

WHAT'S ON

Boshonto Boron
Venue: Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: Feb 13
Time: 7am onwards



Solo Art Exhibition
Censored Image
Artist: Wakilur Rahman
Venue: Kalakendra
Date: Feb 3-23
Time: 12-8pm



Solo Watercolour Exhibition
Title: Koto Ojanare
Artist: Saeeda Kamal
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 6-18; Time: 9am-8pm



Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Fragments of the Anthropocene
Artists: Zihan Karim & Shimul Saha
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan-1
Date: Jan 30-Feb 27; Time: 12-8pm



Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2016
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises & Suhrawardi Udyan
Date: February 1-29
Time: 3-8pm & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)





PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Pahela Falgun celebrations across the capital today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The arrival of Pahela Falgun, the king of all seasons, is always greeted with a profusion of flowers, poetry, songs and dances. Caught up in the excitement, Dhaka will wear a festive look on the first day of Bangla month Falgun. Jatiya Boshonto Utshab Udjapon Parishad 1422 has organised cultural programmes across the capital. The first phase of celebrations will begin at 7:30am at Bakultala of Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), Dhaka University, the hub of the celebrations. The programmes will begin with a sarangi recital by Motiar Hossain, and will feature performances by noted music and dance schools Surer Dhara, Sur Saptak, Nriya Nandan, Dhriti, Bhabna, Turongomi, and BAFA; solo musical performances by Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Ferdous Ara, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Blzon Chandra Mistry, Sushmita Debnath Suchi and recitation by Bhashwar Bandopadhyay and Golam Sarwar, among others. The second phase will see cultural performances at Bakultala,

Dhanmondi's Rabindra Sarobar, Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka and Uttara Secot 7 Park field, and will feature a wide range of music, dance and recitation performances. Channel i, Deepto TV and ntv will broadcast various parts of the programmes live. Girls in Bashonti (yellow-ochre) saris will adorn themselves with floral ornaments and boys will wear colourful Punjabi to see and be seen at the major events. Students FFA will as usual paint motifs on the more sporting visitors. Many bands will perform concerts at different points of the campus. Several private universities and colleges will also arrange programmes to herald spring. Jatiya Boshonto Utshab Udjapon Parishad has been celebrating the arrival of Spring since the Bangla year 1401 (1995) in Dhaka, although Bangalees have traditionally celebrated the first day of Spring for centuries. Today, Pahela Falgun programmes have spread throughout the country and have become a major cultural celebration. Mobile phone operator Grameenphone is sponsoring the event.



"Love is like an eternal Spring"

...Kumar Bishwajit

SAURAV DEY
Noted singer Kumar Bishwajit's latest album "Sharangshe Tumi" hit the music market on Thursday ahead of Valentine's Day. The album, as the name suggests, is an album of love songs. The singer talked to Arts & Entertainment about the album, his perception of love and of Spring. Excerpts:
How are Spring and love interrelated?
Kumar Bishwajit: Spring is a symbol of love. Love is colourful, and spring too is the most colourful in the cycle of seasons. In Spring, nature dons a new look with colours splashing over everywhere. Generally it gives our mind a positive vibe, and we feel an urge to express our feelings. When we fall in love, our life becomes colourful, and even we start dreaming in colours. There's no particular day for love; it's above date, time and any barrier. Love is like an eternal Spring.
What's your take on the saying that love comes only once?
Kumar Bishwajit: I believe love comes once in life, but it spreads its branches and changes dimensions with time. When it comes in our life, we form abstractions in our mind, and start looking for someone who matches that image. When the person we find doesn't meet our expectation, separation comes in. So I think love is one, and it comes once but the person we love changes with time in many cases.
Love brings about a big change in our psyche. When we love someone, the person becomes our universe. It's an attraction, affection and an invisible connection we feel for someone particular.
Tell us about your latest album.
Kumar Bishwajit: The album features eight tracks, two of which are remakes of two popular songs from my first album. I composed songs in the album, while Naquib Khan composed one track. The album praises love in its different forms: union, separation, emotion, and sorrow — all songs in the album are dedicated to love.
I have also released two music videos, and I will release music videos of all eight songs in April. Combined together, this will be the first musical film in Bangladesh which tells a love story. Gazi Mazharul Anwar has penned the script for my videos, while Ashikur Rahman is making it.

Under Construction wins laurels in France

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
Bangladeshi director Rubaiyat Hossain's feature film "Under Construction" won three awards at the Festival International des Cinemas d'Asie de Vesoul in France on Tuesday. The film, currently being screened in theatres in Bangladesh, secured Prix du Jury International (International Jury Award), Prix Emile Guimet (Emile Guimet Award) given by the Society of Friends of Guimet National Museum of Asian Arts, Paris and a Special Mention Critic Award awarded by the Press Jury composed of Charles Tesson (artis-

tic director of Critic's Week at Cannes Film Festival) Eithne O'Neill (of the French movie magazine Positif) and Vincent Malausa (critic of Cahiers du Cinéma). Reacting to the laurels, an elated Rubaiyat said "I am honored and overwhelmed that 'Under Construction' won three awards tonight," and thanked the festival committee for having the film in the competition as well as the jury members and the Vesoul audience. "Nothing could make me happier than being appreciated in the land of Agnes Varda and Chantal Akerman. This surely gives me more strength to continue on my filmmaking journey," she added.



