

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

Solo Quilt Exhibition
 Title: Colours in Quilt
 Artist: Jahan Firoz
 Venue: Gallery Twenty One
 Date: January 6-15
 Time: 12 pm-8 pm

17th Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Eternel Bengal
 Artist: Balodeb Adhikary
 Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU
 Date: Jan 08-14
 Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: My Dream World
 Artist: Iranian Painter Sarah Hojjati
 Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: Jan 8-20
 Time: 3pm-8pm

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



Guests at the ceremony unveil the album.

TRIBUTE ABDUL GAFUR HALI A legend of Chittagonian folk music

ARUN BIKASH DEY, *Chittagong*
 The demise of Abdul Gafur Hali is a huge loss for the cultural arena of Chittagong as well as that of the country. The legendary lyricist, composer and singer of folk, mystical and local songs passed away at the age of 88 on December 21 last year. He was not only a lyricist, composer and singer but also a playwright and continued his creative activities till death.

"Banu re! O Banu!", "O Shyam Rengun Naw Jaiyo", "Monero Bagane Phootilo Phool Re", "No Jaiyo AaNre Felai Baafor Barit" and "Panjabiwala". His mystic songs include "Kon Sadhona Tanre Paoa jai", "Ischool Khuilachhe Re Maola", "Dekhe Ja Re Maijbhandare", "Koto Khela Janore Maola", and "Cholo Jai Ziyarate Mohsen Auliyar Dorbare". Apart from the songs, Gafur Hali also penned six folk plays using his

Gafur Hali composed over 2,000 local folk, murshidi and maizbhandari songs in his over 65-year music pursuit since 1950s. He was born in Rashidabad village of Patiya upazila in Chittagong in 1929. Since his childhood, Hali was a big fan of jatrappala. He used to attend and enjoy jatrappalas and punthipath (manuscript recitation shows) regularly. He was also a big fan of movies at his early age and used to come to the city by train to enjoy movies in cinema halls. Hali used to inculcate the songs of movies and started to sing in his own voice. Afterwards he was fascinated by mystic songs.



native language of Chittagong. Of the plays "Gulbahar", "Nilmoni", "Ashke Bondhu" are notable.

All those things inspired him to emerge as a lyricist, composer and singer in the next part of his life. The songs penned and composed by Hali started to be aired from Chittagong Betar since 1963. He inspired the Freedom Fighters in the Liberation War in 1971 by his songs like "Tor loy aanr loy, no oibo o bhai, aai Bangalee tui Pathan, tor desh aanr desh, dui hazar mile bebodhan".

In 2004, Professor Hans Harder of Heidelberg University in Germany published a research book on Gafur Hali.

Gafur Hali penned and composed many popular songs including "Sona Bondhu Tui Amare Korli Re Dewana",

In 2010, a documentary named "Metropother Gaan" was made on life and the works of Abdul Gafur Hali. Filmmaker Shaibal Chowdhury directed the documentary.

A star-studded affair Music album "Malhar" launched at Shilpakala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer-musician Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb's fifth solo album "Malhar" was launched at National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on January 5. Poet Hedayetullah Al Mamun wrote all the songs of the album while Taveer Alam Shawjeeb composed and recorded songs for the album, produced by G-Series Agniveena. Science and Technology Minister Architect Yafes Osman attended the event as chief guest. The minister along with legendary singer Runa Laila, noted actress Kabari Sarwar, internationally-famous artist Monirul Islam, Senior Secretary of the Commerce Ministry Hedayetullah Al Mamun, eminent media personality Faridur Reza Sagar, noted Nazrul singer Fatema-Tuz-Zohra, owner of G-Series Nazmul Haque Bhuiyan and others

