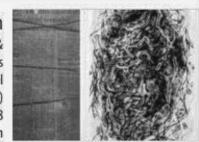


**WHAT'S ON**

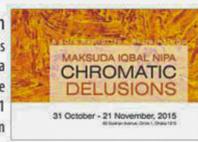
**Group Exhibition**  
 Title: ERA  
 Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Oct 30-Nov 09  
 Time: 12-8pm



**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



**Chamber Concert**  
 (Trumpet and Piano)  
 Organisers: Embassy of the Russian Federation & Bengal Foundation  
 Venue: Krishbid Institution Complex Auditorium, Farmgate  
 Date: Nov 10, Time: 7:15pm



**Opening Ceremony**  
 of Gyanatash Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth  
 Venue: H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmondi (Near Rabindra Sarobar)  
 Date: November 9  
 Time: 6pm



# NEWS bytes

## Chloe Moretz in "Little Mermaid"

Chloe Grace Moretz is set to play the title character in Working Title and Universal's "The Little Mermaid" retelling, with Richard Curtis in talks to pen the script. Not much is known about how this version will compare to previous versions of the Hans Christian Andersen story, which follows a mermaid who wished to become human after falling in love with a man she saved from drowning. Earlier this year, director Sofia Coppola left the project after creative differences with the studios. Since the project is not yet dated, execs felt it was smarter to take one more pass at the script with a top-level writer in order to attract the type of talent they want for the project.



Moretz had been the frontrunner for the role even while Coppola was still attached; some insiders point to Coppola's unwillingness to go with a star like Moretz as her impetus for parting ways with the project. Moretz is currently filming "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising" for Universal after having just finished "Brain on Fire". She can be seen next in Sony's "The Fifth Wave" and also has "November Criminals" set to bow next year.

Source: Variety



# BOOSTING CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE THROUGH MUSIC

## Bangladesh Music Week 2015 concludes

**ZAHANGIR ALOM**  
 In a bid to prop up cross-cultural understanding and exchange, strengthen melodic dialogue and collaboration and to establish a sustainable regional network of artistes, cultural activists and resource persons, the two-day (November 6-7) Bangladesh Music Week 2015 was held in Dhaka. The event, held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) featured a conference, workshop and a concert by popular local and regional bands and soloists. The Music and Dance Centre auditorium of BSA beamed with glitzy lights on an artistic stage on November 6 evening. The concert was set off with the offering of the National Anthem. Members of Triratna next took the stage and captivated the audience with their popular scores. Soulful folk music performance by the troupe Arshinagar Bangladesh was followed. Illustrious musical bands -- Shironamhin, Chirkutt, Lalon, Minar, Powersurge and The Brotherhood Project rocked the music lovers with their popular numbers.

Artistes of BITA (Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts) and the Sri Lankan trio Shakhti mesmerised the audience, styling folk fusions with rare musical instruments. Urban rock band Shironamhin was awesome with their performances of "Pakhi", "Bondho Janala" and "Abar Hashimukh", while Minar was mesmeric in his presentation of "Ahare" and "Shada". The highlight of the evening was a scintillating performance by Chirkutt. They started off with the classics "Dhono Dhanye Pushpe Bhora" and performed their original number "Bondhu Go". Pinto Ghosh was in a musical high while performing a folk song "Ei Bhub-e Taar". Prior to performing their show-stopping number "Kanamachhi", vocalist Sumi called Ambi Subramaniam and Bindu Subramaniam, son and daughter of violin maestro Dr. L. Subramaniam and renowned Indian playback singer Kavita Krishnamurthy, on stage. Ambi first fashioned an enthralling jugalbandi with Emon Chowdhury and joined in the overwhelming performance of the popu-

lar number. A light Engineering Master Class also took place at BSA on the same day. It was conducted by the specialist light engineer Naveen Deshpande, Director and Founder of Mixtape and Ground Kontrolle, India. The Opening Ceremony of Bangladesh Music Week was held on the morning of November 6 with Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor as chief guest and Norwegian Ambassador Merete Lundemo as special guest. Eminent music professionals from South Asia, Europe, US and Australia were in Dhaka to attend the conference and experience the cultural exchange. Organised under the aegis of Norway-Bangladesh Music Cooperation, it is supported by The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka, in partnership with LiveSquare and Concert Norway. Bangladesh's Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy supported the initiative while The Daily Star was the strategic partner and Jamuna TV and Radio Foorti were as telecast and broadcast partners.

