

WHAT'S ON
Bangladesh Cultural Festival
 Venue: Nandanmancha, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Jan 1-18
 Time: 4:30pm daily



Solo Exhibition
 Manifestation of the Human
 Artist: Md. Mainuddin
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD
 Date: Jan 2-18; Time: 3-9pm



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



Drawing Exhibition
 Celebrated Violence-5: Wound
 Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: Dec 26-Jan 20
 Time: 2-8pm



NEWS bytes

Depardieu to play Josef Stalin

French actor Gerard Depardieu is to play Russian dictator Josef Stalin in a new film, according to reports. He will star in the project, translated as "Stalin's Sofa", which will be directed by actress Fanny Ardant, said The Hollywood Reporter. The film is based on French author Jean-Daniel Baltassat's 2013 novel. Depardieu was presented with a Russian passport by Vladimir Putin in 2013 after moving to avoid higher taxes in his native France. Depardieu's move to Russia came after he criticised French President Francois Hollande's plans to raise taxes to 75% for those earning more than 1m euros. The actor accused the government of punishing "success, creation and talent". In 2011, he played the lead role in the film "Rasputin", a Franco-Russian production about the life of eccentric monk. He also recently announced a movie about WW2 French fighter aces who flew alongside Red Air Force pilots over the Eastern Front. Josef Stalin, the supreme ruler of the Soviet Union for more than 25 years, helped the allies defeat Nazism. But this regime of terror caused the death and suffering of tens of millions.



IT'S TRUE!

Leonardo DiCaprio was approached to play a crucial role in the Star Wars franchise in 2000 - that of Anakin Skywalker, but he rejected the role. When George Lucas was planning the prequel trilogy (Episodes I, II and III), Leo was in discussion, and even visited Lucas' Skywalker ranch. The role eventually went to the virtually unknown Hayden Christensen, and the trilogy became commercially successful, although not as critically acclaimed as the first three.



CURTAIN RISES ON MAIDEN BANGLADESH CULTURAL FESTIVAL



Guests inaugurate the festival; (top) A group dance performance on the Nandanmancha stage.

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 With participation of a number of artistes, cultural personalities and audience, curtains rose on the maiden Bangladesh Cultural Festival on January 1 at Nandanmancha, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Artistes from all District Shilpakala Academy (DSA) are taking part in the 18 day grand cultural festival. Soon after the opening ceremony was

over, chief guest Asaduzzaman Noor, cultural affairs minister, along with Syed Shamsul Haque, BSA DG Liaquat Ali Lucky and other officials of the organisation set a number of colourful balloons free in the evening sky. The dazzling fireworks continued for a while, as several artistes of Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts, attired in apt colourful costumes and vive, swayed the audience with their display of dance set on popular songs, composed by Tagore,

Nazrul and Lalon. They started off the presentation with a Nazrul Sangeet "Eki Oporoop Roop-e Ma Tomaye" that portrays all the six seasons of Bangladesh. The artistes' performance, choreographed by Farhana Chowdhury Baby, was also based on a medley of seasons greeting melodies including "Darun Agni Daan-e", "Mon Mor Megher Songi", "Aj Dhaner Khet-e", "Hemonte Kon Boshonter Bani", "Sheiter Hawar Laglo Nachon" and "Aji Dokhino Duar Khola". Directed by Deepa Khandakar, MR Wasek and Ananya, several artistes danced to songs including "Rangiyi Diye Jao", and a recitation of a poetry "Sristi Sukher Ullashey". On the opening day, artistes of four DSA -- Joypurhat, Sylhet, Gopalganj and Mymensingh -- performed traditional folk songs and dances of the respective region. Artistes of Habiganj, Comilla, Faridpur and Rajshahi presented their respective cultural heritages yesterday at the venue. Today, artistes of Bogra, Meherpur, Kushtia and Tangail will perform. Every district representative troupe will get an hour to present their cultural elements at the festival, starting everyday from 4:30pm.

Celebs and fans throng Manna Festival

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
 For the first time, Manna Utsab, a festival commemorating National Film Award winning actor Manna was held on January 1. The event was organised by Manna Foundation at the open space of Bangladesh Shishu Academy. A whopping number of stars from showbiz attended the festival. Popular film actors Riaz and Ferdous hosted the programme. A big crowd thronged the festival in memory of their favourite hero. Manna's widow, Sheri Manna spoke at the beginning of the programme. She walked down the memory lane and got emotional while recalling her husband. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu attended the event as chief guest, while satellite channel ntv's chairman Mosaddek Ali Falu was special guest at the programme. Hasanul Haq Inu said, "Manna was a true superstar who tremendously contributed to Bangladeshi film industry." Manna Memorial Award was announced at the programme. Nayokraj Razzak, late director Chashi Nazrul Islam, actors Anowara, Shabnam and Suchonda were given the awards. Monir Khan, Rizia Parveen, Kona, Mehrab, Beauty and other singers presented music at the event. The most interesting part of the event was dance. Moushumi, Omar Sani, Popy, Amit Hasan, Zayed Khan, Irin, Saimon, Alisha danced in sync with songs from Manna's films. A fashion show, choreographed by Bulbul Tumpa, also took place.



