

WHAT'S ON

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: 'Patakabyo Paramora' by Shambhu Acharya  
 Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi  
 Date: May 12-19  
 Time: 10am-8pm



**Theatre**  
 Play: Sanjhelar Bilap  
 Venue: Natmandal, Dhaka University  
 Date: May 16-18  
 Time: 7pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Can the Divine Presence be Felt So Easily?  
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka  
 Date: May 5-17  
 Time: 3pm-9pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Marking 13th Anniversary of Galleri Kaya  
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara  
 Date: May 5-28  
 Time: 11am-8pm



**Dhrupad & Flute Recital**  
 Praner Khela by Bengali Foundation  
 Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayanaut  
 Date: May 18  
 Time: 7pm



NEWS bytes

Zac Efron to play notorious serial killer

Zac Efron has come on board to star as serial killer Ted Bundy in the independent drama "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile".

Voltage Pictures and Michael Costigan's Cota Films are producing with Joe Berlinger directing. Michael Werwie wrote the original screenplay, which won the Nicholl Fellowship first prize.

The film is set to commence principal photography on October 9. Voltage will fully finance and is handling international sales at the Cannes Film Festival.

Efron will be seen next in Paramount's "Baywatch" opposite Dwayne Johnson. He's also starring in Fox's "The Greatest Showman" with Hugh Jackman and Michelle Williams, directed by Michael Gracey.

The project was unveiled in 2014 at the Cannes Film Festival with Ziad Doueiri ("The Attack") set to make his English-language feature debut. It follows the dysfunctional relationship between Bundy and his long-time girlfriend Liz. Bundy, a killer and rapist of young girls and women who was notoriously charming, was executed in Florida in 1989. Berlinger was nominated in 2012 for an Academy Award for best documentary for "Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory".

Source: Variety



A walk down the memory lanes of FDC... In conversation with legendary actress Shuchanda



ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Acclaimed actor Shuchanda has appeared in numerous classics since the mid-'60's, and her contribution towards cinema has cemented her reputation as a living legend. The actor is also a noted producer and director, with her second directorial venture "Hajar Bochhor Dhorey" bagging the National Award in 2005. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the actor reflects on her early years in cinema, and shares her outlook on today's scenario in films.

Excerpts:

"I have begun my career in film in the mid '60's and to me, that decade, as well as a few years after it, were the best years. Looking back brings some mixed feelings; it is a great privilege to have been a part of it all, but also regretful that the greatness of cinema was tragically cut short. People would flock to the halls to watch new films, and there had been a direct connection between the filmmakers and the viewers. The scenario today is quite the opposite, and cinemagoers have dwindled down as the quality of mainstream cinemas have lessened and almost disappeared. We do have the rare exception once in a while, but in those years every film was made with great care and ensured a good story. Back in those days, we used to have lively discussions regarding the films being released, but now there is no such cinematic production of critical value. Missing a day to visit FDC would make the entire day feel wasted and unfulfilled. But now it fills me with sadness every time I pass by its gate; each spot there had been so intimate and familiar to me once, it breaks my heart to see its state due to the films being made. However, all is

not lost; there is still a chance to revive good mainstream films again. Strong initiatives must be taken by the government, the production team, and anyone concerned with the industry. I see strong talent everywhere, the only thing left to do is to open up the path to display these abilities."

"For me, no film can top "Jibon Theke Neya." All the films are quite dear to me, but this film occupies a special place in my heart like no other. Whenever I see people flocking towards Shaheed Minar to pay their respects on February 21, I vividly remember the time we all went to the Probhat Ferry for shooting on the day. Anwar Hossain, Razzak, Shawkat Akbar, Rosy Samad and I, along with a few others, had been in the car, and the crowds milling about were so elated to see us that when they flooded towards our vehicle, it felt as though it had been lifted off its wheels, floating among the crowd. My love for the film resonates with February 21, and whenever I watch the proceedings the immediate reality juxtaposes with my memories, leaving me with a feeling quite special and unparalleled."



Nawshaba and Tahsan Old friends' maiden project on-screen

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular singer Tahsan and TV actor Nawshaba have been friends since their years as students at Dhaka University, for around 15 years. Despite being enrolled in different academic programmes, the two had developed a strong bond of friendship that lasted over the years.