PHOTO COURTESY: MR RANA

# Bangla theatre stages OMANUSH

SAURAV DEY

Bangla Theatre staged their sixth production "Omanush" at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on November 6.

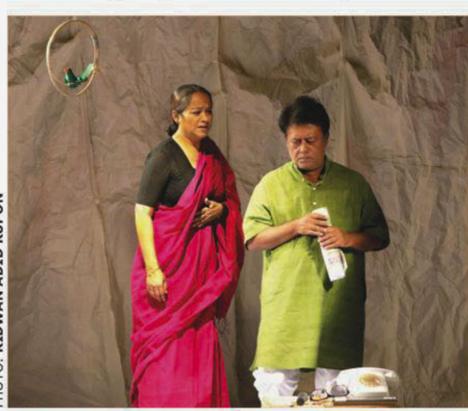
Written and directed by Mamunur Rashid, the one-hour play was premiered in April.

The play, for the first time, unites two veteran artistes — Mamunur Rashid and Mita Chowdhury — on stage. "Omanush" comes at a time when the society is passing through a critical juncture. Though it is set in mid-1990s, the play abruptly brings references from 1971 and aptly portrays the present dehumanizing condition of the society and politics.

It's a two-character play encircling the lives of aged married couple, threatened by the dire impacts of socio-political anomalies. Mamunur Rashid is seen as an ideal teacher, who keeps mum throughout the first half of the play. In the later part, he voices against the decaying morality of the society.

"Omanush" was written in 1995, and the play broadly incorporates the philosophy of theatre of the absurd and magic realism.

Both Mita Chowdhury and Mamunur Rashid are theatre veterans, and their acting is of great stature. But in this particular play, Mita Chowdhury's character shines through brighter than her counterpart's.



Mamunur Rashid and Mita Chowdhury were the only actors of the play.

# Sushant Singh Rajput bags Half Girlfriend

Up-and-coming Bollywood hero Sushant Singh Rajput, who is presently shooting for Neeraj Pandey's biopic on cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, had revealed a few months ago that he had given the nod to seven scripts, and might do at least three of them. One of the scripts is Mohit Suri's next, a movie adaptation of Chetan Bhagat's bestselling novel, "Half Girlfriend".

"Sushant dropped by at my place last week and enacted one of the scenes from the book. He was brilliant and added his own dimensions to the character," says Mohit, pointing out that Sushant fits the role to the T.

The director, who finished writing the final draft of the script last month, insists Sushant was always his first choice for the role. "Contrary to rumours, I hadn't approached anyone else. Sidharth (Malhotra) and Alia (Bhatt) had come to see 'Hamari Adhuri Kahani' during the edit and people concluded that I had cast them. I'd love to work with Alia but she is busy with her commitments and I don't think that she has even read the book," says Mohit.

The film is expected to roll early next year. However, the filmmaker is yet to decide on his leading lady. "I have discussed the script with Katrina (Kaif) and I would love to work with her, but nothing has been confirmed as yet," he concluded.

Source: Mumbai Mirror



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



FAHMIM FERDOUS

The second day of the Jazz & Blues Fest Dhaka continued to draw crowds, and put some Bangladeshi talent to the fore along with a captivating set by Louis Banks, the 'godfather of Indian jazz'. Before and after him, a Bangladeshi-French cellist duo, a formidable all-Bangladeshi blues group and a Californian blues-rock act took stage, as did Arnob and his band, in a surprise cameo appearance.

