

WHAT'S ON 15th Dhaka International Film Festival Organiser: Rainbow Film Society Venue: National Museum, AFD, EMK Center & Star Cineplex Date: January 12-20 Time: 3pm-6pm	MOTHER SOCIETY DHAKA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 15-20 JANUARY 2017	Solo Cartoon Exhibition By: Architect Dr. Sajid Bin Doza Bonny Venue: La Gallery, AFD, Dhanmondi Date: Jan 16-24 Time: 3-9pm		Selim Al Deen Memorial Fest 2017 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA Date: Jan 14-17 Time: 6:30pm		Solo Painting Exhibition Title: My Dream World Artist: Iranian Painter Sarah Hojjati 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	
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IX CHOBIMELA

Chobi Mela International Festival of Photography Bangladesh 2017



CHOBIMELA IX TO BEGIN FEB 3

Asia's largest photo fest returns to Dhaka

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Chobi Mela, Asia's first and largest photography festival, will launch its ninth edition on February 3. Organisers made the announcement in a press conference at the Drik Gallery yesterday. This year's theme for the biennial festival is 'Transition', and will run till February 16. Festival director Shahidul Alam, along with members of the curatorial team -- ASM Rezaur Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman, Munem Wasif, and guest curator Salahuddin Ahmed were present at the press conference.

"There is a lot to be proud about this festival," said eminent photographer and festival director Shahidul Alam. "This was the first photo festival in the continent, and since then many festivals have taken inspiration from us and are happening in Asia." He also elaborated on this year's theme -- which was selected through an online voting after a discussion forum from a number of themes proposed at the end of the last edition of Chobi Mela. "The

world is going through changes -- political, social and economic -- and people want to know more about it and find ways to go in the right direction," he said.

ASM Rezaur Rahman elaborated on the selection and structure of the festival. This year's festival will have 31 print exhibitions by 27 artists from 16 countries, with the majority of exhibitions at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. "In the context of Dhaka, we found that it was hard for visitors to visit all the exhibitions that were spread across the city last time, so this year we wanted it to be a little more concentrated," he said. Aside from Shilpakala, three venues in Old Dhaka -- Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts, Northbrook Hall and Beauty Boarding will host exhibitions while there will be a slideshow presentation at Ahsan Manzil. Security for foreign guests was also a concern this year following last year's extremist attacks, and having a central venue was also the sensible choice to facilitate security, Shahidul Alam added.

Exhibitions such as "Kanu's

Gandhi" by Kanu Gandhi, "The Poet with The Camera Photographs" of Nasir Ali Mamun/Photoseum (1972-1982), "Native Women of South India: Manners and Customs" by Pushpamala N, "United Red Army" by Naeem Mohaiemen and "Open Wound" by Stanley Greene will be a part of Chobi Mela IX.

Like the past editions, this festival will also see a number of workshops, artist talks, panel discussions and presentations taking place -- the most notable being famous Swiss photographer Anders Petersen's "Instincts". A workshop by Markus Schaden and Frederic Lezmi titled "The Photobook Masterclass" is already on at the Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, which is the education venue for the festival.

A mobile exhibition of selected photographs on rickshaw vans -- another signature aspect of Chobi Mela -- will also take the festival to various areas of Dhaka, particularly those which does not draw a lot of audience to the galleries.

This year, 10 Bangladesh artists working in various media have been

selected as fellows, to whom Chobi Mela has commissioned to produce site-specific artworks for the festival. Artists from different backgrounds of painting, drawing, animation, sculpture, photography, video, sound and installations will expand the possibilities of the medium and test the language of manifestations.

Two events this year have been specifically targeted to young Bangladeshi photographers and photojournalists -- workshop "Working Internationally: Strategies and Methodologies" and a talk by Mary O'Shea titled "Safety in Photojournalism".

"The world knows how far Bangladesh has come in photography, but Bangladesh itself doesn't know that," said Shahidul Alam, adding that there is an international interest into the Bangladeshi photography scene and what works they are producing. And Chobi Mela, which the New York Times described as "The world's most demographically inclusive photography festival", will once again make a push to show the home audience the evi-

New year, new stage show for SHAKIB KHAN

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award winning actor Shakib Khan had a busy 2016 packed with film shoots. He has now geared up for the new year. Yesterday the actor left for Kolkata for a stage show to be held today, marking his first such performance in 2017. He is the sole Bangladeshi artiste performing at the event, alongside popular West Bengal actors.

"I am upbeat about my performance in Kolkata, which is my first show this year. It will definitely be a great experience," said the Dhallywood hero. The actor's last film "Shikari" was very well received both in Bangladesh and Kolkata, which has heightened anticipation about his performance today. "I feel the audience in Kolkata is familiar with me and my work," he added.

Meanwhile the actor has his hands full. He has begun shooting for a new film titled "Ohonkaar," where Bubly will play the female lead. He is also currently wrapping up shooting for his latest film "Nawab," jointly produced by Bangladesh and Kolkata. On his film, Shakib said, "The audience will see me in a new light in this film as I'm playing the character of a nawab. I am quite eager for it to hit the big screens."

