

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



Kathak Dance Festival 2016
Organiser: Kathak Dance Community
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi
Date: December 24-26
Time: 6:05pm daily



BD Hip-hop Festival
Organiser: Rendezvous
Venue: Le Meridien Dhaka
Date: December 25
Time: 5pm onwards



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



NEWS
bytes

Carrie Fisher in ICU
after heart attack



Carrie Fisher has been hospitalized and is in intensive care after suffering a full cardiac arrest on Friday while aboard an airplane headed from London to Los Angeles.

The actress was in critical condition earlier in the day, an emergency official told Variety. She was moved from the emergency room to the Intensive Care Unit hours later, her brother, Todd Fisher, said later in the evening.

Airport police responded at approximately 12:15pm Pacific Time to a woman with a medical emergency on a plane at LAX International Airport's Terminal 7. Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics were already on the scene, performing CPR on a female victim who had gone into cardiac arrest, when airport police arrived.

Fisher, 60, reportedly went into cardiac arrest about 15 minutes before the plane landed following the 11-hour flight, TMZ first reported. She was reportedly taken to UCLA Medical Center and placed on a ventilator.

Her "Star Wars" costars, fellow actors, and others in Hollywood took to social media to send the actress well wishes.

Fisher, known for playing Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" franchise, has recently been on tour promoting her memoir "The Princess Diarist".

Source: **Variety**

MERRY
MEMORIES
OF CHRISTMAS

FAYZA HAQ

A week before Christmas, bakery shop Coopers has its fairy lights. In Dhanmondi, the places are decked up with blue, white and purple fairy lights. I am forced to put on my 'dancing shoes and dance away the blues'.

I remember in Melbourne, Australia, how my sister-in-law had her cutlets ready by the afternoon. My brother-in-law and his wife had theirs too. I would bring in the sweet dish for potluck. My brothers-in-law would bring in their sweet dishes for good measure. And so the Christmas repast proceeded. There would be roast and slicing of the bird for all to taste. The veggies were not to be forgotten ... and the eggnog for fine taste. For the girls there where fruit drinks, with light alcohol. It was as if from Dickens's Christmas Carols, "Christmas Past and Present" had walked in. We would all sit to have the repast for what it was worth, and open our presents -- for what they were worth. There was powder and patch for me, just as there were hand bags for my sisters in law and talcum powder and shaving lotion for the boys.

As for merrymaking, there were discussions of all sorts. The children would talk of their books and their grandfather would correct their American English. The girls would speak about the girl's coming marriage to the Italian boy. And so the afternoon proceeded with



Churches, gifts and delicious food; all that makes for joyous celebration of Yuletide.

STAR FILE PHOTO

gaiety and laughter till the late evening, when it was time to go to sleep.

We would celebrate Christmas and Easter in my in-law's house without fail. There would always be a repast, with the entire family being invited. Each of the women would bring a dish and so the fest was shared.

In Colombo, Sri Lanka, there was making of ribbon sandwiches, and other sweets and savouries to taste, with dancing and singing to cheer up the soul. There were smile and picture-clicking to accompany.

Here in Jahanara Gardens, Dhaka, we would similarly share our goodies, fun and laughter. There was also much talk. I had Christmases here with Patricia D'Cruz and her family, with cakes and fruit drinks, meat and potatoes for meal. There were songs to regale, and some dancing to take part in, if the mood took one.

My sisters-in-law and I would go into the city on weekends and to St Francis Church, where the girls would light candles and pray in unison. It reminded me of the prayers at East West Centre, on Christmas, and prayers in churches in Karachi, Pakistan where I stayed and shared my good times with my friends.

Here we have Christmas carols with friends. We are given sheets of the song to help us along. We would then share sweets.

I had always gone for the Christmas feast with friends here in Dhaka in the past. We would go to the Sheraton or the Pan Pacific Sonargaon, and do some shopping of greeting cards, as well. We would share coffee and croissants and take snaps with Santa Claus. A car would be lent to us by the elder business brother, Asaduzzaman.

One would think that the artist Salahuddin's wife's comment at Alliance Franciase de Dhaka was true. People were afraid to come out; they stayed indoors when they could. There were fewer people at Pan Pacific Sonargaon this time. The boxes of Christmas-wrapped goodies at the entrance to the Christmas celebrations were limited. People were there snapping away and buying away, but there wasn't the ardour or enthusiasm of the past year. Something was just missing. Yes, people had their red Christmas caps. But that was it. Father Christmas visited the place of entertainment. But there was not the usual hustle and bustle.

On TV, there appeared to be more frolic and fun for children and adult viewers. There were strains of "Jingle Bells", decorated Christmas trees, and Father Christmas in his full regale, in his red coat, cap and trousers, as he played with the kids and gave them their gifts of cakes and biscuits. There were familiar songs of childhood days from siblings, as they took their turn of luck with the guessing game. The cooking of the Christmas meal was rich with nuts and other goodies. Both adults and young ones were spirited and happy in the Christmas season.



