

WHAT'S ON

**Celebrating 100 years of Independent Finland**  
 Organizer: Embassy of Finland  
 Venue: The Daily Star Festival Atrium  
 Period: Oct 29-November 3  
 Time: 11am-7pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: A Delightful Journey by Art Series  
 Venue: La Galerie, ARTS, Dharmoad  
 Date: Nov 2-10  
 Time: 3-5pm (Mon-Thurs) and 10am-2pm (Fri-Sat)

**Dhaka International Folk Fest**  
 Organizer: Sam Communications  
 Venue: Army Stadium  
 Date: October 29-November 11  
 Time: 6pm onwards

**Dance-Drama Festival**  
 Band: Barda Rupathin  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
 Date: Nov 2-7  
 Time: 7pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Artist: Jibon Razzan  
 Venue: Gallery Oshika, H-4, B-6, Dharmoad  
 Date: Oct 31-Nov 15  
 Time: 10am-5pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Artist: Nazim Hossain  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
 Date: Oct 27-Nov 4  
 Time: 9:30am-5pm



PHOTO: SHERIN MEREDITH INDREHER



# TASHER DESH A vivid retelling of a Tagore classic

## Srishti's dance-drama festival opens at BSA

**NAZHA BASHIR**  
 Srishti-Meena Bazar Dance Drama festival opened at the National Theatre Hall of BSA on November 1. The dance drama festival is being organised by Srishti Cultural Center in association with Meena Bazar. Before the performance began, opening remarks were given by founder of Srishti Cultural Center, Anisul Islam Heru, after which words of appreciation and support were extended by director of Gemon Group Juthiba Ohimacher, eminent dancer Shamim Ara Nipa, and BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky. The festival opened with one of Shadhona's more popular productions "Tasher Desh", jointly choreographed by Manipuri dancer Warda Ribah and Contemporary dance Rachel Kirsche, from the UK. The dance-drama consisted of movements and mudras from

mainly three separate dance forms - Manipuri, Western Contemporary and Purlulia Chhau. The story of "Tasher Desh", inspired by "Alice in Wonderland", is a satirical take on the severity of class systems, shown in a land where rules and regulations trump the importance of human emotions. The plot revolves around a prince who is tired of a mundane life in the palace and wants to set out on an adventure with his merchant friend. After encountering a storm, they land in a place that seems ridiculous to them from the get-go. They come across the inhabitants of the land, who seem to lack basic human qualities or emotions. Everything about this country, the rigidity, the lack of human emotions and desires, feels like a game of cards, everything governed by rules. When the prince and his assistant come to the country and speak for the importance of



humanness, free-will and sentiment, the inhabitants face turmoil and begin searching for their souls. Ultimately, they discover their human selves, and discard their lifeless ways. While the performance mostly centered around the prince, played by Sabbir Ahmed Khan Biju and his

merchant friend, played by Amit Chowdhury, the play comes to life at the entrance of the 'card' inhabitants. The blend of Manipuri and Western contemporary forms are done to near perfection, so much so that differentiating between the two forms becomes almost impossible. The inhabitants of the fabled

'tasher desh', meanwhile, mostly perform Purulia Chhau dance. The performers consisted of veteran dancers Laila Hasan (who plays the Queen Mother), Lubna Mariam (the Card Queen), Warda Ribah (Horotoni), MR Wasiq (as the Card King) and Lamia Saiyara Aida, playing Petrolkoka. The rest of the cast includes Tahsin Ahmedy, Abu Nayeem, Cynthia Yasmin, Shammy Akhter, and many others playing various characters. The music was done under the direction of renowned percussionist Tannoy Bose, and the vocals were given by seasoned Rabindra Sangeet singer Nandita Yasmin, Lopamudra Mitra, as well as Shayan Chowdhury Arnob, Anusheh Anandi and Rupankar Bagchi. On the second day of the festival, Nrityanchal presented their dance-drama "Rai Krishna Padabali" at the same venue.