unveiled the album. Apart from the guests, noted singer Samina Chowdhury, celebrated actress Shomi Kaiser and renowned media personality M Hamid spoke at the event. "I learnt gaan (music) for five years at Chhayanaut. I also took a gun when I joined the Liberation War in 1971. Now I am serving the country as a politician. I hope the joint musical effort by Hedayetullah Al Mamun and Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb will impress all," said Yafes Osman, who recited some of his poems at the event. "I'll listen to the songs of the album in my car. Apart from his important duties as a senior secretary, Hedayetullah Al Mamun writes poems and songs. I hope Shawjeeb has done well as a singer-musician for the album," said Runa Laila. "Music, cinema and politics - all are parts of our life. I am felling great to be present in

such a beautiful programme. I hope the album will be nice to listen to. I wish the lyricist and singer-musician a grand success," said Kabari Sarwar. The semi-classical and adhunik styled album contains ten tracks including "Malhar", "Tumi Jakhon", "Phirey Esho", "Chulta Tomar", "Phagun Din Ke" and "Raat Nirghum". "The featured ten songs of the album are suggestive of ten different moods and feelings. We took a year to complete the album," said Shawjeeb. "I am Indebted to all present here to inspire me. This evening will remain ever fresh in my memory," said Hedayetullah Al Mamun. Later, Shawjeeb rendered two songs while his students Eva and Suptika presented a song each and noted sarod artiste Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan played sarod at the event.

NEWS bytes

Tatum, Hardy circling "Triple Frontier"

Channing Tatum and Tom Hardy are in early talks to star in Paramount's action thriller "Triple Frontier", reports Variety. Sources indicate the deals are still being worked out as scheduling conflicts are issues for all parties involved. The studio has shown interest in the two



actors since last month and while conversations have progressed, it's far from being a done deal for both. JC Chandor is on board to direct the film, which Charles Roven and Alex Gartner are producing. The film is set in the notorious border zone between Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil where the Iguazu and Parana rivers converge - making "la triple frontera" difficult to monitor and a haven for organized crime. Hardy can be seen next in FX's "Taboo". Tatum was most recently seen in the Coen Brothers' "Hail, Caesar!" and just wrapped production on "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" and Steven Soderbergh's "Logan Lucky".



APARAJITA on Deepto TV

A CORRESPONDENT

Deepto TV airs the TV series "Aparajita" at 6:30pm From Saturday to Thursday. Based on the literary classic "Baluchori" by Ashapoorna Devi, the drama revolves around the struggles of a strong woman, starring Nairoz, Afzal Kabir, Chitrolekha Guho, Saima Karim, Mahbuba Rezanur, Atik Rahman, Nusrat Jahan Khan, Sharmin ANkhi and more.

OM PURI PASSES ON

An actor who transcended cinematic barriers

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

Om Puri, one of India's most versatile actors who strode across parallel, mainstream Bollywood commercial cinema and Hollywood and British films with equal elan, died of a massive heart attack at his residence in Mumbai early yesterday. The 66-year-old actor reportedly returned from a film shoot last night, but did not answer the calling bell of his driver who raised an alarm. Puri, who gave a scintillating performance in several award-winning Indian films, including Satyajit Ray's TV film "Sadgati" and Govind Nihalani-directed "Aakrosh", also featured in several cross-over movies. Born in Ambala in northern state of Haryana to a Punjabi railway officer, Om Puri also acted in Bangla film "Chokh", directed by Utpalendu Chakrabarty in the role of a jute mill labourer. He made his film debut in 1976 in Marathi language film "Ghashiram Kotwal" based on a play of the same name by legendary playwright Vijay Tendulkar. He rose to fame with films like "Ardh Satya", "Aakrosh" (both directed by Nihalani) and Gautam Ghosh-helmed "Paar". His popularity later extended to mainstream cinema with iconic roles in films like "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron" and "Maachis" directed by Gulzar. His roles as a landless peasant in "Aakrosh" and a policeman cracking down hard on corruption in "Ardh

