

**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



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Mercury Falling  
Artist: Mustafa Zaman  
Venue: Kala Kendra  
Date: December 9-22  
Time: 12pm-8pm



**Classical Music Concert**  
Title: 2016 Charm of Korea VIII  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
Date and time: December 22 (6pm) & December 23 (3pm)



**Group Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Joloj - 2  
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka  
Date: December 17-29  
Time: 3pm-8pm



# NEWS bytes

## James Franco joins "Alien: Covenant"

James Franco is coming on board "Alien: Covenant", the sequel to Ridley Scott's "Prometheus."

He joins Michael Fassbender, Noomi Rapace, and Guy Pearce — who are reprising their roles from "Prometheus" — along with newcomers Katherine Waterston, Demian Bichir, Billy Crudup, and Danny McBride.

The film follows the colony ship Covenant as it heads toward a remote planet on the far side of the galaxy. Crew members discover what they believe to be an uncharted paradise, which turns out to be a dark, menacing world in which the only inhabitant is the synthetic David (Fassbender), a survivor of the doomed Prometheus expedition.

The film is the sixth in Scott's "Alien" franchise and arrives in theatres on May 19, 2017. Fox originally planned to release the movie in August, but decided several months ago to move it forward three months.

"Prometheus" was set in the late 21st Century and about 30 years before the events in Scott's 1979 movie "Alien". The original "Alien", starring Sigourney Weaver, was followed by three sequels in 1986, 1992, and 1997.

Franco is currently starring in Fox's "Why Him?" opposite Bryan Cranston.

Source: **Variety**



The director along with the cast and crew of the film at the launch.

## "Ankhi O Tar Bondhura" off the ground

### Morshedul Islam bringing Zafar Iqbal story to life

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Morshedul Islam, one of the most prominent film directors of the country, has shared a close connection with wordsmith Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal for many years. He has brought two of Zafar Iqbal's novels to the big screen — "Dipu Number 2" (1996) and "Amar Bondhu Rashed" (2011). Now, the helmer is making his third film from a Zafar Iqbal script — titled "Ankhi O Tar Bondhura", which was announced in a Mahurat ceremony in the capital on Tuesday.

Like his two previous films, this one

will also be targeted towards children and adolescents, and have teenagers at its centre. The film revolves around a blind girl, Ankhi, who comes to study at a general school. With support from a new headmistress, Dr. Raisa, her classmate Titu and others help Ankhi feel included.

When the students go to Banderban to celebrate being champion in a school cricket tournament, they are caught by human traffickers, but with their smarts and bravery, they escape and help get the perpetrators arrested. Ankhi's story inspires other specially-abled children to join the school.

Apart from a host of youngsters including Zahin Nawar Haque Isha (who

plays Ankhi) and Ananya Samael (who plays Titu), the film casts Suborna Mustafa, Tanuq Anam Khan, Al Mansur, Saberi Alam, Afsana Mahmud and others.

The National grant-winning film has been adapted from Dr. Zafar Iqbal's ("Ankhi O Amra Ko'Jon") by Morshedul Islam and Barkat Ullah Maruf. Munira Morshed Hossain is serving as executive producer, while Morshedul Islam and Faridur Reza Sagor are producing the film, under the banners of Monon Choloohitro and Impress Telefilm Ltd.

Principal photography will begin in Banderban next week, while a second phase will be filmed from January in various locations of Dhaka.

## Apurbo and Urmila in "Shonar Shikol"

**A CORRESPONDENT**

Apurbo and Urmila Srabonti Kar are joining forces for a new TV series, titled "Shonar Shikol". The pair has signed on to act in a 52-episode TV play directed by Syed Shakil which will be shot at various locations around the capital this week.

