

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
No One Home
Artist: Tareba Begum Lipi
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
Date: Dec 6-Jan 9
Time: 12-8pm



Zainul Festival 2015
Marking 101st Birth Anniversary of Shilpacharya
Organiser: Faculty of Fine Art, DU
Venue: FFA Premises, DU
Date: December 29
Time: 9:30am to 7:30pm



Solo Exhibition
Microtears
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct
Date: Dec 12-Jan 9; Time: 12-7pm



Photography Exhibition
World Press Photo 15
Organiser: Drik
Venue: Drik Gallery
Date: Dec 27-Jan 8
Time: 3-8pm



Theatre
Bondukjuddho / Gadhar Haat
Troupe: Natyakendra
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: January 1; Time: 7pm



Paeans to a wordsmith

Tributes pour in for Syed Haque

SAURAV DEY

Syed Shamsul Haque, fondly called Syed Haque, is one of the few litterateurs who tremendously enriched Bangla literature in the post-Rabindranath era. He has left his marks in every branch of literature -- be it poetry, novel, plays, essays or translation. The celebrated writer turned 80 on December 27.

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Marking the day, Syed Haque Jayanti Udjapon Parishad--a group of cultural personalities--arranged a celebration programme at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Sunday evening. The event began with a welcome

speech by Akhtaruzzaman, general secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation. Natyajan Ataur Rahman welcomed Syed Haque and his wife, noted writer Anowara Syed Haque, on stage. He also presided over the programme.

Noted thespian Ramendu Majumdar gave a speech citing Syed Haque as a mentor, colleague and inspiration. He urged the writer to write at least one play every year.

Another speaker, eminent actor Aly Zaker walked down memory lane to reminisce on the good days when he played lead roles in Syed Haque's plays.

Seasoned thespian Shimul Yousuff sang a song for the playwright. Nasiruddin Yousuff also talked about the writer. Renowned thespian Ferdousi Majumdar came up on the stage to pay tribute to the writer. She recalled the good old days.

Members of different cultural organisations and theatre troupe wished Syed Haque on his birthday. Hasan Arif recited from Syed Haq's

poem, while noted Tagore artiste Aditi Mohsin presented two songs--"Jogoter Anandojogge Amar Nimontron" and "Sarthok Jonmo Amar".

Syed Shamsul Haq was born in Kurigram in 1935. After finishing secondary education in Kurigram, he fled to Bombay (Mumbai) in 1951 where he worked as an assistant at a production company. The next year, he returned to Bangladesh and enrolled at Jagannath College (now Jagannath University) to study humanities. Later, he enrolled himself in Dhaka University to study English Literature, but dropped out without earning his degree. His first novel "Deyaler Desh" was published shortly after, and since then, he has not stopped writing poetry, fictions, plays, novels, essays and even songs.

In recognition to his contributions to Bangla literature, Syed Haque was honoured with the Bangla Academy Award (1966), Ekushey Padak (1984), Independence Day Award (2000) and many more prestigious accolades.



Homage to Shilpacharya

ZAINUL ABEDIN

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The sublime personality who dedicated his entire life disseminating art and good taste among the people of this part of the world is Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. Today (December 29), marks the 101st birth anniversary of Shilpacharya, the founding father of Bangladeshi art and art education.



A well-known figure for his leadership qualities in organising artists and art movements, Abedin took the initiative to found the Government Institute of Arts and Crafts (now Faculty of Fine Arts) in 1948 on Dhaka University campus, of which he was the founding principal. This institute trained and nurtured an entire generation of artists whose works reflected the changing times. Qamrul Hassan, Safiuddin Ahmed, Shafiqul Amin, Anwarul Haq were contemporaries of Zainul Abedin. This was the generation that depicted the changing social reality in their art.

It was his rare contribution to depict the miseries of the starving people during the great famine of Bengal (in 1943). He made his own ink by burning charcoal; using it on cheap ordinary packaging paper, he depicted the starving people. In his sketches, the famine showed its sinister face through the skeletal figures of people. Zainul Abedin depicted this inhuman story with human emotions. These sketches helped him find his way in a realistic approach that focused the human sufferings, struggle and protest. The Rebel Crow marks a high point of that style.

"Abedin Sir was a man of great heart. His masterpieces are priceless assets for us. His contributions to art creation and education through establishing Dhaka Art College are immense. I have many fond memo-

ries with Sir. Once, Sir went to my home district in Chandpur where we painted together on a boat around the confluence of the rivers - Meghna, Padma and Dakatia," recalls reputed artist Monirul Islam.

"We must go down memory lane to have a close look at our respective artistic efforts and contributions to judge what Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin did single-handedly for fine art, fine art education, and overall culture of this part of the world. Have we collectively carried forward the rich legacy that he left? We have to think of the country's citizens, fine art, art education and culture with a sacrificing mind beyond mere personal interests and pursuits," said Professor Nisar Hossain,

Dean of FFA, DU.

Born in Mymensingh, Abedin grew up in the serene landscape by the river Brahmaputra. In 1933, he enrolled at Calcutta Government Art School, and later taught at the institute. He was an influential member of the Calcutta Group of progressive artists.

Abedin was involved in the Liberation War movement. He was in the forefront of the cultural movement to re-establish the Bangalee identity. In 1975, Zainul Abedin set up a folk museum at Sonargaon, and a permanent gallery in Mymensingh (Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala) to display some of his works.

Abedin died in 1976 in Dhaka.



