

**WHAT'S ON**

**17th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh**  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: December 1-31  
Time: 11am-8pm



**Int'l Group Art Exhibit**  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New DOHS, Mohakhali  
Date: Nov 27-Dec 26  
Time: 12noon-8pm



**Int'l Short & Independent Film Fest**  
Venue: Public Library, National Museum, BSA, Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, Jagannath University  
Date: Dec 03-10  
Time: 12noon-8pm



**Solo Print exhibition**  
Title: Deep Print  
Artist: Wakilur Rahman  
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 751 Satmasjid Rd, Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 29-Dec 16  
Time: 12noon-8pm



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: An Untimely Story  
Artist: Manjurul Shibly  
Venue: La Galerie, AFD  
Date: Dec 02-10  
Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs), 9am-12noon and 5-8pm (Fri-Sat)





# "Our artistic heritage is going beyond borders" -- Asaduzzaman Noor

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The 17th Asian Art Biennale, currently underway at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, is the place to be for city dwellers and foreigners in Dhaka alike. Apart from countries of Asia and the Pacific regions, artists from all over the world have taken part in the grand art fiesta. For the first time an international artist along with five renowned Bangladeshi artists selected the artworks for display, while international jury board members from five countries --Bangladesh, Japan, Indonesia, Poland and Republic of Korea selected awards from over 500 artworks. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy with support from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has organised the monthlong art exhibition.

Seasoned thespian, cultural personality and Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor talked to this correspondent about diverse aspects and facets of 17th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2016. Excerpts: "Our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set some certain policies and targets to project our opulent artistic and cultural heritage to the rest of the world. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs and all its wings like Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh National Museum, Central Public Library, and Nazrul Institute are discharging their jobs to achieve the desired goals. "This year, 127 foreign artists from 54 countries of the world are taking part in the biennale with 277 artworks. We think curating is

a big issue to showcase artworks on such a vast scale. We didn't get the best quality artworks by the foreigners due to the lack of proper curatorial jobs. We hope to reach a wider angle of the globe to attract artists for participation in the next Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh. " "I cannot dictate artists to depict artworks highlighting the heritage of Bangladesh. They are free to create their own realities. Every artist has close contact with the soil where they were born. We find the essence of Bangladesh in the works of eminent artists Shahabuddin Ahmed and Monirul Islam, though they have been living in France and Spain for decades. It is evident. Rootlessness cannot create an artist. As the way we are participating in Asian Art Biennale, we should take

part in biennales held in other countries. Two years back, we participated in the Venice Art Biennale. That helped us introduce Bangladesh in a different light. Previously, we didn't take any initiative, but we are now taking these initiatives boldly so that our artistic heritage goes beyond borders. " "Art represents both national and international issues and aspects. It cannot be confined to a certain space and reality. The more we exchange, the more we enrich ourselves. This applies to any sort of art, literature and culture. Through the Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, Dhaka has become an international hub of arts and artists, and this is what the spirit of an international art biennale is all about."



# ZAHID HASAN BIGGER AND BETTER

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National award winning actor Zahid Hasan's career has garnered plaudits since his directorial debut in "Laal Neel Beguni," a popular television series in which he was also part of the main acting cast. Despite earning accolades for his roles in film and theatre as well, the actor has mostly focused his talents in television plays over the years. Recently the artiste is gearing up to direct a new television play titled "Vagabond." Scripted by Hossain Ujjol, viewers will also have the opportunity to see Zahid Hassan on screen in the starring role. Regarding his character the artiste stated, "Vagabond means someone who is free spirited and without attachments, and my role captures that. I eagerly await its release so that the viewers can enjoy the story." Aside from Zahid Hasan, the cast includes artistes regarded as heavyweights in the entertainment industry in terms of experience and recognition. Shooting has taken place in Dhaka along with other locations around the country to portray the wandering soul of the vagabond. The play is expected to air on December 9 on Banglavisión, where viewers can tune in thrice a week to enjoy it. The dual responsibility of acting and directing- for which Zahid Hasan is primarily known- may seem daunting to many, but the artiste shook off these assumptions saying, "My team is very strong, and for that reason I never faced any difficulties." The artiste also has his hands full with other acting projects, and recently returned from shooting in Sirajganj for "Jadukor," a play directed by Ali Imran. The actor has also made a first-time appearance in a music video, on which he said, "I have taken up this project from a deep sense of responsibility for you must be versatile in order to stay strong within the industry." The actor will also be seen in the Tauquir Ahmed directed film "Halda," which also marks his appearance in film after a long time. Shooting for the film is nearing completion, and the actor expressed his enthusiasm about its release, saying, " 'Halda' is a story that has not been told before, and I am excited to see the reaction it will generate among the audience."