Apurbo will appear as a character named Arko, and his co-star plays a young woman named Jui. Regarding the play, Apurbo commented, "All I can say is that the story is fantastic, and every episode is intertwined in a very interesting way and very crucial to the plot. It has been enjoyable working in this play, and I can guarantee that the audience will be completely hooked to the series. It is always a pleasure working with Urmila, and as an actor she always strives to do her best."

Meanwhile, Urmila said, "Among the actors I have worked with so far, Apurbo is one of the most serious about his profession. He has always been helpful since the start of my career, and I have learned a lot from him. I am grateful to director Syed Shakil for giving me the opportunity to work in such a great play."

Syed Shakil informed that the play will be ready to air soon on a satellite channel. The play, scripted by Shafiqur Rahman Shantanu, also includes Abul Hayat, Saberi Alam, Shahadat Hossain, Badhon, Irfan Sazzad, Shabnam Faria, Snigdha Srabon and many more as members of the cast.



## MEGA CONCERT IN CHITTAGONG THIS WEEKEND

### Robi honouring stalwarts of port city

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Telecom operator Robi is set to honour the most prominent figures of Chittagong in a star-studded award show in the port city this Friday. The event, to be held at the MA Aziz stadium, is aimed at celebrating the company's success in the port city and "the special bond that Robi enjoys with the people of Chittagong".

The programme, titled "Dakche Chottogram", will feature a lineup of famous bands - Nagar Baul (James),

Aurthohin, Nemesis, Miles, Chirkutt, Shunno and popular singers - Kona, Elita, Bappa Majumder.

Renowned businessmen, professionals, sportsmen, musicians, educationists, artists, women empowerment activists, journalists and writers from Chittagong are going to be honored for their contribution in their respective areas.

As these Chittagonians of extraordinary credentials are role models for the youth, the award ceremony would allow the youth of Chittagong to take part in the programme, through their promotional campaigns.