With such promising ventures in the pipeline, the actor has much to look forward to this year. He has also stated that he hopes his new films will appeal to younger audiences, an added reason for them to go to the movie theatres.



NEWS bytes

Controversial MJ comedy withdrawn

UK pay TV giant Sky said Friday it has decided not to air a TV program about Michael Jackson after his daughter Paris Jackson said she was "incredibly offended" by the portrayal of the late music star.

The episode was scheduled to be part of a series



called "Urban Myths" and was set to air on Sky Arts. It focused on Jackson taking a road trip from New York to Los Angeles with Elizabeth Taylor and Marlon Brando after the 9/11 attacks. Joseph Fiennes played Jackson.

"We have taken the decision not to broadcast 'Elizabeth, Michael and Marlon', a half hour episode from the Sky Arts Urban Myths series, in light of the concerns expressed by Michael Jackson's immediate family," Sky said. "We set out to take a light-hearted look at reportedly true events and never intended to cause any offense."

On Thursday, Paris Jackson tweeted following the release of a trailer for the episode. She said the images made her "want to vomit". A petition to boycott the episode had been signed by more than 20,000 people.

Source: **Billboard**



CLOSEUP KAOG 2017

Stories of love

A CORRESPONDENT

Intense moments of love arise when two souls come close to each other physically, breaking the barrier of online traps. Online love doesn't have the magic of the touch and chemistry, and hence true love is never possible. That's why real love stories happen when the soulmates are offline, not online.

On this thought, Closeup has brought, "Closeup Kachhe Ashar Golpo", where the audience is asked to send online-offline love stories. This is the 5th season of Closeup Kachhe Ashar Golpo campaign. The main theme of the stories will be going beyond online based relationships and coming physically close to each other to fulfill their love stories.

Stories can be sent till January 20 through www.closeupbd.com, giving a missed call at 096 1300 1400 or by sending an email at golpo@closeupbd.com. The website and Facebook page of Closeup Bangladesh has the terms and conditions to know more about the campaign.

From the submission, the three best stories will be selected and made into television dramas for airing on Valentine's Day. The media partner of the campaign is Banglavisian.

"Ladies Come Flying" at Gallery Cosmos Exhibition by Russian artist Sergey Radiuk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The inaugural ceremony of a four day painting exhibition by Russian artist Sergey Radiuk, titled 'Ladies Come Flying' will be held on January 17 at 6 pm at Gallery Cosmos. Minister of Cultural Affairs Asaduzzaman Noor will be present as chief guest and Ambassador of Russia to Bangladesh Alexander Ignatov will attend as special guest.

Director of Gallery Cosmos Tehmina Enayet will preside over the ceremony.

Sergey Radiuk is a Russian artist who has pioneered the "Jazz" trend in paintings and his work is inspired by the outlook of eminent artists who are moved by different themes. He is also the founder and president of International Association of Artists. He has held around 30 personal exhibitions both in Russia and participated in more than 100 international art expositions.

A total of 28 paintings will be displayed at the exhibition, which will remain open from January 17-20 at 12pm-8pm.



"X-Men" sequel may have found a title

There's no shortage of iconic X-Men storylines. For years the misunderstood heroes from the Marvel lore have represented a mainstay in the world of comics, and their adventures have become endlessly legendary. However, there's one storyline that rises above the rest, and it seems that the X-Men franchise is about to give it a proper adaptation. New rumours suggest the possibility that 20th Century Fox has tentatively titled the next X-Men movie, "X-Men: Supernova" and that seems to indicate that some major things are coming for Sophie Turner's Jean Grey in the near future.

A recent issue of Production Weekly confirmed that 20th Century Fox apparently has two separate X-Men titles currently in development. In addition to "X-Men: The New Mutants" (which have been known about for quite some time) it appears that the studio is also working on a project called "X-Men: Supernova".

The word "Supernova" stands out because it implies that the next X-Men movie will introduce more cosmic-based science fiction ideas into this universe. In its original publication, "The Dark Phoenix Saga" centered on Jean Grey finding herself exposed to the radiation of a solar flare. However, instead of being killed by the event, Grey is subsequently mutated by the radiation, thus amplifying her powers and turning her into the evil Dark Phoenix. It's one of the most iconic storylines in the history of the X-Men lore, and fans have waited for a proper adaptation for years. Although it was adapted in Brett Ratner's version of the storyline in 2006's "X-Men: The Last Stand", fans did not receive it all that well.

Logistically it makes quite a bit of sense for the newly rebooted X-Men continuity to take on the Dark Phoenix storyline. Although the bulk of Apocalypse's story revolved around the conflict with Oscar Isaac's En Sabah Nur,



the film also spent quite a bit of time setting up the idea that Jean Grey has more power than she realises. That movie ended with her embracing the full extent of her abilities, and it seems that she may have unwittingly opened a sort of Pandora's Box that could end in tragedy for her.

Of course, it's worth noting that the movie might not be called "Supernova" by the time it hits theatres. The current subtitle could simply be a placeholder for another version of the title -- such as "X-Men: Dark Phoenix". That said, "Supernova" still seems like a reliable sign that a traditional version of the Dark Phoenix Saga may be on the horizon.

Source: **Cinemablend**