

15th Dhaka International Film Festival
 Organiser: Rainbow Film Society
 Venue: National Museum, AFD, EMK Center & Star Cineplex
 Date: January 12-20
 Time: 3pm-6pm

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

Theatre
 Play: Helen Keller
 Troupe: Swappadal
 Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: April 15
 Time: 7pm

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

Photographic Installation Exhibition
 Midnight Musings
 Artists: Apurbo and Imrul
 Venue: EMK Center
 Date: January 5-19
 Time: 9:30am-8pm



Pioneering photojournalist Syeda Khanam is a part of the exhibition.

Celebrating Bangladesh's QUIJOTAS

Spanish Embassy and Bengal Foundation launch virtual exhibition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Don Quixote", written by Spanish wordsmith Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, may not be a household book in this part of the world, but it is considered one of the most significant works of literature ever written. Marking the 400th death anniversary of Cervantes, the Spanish Embassy in Dhaka and Bengal Foundation jointly organised a virtual photography exhibition, titled "Quijotas of Bangladesh". The exhibition celebrates 10 women from Bangladesh, the 'Quijotas' (female of Quixote), who have displayed characteristics associated with Don Quixote -- brave, righteous, and breaking stereotypes. These women have contributed to society with their idealistic view and ability of pursuing endless battles. The virtual exhibition, available on the website of Bengal Foundation, was inaugurated on Friday at the Dhaka Club in presence of distinguished guests, featured 'Quijotas', artists and journalists. Alejandra López García, Deputy Head of Mission for the Embassy of Spain in Dhaka spoke about the concept of the exhibition and its connection to Cervantes, saying the aim of the project was to show the Spanish audience that "Bangladesh is more than just natural disasters and garment workers."

Luva Nahid Choudhury, Director General of Bengal Foundation, said "Sometimes, we cannot assess the true value we have, and it's best seen from an outsider's point of view", thanking the Spanish embassy for the initiative, and saluting the "women who have transcended barriers." The exhibition features photographs and voice tracks of the ten women, who range from legendary photographer Syeda Khanam, the internationally-acclaimed first female photojournalist of Bangladesh, to Krishna Rani Sarker, the captain of the Bangladesh U-16 women's football team that brought honours for the country. Other featured women are contemporary artist Taeba Begum Lipi; Nishat Majumder, the first Bangladeshi woman to scale Mount Everest; garment workers' rights activist Nazma Akhter; Parvin Nasima Nahar Putul, one of the first female professional athletes of the country; Shahana Afroz, a pioneer of ultrasound and nuclear medicine in Bangladesh; Syeda Rizwana Hasan, a prominent environmental activist and one of the leading young lawyers at the Supreme Court; Kohinoor Yeasmin, the CEO of women's support NGO Tarango, and Amena Begum, a housewife who manages a herd of 20 cattle and is the main bread-earner of her family.

Sadarang holds classical music conference in Chittagong

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

A three-day classical music conference was concluded in the port city on Friday night. Sadarang Uchchanga Sangeet Parishad Bangladesh organised the music soiree titled "20th National Classical Music Conference 2017" at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) where performances of new generation and seasoned artistes enthralled music aficionados. This year, the programme was dedicated to classical music maestro Ustad Nirad Barua. A total of 19 artistes from Bangladesh and India took part at the conference. Through organising its first conference, Sadarang Uchchanga Sangeet Parishad, Bangladesh began its journey in 1998. With his few disciples, Ustad Swamamoy Chakraborty started the activities of the organisation. Eminent scientist, Professor Emeritus Jamal Nazrul Islam was the President of the organisation till his death in 2013. The programme's concluding day started with a group choral performance "Sapta Surer Rangin Akashe" by artistes from Sadarang. Ustad Swamamoy Chakraborty composed the performance on Raga Mirsha Pilu. After the performance, Pandit Dilip Das from India presented raga Yaman followed by a Thumri on Raga Pilu. Later, artiste Supratik Das from India took the stage and enthralled the audience with his classical pieces on his sitar. Shubhendu Das accompanied tabla with the artiste. The conference ended with the enchanting performance by Swarnima Gosain, a disciple of classical maestros like Vidushi Shubha Mudgal and Kishori Amonkar. The artiste first performed a khyal on Raga Jhinjhoti, and later performed a bhajan on Raga Yaman Kalyan followed by two small pieces. Sarit Das and Swamamoy Chakraborty accompanied the artiste on tabla and harmonium respectively. The second day's programme began with the choral tabla lahora of 20 artistes from



Artistes of Sadarang perform a choral rendition.

PHOTO: STAR

Khagrachhari. Performances of violinist Shyamal Chandra Das and Ustad Asit Dey were mention-worthy. Tabla players Iftekhar Uddin Dollar accompanied them. On the first day, artistes Pramit Barua and Rituporna Chakraborty performed khyal and dhrupad vocals. The first day of the programme was ended with flute recital by artiste Md Moniruzzaman. He presented Raga Charukeshi and a Dhun on Raga Pahadi. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs supported the programme.



Fans across the world are still dealing with the tragic and sudden loss of Carrie Fisher in the final week of 2016, but as far as the Star Wars franchise goes, there have been discussions happening behind the scenes about how to proceed with Leia Organa in the new movies. One option that had been rumoured was to use a CGI version of Leia, but Lucasfilm assured fans that won't happen. In a statement, the company said "We don't normally respond to fan or press speculation, but there is a rumour circulating that we would like to address. We want to assure our fans that Lucasfilm has no plans to digitally recreate Carrie Fisher's performance as Princess or General Leia Organa.

Carrie Fisher was, is, and always will be a part of the Lucasfilm family. She was our princess, our general, and more importantly, our friend. We are still hurting from her loss. We cherish her memory and legacy as Princess Leia, and will always strive to honor everything she gave to Star Wars." Last week, it was reported that Disney and Lucasfilm were planning meetings with "Star Wars: Episode IX" director Colin Trevorrow and other involved parties on how to discuss options on what to do with Leia Organa. It was then further rumoured that negotiations were in place to secure Carrie Fisher's likeness so that Leia could be digitally recreated for future movies. Not wanting people to get

Star Wars responds to Leia CGI rumours

the wrong idea, Lucasfilm decided to set the record straight on StarWars.com by stating that there are no such plans in motion. Before her death, Carrie Fisher had already completed shooting on "Star Wars: Episode VIII", but it's still unclear whether there will be any alterations to her presence in the story. As for "Episode IX", Leia reportedly had some major moments, including a reunion with her brother Luke Skywalker, as well as a face-off with Kylo Ren, her corrupted son. Carrie Fisher will be seen as General Leia Organa one last time when "Episode VIII" is released on December 15.

Source: Cinemablend

NEWS bytes

Priyanka

hospitalised after on-set accident
 Indian actress Priyanka Chopra was involved in a minor accident on the set of her TV drama "Quantico" and taken to the hospital. The 34-year-old actress was later released by the doctor, and is now 'resting comfortably' at home, a representative from the production team of ABC confirmed. According to TMZ, the actress slipped and fell on her head while performing a stunt during the filming of the show on Thursday. She suffered a concussion. Priyanka was immediately rushed to hospital. The actress was examined and treated at the emergency room before she got discharged a few hours later. "I can confirm there was a minor incident last night on set. Priyanka was immediately taken to the hospital, examined by a doctor and released. (She) is resting comfortably at home on doctors orders, and will return to work after the weekend," a representative for the actress said.

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