## Pearl Jam, Journey, Joan Baez, ELO and Tupac in Rock&Roll Hall of Fame

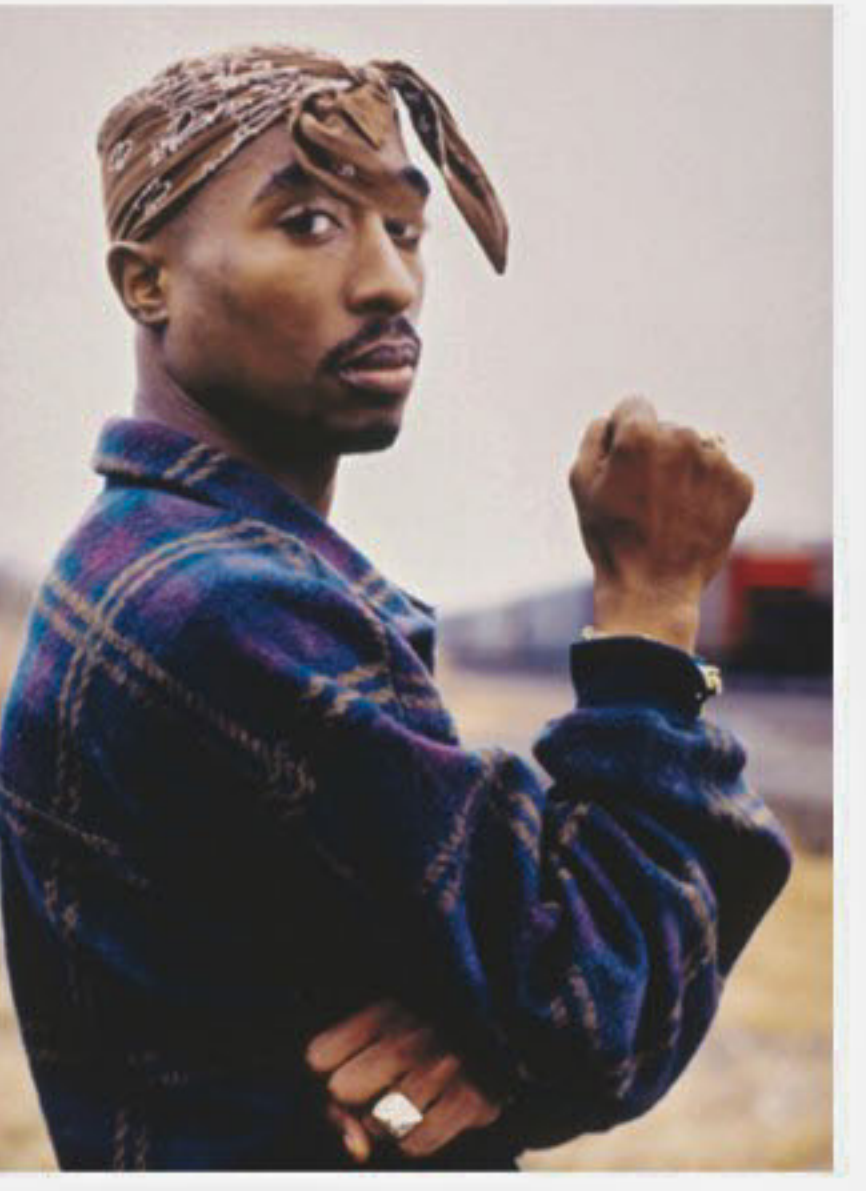


Joan Baez

Five first-time Rock and Roll Hall of Fame nominees -- Pearl Jam, Journey, Electric Light Orchestra, Joan Baez and Tupac Shakur -- will join three-time nominee Yes as the shrine's 2017 inductees.

Nile Rodgers, front-man of 11-time nominees Chic, will also receive an Award for Musical Excellence at the 32nd annual Rock Hall induction ceremony, taking place April 7 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame + Museum in Cleveland will open a special exhibit on March 30 to honor the 2017 inductees.

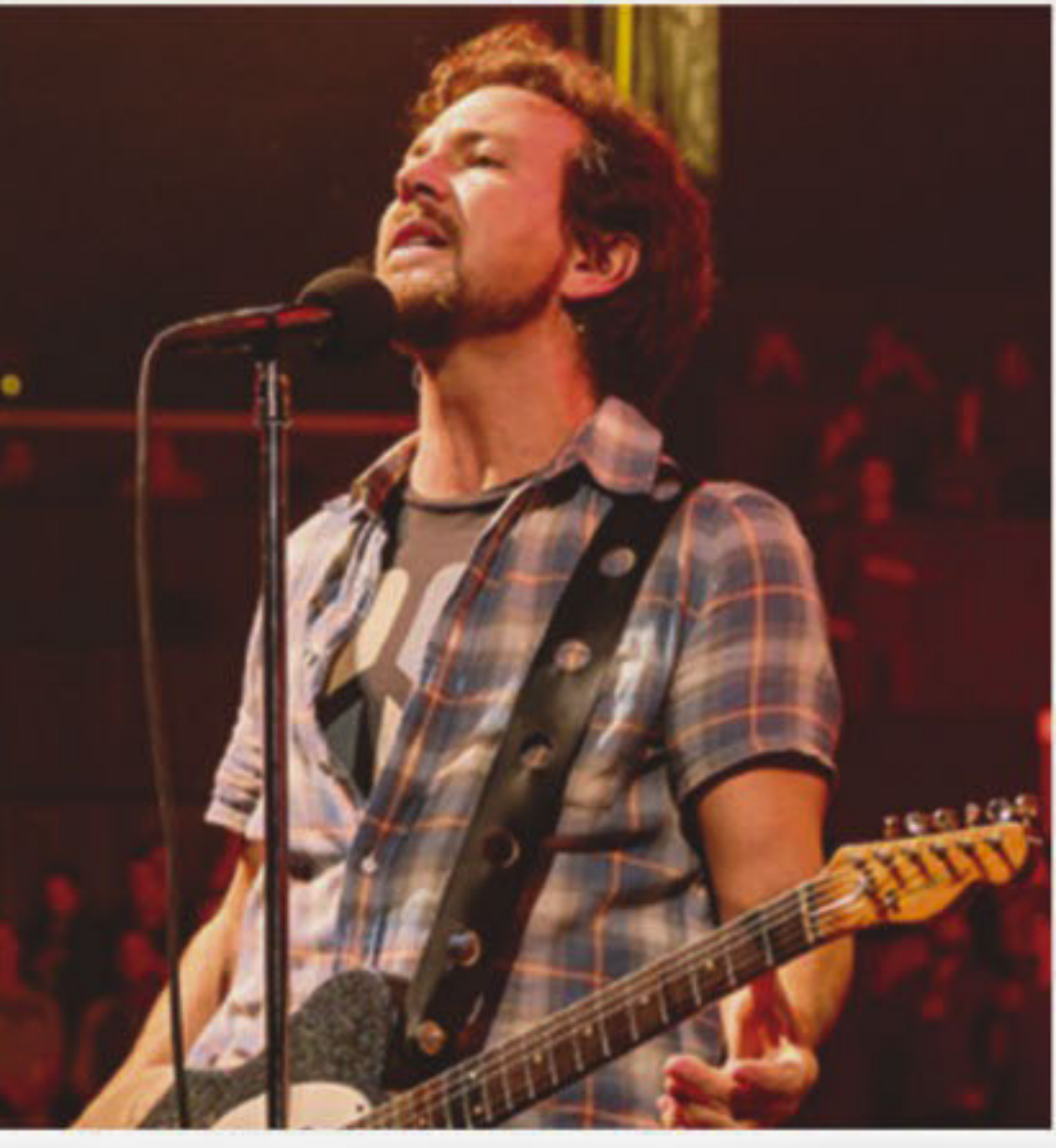
The inductees began reacting to the news



