

WHAT'S ON

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)

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

Felicitation to Shaheen Samad
Organiser: Aamra Surjomukhi
Venue: A.S. Mahmud Auditorium, The Daily Star Centre
Date: February 26
Time: 6pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Unknown Spirit
Artist: Esperanza Romero (Spain)
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115, Lane-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: February 20-29
Time: 12-8pm

Solo Paining Exhibition
Title: Of a Poetic Vision of Life
Artist: Ranjit Das
Venue: Shilpangan
Date: February 26-March 12
Time: 12pm-8pm

NEWS bytes

DAVE GROHL to perform at Oscars

This year's year's Oscars will feature a "special performance" from Dave Grohl, Entertainment Weekly reports. The latest list of presenters and performers also includes last year's Best Song winners John Legend and Common, as well as "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" director JJ Abrams, Sacha Baron Cohen, Morgan Freeman and Henry Cavill. A current list of everyone set to appear at the 88th Academy Awards is available on the Oscars' website. Of the musicians named, only Grohl was specified as a performer (though no details were given about his act), while a representative for the Weeknd



confirmed to Rolling Stone that the R&B singer would perform as well. The Weeknd is in the running for Best Original Song for his 50 Shades of Grey contribution, "Earned It", and it is customary for the nominees of that category to take the stage during the ceremony. Representatives for Lady Gaga (nominated for "Til It Happens to You" from "The Hunting Ground") and Sam Smith ("Writing's on the Wall" from "Spectre") did not immediately respond to questions on if the respective acts will perform as well. Chris Rock will host the award show, set to air February 28th at 7 p.m. ET on ABC.

Source: Rolling Stone



PHOTO: LOVED TURIN HALDER

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Joss Stone may not be the most popular international musician to Bangladeshi audiences, but on her stop to Dhaka as part of a 'Total World Tour', the Grammy-winning diva showed why she is one of the brightest names in World Music today. Up until her arrival on to the stage, LiveSquare Entertainment's concert Pop Republic, held at the International Convention City Bashundhara on February 20, was quite a drag. Of the six Bangladeshi performers, one didn't show up (Arnob), and a few others looked like they were just going through the motions. Minar and Armeen went through their two songs apiece without much thrill, before Rafa, Elita and Jon Kabir's attempts to bring some energy to the sparse audience proved futile. In their defense, it's

probably not easy to get in gear with more than half the seats of a moderate-sized seating empty and disappointing acoustics of the auditorium. Organisers then said Arnob was unwell and could not make it, and took a rather long break. Joss, backed by her band of a guitarist, a bassist, a drummer and two backing vocals, came and effortlessly turned it up. She was well aware that the audience was not familiar with her music, especially the front-row attendees (holders of the complimentary 'platinum' pass), but she channeled her performance in a way that the audience's bodies began to sway. Opening with "Newborn", she changed it up with a reggae number, walking in her signature barefoot style into the audience and engaging them. One by one, she moved through a myriad of moods and emotions with "Super Duper Love" -

where she had the audience singing the chorus with her, "Big Ol' Game", "Harry's Symphony" (which she wrote for her brother), "Cut The Line", "Love Me", "Tell Me What We're Gonna Do Now", "Music", "Stuck On You", "This Ain't Love", "Landlord", a cover of the iconic "I Put A Spell On You" (originally by Jay Hawkins and recently popularized by Annie Lennox as the OST for "50 Shades of Grey") and "Fell In Love With A Boy", and closed her set with "Right To Be Wrong". She interacted with the audience in ad-lib lyrics, danced all across the stage, sipped a cup of tea between songs, and remained impeccable on her vocal delivery throughout. Her musicians also took turns to showcase their mettle in small instrumental and vocal sections, but ultimately, it was Joss Stone who took less than two hours to go from stranger to sweetheart of those in attendance.



Youths buy books the most... Hasan Zayed

SAURAV DEY

Starting from the first day of February, the month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair is nearing its peak in the third week. Every day, people of all ages and of different tastes flock to the fair to pick up books. About the book selling scenario of the fair, the correspondent spoke to Hasan Zayed, Publisher of Pearl Publications. **What's the scene like at this year's fair?** Hasan Zayed: Despite a large crowd, the average sales are not up to our expectation. However, as the fair nears an end people are buying more books. So I hope we will see a significant growth in sales. **Is there any improvement over previous fairs?** Hasan Zayed: The venue is larger and security has received a boost. In the past, a large number of people would gather at Bangla Academy premises, but now the same or larger number are coming every day; however they are being scattered throughout the big fair ground. I think it could have been better organised.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

What could have been done to improve the fair? Hasan Zayed: The layout of the fair is not very good. Stall distribution is bad; as a result visitors cannot see all the stalls from a corner. Security has been tightened up, which is good, but too many police personnel are inside the fair premises. Lights are out on the street, and I think instead of providing security inside they should focus on security for writers and publishers outside the fair grounds. **Which books record the best sales?** Hasan Zayed: We have books of Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Anisul Haq, Sumonto Aslam, Mostafa Mamun and some others writers. These writers' books actually sell most at the fair, as they have a large readership. Young people usually buy books the most.

Padatik Natya Sangsad tours Tripura



A scene from "Jonomanko".