"We used to catch up quite often during those days when we hadn't found fame," said Nawshaba, "Charukola was a favourite haunt along with other areas within the campus. Tahsan's popularity shot when he came out with his first hit song, during which time I had also become a known face after doing a few TV plays. But we never had the opportunity to work together, until now."

The duo will appear in a TV play titled "Durbin Prem", directed by Rajib Sarkar. Shooting has recently been wrapped up in Uttara, and the pair is cast as a married couple. The plot revolves around the complexities of marriage, and explores the relationship between the couple.

"During shooting, it didn't feel like I was doing any work! He and I were chatting away the whole time like the old days. This has been a memorable and nostalgic shooting for us," stated Nawshaba.

KING ARTHUR is the Hollywood summer's first big flop



A scene from "King Arthur".

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" continued its box office reign this past weekend, while "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword" became the summer season's first major flop.

Disney and Marvel's superhero sequel followed up its \$145 million opening weekend domestically with an additional \$63 million. The film's domestic total is now just shy of \$250 million.

"King Arthur", meanwhile, may just want to put that sword back where he found it and pretend this never happened. The release from Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow made only \$14.7 million, a paltry sum considering its \$175 million production budget.

The mythical epic starring Charlie Hunnam in the titular role was critically drubbed. Director Guy Ritchie had success with a similar re-imagining of longstanding franchise with 2009's "Sherlock Holmes" and its sequel "A Game of Shadows", which both grossed over \$500 million worldwide. More recently, though, his spin on "Man From U.N.C.L.E." saw a disappointing take (\$110 million globally) despite achieving a bit of a cult and critical following.

The weekend's other major release was neither a box office heavyweight like "Guardians" nor a bust like "Arthur". Fox's "Snatched", starring Amy Schumer and Goldie Hawn as a mother and daughter pair, grabbed \$17.5 million, landing it in second overall. The Mother's Day release has been less than adored by critics, but audiences have earned it a more positive response. The mid-budget, R-rated comedy was produced by Chernin Entertainment and Feigco Entertainment.

Universal's "The Fate of the Furious" and Fox's "Boss Baby" rounded out the top five. The former tacked on an additional \$5.3 billion in the weekend, raising its domestic total to \$215 million. The latter earned \$4.6 million for a grand total of \$162.7 million after seven frames.

Source: Variety



Staging of "Sanjhelar Bilap" at Natmandal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three consecutive shows of "Sanjhelar Bilap" ("Delirium of Twilight"), a Dhaka University Theatre and Performance Studies Department production, is being staged at Natmandal, situated in the campus. Based on the Bangla translation of Jean Racine's French classical play "Phaedra" by Asit Kumer, Professor Israfil Shaheen has directed the play.

The stagings began on May 16 at 7pm and will continue till May 18. Apart from theatre lovers, renowned theatre and cultural personalities enjoyed the show on the opening day.

MA final semester students of the department Md Elius, Afrin Huda, Esthiak Khan Pathan, Dhiman Chandra Barman, ASM. Golam Nasir, Shawgatul Islam Himel and ASM Ali Imam are cast in the production.

Israfil Shaheen's directorial approach has already been made a trend in Bangladesh. "I have tried to present the production assimilating our very own traditional and local resources, and not depending on the western ones," asserted Israfil Shaheen.

Dramaturge, narratives and lyrics for the play have been done by Shahman Moishan. Sydur Rahman Lipon, Kazi Tamanna Haque Sigma, Amit Chowdhury, and all students-performers of this production have lent their voices to choral songs and crowd.

Ashiq Rahman Leon has designed set, light and props while Wahida Mollick, Ashiq Rahman Leon and Kazi Tamanna Haque Sigma has designed costume. Rahmat Ali conceptualised make-up while Sydur Rahman Lipon and Kazi Tamanna Haque Sigma have composed music for the play.

The production has been invited by the Department of Theatre, Grand Valley State University, Michigan, USA for a staging next year.

Actors generally lead very busy lives, with shooting making up most of their hectic schedules. In an effort to strengthen kinship among artistes, actor Tahmina Sultana Mou has taken the initiative to arrange a casual get together every month at La Gracia, a restaurant in Dhaka. The first meeting took place on May 11, establishing a monthly ritual that will take place at any day of the actors' choosing.

