

Celebrating 100 years of Independent Finland  
Organiser: Embassy of Finland  
Venue: The Daily Star Bengal Arts  
Precinct  
Date: October 29-November 3  
Time: 11am-7pm



Dance Drama  
Tasher Desh  
Troupe: Shadonna  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
Date: November 1  
Time: 7pm



Musical Soiree  
Observing birth anniversary of legendary Abbasuddin Ahmed  
Artist: Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and Dr. Nasrid Kamal  
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum  
Date: Oct 31; Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition  
Layers  
Artist: Fahad Hasan Kazmee  
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur  
Date: Oct 27-Nov 22  
Time: 5pm-8pm



Theatre  
"Bioscope" and "Keramatnama"  
Troupe: Prachyanan  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA  
Date: Oct 31  
Time: 7pm



## NEWS bytes

### Isla Fisher joins McConaughey in "Beach Bum"

Isla Fisher is set to star opposite Matthew McConaughey in Harmony Korine's next movie, "Beach Bum", reports Variety.

"Beach Bum" is a comedy that follows the misadventures of Moondog (McConaughey), a rebellious and lovable rogue who lives life large. Fisher will play Moondog's wife.

The film will be written and directed by Korine, whose unique filmmaking style gained recognition with "Spring Breakers," which starred James Franco and brought in \$31 million at the worldwide box office.

Fisher had a busy 2016, which included "The Brother Grimsby", "Keeping up With the Joneses", and Tom Ford's "Nocturnal Animals". Fisher just recently wrapped production on "Tag" opposite Jeremy Renner and Jon Hamm.

Source: Variety



## DHAKA INT'L FOLK FEST from November 9-11



Anjan Chowdhury (C) speaks at the press meet.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The third edition of the Dhaka International Folk Fest will take place from November 9-11 at the Army Stadium in the capital. The event, organised by Sun Events is being presented by Meril and powered by Dhaka Bank. Some 140 artistes from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Iran, Brazil, Mali, Australia, France and Japan will perform at the three-day festival, organisers announced at a press conference in the capital yesterday.

Anjan Chowdhury, Chairman of Sun Communications Limited, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Managing Director & CEO of Dhaka Bank Limited, Emaad Ispahani, Director, Ispahani Group, Farzana Chowdhury, Managing Director and CEO of Green Delta Insurance and Malik Mohammed Sayeed, Head of Marketing, Square Toiletries Limited, were present among others at the press conference.

"We are very excited to bring this festival to the audience for the third year," Anjan Chowdhury said at the event. "The target of this festival is to spread our folk music to the world, and other the last two years the international interest about this

event has increased."

The performing artistes from Bangladesh this year are Shahjahan Munshi, Arif Dewan, Fakir Shahabuddin, Shahnaz Beli, the duo of Shah Alam Sarkar and Aleya Begum, and bands/groups Baula and Bauliana. The international artistes include Papon, Nooran Sisters and Basudeb Das Baul from India, Grammy-winning Mali-based band Tinariwen, Nepalese folk band Kutumba, sufi-rock group Mekaal Hasan Band from Pakistan, Australia-based Tibetan musician Tenzin Choegyal, Iranian ensemble Rastak and Brazilian artist Mauricio Tizumba.

Online registration for the festival,

which is free of cost, will begin on November 1 on the website: dhakainternationalfolkfest.com. Updates of the festival will be available on the Facebook page of Dhaka International Folk Fest. The festival, running from 6pm to 1:30am every day, will be streamed live on the festival's official Facebook page and YouTube channel, while Maasranga TV, the broadcast partner, will telecast it.

The festival's other partners are Radhuni, Ispahani, Bengal Digital, Green Delta Insurance, Aegis Security Force, Square Hospitals Limited, The Westin Dhaka, Radio Dinrat, TicketChai and Maasranga Television.

## Alive with "The Sound of Music"

KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

Enveloped in the vibes of its 40 year anniversary celebrations, the Drama and Music Club of Scholastica presented its annual production in the evenings of October 27-28 at the Bangladesh National Museum Auditorium.

Scholastica produces one Bangla and English drama each year, and this year was no different. The talented young students performed a rendition of the 1959 Broadway musical and 1965 Hollywood classic "The Sound of Music", under the direction of Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon.

"The Sound of Music" is based on a true story of the Von Trapp Family singers, set during the days of World War II. Maria, a free-spirited young woman, is sent to become the governess of the seven Von Trapp kids. She teaches them how to sing and live life to the fullest, and in the process, warms the cold heart of their father Captain von Trapp who eventually falls in love with her. In the very end and among the tribulations of the war, the Captain and Maria are married and manage to flee their homeland of Austria with the children in search of a new life.

