

**WHAT'S ON**  
**Int'l Children's Film Fest, Bangladesh**  
 Title: Future in Frames  
 Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library, Shahbagh  
 Date: Jan 23-29; Time: 11am-8pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Time, Coincidence & History  
 by Dhali Al Mamoon  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Jan 23-Mar 19  
 Time: 12-8pm




**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: "Less is More" by Asem Ansari  
 Venue: Gallery Chitrah, Rd-6, H-4, Dhanmondi  
 Date: January 15-31  
 Time: 10am-8pm



**Poetry & Drawing**  
 Artist: Kalidas Karmakar  
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattasali Gallery, National Museum  
 Date: Jan 24  
 Time: 5pm



**Contemporary Print Exhibition**  
 Venue: Shilpakala/H-7, R-13, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Jan 15-30  
 Time: 3-8pm



**NEWS bytes**  
**Tony Iommi**  
 honoured by NGM

Very few guitarists have accomplished as much as Black Sabbath's figurehead Tony Iommi. After famously down-tuning his guitar to accommodate the caps placed over his freshly sliced off fingertips, he spawned heavy metal and is the undisputed master of the riff. He has forever changed the way musicians approach the guitar and the National Guitar Museum is recognising his efforts with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Iommi will be just the sixth recipient of the honour, joining guitar greats Honeyboy Edwards, Roger McGuinn, BB King, Vic Flick and Buddy Guy. "I'm very honored by this award from the National Guitar Museum," stated Iommi. "The guitar has been an important part of my life for most of my life, and I'm happy to have contributed to its legacy. Not only that, but I have just the place for this award in my new studio!" The award is not handed out liberally and the organisation states, "Recipients are recognised for a lifetime of contributing to the legacy of the guitar



and having a singular importance to the development and historical appreciation of the instrument." A signature left-handed SG model from Epiphone will find a permanent home inside the National Guitar Museum as part of their expansive collection.

Source: Loudwire



Anwar Hossain (R) gives the guests a tour of the exhibit.

**ANWAR HOSSAIN'S French Diaries**  
 Photo Exhibit "25 Years, 25 Images" opens at AFD

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 A solo photography exhibition titled "French Diaries: 25 Years, 25 Images" by eminent photographer Anwar Hossain began at the La Galerie of Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) on January 22 evening.  
 Dr Pierre Claquin, photographer and public health consultant, Dilip Das Gupta, Chevalier, Sr. General Manager, Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC and eminent photographer Nasir Ali Mamun were among the distinguished guests at the opening ceremony. Bruno Plasse, Director of AFD welcomed the guests

and presided over the opening ceremony.  
 "Today we treasure his work with that of Naibuddin Ahmed. As a cinematographer, we welcome his modern outlook. His contribution to Bangladesh for the last 50 years has been tremendous. He was different from others and won many prizes," Nasir Ali Mamun said of Anwar Hossain.  
 Anwar Hossain himself spoke about the work comparing it to symphonies in Parisian parks. He spoke about his sons Akash and Megdoot, who were like part of life in a rainbow. He recalled the hospitality of the French people; taxi

drivers in Paris would drive 189 kilometres and not charge anything, because he was a visitor.  
 The ceremony was followed by a special slideshow at Auditorium Nouvelle Vague, Alliance Française de Dhaka.  
 The photos at the exhibit are Anwar Hossain's reflection of a life of 25 years that he had been living in France. It is a 'photographic biography' of sorts, although Hossain appears more as a subjective human being than a photo-biographer.  
 The exhibition will be open to all till January 30.

**Curtains on Shabdabali Int'l Theatre Festival**

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

A weeklong Shabdabali International Theatre festival, marking the 25th anniversary of Shabdabali Studio Theatre, ended in Barisal on Friday, January 22.

A consistently big audience turned up every day to see the plays at the festival.

"This was the First International Theatre Festival in Barisal, so we faced huge challenge, but we succeeded," said Syed Dulal, president of Shabdabali Group Theatre. Nasiruddin Yousuff, thespian, inaugurated the festival at Ashwani Kumar Hall at 15 January.  
 Eleven theatre troupes: Gentleman Pantomime (who staged "The Uncertain World"), Bangla Theatre ("Amanush"), Natyadhara ("Ebong Ashwamedh Joggo"), Shabdo Natya Charcha Kendra ("Biranganar Boyan"), Prachyanat ("Tragedy Palashbari"), Loknatya Dal ("Sonai Madhab") from Dhaka; Bibarton ("Pechgi") of Jessore, Shabdabali Group Theatre ("Nil Moyurer Jouban" and "Fona"), Panchoshiri Group Theatre ("Kuhak") from Barisal; and Alternative Living Theater ("Long March", "Bishadkal") of Kolkata and The Fact Art & Cultural Society ("Samjhota") from Bihar of India performed their shows in the festival.

The shows were presented on the stages of Shabdabali Studio Theatre and Ashwini Kumar Hall every day from January 16-22.

Besides seminars on "Existence of theatre against hostility" and "Our practice of theatre: looking in the rear-view mirror" were held. Other topics related with theatre were also discussed at the festival every day by leading cultural personalities of the country and abroad.

