



"Dhaboman" will be the opening play of the festival. STAR FILE PHOTO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Theatre's six-day Selim Al Deen Festival opened yesterday at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, featuring an array of plays and other programmes.

The opening day of the festival included a journey to the master playwright's grave at Jahangirnagar University (JU), and a seminar at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) where noted academic Salimullah Khan presented a paper.

The second's day's programmes today will include a children's painting competition, and the formal inauguration of the festival at BSA's National Theatre Hall. Professor Dr. Farzana Selim, Vice Chancellor, JU, will be the chief guest at the ceremony. A number of awards – including the Selim Al Deen Award 2017, Mir Maksudus Salehin-Bazul Karim Award, Fawzia Yasmin Shibly Award and prizes for the painting competition will be handed at the event. Preeminent thespian Aly Zaker will be the recipient of the Selim Al Deen Award. Dhaka Theatre will stage their play "Dhaboman", written by Selim Al Deen and directed by Shimul Yousuff, on the day.

The other plays to be staged at the festival subsequently are "Chandrabari Kotha" by Kushtia's Bodhon Theatre, written by Aslam Ali and directed by Shamim Sagor (at National Theatre Hall); "Rupchan Sundori'r Pala" by

Bongalok Dhaka (at Studio Theatre Hall); "Nimojjon" by Dhaka Theatre, written by Selim Al Deen and directed by Nasiruddin Yousuff (National Theatre Hall); "Swopnoromonigon" by JU's Theatre and Dramatics department, written by Selim Al Deen and directed by Dr. Afsar Ahmed; and "Neelakhyan" by



Mohakala Natya Sampraday, written by Anon Zaman based on Kazi Narul Islam's "Sapurey" and directed by Yusuf Hasan Orko. Apart from "Rupchan Sundori'r Pala" (which will be staged at Studio Theatre Hall), all other plays will be staged at National Theatre Hall. The festival is being organised by

DHAKA THEATRE'S SELIM AL DEEN FESTIVAL BEGINS

Aly Zaker to be honoured today

Dhaka Theatre, Bangladesh Gram Theatre and Selim Al Deen Foundation, with assistance from BSA.

Natyacharya Selim Al Deen is perhaps the most celebrated name of Bangladeshi theatre in post-Rabindranath era, and is credited with ushering in a new era in our theatre scene through his plays and extensive research in the field. Born on August 18, 1949 in Feni, he was attracted to Bangla literature at a young age, and with encouragement from Munier Chowdhury, focused on theatre. Selim Al-Deen's most important contribution to Bangla theatre is his research into its roots. He was of the view that the history of Bengali drama is older than that of European drama. He introduced epic realism in Bengali literature, and several of his works including "Bashon", "Atotayi", "Keramat Mangal", "Hat Hodai" and "Chaka" follow this pattern. He also brought out the folklore tradition called Katha-natya in his dramas "Joiboti Koinnar Mon" and "Hargaj". Selim Al-Deen also revived Mymensingh Geetika, and penned a few plays following the pattern. To pursue his love of theatre, he founded the Drama and Dramatics Department at Jahangirnagar University. He was one of the founding members of Dhaka Theatre that played a vital role in the progressive theatre movement of post-Liberation Bangladesh.

NEWS bytes

Obi-Wan spinoff in early development



With Disney's untitled Han Solo "Star Wars" standalone film approaching the finish line, Disney is now looking to tell the story of another iconic character in a galaxy far, far away.

Sources tell Variety that Disney is in early development on a film centered on Jedi master Obi-Wan Kenobi and is in talks with "Billy Elliot" helmer Stephen Daldry to direct.

The character appeared in the first six "Star Wars" films, first played by Alec Guinness in Episodes 4-6 and then by Ewan McGregor in Episodes 1-3. Kenobi is best known as the Jedi master who first trained Anakin Skywalker, who would later turn to the dark side and became Darth Vader. Kenobi would then go on to train Skywalker's son Luke before falling to Vader in "Star Wars: A New Hope".

There is not yet a script or a writer, and it's currently unknown if this will be the next standalone story in the "Star Wars" universe.

"Rogue One" was the first of the "Star Wars" standalones, and Disney is currently shooting an untitled origin tale of beloved smuggler Han Solo. Some of the other standalones in development include a Jabba the Hutt story and a Boba Fett movie.

Source: **Variety**

EMMA STONE becomes the world's highest-paid actress

"La La Land" -- the city and its celluloid namesake -- has been very kind to Emma Stone. At just 28 years old, the Hollywood star is this year's highest-paid actress, banking \$26 million pretax in our 12 month scoring period.