As a cool Friday evening brought out a considerable number of foreigners to the Army Museum field along with an ever-growing local following of world music, it was Bangladesh's Rafez Khan and Malaysia-based French musician Florian Antier who opened the evening. In a style strikingly reminiscent of the sensational Croatian duo 2Cellos, they opened with a cello cover of AC/DC's "Thunderstruck", and quickly moved on to Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal". In an engaging demonstration of the versatility of the instrument, the duo then produced sounds of a typical bassist, rhythm guitarist and lead guitarist in a band with the cello, as well as demonstrating classical and modern playing techniques. Rihanna's "We Found Love" was next, followed by a medley of Nirvana classics "Lithium", "Come As You Are" and "Smells Like Teen Spirit".

Blues Brothers, a Bangladeshi group consisting Dipto (guitars and vocals), Nahyan (guitars), Imran Rabbani (bass and harmonica), Pantha Kanai (drums) and Tashfee (vocals) were next on cue, and they made a formidable case for the practice of blues in Bangladesh. From BB King's "The Thrill is Gone", Janis Joplin's



Blues Brothers (top) impressed with their covers and originals alike; cellist duo Florian and Rafez on the cello (L) and Louis Banks and his band (R) also gave powerful performances.

version of "Summertime" (originally by George Gershwin), "Freight Train" (Elizabeth Cotten), "Chain of Fools" (Aretha Franklin) and Koko Taylor's "I'm a Woman", the band was equally on point instrumentally and vocally. Tashfee's vocal in particular was a standout. Before Louis Banks stepped on stage,

Arnob took the stage for about 15 minutes (he was not a scheduled performer) with his ensemble of Buno (bass), Kushal (piano), Pantha Kanai (drums) and Saad (guitars). He sang "Amaye Dhore Rakho" as a tribute to the late Bishal Khair (who the festival is dedicated to), and then played a refreshingly



bluesy version of a Chittagonian folk song, sung by Pantha Kanai. Louis, along with his son Gino Banks on drums and Sheldon D'Silva on bass, dialed the evening back to some serious jazz. He opened his set with a track called "Always", in the styling of great jazz pianist Ahmad Jamal. "Reflections

on a Dull Day", an adaptation of Beatles "Norwegian Wood" and most notably "Cultural Shock" brought forth the best of jazz music, with exquisite time signatures on the drums and some incredible playing on the six-string bass to complement Banks' impeccable melodies. Kingbaby, a band from Los Angeles,



California, closed the night with their brand of blues. All six of their songs had interesting jamming sections, including the originals "Butter Biscuit" and "Matt's Funk". Their closing number, a very modern-sounding blues tune, featured some excellent solos on the piano and guitar.

# Anadikalpa enthralls audience with "Obastob Noishobdo"



A scene from the production. PHOTO: STAR

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong

Theatre group Anadikalpa enthralled the audience of Chittagong city for around one hour with their pantomime presentations titled "Obastob Noishobdo".

Each of the two one-hour-shows at Studio Theatre Hall from 5pm to 7:30pm on Friday evening was attended by over a hundred audiences.

Four short group acts, titled "Brikko Sishu-Ma", "Camera Magic", "Koto Sundor Dekha Jai" and "Dustbin Revenge" were portrayed in the show that were based on deforestation, the negativity of showiness,

eve teasing and the impact of littering. The acts were penned by Rafsan Galib, Masudur Rhaman and Sadia Afrin; the latter two, along with Ayesha Mukta and Hridoy Dev, performed.

In between the four group performances, three solo performances: "Bus Station", "Baby and Butterfly" and "The Rose" also entertained the audience.

Rafsan Galib of Anadikalpa planned the lightings and anchored the show.

Anadikalpa theatre troupe started its journey in 2008, and has so far staged 60 presentations of 15 dramas and pantomime shows.