# LRB's Silver Jubilee concert on Dec 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LRB, one of the most iconic names in the country's music industry, will celebrate their 25th anniversary this month, with a grand silver jubilee concert in the capital. Music streaming app Robi Yonder Music is the title sponsor for the concert. The concert will be held at the Nabaratri Hall of the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) on December 20, from 5pm to 10pm. While tickets can be bought from outlets of Swapno and online from ticketchai.com, Yonder is giving away two tickets each to 200 winners of a special contest. Users of the app must go the playlist "LRB Turns 25" and listen to at least five songs on it. The first 200 users will get the free tickets. At the press conference held in this regard yesterday, LRB front-man and prominent guitarist Ayub Bachchu also

made a call to the organisers to allow students to enjoy the concert for free. The organisers, however, did not comment on the matter. Other guests at the press conference included Robi's Vice Presidents Mahbubul Alam Bhuiyan and Ekram Kabir and Yonder Music Bangladesh Country Manager Imrul Karim. Speaking at the press conference, Ayub Bachchu also said "Musicians have nothing to achieve in life except for people's love. They do not have a stomach; they do not need to eat. If you shower them with love, they want nothing more." He also called on all the sponsors to support other bands as well, and asked the media to support the music industry in their own capacity. The concert is sponsored by All Time Healthy Life, co-sponsored by Pepsi, Aquafina and Banglashoppers.com. Wizard Showbiz is the event organizer.



# Final cut in Shakespeare Lives in Schools Day Narayanganj Ideal School wins a niche

Schoolchildren from Narayanganj Ideal school have won a place in the final cut of a crowd-sourced video of "Macbeth", to be unveiled as part of Shakespeare Lives in Schools Day, says a press release. Shakespeare Lives in Schools Day encourages schoolchildren of all ages to learn about Shakespeare as a playwright for the whole world, by joining in global celebrations of his 400th anniversary this year. Schoolchildren from the United Kingdom and countries across the world including Congo, South Africa, Mexico, Colombia, Croatia and Bangladesh,

entered a competition to contribute to the retelling of "Macbeth". The competition attracted 79 entries from 29 countries with 10 schools making the final cut of the video. To mark the achievement, Narayanganj Ideal School screened the final film at their school on December 5. Jim Scarth OBE, Acting Country Director of British Council; Kashem Jamal, Chairman of Narayanganj Ideal School Management Committee and Anoware Hossain, Head Teacher, Narayanganj Ideal School were present.



PHOTO: STAR

# Indian stars mourn the death of an icon Jayalalithaa passes away

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi Seldom has a tinsel town star dominated the Southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu's political scene as much as late Jayalalithaa Jairam. No wonder, therefore, that leading stars from both Bollywood and southern cinema, including big names like Rajinikanth, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and music maestro A R Rahman, mourned the death of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa terming her as a "charismatic leader" who had "great connect" with people. Jayalalithaa, an actress-turned-politician, hospitalised since September 22, suffered a cardiac arrest on Sunday and passed away on December 5 in Chennai at the age of 68. Veteran actor Dharmendra, who worked with Jayalalithaa in "Izzat", her debut in Hindi cinema, said he was shocked to hear the news of her passing away.

"It is shocking for me because she was my co-star in 'Izzat' in 1968. We were on outdoors together for almost one and half months in Kulu-Manali. Those were good times. She was a lovely person and very cordial. She often cooked south Indian food for me. She was a great human being," Dharmendra said. Another actress-turned-politician Hema Malini said Jayalalithaa's demise was a huge loss as people loved and admired her. Before joining politics in the 1980s, Jayalalithaa was an actress who appeared in 140 films, including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi (only one named 'Izzat'). As a leading actress in films from 1961 to 1980, she was considered both prolific and versatile, performing in different genres and essaying a wide variety of roles. She was also known for her dancing skills and at one time was referred to as the 'Queen of Tamil Cinema'.



# BEYONCÉ, DRAKE, RIHANNA lead Grammy nominations

After months of speculation, nominations for the 59th Grammy Awards, which will be broadcast live on Feb. 12, 2017, were announced Tuesday night. Beyoncé, who is rumored to be performing at the Los Angeles ceremony, lived up to expectations, with nominations in nine categories including Album of the Year, Song of the Year and Record of the Year. Drake and Rihanna are each up for eight awards, and Adele five, including Record of the Year, Song of the Year and Album of the Year. Chance the Rapper, whose album "Coloring

Book" was the first streaming-only album to make the Billboard 200, has seven nominations in five categories. The Grammys has changed its rules to now consider stream-only releases for the 59th awards. Singer Meghan Trainor, who took home the Best New Artist award at the star-studded ceremony held earlier this year, revealed the nominees for Best New Artist, Record Of The Year, Song Of The Year and Album Of The Year live on "CBS This Morning", shortly before the nominations across all 84 categories were published online.

The 2017 show will be hosted by "The Late Late Show" presenter James Corden, after five years of Grammys hosting duties by American rapper and actor LL Cool J. At the 2016 ceremony earlier this year, Kendrick Lamar picked up several trophies including Best Rap Album and Best Rap Song, while Taylor Swift took home her second Album of the Year award for 1989 alongside prizes for Best Pop Vocal Album and Best Music Video for "Bad Blood". Source: Time