The entire production was designed by the teachers of Scholastica; the cast members and musicians were trained to perfection in only two months. The use of a limited number of props to create multiple stage settings was a treat to watch, as were the frequent music and dance numbers in the play.

On the first day, HT Imam, Political Advisor to the Prime Minister, was the chief guest, while theatre and TV personality Sara Zaker was the special guest. The second day welcomed Chairperson and Founder of Bengal Foundation,



Abul Khair as the chief guest and prominent film, TV and theatre actress Ferdousi Mazumder as the special guest. The guests were impressed at how the school children made time between their classes to put up a wonderful performance; they applauded their love and dedication towards upholding the theatre culture as well. Syeda Madiha Mursheed, Managing Director of Scholastica Limited, was also present.

Principal Brig. Gen. (Retd.) Kaiser Ahmed greeted and thanked the guests and the full house audience for their support. He also mentioned that Scholastica strives to maintain the highest quality in education and focuses on every child's individual growth, and is proud of its alumni and achievements in the 40 years of its existence.

## Srishti organising dance-drama festival at BSA

A CORRESPONDENT

Renowned dance school Srishti Cultural Center is organising a four-day dance-drama festival at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy from November 1-4. The festival, for which Meena Bazar is the title sponsor, will showcase four popular dance dramas led by eminent dancers and choreographers of the country.

The Srishti-Meena Bazar Dance-Drama Festival will open with the staging of Tagore's celebrated dance-drama "Tasher Desh" produced by Shadonna and directed by Warda Rihab. The subsequent productions

are "Rai Khishna Padabali" based on the Radha-Krishna legend by Nrityanchal; "BaNDi-Bandar Rupkotha" inspired by the Arabian Nights "Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves", produced by Srishti Cultural Center and Anisul Islam Hero; and "Sonai Madhob" by Loko Natyadal (Siddheshwari) based on Mymensingh Geetika. The programmes will begin at 7pm every day, and will feature performances of noted artistes Shibli Mohammad, Shamim Ara Nipa, Anisul Islam Hero, Sukalyan Bhattacharya, Dolly Iqbal, Warda Rihab, Sabrina Nisa, Roksana Akter Rupsa, Zahidul Kabir Liton, Sabir Ahmed Khan Biju and others.



Shadonna production "Tasher Desh" will open the festival on November 1.

## Twenty years in film

### Poppy reflects on her career



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular film actress Poppy's versatile career has seen her branch out into television, modeling, as well as star in a music video. The three-time National Film Award winning actress has been a popular face in cinema for over 20 years, which she elaborates on, and more, in a recent interview with The Daily Star.

Asif Akbar's music video has recently garnered a lot of popularity. What are your thoughts on this?

Poppy: The music video has become the talk of the town recently. The song is beautiful, and as a model, I tried to convey the emotions behind the song aptly. This was a very sudden project, but I'm very glad to have done it. This was the first time I've appeared in a music video, and I am quite excited to see what happens next.

You have been in the industry for 20 years. How do you feel when you look back?

Poppy: I can't believe how fast these years went by; I remember my beginnings like it was only yesterday. Over the last 20 years, I have been loved by so many, which would not have been possible if it weren't for films. I love my viewers, and I am indebted towards them for their support.

Do you wish you were as active in film today, as you were before?

Poppy: I have no regrets; I am quite satisfied with my career. I have three National Film Awards to my name, and this is not a recognition many are fortunate to achieve.

