

WHAT'S ON

Concert
 Concert For Fighters
 Bands: Maqsood O' Dhaka, Meghdol & others
 Venue: Raju Sculpture, DU
 Date: Jan 12
 Time: 3pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Mercury Falling
 Artist: Mustafa Zaman
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: December 9-Jan 4
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Theatre
 Play: Crutch-er Colonel
 Troupe: BotTala
 Venue: Mahila Samity
 Date: January 6
 Time: 7pm



Dylan Tribute Concert
 Blowin' in the Wind
 Venue: Edge Gallery
 Date: Jan 6
 Time: 7pm



Freestyle for Homeless
 Music, Dance, Graffiti
 Venue: Robinro Sarobar, Dhanmondi
 Date: Jan 13
 Time: 4pm



NEWS bytes



Ray Davies receives Knighthood

British band The Kinks' Ray Davies received a knighthood this weekend for his service to the arts, as part of Queen Elizabeth's annual New Year Honours list.

The Kinks front-man was initially awarded the CBE - Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire - by the Queen in 2004.

Davies joins rock royalty like Paul McCartney, Elton John, Mick Jagger, Van Morrison and Rod Stewart as musicians who have been knighted by the Queen; David Bowie turned down the honor in 2003. "I would never have any intention of accepting anything like that," Bowie said at the time. "I seriously don't know what it's for. It's not what I spent my life working for."

John Lennon also returned the MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) he was awarded as a member of the Beatles with a letter to the Queen that recently resurfaced.

Other notables that received either a damehood or knighthood on the Queen's New Year Honours 2017 list include Oscar-winning actor Mark Rylance, actress Naomie Harris, tennis star Andy Murray, Vogue editor Anna Wintour and former Spice Girls singer Victoria Beckham.

Source: **Rolling Stone**

"Mati'r Projar Deshe" to premiere at DIFF

FAHMIM FERDOUS

"Mati'r Projar Deshe" (A Kingdom of Clay Subjects), a film by Bijon Imtiaz, is set to premiere in Dhaka at the upcoming 15th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF). Last year, the film made an appearance at the Seattle International Film Festival and Chicago South Asian Film Festival, taking home the Best Film award.

The premiere will be held at 7pm on January 13 at the National Museum's main auditorium.

Produced by Goopy Bagha Productions, "Mati'r Projar Deshe" is set in rural Bangladesh, and shows the struggles of women through the perspective of a 10-year old boy, Jamal, and his struggle for identity. The film casts Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Rokeya Prachy, MA Shakil, Chinmoyee Gupta, Anindo, Sheuli, Abdullah Rana, Ramiz Raju,

Kochi Khondokar and others.

The initial impressions from the film's trailer promises a hard-hitting narrative in a candid, and yet sensitive storytelling approach. Bijon, who has also written the film, captures the essence of rural life and its various aspects, especially the treatment of women with perfection, and the cast seems to hold the story up strongly. The cinematography also looks interesting, as does the score. Bijon's academic schooling in filmmaking (Masters in filmmaking from University of California, Los Angeles) is quite evident in the trailer, as is apparent the care taken in making the film that took about four years to complete.

The film's producer Arifur Rahman, Bijon and film's crew will attend the premiere. This year's DIFF, organised by Rainbow Film Society, will run from January 12-20 and screen films from 66 countries.



FLASHBACK

A schoolboy once wrote me a love letter in blood

... Swagata

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Swagata, a popular face of the country's entertainment industry, has been involved in acting, modeling and anchoring all at once. The Daily Star asked the artiste about memories of early romance in her life, in a recent interview.

"I received my first love letter from my brother Sandhi's student, when I was a schoolgirl. He wrote it with blood. However, I did not know whether it is human blood or not. Everyone at my house thought it was hilarious. He was also a school boy, and a junior to me.

"The story did not end here. One day, the boy came to our home with his mother, with a marriage proposal! It was amusing for me and my entire family, and we could not help but laugh. Since the incident, I

never saw that boy again.

"When I was a student of ninth grade, I used to go to a coaching centre. A boy would often confess his love for me. One day, he threatened my father to abduct me. My father said 'Please take her away. She never listens to me anyway.'

"After the incident, the body stopped harassing me.

I got many love 'proposals' since my teenage days. Many also wrote love letters for me, but I never wrote for anyone. During my college days, one of my close friends told me he was in love with me, but I refused his proposal. Later, he wanted to marry me; that was quite shocking for me.

Although I never responded to any romantic advances in my life, I only made one such confession, and that person is my husband."

Classical music soiree in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

A classical music soiree was held in Manikganj on Monday night. Nazrul-Promila Institute, an organization formed in memory of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and his wife Ashalata Sen Promila, arranged the programme titled 'Purobi' at an auditorium at Aricha ghat under Shivalaya upazila of the district.



An artiste presents a vocal performance at the programme. PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar-enlisted singers and local singers, including Ustad Dulal Kumer Das and Jannatul Ferdous Peu rendered songs there.

Earlier, a discussion on 'practicing classical music' was held. Kamal

Mohammad Rashed, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Shivalaya upazila, presided over the discussion. Mohammad Ali Akbar, chairman of Shivalaya Upazila Parishad; Ali Ahsan Mithu, vice chairman, Babul Akter Monjur, president of Nazrul-Promila

Institute and others addressed. They underscored the need of practicing music in its true form.

