

WHAT'S ON

**Bengal Classical Music Festival**  
 Organizer: Bengali Music Festival  
 Venue: Akhbar Field  
 Date: December 26-30  
 Time: 10am onwards

**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
 In the time  
 Photographer: Sumon Paul  
 Venue: DMK Centre, Dharmaram  
 Date: December 16-21  
 Time: 9:30am-5pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Project of Identity  
 Artist: Jai Pral Tondal  
 Venue: Shikhanagar Gallery  
 Dharmaram  
 Date: December 9-11  
 Time: 12-4pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 The Peace  
 Artist: Proshanta Kamal Barua  
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos  
 Date: Dec 18-17  
 Time: 12am-6pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Beyond the Imaginary  
 Artist: Soudeek Hossain  
 Venue: Kala Kendra  
 Date: Dec 15 Jan 6  
 Time: 5-9pm

# NEWS bytes

## Weinstein told Peter Jackson to blacklist actors

In a new interview with New Zealand's Stuff, blockbuster director Peter Jackson addressed the Weinstein scandal and said that he was told by Weinstein's company not to hire actresses Mira Sorvino and Ashley Judd, the latter of whom also had rejected Weinstein's sexual advances in a Beverly Hills hotel room around the same time. "I recall Miramax telling us they were a nightmare to work with and we should avoid them at all costs. This was probably in 1998," Jackson told writer Dani McDonald.

Jackson and Weinstein were in business together as Jackson was putting the pieces together for what would be his massively successful three-picture franchise "The Lord of the Rings". The film originally was slated to be a Miramax picture, but Jackson and



PHOTO: STAR

# Homebound after War

## Dalia Nausheen recalls return to Bangladesh in '71

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Forty six years ago in a newly independent country, triumph had not yet settled in as Bangladesh was left dazed by the horrors of the war. The days that followed saw the return of fellow citizens who traveled across the border to train with the allied forces, and in the Shadin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBRK) studio, to keep up the nationalist spirit through song.

Renowned Nazrul exponent Dalia Nausheen was still a young girl when she left with her family to join SBRK, and returned to find a country still wounded. In a recent conversation, the singer shares her reactions of returning to the country she fought for. Excerpts:

"When the long-awaited news of Bangladesh's independence first came

through, we all rejoiced and started making preparations for our return. Despite the war being over, we knew the journey back home would be dangerous, and a lot of thought had to be put in the routes we needed to take. On the way there, we saw dead bodies still scattered in the fields. We made a stop at the cantonment in Jessore, and I remember seeing a large number of women, some weren't properly clothed and had their hair cropped short. When they looked at us, their eyes showed death. I could not take my eyes away from them, and their faces continued to haunt me to this day. I cannot imagine the suffering and abuse they faced at the hands of the Razakars and the Pakistani army."

"Shortly after that we were taken to a room, and given some tea. I still remember, as I raised the cup to my mouth, I did not know what I was doing. All I wanted was to go home.

As we neared the border, I remember seeing many trucks filled with people going past, rejoicing victory. The celebrations grew stronger on the way, but it all felt very distant to me. Despite the turn of events, we were still in fear of whether the Pakistani army was still there, and it took years to get over this fear."

"I still cannot accept how my own people turned against each other, and still continue to do so today. It makes one lose faith in the very independence we fought for. When the brave martyrs and freedom fighters sacrificed their own blood for the rights and freedom for their land, they did not do it to gain any form of recognition. When I look at the corruption and extremism-fueled terrorism still happening today, I feel we have not come really far. We still have a long way to go."

# Theatre festival underway at JKNIU

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh  
 An eight-day theatre festival began at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU), a culture based university in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh on Thursday evening.

Theatre and Performance Studies Department of the university organised the festival with a view to providing many more theatre directors. It is the third edition of the festival organised for the honours final year students of the department, organisers said.

A total of 24 plays will be staged during the festival. The play "Chand O Chokor" was staged at the inaugural day of the festival with a slogan "Manobiktor Bikashe Natok Thakuk Pashe" (Drama for flourishing humanity).

The play adopted by Indian playwright Soumen Chandra Nandi from Jean-Paul Sartre's play was directed by Shabnam Mostari Swarna, a final year student of the department.

The cast of the play was - Mohammad Shamim, Tahmina Akhter Hira, Shihab Uddin Akanda, Shamsur Rahman Sajib and Solaiman Hossain.

The other plays staged on the inaugural day were - Mohit Chotopadhyay's "Konthonalite Surjo" and Monej Mitra's "Benojyoshna".