Andrew Kishore's
XMAS PLANS

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Prominent playback singer Andrew Kishore has been entertaining music lovers with his powerful voice for decades. He still secures the position in his long career span. The National Film Award-winning singer recently talked about his Christmas plans and more in a recent chat with The Daily Star.

How do you plan to spend this Christmas Day?
Andrew Kishore: This year, I will spend the day with my family in Dhaka. The day before the occasion, I had to go outside Dhaka for a show. I hope this time I will celebrate day with my family amid great pleasure like previous year.

How do you feel to give gifts on the day?

Andrew Kishore: It's definitely a good feeling. Especially it's most satisfactory when the gift is given to my dear ones on the occasion. It also gives me pleasure when I receive gift from anyone on Christmas Day.

How did you celebrate the day in your childhood?
Andrew Kishore: What a fantastic time we passed on the occasion those days! I become very nostalgic now when Christmas comes. We used to hang out with friends. The days still resonate in my mind.

What's your expectation from this Christmas?
Andrew Kishore: I just wish for everyone's welfare and prosperity. I also hope the world will remain in peace on the occasion.

Popular bands rock Chittagong
in stadium concert



Miles performs at the concert.

PHOTO: STAR

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong

Several thousand music enthusiasts of Chittagong city were entertained with famous songs from the country's leading bands and singers in a star-studded concert in Chittagong city on Friday evening.

The concert titled "Dakhhey Chottogram", took place at the MA Aziz Stadium from 4pm to 11pm, organised by mobile phone operator Robi on the occasion of celebrating 35 stalwarts of Chittagong for their contribution in different fields.

The programme started with the famous song "Mon Chuyecho" and "Bhanga Gorar Alapone" by Bappa Mazumder. After him came

Elita and Kona who sung their famous songs. Next on lineup were bands Shunno and Chirkutt. Shunno sang their songs "Shoto Asha", "Godhulir Opare", "Shono Mohajon", folk songs "Mon Tore" and "Khachar Bheto Ochin Pakhi".

Chirkutt came to the stage with a loud cheering from the thousands of audience. They started their performance with patriotic song "Dhono Dhanno Pushpe Bhora". They also performed their songs "Bondhu", "Jadur Shohor" and "Duniya".

Later Miles, Nemesis and Aurthohin performed one by one. The concert ended with the performance of Nagar Baul.

Christmastime for Kalyan

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

A promising actor with a rising reputation in recent years, Kalyan Corraya is hard-working and dedicated to his profession. Like in most parts of the world, today is a special day for the young artiste, and he shares with The Daily Star his Christmas plans, and more.

What do you look forward to most on Christmas Day?
Kalyan Corraya: I am most excited about receiving gifts - they could be anything, and I would accept it as gifts come from love and thoughtfulness. I love different kinds of electronic gadgets though!

Is there a family tradition you observe every year during this time?
Kalyan Corraya: We celebrate Christmas in the typical fashion most people do - with gift-giving, and taking time off to spend it together with the whole family. We have lunch and dinner together, and in the evenings we all gather for activities such as singing. Sometimes there are formal cultural programmes which we all attend as well.

Christmas encapsulates a spirit of giving and togetherness - how do you feel we could extend this spirit to help the community?
Kalyan Corraya: Christmas is also a time for charity where we donate money and clothes for the poor. Church groups carry out collections where they help gather



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

various resources for donation. Orphanages run by churches also receive money at this time of the year to obtain books and other academic facilities for the children. The parish council has always been looking after organisations for the old, sick and the needy, and there does not need to be a special time in the year where we extend our generosity - it can be done anytime.

What are your plans for today?
Kalyan Corraya: Last Christmas I was in Australia, and missed my family dearly. This year I plan to make up for that by going to our ancestral village and spend time with all my relatives and friends. It has been nearly a decade since we have celebrated Christmas there, so it is something I am looking forward to eagerly.

Everyone recognises you as an actor. Is there a hidden talent you possess that no one knows of?
Kalyan Corraya: I'm quite good at art - I got A's in art throughout school. I love pencil sketching, particularly still life drawings. I am also quite apt at outdoor sports and have won many awards for sports. But since I turned to acting I haven't had time to practice other hobbies.

TV WATCH
Special Christmas TV play "Abohoman" on Rtv

A CORRESPONDENT

A special TV play on the occasion of Christmas, titled "Abohoman" will air at 7:40pm on Rtv tonight. Written and directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud, it casts Prova, Mishu Sabbir and Jovan, among others.

The story of "Abohoman" is set in 1990-92, when middle-class families were conservative and under strict authoritarian supervision from the head of the family. It is the story of two orphaned brothers Robert and David, and a beautiful girl named Lisa who David falls in love with.