The programme began at around 6pm and continued till 10pm. Hundreds of music lovers enjoyed the event.



Students of Ati Bhawal Uchcha Madhyamik Bidyalaya in Keraniganj perform at a cultural programme organised to celebrate the distribution of new books to high and primary school level students on school premises on January 1. Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Helaluddin Ahmed was present as chief guest while Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Salahuddin as special guest at the event.

"Rogue One" rules over New Year's weekend



New Year's kicked off with familiar favorites, with "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" and "Sing" dominating the domestic box office. Both films have emerged as the biggest hits of the holiday season.

The "Star Wars" spinoff topped the box office, just as it has since opening three weeks ago. "Rogue One" racked up \$64.3 million for the four-day holiday weekend, pushing its North American total to \$439.7 million, putting it in second place among last year's highest-grossing domestic releases. Globally, "Rogue One" has made \$774.9 million through Sunday, with China, the world's second-largest film market, yet to open.

Disney, which released "Rogue One" through its Lucasfilm banner, has four of the year's top five domestic earners, including "Finding Dory", which was the highest-grossing stateside film with \$486.3 million. "Rogue One" is the first of several planned spinoff films that will exist outside of the main Skywalker family saga. Disney is also readying a film about Han Solo's origins, with Alden Ehrenreich poised to inherit Harrison Ford's blaster.

"Sing" an animated story about a talent competition involving animals, picked up \$56.4 million, bringing the film's domestic total to \$180 million. "Sing" is the latest

offering from Illumination and Universal. The partners have previously collaborated on "Despicable Me" and last summer's hit, "The Secret Life of Pets". "Sing" features vocal work from Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon, Seth MacFarlane, and Taron Egerton, as well as music from the likes of Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, and Stevie Wonder.

In third place was "Passengers", a science-fiction romance with Chris Pratt and Jennifer Lawrence.

The end of the year also played host to a slew of awards seekers. Paramount's "Fences" scored among the adult dramas flooding theatres. The August Wilson adaptation is generating Oscar buzz for star and director Denzel Washington, as well as for Viola Davis. Both actors appeared in an acclaimed 2010 Broadway revival of the play. Lionsgate's "La La Land" is a hit with critics and audiences. The musical reunites Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, who previously appeared together memorably in "Crazy Stupid Love" and less so in "Gangster Squad". Along with "Manchester by the Sea" and "Moonlight," "La La Land" is seen as a leading contender for a best picture statue at the upcoming Academy Awards.

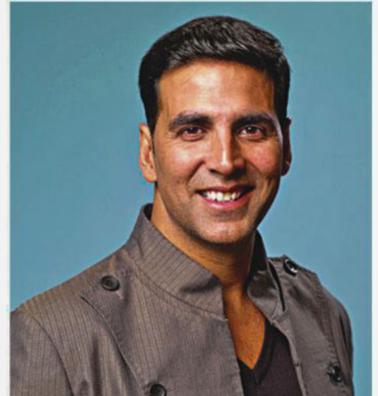
Source: **Variety**

Salman and Karan Johar to co-Produce Akshay Kumar's next

Yet-untitled project to release in 2018

Filmmaker Karan Johar made a blockbuster announcement on January 3, revealing that he is all set to co-produce a film with Salman Khan which stars Akshay Kumar in lead. "Truly a fraternity feeling when friends come together to make a special film," Karan wrote in a separate tweet after making the announcement. Just a day before, Akshay Kumar had announced the four films he's currently busy with -- all of which will release this year. And now, Akshay's dates-diary has allotted time for a fifth film which will release in 2018.

Johar's Dharma Productions and Salman's Salman Khan Films will back the film, which will be directed by Anurag Singh.



Meanwhile, Akshay's films calendar for 2017 is as follows: first up is "Jolly LLB" directed by Subhash Kapoor. He'll then be seen in "Toilet Ek Prem Katha" with Bhumi Pednekar, and his much awaited film with Rajinikanth, titled "2.0", will release around Diwali. Finally a film based on Arunachalam Muruganantham titled "Padman", which will be his wife Twinkle Khanna's first film as owner of Mrs FunnyBones Productions. It will be directed by R Balki.

Salman Khan, 51, has Kabir Khan's "Tubelight" and Ali Abbas Zafar's "Tiger Zinda Hai" with Katrina Kaif up his sleeve. Salman shot for the film in Ladakh and Manali with Chinese actress Zhu Zhu all through 2016 while "Tiger

Zinda Hai" is still in scripting stage. The film is a sequel to "Ek Tha Tiger", which featured the same cast with Kabir Khan as director.

Karan Johar's last film as director, "Ae Dil Hai Mushkil", was a hit and meanwhile, he is all set for the release of "OK Jaanu", "Badrinath Ki Dulhania" and "Dragon".

Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar have costarred in 2003 film "Mujhse Shaadi Karogi" while Salman had a cameo in KJo's debut film "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai". The trio was seen together recently at the event to launch the first look of "2.0". The event was hosted by Karan Johar while Salman was a surprise guest.

Source: **NDTV Movies**