Director of "Chand O Chokor" Swarna said "In the play the writer depicted the serious deterioration of human values and endless tiredness, loneliness among the people with broken dreams."

Such negative effects always put a bar on the way of human development but human beings go forward with their own affairs, braving all odds, said the young director.



A scene from "Chand O Chokor". PHOTO: STAR

Earlier, marking the inaugural session of the festival, a discussion was held. Prof Dr Mustafizur Rahman, vice-chancellor of the university inaugurated the festival as chief guest.

Chairman of Theatre and Performance Studies Department Ismat Ara Chowdhury Ela, teacher Md Ruhul Amin, registrar of the university Dr Humayun Kabir and chairman of Film and Media Department Tulinoor Abontu addressed the event, among others.

The speakers said such festival is very fruitful for the students of Theatre and Performance Studies Department as they will lead the country in this art form in future.

The students are directing the play and acting as well, said the speakers adding "The performance of first year students. Has also brought a very hope for the department in all respects."



Weinstein had no falling out over the number of installments Jackson intended to make, so he took his project to New Line. Weinstein and his brother Bob Weinstein both have executive producer credits on all three films. Jackson's quotes elicited an emotional response from Sorvino. "I just see this after I woke. I burst out crying," she tweeted Friday morning. "There it is, confirmation that Harvey Weinstein derailed my career, something I suspected but was unsure."

Source: THR



# Akshay Kumar emerges as superhero in 'PadMan' trailer

The makers of the Akshay Kumar, Sonam Kapoor and Radhika Apte-starrer "PadMan" released its first official trailer of the much-anticipated film on Thursday. In the trailer, Akshay emerges as the Indian superhero, "PadMan", the man who made sanitary napkins affordable for women. The trailer starts off with a narration from Amitabh Bachchan, declaring "PadMan" as India's answer to American superheroes. It goes on to show Akshay's character working

hard on his idea of creating a sanitary pad and even trying it out himself. However, pitching the idea to his sister and wife is met with rejection and culminates with his wife leaving him and the villagers shunning him. When all fails, Sonam's character of a social worker comes as a guiding light to help him scale new heights. The two minute-plus clip has tongue-in-cheek humour but predominantly the film

evokes thought and has an inspirational feel to it. Shot majorly in the backdrop of a village, the film will chronicle his journey to attaining international stardom. Based on the true story of Annapachan Muruganathan - the man who invented low-cost sanitary napkins for women in rural areas of India, the film is directed by R Balki and is set to release January 26.

Source: TOI



Young dancers perform at the Channel i premises, at the "Deshbondhu Group-Channel i Bijoy Mela 2017". The programme, an annual event by the channel, features dance, music, recitation and a host of other activities marking the glorious Victory Day yesterday. Channel i also broadcast the programme live.

# "The Last Jedi" speeding toward \$200M+ domestic weekend

The box office for the last Disney-Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: The Last Jedi", which is heading for more than \$200 million at 4,232 North American sites in its opening weekend, early estimates showed Friday.

The tentpole opened with \$45 million on Thursday night — the second-largest Thursday night preview gross ever in North America, trailing only the \$57 million for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" two years ago.

If projections hold, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" will become only the fourth movie to top \$200 million domestically in its opening frame, joining 2015's "The Force Awakens" at \$248.8 million, 2015's "Jurassic World" with \$207.4 million, and 2012's "The Avengers" with \$207.4 million.

The stellar performance comes a day after Disney announced it was spending \$52.4 billion to acquire 21st Century Fox assets — a move that will make the company the undisputed leader in box office share in coming years.

Domestic tracking for "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" has remained in the \$200 million range since November 22, when first estimates emerged. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens"



wound up its domestic run with a record-setting \$936.7 million and \$2.07 billion worldwide. "Rogue One" went on to gross \$532.2 million by the end of its domestic run and \$1.03 billion worldwide.

Directed by Rian Johnson, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" picks up where "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" left off. It stars returning cast members Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Adam Driver, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, and Andy Serkis. The new stars include Kelly Marie Tran, Laura Dern, and Benicio del Toro. Fox is counter-programming with its

animated family comedy "Ferdinand" — opening amid expectations of a \$15 million debut. The movie is based on the children's book "The Story of Ferdinand" and directed by Carlos Saldanha, with John Cena voicing the Spanish bull who doesn't want to fight.

Disney-Pixar's "Coco" should lead the rest of the pack this weekend with about \$7 million in its fourth frame, enough to lift the animated musical to nearly \$149 million.

Source: Variety

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