However, the concluding ceremony of the festival was held on Saturday night by awarding the Gias-Milon Natya Padak to Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Mancha-sarathi Ataur Rahman, theatre critic Dr. Ashish Kumar Goswami and deputy commissioner Dr. Gazi Saifuzzaman attended as guests in the concluding ceremony.

The Daily Star was media partner of the festival.



A scene from the play "Fona". PHOTO: STAR

**Bengal launches eBoi at National Museum**

A CORRESPONDENT

Thanks to the opening up of the door of information technology, the number of online book readers is on the rise globally. As enthusiasts of Bengali literature are spread across the world, Bengal Foundation has taken on a project called "Bengal eBoi" to meet the demands of Bengali readers for online book reading around the world.  
 Blues Communications Limited is providing overall assistance to run the project smoothly. Worldwide Bengali readers can now read both classical and contemporary literary books online just logging onto the website www.bengaleboi.com.

A launching ceremony was held on January 22 at Nalinikanta Bhattasali Gallery where internationally reputed artist Kalidas Karmakar, with his imaginary forms and colours, sketched the Bengal eBoi logo on canvas.



Attending the event as chief guest, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon launched the Bengal Publications' e-book website.

Among others, Bangla Academy DG Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan; Bengal Foundation chairman Abul Khair; writer-journalist Anisul Hoque and Bengal

Publications' executive director Abul Hasnat spoke at the event. Later, popular band Joler Gaan gave a musical performance.

**Academy overhauls rules to promote Oscar diversity**

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences has approved a series of major changes, in terms of voting and recruitment, also adding three new seats to the 51-person board — all part of a goal to double the number of women and diverse members of the Academy by 2020.

Also on Thursday, the Academy met with ABC officials and representatives of Chris Rock, confirming that he will host the February 28 ceremony, according to sources. Jada Pinkett Smith, Spike Lee and Will Smith said they will not attend. Some other activists had urged Rock to withdraw; he never addressed those directly, but insiders said he believes he can do more good by remaining, since the Academy Awards reach a worldwide audience.

The membership changes were announced Friday in a statement, with Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs adding, "The Academy is going to lead and not wait for the industry to catch up." The proposals were passed unanimously at an emergency board meeting Thursday night. Academy honchos opted not to wait for the regularly scheduled board meeting on January 26.

The moves also affect the voting status of several new and longtime members. Beginning later this year, each new member's voting status will last 10 years, and will be renewed if the new member has been active in film during that decade. In addition, members will receive lifetime voting rights after three 10-year terms; or if they have been nominated for an Academy Award. The Academy will apply these same standards retroactively to current members. This will not affect voting for this year's Oscars.

In order to immediately increase diversity on the board, the Academy will establish three new governor seats, to be nominated by the president for three-year terms and confirmed by the board. The current board consists of 51 people. At the same time, the Academy will supplement the traditional process in which current members sponsor new members by launching an ambitious, global campaign to identify and recruit qualified new members who represent greater diversity.

After worldwide media criticism over the January 14 Oscar nominations, Academy officials knew they had to make some bold moves, and make them quickly. The image of the Oscars and the Academy were tarnished when the all-Caucasian lineup of 20 actors immediately led to bigger questions about the lack of diversity within the Academy — and ultimately within the industry.

The Academy has 17 branches; actors nominate actors, editors nominate editors, and so on; the entire eligible membership votes on final Oscars.

Four days after the January 14 announcement of nominations, Academy CEO Boone Isaacs issued a statement saying there would be "dramatic steps to alter the makeup of our membership." She did not give details at the time.

Source: Variety



**AR RAHMAN'S**  
 band recreates "Ghanan Ghanan"

Oscar-winning composer AR Rahman's band NAFS has released a rendition of "Ghanan Ghanan" from the 2001 film "Lagaan" along with a music video.

The rendition of the popular track is in absolute parity with the original song but, the arrangement gives it an out-of-the-box feel.

Award-winning arranger and conductor Arjun Chandy from Dallas, who was specially commissioned and invited by

Rahman to direct, conduct and write arrangements for NAFS, has intricately managed to weave the piece together, lending a unimaginable choir touch to it.

Elements of natural sounds infused with vocals give it an edgy twist. Xylophone-like rhythm, coupled with bell chords, add a melodious touch. The song juxtaposes the beauty of both Indian classical and Western music.

The music video projects two

different spaces - the real world and the enigmatic world with neon visuals.

The video is produced by Qyuki, an online multi-channel network founded by Shekhar Kapur, Samir Bangara and Rahman, that enables creators to build their fan following by producing and distributing videos across Youtube and other networks.

Source: IANS

**TV WATCH**  
**"Kotha Kaje Mil Nai"**  
 on Ekushey TV

A CORRESPONDENT

Mega serial "Kotha Kaje Mil Nai" goes on air on Ekushey Television every Sunday and Monday at 9:30pm. Written and directed by Hasan Jahangir, the serial encircles Nasir Uddin and his four sons. The serial satirically depicts the negative sides of society. ATM Shamsuzzaman, Shahriar Nazim Joy, Siddiqur Rahman, Monira Mithu, Hasin, Ishana, Shahriar Nazim Joy and others are in the cast.



Ishana and Joy in a still from the play.