DEADPOOL arrives in Dhaka

A CORRESPONDENT
It seems like Hollywood has decided 2016 will be the year of superhero movies, with both Marvel and DC Cinematic Universes releasing some of their biggest films. However, it's 20th Century Fox who took the first shot, with the highly-anticipated "Deadpool" releasing in the US on February 12. Much to the delight of the Bangladeshi fans of superhero flicks, Star Cineplex has brought the 'Merc with a Mouth' to screens of Dhaka, with the film premiering on February 11 at the Star Premium Hall. The film went on the regular showtime roster since yesterday (Friday February 12), on the same day as the global audience gets to enjoy the film. Although there are no official content rating for the film in Bangladesh (The film's MPAA Rating is "R" - meaning it is only for mature audiences), Star Cineplex asked only 18+ members to attend the premiere.



Despite going through some censorship (Cineplex sources said the film's version released for Malaysia has been imported), the Ryan Reynolds-starrer retains most of its quirky and hard-hitting humour punches and graphic action sequences at the Dhaka screenings. Directed by Tim Miller and co-starring Morena Baccarin, TJ Miller, Ed Skrein and Gina Carano, the film has seen immense interest worldwide with its red-band trailers and bold promo campaigns, and has already performed red-hot in seven international markets with earnings of \$12 million. Certain territories have seen record breaking performances coming from the hero's antics. In particular, Fox has seen its best opening for one of their films in Taiwan with \$1.4 million, the best opening for a superhero film in Belgium with \$270,000, and the biggest opening day for an R-rated film in both the Philippines and Singapore - culminating in \$562,000 between the two countries. With \$65-\$70 million estimated for this weekend's US box office debut, Wade Wilson (Deadpool's alter-ego) isn't going away any time soon.

NEWSbytes

Springsteen announces autobiography



As one of America's most prolific songwriters, Bruce Springsteen has always been content to let the music do the talking—until now. 'The Boss' will release an autobiography, titled "Born to Run", on September 27, according to a press release. Springsteen began writing his memoirs after the 2009 Super Bowl. "Writing about yourself is a funny business," Springsteen said. "But in a project like this, the writer has made one promise, to show the reader his mind. In these pages, I've tried to do this." In the book, the 66-year old musician describes growing up in Freehold, New Jersey amid "poetry, danger, and darkness," and will take the reader on a journey through his ascension from a bar band musician in Asbury Park to the formation and "rise of the E Street Band." Additionally, he will chronicle the struggles that inspired his best work, and provide more insight into the song, Born to Run, which he had previously referenced as his "shot at the title." The work will be published in hardcover, ebook, and audio editions by Simon & Schuster in the US, UK, Canada, Australia and India. Source: **Billboard**

"Krishnopokkho" to release Feb 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Every February since 2013, fans of Humayun Ahmed feel a strange emptiness -- with no new books by the prolific wordsmith to look forward to. While his old books still outsell most writers of today, this year there is something new for his fans. "Krishnopokkho", a novel by Humayun Ahmed has been adapted into a film by his widow Meher Afroz Shaon, and the film is all set to hit the screens on February 26. An invite-only premiere of the film will be held today at the Balaka Cineworld in the capital. Produced by Impress Telefilm and distributed by Jaaz Multimedia, the film casts one of Humayun Ahmed's most recognizable film protagonists Riaz

(from "Dui Duari"), paired with Dhallywood heartthrob Mahiya Mahi. Azad Abul Kalam, Tania Ahmed, Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Masud Akhand, Jhuna Chowdhury, Moutushi Biswas,

Wahida Mallik Jolly, Faruq Ahmed, Tariq Swapan and Joyeeta Moholanobish form a formidable cast, while Ferdous also makes a cameo appearance in the film.



Mahi and Riaz in a still from the film.

"Neerja" banned in Pakistan

Sonam Kapoor-starrer "Neerja", based on real incidents during the hijacking of the Pan Am Flight 73 at the Karachi airport in 1986, has been banned in Pakistan allegedly for showing the country in poor light. In an unusual case, the film has been banned in the country without even being submitted to the censor board. An official at the commerce ministry said that due to objectionable nature of the content which portrayed Pakistan in

poor light the certificate to import the film was revoked. IMGC Executive Director Abid Rasheed admitted that there were certain anti-Pakistan elements in Neerja and it showed Muslims in negative light. "This might not have gone down well with local audiences," he speculated. The Ram Madhvani-directed movie revolves around Neerja Bhanot, a flight attendant on board a Pan Am Mumbai-New York flight, who was shot dead by

terrorists during the hijacking while trying to save the lives of passengers. Advertisements of the movie in some newspapers had shown its release across many cineplexes and single-screen theatres in Pakistan on February 19, but it has emerged that the ministry of commerce had initially authorised the import of the film but later changed their decision. "The ministry issued us a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to import the film and bring it to Pakistani territory but later on revoked the NOC," an official with IMGC Entertainment said. Mobasher Hasan, who heads the Central Board of Film Censors (CBFC), said that the decision to not allow import of the film had come from the information and commerce ministry. "The film was never brought to us for censorship," he said, adding the commerce and information ministry had also asked the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulation Authority (PEMRA) to ensure that "Neerja" is not shown on cable channels throughout Pakistan. Source: **Hindustan Times**