Tupac Shakur

immediately. Yes drummer Alan White told Billboard that after two previous nominations, "It's totally exciting. It's a great pleasure to be recognized for something you've been doing all your life and get recognition in the industry for the amount of work you've put in and to have done something that changed the course of history, I guess, over time."

Baez issued a statement, saying, "I never considered myself to be a rock and roll artist. But as part of the folk music boom which contributed to and influenced the rock revolution of the 60's, I am proud that some of the songs I sang made their way



Pearl Jam

into the rock lexicon. I very much appreciate this honor and acknowledgement by the Hall of Fame."

Journey, as well as Yes and ELO, have often been cited as Rock Hall snubs in previous years. Acts are eligible for the Rock Hall 25 years after the release of their first recording. In addition to Chic, others on the ballot this year included Bad Brains, Chaka Khan, Depeche Mode, Jane's Addiction, J. Geils Band, Janet Jackson, Joe Tex, Kraftwerk, MC5, Steppenwolf, The Cars and The Zombies.

Source: **Billboard**

## Japanese family story ready to enchant Bangladesh

*One of the most popular family-oriented Japanese dramas "Marumo's Story", that took Japan by storm, will be aired on ntv at 9:45 am on every Friday from December 23.*

The show, dubbed in Bangla, is a story about a single man called Mamoru, who is about to turn 40 and have no parenting experience. When his best friend dies, he adopts his deceased friend's twin children. With the twins and a pet dog that can speak, he overcomes various problems, and comes to realise that he, the twins, and the dog have become a real family.

Since the twins call him Marumo, the title of drama is "Marumo's Story." The

heart-warming story and dance performance by the twins delighted the Japanese viewers from children to adults.

The Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh in collaboration with ntv and the Japan Foundation will air the drama to further extend the cultural ties between Bangladesh and Japan, says a press release. The initiative looks to achieve its goal by introducing contemporary Japanese culture and a life of ordinarily Japanese people to Bangladeshi viewers.

