in Christoph Waltz, two great beauties, lots of action, more depth in the character of agent 007, and of course, Daniel Craig.

Directed by Sam Mendes (who also directed the previous instalment of the franchise, "Skyfall") on a \$245-300 million budget, it is one of the most expensive films ever made. It's produced by Eon Productions and distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Columbia Pictures.

IT'S TRUE!

A terminally ill "Star Wars" fan has seen an early cut of "The Force Awakens" after his wish to do so went viral. Daniel Fleetwood, who suffers from spindle cell sarcoma, feared he wouldn't live to see the film in theatres (when it releases December 14). Fleetwood's wife



announced on Facebook that he had been shown an unedited version of "Force Awakens" at home on Thursday. This is not the first time director JJ Abrams has granted a dying fan's wish to see one of his films ahead of its release date. In 2013, he screened a rough cut of "Star Trek: Into Darkness" for a fan who died days afterward.

Coldplay reveal 'final' album

"A Head Full of Dreams" to release December 4

Coldplay have revealed their seventh album, "A Head Full of Dreams", will be released on December 4.

The band had previously hinted it could be their last, with Chris Martin describing it as "the completion of something".

The upbeat, summery first single, "Adventure Of A Lifetime", premiered on BBC Radio 1 and 2 on Friday.

Speaking to breakfast show host Nick Grimshaw, the band dropped hints about a headline appearance at Glastonbury. "We'd love to do it. That's our spiritual home, as a band," said Martin.

All of Coldplay's previous albums have reached number one in the UK. Last year's intimate and melancholy "Ghost Stories" was the fourth best-selling record of 2014 worldwide, shifting 3.7 million copies in total.

The band went straight back into the studio after its release to record the follow-up, which Martin described as "a

more colourful, more joyful sort of thing." Recorded in Los Angeles, Malibu and London, "A Head Full of Dreams" will feature guest appearances from Beyonce, Noel Gallagher and Tove Lo.

Martin said the record had been "handed in" three weeks ago, after the band set themselves a deadline of finishing it before the end of the year.

The band is also planning to tour "early next year", after only playing a handful of low-key shows to promote "Ghost Stories".

Speaking to the BBC last year, Martin suggested the new record could be Coldplay's swansong. "It's our seventh thing, and the way we look at it, it's like the last Harry Potter book or something like that," he told Zane Lowe. "I have to think of it as the final thing we're doing. Otherwise we wouldn't put everything into it."

Source: BBC



PRDP in censor trouble in India

Salman-Sonam starrer gets release date in Pakistan

On a day that Salman Khan's "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo" got a release date in Pakistan, it faced a censor roadblock in India Sooraj Barjatya's latest big-screen venture faced the censor's ire because of its Tamil and Telugu titles.

The film is being dubbed in these two languages and reportedly the name of the Telugu version does not adhere to censor's laws for dubbed films, because it bears no resemblance to the original title.

According to a report in indiatoday.in, the filmmakers will have to change the title to adhere to censor laws.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has given a thumbs-up to the film. The actor's "Bajranghi Bhaijaan" turned out to be a major success story in Pakistan for its heartwarming tale of a Hindu man helping a Muslim girl to reach her parents across the border. Now at a time when art and cinema have been dragged into the politics

between both nations, his film will also hit the screens in Pakistan on the same day as in India.

A spokesperson of "PRDP" said, "The film celebrates togetherness in a family. We are happy that the film will be releasing in Pakistan and our neighbours will be able to enjoy the film." The family drama also stars Sonam Kapoor, Anupam Kher and Neil Nitin Mukesh.

Source: Hindustan Times