Satya" made him an iconic film personality. In both the films, he was paired with accomplished actress Smita Patil. A graduate of Film and Television Institute of India in Pune, Om Puri was also an alumnus of the 1973 batch of Delhi's National School of Drama where Naseeruddin Shah was a fellow student. Om Puri, along with Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi and Smita Patil,



were among the critically-acclaimed actors who flourished in the parallel cinema circuit in 80s mainly in the films made by Shyam Bengal, Nihalani and Ketan Mehta, like "Bhavni Bhavai" (1980), "Mirch Masala" (1986) and "Dharavi" (1992). He also played a cameo in British director Richard Attenborough's "Gandhi". In 1990s, he ventured into Bollywood cinema and starred opposite

legendary British actress Helen Mirren in Steven Spielberg's 2014 comedy drama "The Hundred Foot Journey". Over the years, Om Puri also made a name for himself in Hollywood and British productions. He appeared in films like "City of Joy" (1992), opposite Patrick Swayze; "Wolf" (1994) with Jack Nicholson; and "The Ghost and the Darkness" (1996) opposite Val Kilmer. He played General Zia-ul-Haq in Charlie Wilson's "War", which starred Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts. Another meaty role of his came in the British film "The Reluctant Fundamentalist". Om Puri earned international fame in British films such as "My Son the Fanatic", "East Is East", "The Parole Officer" and others. He was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award, in 1990 and the Order of British Empire. Some of his other notable films include "Gupt", "Yuva", "Don", "Agneepath" and "Bajrangi Bhaijaan". Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of Om Puri. Among those who expressed grief are directors Mahesh Bhatt, Karan Johar, Madhur Bhandarkar and Sujit Sarkar, and actors of all generations. Anupam Kher - his co-star of many films - described Om Puri as "one of our greatest actors." Boman Irani, Neha Dhupia and Akshay Kumar were just some of the many members of the Indian film fraternity who poured in their tributes on social media.

What will The Hulk be doing in "Thor: Ragnarok"?

It is hard to argue against the notion that the "Thor" series is one of the weaker elements of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It was fun when it hit theatres in 2010, but "Thor: The Dark World" was unquestionably a drag -- and it's often considered the worst entry in the MCU. Chris Hemsworth's solo Marvel franchise needs an absolute blast to redeem itself, and that's where "Thor: Ragnarok" comes in. Disney has just released an official synopsis for the third installment, and it sounds like the film is quite literally shooting for the stars with the help of The Hulk. Disney has finally released the synopsis for Taika Waititi's "Thor: Ragnarok", and it seems like nothing that fans have ever seen from a "Thor" movie before. The overall premise of the film follows everyone's favorite Asgardian marooned across the universe -- without the aid of his magic hammer Mjolnir -- in a desperate race to get back home before the villainous Hela's (Cate Blanchett) apocalyptic "Ragnarok" event destroys his kingdom. Along the way, he finds himself stranded on an alien planet and forced to face off against The Incredible Hulk in a vicious gladiator battle. Based on this synopsis, it sounds like Marvel is going to tell a hybrid Hulk-Thor story that serves the needs of both characters in



different ways. While "Thor: Ragnarok" will pay off the plot threads planted during Thor's dream sequence in "The Avengers: Age of Ultron", it seems that the film will also serve as a de facto "Planet Hulk" movie. This makes quite a bit of sense, as Marvel does not currently have a solo Hulk movie on its slate at any point in the near future, and this is an easy way to appease fans that have demanded a "Planet Hulk" movie for quite some time. It's also worth noting that it seems highly probable that MCU fans will gain far more information about where Hulk has been since he decided to leave Earth at the end of last "Avengers" movie. The Marvel Cinematic Universe progresses in real time, which means that the strongest of Earth's Mightiest Heroes has been missing for at least two and a half years. Ragnarok looks like to fill in the character's back-story and telling fans where he has been since his dramatic departure in the Quinjet after vanquishing Ultron. The mighty Asgardian warrior and his big green friend will smash their way into theatres later this year on November 3, 2017.