Sheri Manna flanked by Ferdous (L) and Riaz.



Artistes present vibrant dances at Bulbul Mela 2016. Bangladesh Dance Artistes' Association (BDAA) joining hands with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy arranged the commemorative programme marking 97th birth anniversary (January 1) of Nriyacharya Bulbul Chowdhury, the pioneer classical dancer of Bangladesh. The programme included discussion, conferring Bulbul Chowdhury Award on noted dancer Saleha Chowdhury, certificate giving ceremony and performance of dance by soloists and troupes. The celebration programme also took place simultaneously at all the divisional, district and upazila level branches of BDAA.

Jagorony Theatre observes 20th anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar
 The first theatre group of Savar, Jagorony Theatre, observed their 20th founding anniversary amid funfare and great enthusiasm, with a vow to protect Bengali arts and culture from all kinds of threats. A colourful programme was organised at Savar University College premises of Savar municipality, on the outskirts of the capital on Friday night. Among others, filmmaker and actor Amzad Hossain was present as chief guest, while filmmaker SA Haque Auleek and principal of Savar College Md. Ilias Ali Khan were special guests. Dulal Saha chaired the programme, which featured a discussion on theatre and film. A cultural event, was also held. Speakers said the Bengali culture in a threat for foreign 'satellite' culture. The children of today have almost forgotten Bengali culture. The government and cultural personalities should come forward to protect Bengali culture. Newly elected mayor of Savar municipality Abdul Goni and councillor Nure Alom Siddiky Neuton were felicitated in the programme by the theatre group president Md. Azmol Amin and general secretary Soron Kumar Saha.



PHOTO: STAR



Actors Aditya Roy Kapur and Shraddha Kapoor, co-stars of 2013's superhit romantic film "Aashiqui 2", are all to be a part of the official Hindi remake of Tamil film "OK Kanmani", filmmaker Karan Johar announced on Twitter. "OK Kanmani", which starred Dulquer Salmaan and Nithya Menen in lead roles, was directed

Aditya, Shraddha reuniting in "OK Kanmani" remake

by Mani Ratnam. The film's Hindi adaptation will be directed by Shaad Ali, who has earlier directed the Bollywood remake of Mani Ratnam's "Saathiya" ("Alaipayuthey" in Tamil). The film will be produced by KJo's Dharma Productions. The film's music will be scored by AR Rahman, like was the case in "Alaipayuthey". The film's lyrics and dialogues will be penned by Gulzar. Meanwhile, Aditya will be next seen in Abhishek Kapoor's "Fitoor" with Katrina Kaif. Shraddha is currently working on "Rock On 2" with Farhan Akhtar and "Baghi" with Tiger Shroff.

Tarantino keeps "Kill Bill 3" hopes alive

Will Quentin Tarantino ever get around to making "Kill Bill Vol. 3"? The director has said one thing or another over the years — he said yay in 2009 but nay in 2013. Now, the filmmaker is keeping hope alive by saying it's still a possibility. Speaking with Variety, he said: "I'm not committing to it, but I wouldn't be surprised if The Bride made one more appearance before the whole thing is said and done...I am talking to Uma [Thurman] about it just a little bit. Some of the stuff that I'd written that never made it into the movie that maybe I could use." It's unclear what this film could look like, but earlier this year Tarantino mentioned Nikki, the daughter of Vernita Green (Vivica A. Fox). Beatrix slays her mother in front of her eyes (in Vol. 1) and tells Nikki that she'd be waiting if one day she grew up and wanted revenge. Thurman, meanwhile, hasn't spoken publicly on the matter in a while, though she seemed to be game to return to her famous role at one point or another. Tarantino also mentioned "stuff" that "never made it into the movie," and there are some deleted scenes from the "Kill Bill" saga, such as a fight sequence between Bill (David Carradine) and a character played by Michael Jai White. Perhaps material like this could be expanded to feature more of The Bride's time becoming an assassin, though the Nikki story option is more of a natural progression. And now that I'm writing it, the concept of a Kill Bill prequel makes me want to barf. "Kill Bill 3" aside, Tarantino is in the market for a new project after his "The Hateful Eight". Recently, he mentioned bringing "Forty Lashes Less One" to the small screen and said "Killer Crow", which was born out of the unused material in "Inglourious Basterds", is still on the table.



Source: Collider

Ethics Club Bangladesh, like every year, marked "Ethics Day" on January 1 at the Central Shaheed Minar premises. Apart from a discussion on ethics, it also featured a traditional presentation of Gambhira — a special kind of folk song from Chapai Nawabganj, by the troupe Chapai Gambhira. The performers shed light on different aspects of ethics through their conversation-styled musical performance.



PHOTO: STAR