

<p><b>WHAT'S ON</b></p>	<p><b>Bengal Classical Music Festival</b> Organizer: Bengal Foundation Venue: Abahai Field Date: December 26-30 Time: Open onwards</p>	<p><b>Solo Photography Exhibition</b> In collaboration with Photographer: Sumon Paul Venue: DMK Centre, Dharmaram Date: December 16-21 Time: 9:30am-6pm</p>	<p><b>Solo Art Exhibition</b> Projection of identity Artist: Anil Dhal Tondal Venue: Dillipganj Gallery Dharmaram Date: December 8-21 Time: 12-4pm</p>	<p><b>National Rabindra Sangeet Festival</b> Organizer: BSSS Venue: Shaikat Osman Auditorium, Public Library Date: Dec 20-23, Time: 10pm</p>	<p><b>Solo Art Exhibition</b> Beyond the Instagram Artist: Soudeek Hasan Dola Venue: Kala Kendra Date: Dec 15-16 Time: 5-9pm</p>
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**NEWS bytes**

**Mariah Carey receives award from PETA**

Mariah Carey is all about holiday spirit, spreading joy with her festive tunes and the extravagant Christmas trees in her home. The holiday cheer doesn't stop there. PETA announced Monday (December 18) that the singer will receive the Angel for Animals Award for her work on a new animated film, named after her Billboard Hot 100 hit "All I Want For Christmas Is You."

Carey produced, narrated and provided the music for the movie, which tells the story of a young girl whose Christmas wish



comes true when she meets stray puppy Jack. The idea is to encourage families to adopt from their local shelters. "Her holiday film reminds us of all that caring for an animal is a responsibility, not just a fantasy," PETA senior vice president Lisa Loughead said. "The ones sweet day that you meet the dog who will always be your baby, you know that you belong together."

Source: Billboard



A scene from "Surjamukhi Nodi". PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**National Dance Drama Festival in full swing**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha (BNSS) in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) has organised a five-day (December 18-20 and December 23-24) National Dance Drama Festival at National Theatre Hall of BSA. The festival, the third of its kind in Bangladesh, was inaugurated by Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, as chief guest. Veteran journalist and cultural personality Kamal Lohani and eminent dance-drama writer Dr. Enamul Haque attended the event as special guests. Minu

Haque and Mahfuzur Rahman, president and general secretary of BNSS, delivered the welcome addresses while Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA presided over the programme. The festival has been dedicated to the memory of the recently deceased dance artist Nriyayugta Rahija Khanam Ithnu. The festival was set off with the acclaimed production "Surjamukhi Nodi", penned by Dr. Enamul Haque and directed by Rahija Khanam Ithnu. Artists of Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts performed in the dance drama theme on their glorious Liberation War. Noted dancer-model Sadia Islam per-

formed a central role well among all the performers of the dance drama. Abdur Rashid Swapan also donned another lead role. Artists of the School of Oriental Dance, Chittagong staged a Tagore composition "Mayur Khela" while dancers of BNSS, Satkhira presented another Tagore classic "Mayur Khela" at the venue yesterday. Today is the third day of the festival where Sylhet-based promising troupe Nriyashoit will stage "Drohokal" while Rajshahi-based dance group Dhruपालक will perform in their production "Bidaye Abhishap".

**DEBASISH BISWAS returns to film**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Debasish Biswas, son of famed filmmaker Dilip Biswas, has followed in his father's footsteps closely in the path of film direction. The director first gained recognition for his film "Shoshurbari Zindabad", which starred Riaz and Shahnoor, and became a commercial hit. Aside from cinematic ventures Debasish Biswas is a popular TV presenter.

"My first film had been the biggest turning point in my career. I did not predict the popularity it would achieve," he said. His directorial debut was followed by "Shubho Bibaho" and "Bhalobasha Zindabad", after which the director went on four years' sabbatical. Recently, he made a comeback with "Chol Palai", which was released to 65 cinema halls throughout the country, and will be screened in 20 more next week. "So far I have received positive feedback from viewers, which has been all the encouragement I need," stated the director.

Biswas remained highly active in the television scene during his sabbatical, making many appearances as a programme host, and trying his hand at directing telefilms. His first hosting venture was the Ekushey Television programme "Pother Panchali", which gained a large follow-



ing. Among his small screen directorial ventures, "Bhalobasha.com", "HoneyMoon", "Chithi" and "Trump Card" met positive acclaim. However, Biswas was unsure as to why his break from films had been so extensive, especially considering the success he had garnered as a director. "I invested too much time in television and got carried away, but that won't happen now. I intend to turn all my attention towards only films," he stated. True to his word, the director has set his sights on a new film for next year, and intends to continue his newfound passion for hosting. "I aim to make commercially successful films, and that is how I am planning my next venture," he said.