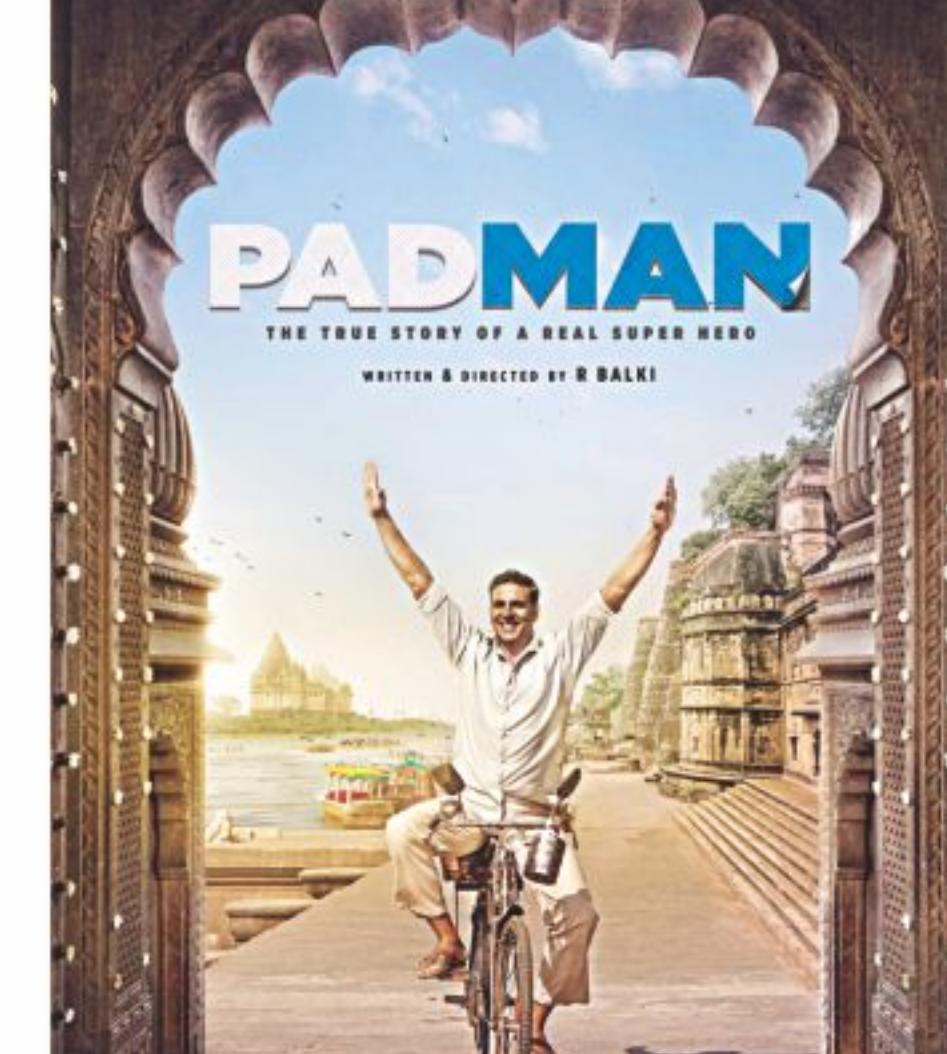
What are your thoughts on the film industry today?

Poppy: I would like to see more quality work. In previous years, scripts were written around actress such as Bobita, Kobori, Shabana, and more. This is no longer the scenario today. There is not enough international recognition of Bangladeshi films, but recently little efforts have been made in that direction. Targeting a bigger market means a larger audience, giving films more credibility.

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar has chosen a patriotic release date for his upcoming film, "Padman". The actor took to Twitter to share a new poster for the film which revealed the release date of January 26, 2018, which is India's Republic Day.

Akshay can be seen in an ecstatic mood as he rides a bike on the banks of a river and though two massive doors. His hands are up in the air and not on the handles. "The true story of a true superhero," the poster reads.

"Padman" tells the story of Tamil Nadu-based social activist Arunachalam Muruganantham, who revolutionised the concept of menstrual hygiene in



rural India by creating a low-cost sanitary napkins machine. The film is directed by R Balki and also stars Sonam Kapoor and Radhika Apte.

Akshay's wife Twinkle Khanna is also a producer on the film. The film was expected to release in April but took a three-month jump to an earlier release date. There were reports that the film has run into a financial crisis, but Akshay Kumar resolved the problem by finishing the shoot in just 37 days.

Akshay was last seen with Bhumi Pednekar in "Toilet: Ek Prem Katha" which released in August to a good business at the box office.

He is also working on

"Gold" with Mouni Roy which is about India's first Olympic medal win in 1948. It will release on the Indian Independence Day 2018.

Source: Hindustan Times

## Ovi Kothachitra to distribute "Haldaa"



A CORRESPONDENT

The Ovi Kothachitra has come on board Tauquir Ahmed's upcoming film "Haldaa" as distributor, according to a press release. An agreement was signed between the distributors and the filmmaker recently.

"We last distributed 'Dhaka Attack', which released in a record number of theatres in the country," said Jahid Hasan, owner of the company. "There is a lot of interest among the audience for 'Haldaa'. It's a film of our roots, and has ample elements of entertainment. I believe we can distribute the film widely, and it will see commercial success."

"Haldaa", which is Tauquir's fifth film as director, is a riverine drama set on the river of the same name. Starring Mosharraf Karim, Tisha, Zahid Hasan and others, the film is set to release in December, although a specific date has not been announced.