Stone has her earnings from the movie-musical to thank for the bulk of her payday, which also won her a Best Actress Oscar. Her portrayal of Mia, an aspiring actress and barista, garnered rave reviews and goosed the film to \$445.3 million at the global box office.

She bested Jennifer Aniston (No. 2; \$25.5 million) who continues to bank millions more than a decade after the conclusion of "Friends", thanks to regular roles in movies such as "The Yellow Birds". But Aniston, 48, makes most of her money by endorsing the likes of Emirates airlines, Smartwater and Aveeno. Hair-care line Living Proof, which she owned a stake in, was sold Unilever for an undisclosed amount in December 2016, adding to Aniston's bottom line.

Former top-ranked Jennifer Lawrence comes in at no. 3, notching just over half her 2016 total. But even that amounts to \$24 million. Without a "Hunger Games" movie, most of Lawrence's paychecks came from forthcoming Darren Aronofsky thriller "Mother!", "Red Sparrow" and a longstanding Dior endorsement. Melissa McCarthy (no. 4; \$18 million) and Mila Kunis (no. 5; \$15.5 million) round out the top five.

Together, the world's 10 highest-

paid actresses tallied a combined \$172.5 million between June 1, 2016 and June 1, 2017, before fees and taxes. Earnings estimates are based on data from Nielsen, ComScore, Box Office Mojo and IMDb, as well as interviews with industry insiders. The list examined actresses the world over, but no stars from Asia made the cut, as Fan Bingbing and Deepika Padukone dropped off due to quieter years.

Emma Watson (no. 6) is this year's sole newcomer, after depositing her paycheck for "Beauty and the Beast", which grossed \$1.26 billion to become the top-grossing movie of the year so far. Though tech drama "The Circle" flopped, she managed to make \$14 million in the time frame, thanks to Disney.

This year, three women breached the \$20 million mark, compared to four women in 2016. Notably absent this year: Scarlett Johansson, who failed to earn above the \$11.5 million cut off for this year's list.

Their success remains remarkable considering that female characters fill only 28.7% of all speaking roles in film according to a 2016 study. Roles for women above 40 are even fewer and farther between, which makes it all the more notable that 60% of this year's list members are over the age of 40. These women have forged their own roles, such as 42-year-old "Atomic Blonde" producer and star Charlize Theron (no. 6; \$14 million) who spent five years developing the spy project.

Source: **Forbes**

Streak-Anandadhara Hairstyling Competition ends



A CORRESPONDENT

The Streak-Anandadhara Hairstyling Competition, which featured 12 upcoming and talented beauticians and photographers competing in an attempt to produce the perfect makeover and snapshots, came to an end yesterday. The models who were assigned to the beauticians were renowned celebrities including the

likes of Nabila, Bhabna, Swagata, Jyoti, Farah Ruma, Hera, Shahtak, Doyel and Liza. The make-up will be judged by Afroza Parvin and Kamrul Islam, and the photography will be judged by Prito Reza and David Barikder, and results will be announced in Anandadhara's Eid Issue. RTV and Star Showbiz are the media partners for this event sponsored by Streak, which will be held annually from here on.

"Bareilly Ki Barfi" gets rave reviews from Bollywood insiders

Filmmaker Karan Johar has praised the film "Bareilly Ki Barfi" and has lauded the performances by actors Ayushmann Khurrana, Kriti Sanon and Rajkummar Rao, and he is not alone in singing praise.

"Bareilly Ki Barfi" is warm, funny and delightful... The performances are superb! Dialogues have many laugh out loud crackling moments!" Karan tweeted.

"Bareilly Ki Barfi", directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, is a quirky love triangle between Bitti, Chirag and Pritam played by Kriti, Ayushmann Khurrana and Rajkummar Rao respectively.

Produced by Junglee Pictures and BR Studios, the film is scheduled to release on August 18.

Actress Neha Dhupia called the film "the sweetest film" and said the lead actors are "fab". Sushant Singh Rajput said this was Sanon's best performance, calling the film "a complete entertainer". Varun Dhawan called "Bareilly Ki Barfi" a "fun



and honest film with super performances", while producer Jacky Bhagnani also tweeted shout-outs to Sanon, Rao and Khurrana. Arjun Kapoor also tweeted

about the film, wishing it good luck and terming it "sweet, simple and funny".

Source: **Hindustan Times**

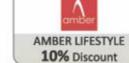


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