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Padatik Natya Sangsad is in Tripura, India with their popular plays "Macbeth" and "Jonomanko". The troupe went to India on an invitation from Belonia Press Club of South Tripura to stage their plays on the occasion of International Mother Language Day. Padatik staged "Macbeth" on February 21, while "Jonomanko" will be staged today.

"Macbeth" is directed by Sudip Chakraborty based on Syed Shamsul Haq's adaptation of the Shakespearean tragedy. Sakhawat Hossain Shimul, Sahmsi Ara Sayeka, Hamidur Rahman Pappu and Ikram are in the cast of "Macbeth" among others. "Jonomanko", written by Nasrin Mustafa and directed by Mir Mehebub Alam Nahid, casts Moshirur Rahman, Sakhawat Hossain Shimul, Walid, Jinia, Quamrul and Russel among others.



Rohto's lip care brand Liplce organised the gala ceremony of its "Smile On" campaign on Valentine's Day. Singer Kona entertained the audience with her mesmerising voice, while Sampriti presented a dance number. The event also featured an award giving ceremony where 30 winners received attractive gift sets, and joined dinner with their loved ones.

"Fire at Sea" wins Golden Bear at Berlinale

"Fire at Sea" (original title "Fuocoammare"), Gianfranco Rosi's Italian documentary about the refugee crisis on the island of Lampedusa, won the 66th Berlin Film Festival's Golden Bear for Best Film on Saturday. The film's win came as no surprise. From the start of this year's fest, taking place amidst the gravest refugee crisis facing Europe in modern history, the theme of displaced people, forced from their homes due to war, violence and economic necessity, has deeply defined the event. "Fire at Sea" looks at the harrowing journeys undertaken by immigrants from Africa, the Middle East and Asia as they risk their lives to reach the Italian island of Lampedusa in the hopes of making it to mainland Europe. "At this moment I have to think about all the people who did not survive the journey to Lampedusa," Rosi said upon accepting the



prize. "Lampedusa is a generous place. It is a place of fishermen, and fishermen always open their arms to those who come from the sea." The seven-member Berlinale jury, headed by Meryl Streep, honored a diverse selection of international films. The Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize went to Danis Tanovic's Bosnian

drama "Death in Sarajevo", about the staff and guests of a hotel hosting an international diplomatic delegation. Mia Hansen-Love won the Silver Bear for best director for her French film "Things to Come", starring Isabelle Huppert as a Paris high school philosophy teacher forced to deal with sudden changes in her life, while Trine Dyrholm received the Silver Bear for best actress for Thomas Vinterberg's "The Commune". Mohamed Ben Attia's Tunisian drama "Hedi" took the best actor Silver Bear for Majd Mastoura as well as the best first feature award (presented by a separate jury). The fest's Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize, which honors feature films that open new perspectives, went to Philippine helmer Lav Diaz's challenging eight-hour historical drama "A Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery". Source: Variety

"Bajirao Mastani" dominates Zee Cine Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's epic "Bajirao Mastani", starring Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh at its centre, swept the Zee Cine Awards 2016, winning awards in as many as 10 categories including the Jury Award for Best Film, Best Actor and Best Director and Best Actress (Viewers' Choice). "Bajranghi Bhaijaan" actor Salman Khan scooped the Best Actor in the Viewers' Choice category for his role in the Kabir Khan-directed film, while the film itself won Best Film in viewers' choice section). Actors Amitabh Bachchan and Ranveer Singh shared the Best Actor (Jury) Award for "Piku" and "Bajirao Mastani". Deepika Padukone, meanwhile, picked up the jury award for Best Actress for "Piku" and the viewers' choice Best Actress for "Bajirao". "Piku" won three other awards: Best Story, Best Dialogue and Best Screenplay - all of them to Juhi Chaturvedi. "Masaan" also won big for a debut film, taking Best Debutant male (going to Vicky Kaushal), Best Debutant Director (to Neeraj Chaywan), Best Supporting Actor Female (Shweta Tripathi) and Best Supporting actor male (Sanjay Mishra for Masaan) trophies home. The Best Debutant Female award was shared between Bhumi Pednekar for "Dum Laga Ke Haisha" and Harshali Malhotra for "Bajranghi Bhaijaan", while Nawazuddin Siddiqui's reputation as an emerging acting powerhouse was sealed with two wins - for



"Bajirao Mastani" brought big prizes for Ranveer and Deepika.

Best Actor in a Comic role (for "Bajranghi Bhaijaan") and Best Actor in a Negative Role (for "Badlapur"). Ajay Devgan was honoured with for his Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema. The Song of the Year (Viewers' Choice) was awarded to the title track of Salman-Sonam-starrer "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo". Best Female Playback Singer went to Shreya Ghoshal for "Mohe Rang Do Lal" in "Bajirao", while Mohit Chauhan and Arijit Singh shared Best

Male Playback Singer for "Matargashti" (in "Tamasha") and "Sooraj Dooba" (in "Roy") respectively. "Dum Laga Ke Haisha" took two music awards, for Best Lyrics ("Moh Moh Ke Dhaagey") and Best Music for Anu Malik. All the other technical awards - Best Background score, Best Visual effects, Best Action, Best Choreography and Best Cinematography - all went to "Bajirao". The ceremony will be aired on March 5.