Guests with Syed Haque (2-R) at the event.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

NEWS bytes

IGGY AZALEA announces next single

The lead single from Iggy Azalea's upcoming album Digital Distortion will be a track titled "Team", she revealed in a reply to a fan on Twitter.

"lead is TEAM. meaning: ive got my own back, i am my own team. 20% meaningful 70% bop 10% ratchet," Azalea tweeted. She then added that while fans shouldn't expect to hear "Team" just yet, there will be other goodies coming in January: "content, buzz songs, viral videos and other cool stuff."

Anything Azalea shares in January will not be meant for radio airplay and won't be found on iTunes, she said. Instead, it will be featured on other platforms, including SoundCloud and YouTube.

She also mentioned that the new album will have a pop influence, although she's been influenced by "many other things" as well.

Source: **Billboard**



A Colossal Year for Hollywood Box Office

Most films overshadowed by monumental blockbusters

At the multiplexes this year, it was a clear case of the haves and have nots.

Thanks to monster hits such as "Furious 7", "Jurassic World", "Avengers: Age of Ultron" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" -- all four of which will end up among the top seven highest-grossing films -- ticket sales soared to record levels. For the first time in history, the domestic box office will hit \$11 billion, but that hefty number was achieved on the back of a small collection of pictures.

Through Christmas weekend, the top ten films in 2015 accounted for nearly 35% of overall ticket sales. Last year that number was less than 25%.

"A significant portion of the overall gross was coming from far fewer films," notes Chris Aronson, Fox's domestic distribution chief.

And while there was a great preponderance of global-spanning blockbusters than ever before, with five movies likely to exceed \$1 billion in revenue for the first time, the wealth was more concentrated. Here's a sign of how the riches weren't divided as equitably. In 2013 and 2014, thirteen films made more than \$200 million domestically, while in 2012, eleven pictures exceeded that threshold. This year, only nine films have eclipsed that figure.

For studios that do manage to tap into the zeitgeist, the rewards are plentiful. That latest "Star Wars" is already the fastest to record \$1 billion globally, and stands a good chance of blowing past "Avatar" to become the highest-grossing film. The



"Juraassic World" and "The Force Awakens" are two of the biggest films of the year.

mammoth hauls for "Jurassic World" and "Furious 7" demonstrate that even after a decade, these franchises are only increasing in popularity. And films like "The Martian" and "Inside Out" rode a wave of critical raves to commercial riches both at home and abroad. They manage to enjoy what in television is referred to as "water-cooler status" -- a cultural primacy that has people rushing out to multiplexes to see them so they won't be left out of the conversation.

The one-percenters' slice of the overall pie was far greater too. Universal, which fielded "Jurassic World", "Furious 7", and "Minions", commanded 22% of the market share and earned a massive \$6.8 billion globally. In the past fifteen years, no studio

has gobbled up more 20% of the market and exceeded \$6 billion in receipts.

For its part, Disney, armed with popular brands such as Marvel, Pixar, and Lucasfilm, exceed \$5 billion globally for the first time -- and currently seen as a studio superpower without equal.

"The rich got richer and the poor got poorer," said Jeff Bock, a box office analyst with Exhibitor Relations. "This isn't just something we're going to see more of in the future. This is the future. Disney is now a super studio. The other studios can't touch them right now."

The discrepancy in wealth accumulation is squeezing out mid-range hits, Bock and others argue. There is still a week left in 2015, but it appears as though the number



of films that gross \$100 million or more will likely be at its lowest levels in five years.

The new model also allows films to land with a louder thud than previously suffered. The year had three of the 10 best openings in history with "Jurassic World" and "Avengers: Age of Ultron", but also suffered six of the worst wide-release debuts ever with "We Are Your Friends", "Jem and the Holograms", "Burnt", "The Walk", "Victor Frankenstein" and "Rock the Kasbah". Many of these pictures had big stars and high-profile directors and it didn't make a difference with audiences.

Source: **Variety**

TV WATCH

"Lake Drive Lane" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Lake Drive Lane" will air on ntv at 8:15pm tonight. Scripted by Mezbah Uddin Sumon and directed by Nazrul Islam Raju, the play engages in

the struggles of an upper class family.

Shahiduzzaman Selim, Sumaiya Shimu, Apurbo, Tania, Sweety, Tamalika, Syed Hasan Imam, Sabiha Zaman and others are in the cast.



The triennial conference of International Theatre Institute, Bangladesh was held on December 26 at the Seminar Room of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. At the conference, a 25-member executive committee was formed. In the newly formed committee, Nasiruddin Yousuff and Debaprosad Debnath retain their posts as the president and the general secretary. The committee also includes a number of new faces including Professor Abdus Selim and Keramat Mawla as vice-presidents alongside Sara Zaker and Professor Shafi Ahmed who retain their posts. Syed Shamsul Haq and Ramendu Majumdar retain their positions in the new committee as the president of honours.



Email your answer to starquiz.starwars@gmail.com by 4.00pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winner of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email

Quiz Contest

10 Winners Everyday! 2 Premium Tickets For Each Winner

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QUIZ - 03

- Who is the Cinematographer of STAR WARS?
- Who did the music of STAR WARS?

Winners list of QUIZ-02

- S.M. Abu Hasan Mahi, Banasree
- Tazwar Mahir, Banani
- Farzhan Tauseef Ali, Gulshan-2
- Aadib Tanveer, Farmgate
- Roksana Lipi, Kalabagan
- Rokeya Ahsan, Kuril
- Gaousul Azam, Gulshan-1
- Riad Hasan, Dhanmondi
- Tahsin Jannat, Rampura
- Kawsar Mahmud, Dhanmondi -15