"G.I. Joe: Retaliation" (2013)

**Paramount sets "G.I. Joe," "Dungeons & Dragons" release dates**

Paramount has set a March 27, 2020, opening for its third "G.I. Joe" movie and dated "Dungeons & Dragons" for July 23, 2020.

The studio also announced Monday that it has set "Micronauts" for Oct 16, 2020. None of the films have directors or stars attached.

The third "G.I. Joe" will be opening seven years after the second entry in the franchise. "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," was released. That film starred Dwayne Johnson, Channing Tatum, and Bruce Willis, generating \$375 million in worldwide grosses.

The original "G.I. Joe: Rise of the Cobra" starred Tatum and Marlon Wayans, producing a worldwide gross of \$302 million in 2009. Both movies were produced by Lorenzo di Bonaventura and based on the Hasbro toyline.

"Dungeons & Dragons" originated in 1974 as a tabletop role-playing game. It's been published by Hasbro subsidiary Wizards of the Coast for the past two decades. New Line released a movie version in 2000 that starred Thora Birch, Jeremy Irons, and Justin Whalin, grossing \$33 million worldwide.

"Micronauts" is based on the Meگو toyline of science-fiction robotic toys that were sold between 1976 and 1980. Paramount also said it will open an untitled Hasbro film on October 1, 2021.

Paramount's partnership with Hasbro has been particularly fruitful with the Transformers line of toys, which has led to five movies that have grossed a combined \$4.3 billion worldwide. A spinoff film "Bumblebee: The Movie" has been set to open on December 21, 2018.

Source: Variety

**10th anniversary of Ensemble Theatre**

**AMINIUL ISLAM, Mymensingh**  
Ensemble Theatre, a leading theatre troupe of Mymensingh honoured three journalists at a programme marking the group's 10th founding anniversary at Muslim Institute auditorium of Mymensingh town on Sunday evening. The honoured persons Md. Aminul Islam, The Daily Star Mymensingh Correspondent, photo journalists Kishore Tripura and Mohammad Kamal were greeted with flowers and crests. Marking the event, a cultural show that included dance sequences and mime art was held.



PHOTO: STAR

Mime Art Dhaka staged "Life is Beautiful" written and directed by Nithor Mahbub; while Muktabak Nibak Dal from Gazipur staged "Death of Humanity", written and directed by Shahidul Hasan Shamim, which

amused the capacity audience. The other cast of the performance were Badrul Alam, Abdullah Al Mamun, Shakur Islam and Sourav Pal.

Earlier, a discussion with SM Ali Azhar, president of Bangladesh Shilpi Sangstha, Mahbub Hossain Sharif, Theatre Sanglap secretary, Rajat Kanti Deb Nath; secretary of Manobadhikar Natya Parishad, Siddiqur Rahman and others spoke on the occasion. Ensemble Theatre president Abul Monwar was in the chair. The speakers said, the troupe has contributed greatly to the theatre scene through their many extraordinary performances in the past decade. Mymensingh region, a cultural hub since the British Raj is known for its varied cultural events even now, said the speakers. Locally included people from all strata of society should come forward to support cultural groups so that the old cultural traditions of this region can be preserved and promoted, they urged.



**Chirkutt brings theme song for PORICHCHONNO BANGLADESH**

"Dettol-Channel 1 Porichchonno Bangladesh" has launched its theme song "Mon Shundor Jate, Shei Rakhe Desh Porishkar" commemorating the 46th Victory Day of Bangladesh, says a press release. The theme song performed by famous Bangladeshi band Chirkutt is a wake up call to keep our country clean. The song was launched on the Facebook page of Dettol Channel 1 Porichchonno Bangladesh on Victory Day. Syed Tanzim Rezwana, Marketing Director of Reckitt Benckiser said that enormous sacri-

fices have been made to bring Bangladesh into being and it is our responsibility to keep this country clean and beautiful. Towards this end "Porichchonno Bangladesh Campaign" was launched at the beginning of this year. Sumi from Chirkutt band seconded this opinion. "We're very glad and inspired to sing a song which calls for keeping our beloved motherland clean and beautiful. We hope the people of Bangladesh will love this song and are inspired to maintain the cleanliness of their surroundings."

**Exhibition marking Victory Day at Barisal**

SUSHASTIA GHOSH, Barisal

A daylong exhibition about facts, photos, documents of Liberation War was held to observe the 46th anniversary of Victory of Bangladesh in Barisal on Saturday.

Barisal Reporters Union (BRU) arranged the eleventh exhibition about on the Liberation War at Anar VDP range office in Bangabandhu Udayan premises on occasion of Victory Day, patronised by district administration. It was inaugurated by Md. Shahiduzzaman, divisional commissioner and Habibur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Barisal and attended by leading freedom fighters, local elites, and BRU officials on Saturday morning.

This exhibition drew attentions of a huge number of spectators, especially Freedom Fighters and young visitors. A documentary film show on the history of Bangladesh was shown there.