# Camila Cabello breaks into streaming chart with HAVANA

Camila Cabello has reached the top 10 of Billboard's Streaming Songs chart for the first time as "Havana", featuring Young Thug, jumped from 18-7 on the chart dated Nov. 11, with 24.4 million streams earned in the week ending October 26 (up 38 percent), according to Nielsen Music. The boost is owed mainly to the release of the song's music video, with 41 percent of the track's overall streams coming from YouTube. Still, "Havana" gained in streams on nearly all providers as it continues its ascent at radio. The former Fifth Harmony star peaked at no. 11 on Streaming Songs (February) with "Bad Thing", her duet with Machine Gun Kelly. "Havana" is also Cabello's first song to chart on the ranking as the lone lead artist, as previous solo single "Crying in the Club" failed to chart. Meanwhile, while Young Thug ascended into the top 10 of Streaming Songs as part of Cabello's "Havana", he also earned his first top 20 as lead artist as part of "Patek Water" with Future and featuring Migos' Offset. The No. 1 song on Streaming Songs remains Post Malone's "rockstar", featuring 21 Savage, for a fifth week, accruing 53 million streams.



# Dhaka Int'l Folk Fest undergoes lineup change

## Audience face woes trying to register



Shahjahan Munshi (L), Shahnaz Bell (R) and Fakir Shahabuddin (below) are the Bangladeshi solo artistes at the festival this year.

**FAHIM FERDOUS**  
 The Dhaka International Folk Festival 2017 has undergone some lineup changes, reportedly to comply with the daily routine, organisers informed The Daily Star yesterday. Bangladesh artistes Arif Dewan, Shah Alam Sarkar and Aleya Begum are no longer part of the festival lineup, according to the updated information on the festival web site. Meanwhile, one new act has been added to the lineup, that of Mikael Hemmitt Winter, the Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh who is an avid blues-rock guitarist. The updated festival day-by-day lineup sent by the organisers are: Bauliana (Bangladesh), Fakir Shahabuddin (Bangladesh), Maurício Truzma and Sexter (Brazil), Tenzin Choegyal (Tibet) and Papon (India) on the first day, November 9; Baula (Bangladesh), Kutumba (Nepal), Mekaal Hasan Band (Pakistan), Shahjahan Munshi (Bangladesh) and Nooran Sisters (India) on the second day; and Shahnaz Belli (Bangladesh), Mikael Hemmitt Winter (Denmark), Rastak (Iran), Basudeb Das Baul (India) and Tinariwen (Mali) on the concluding day. The lineup of the festival, to be held at the capital's Army Stadium, was first announced at the press conference on October 29. "The Army Stadium authorities have allowed us up to 1:30pm to finish the day's proceedings, and seeing our lineup, they suggested we cut down some artistes so we can accommodate all the artistes within the deadline," Ruhul Amin, the press contact for the festival, told The Daily Star. Meanwhile, the online registration process to attend the festival has left a lot of people scratching their heads, judging by the Facebook event page of the festival. Like previous years, the festival is free of cost to attendees provided they complete the online registration from the festival's web site, dhakainternationalfolkfest.com. Registration for the festival opened on November 1 and is scheduled to go on till November 5. Registration has been opening



daily from 12pm and is being closed after a certain number of registrations are done per day, as evident from the message on the web site "Registration is closed for today. It will open again at 12:00PM". However, this correspondent failed in his attempt to register to the festival at 1pm on Thursday, and the Facebook event page shows many others who have not been able to register, trying as immediately as 12:08pm. There are also a number of complaints on social media that many of the registered attendees have not received their passes in the email, to which organisers have responded that all passes will be mailed eventually. When contacted by The Daily Star, organisers could not give a specific threshold of daily registrations before it is closed for the day. The third edition of the Dhaka International Folk Festival, from November 9-11, is being presented by Meril and powered by Dhaka Bank. Sun Events is organising the event.

# NEWS bytes

## Beyonce confirmed in live-action 'Lion King'

Beyonce is set to voice Nala in Disney and Jon Favreau's live-action "The Lion King". Beyonce confirmed the role on her Facebook account in a post that contained the rest of the voice cast, which also revealed that Keegan-Michael Key will be playing a hyena named Kamari. The star-studded voice cast also includes Donald Glover as Simba, James Earl Jones as Mufasa (reprising his role from the 1994 original), Chiwetel Ejiofor as Scar, Alfre Woodard as Simba's mother Sarabi, John Oliver as Zazu, John Kani as Rafiki, Florence Kasumba as Shenzi, Eric André as Azizi, and Billy Eichner and Seth Rogen as Timon and Pumbaa. JD McCray and Shaadi Wright Joseph will play young Simba and young Nala, respectively. Favreau, who directed "The Jungle Book" for the studio, helms from a script by Jeff Nathanson, adapted from the 1994 screenplay by Irene Mecchi, Jonathan Roberts, and Linda Woolverton. "The Lion King" will hit theatres on July 19, 2019.

