

WHAT'S ON

**Bengal Classical Music Festival**  
 Organizer: Bengal Foundation  
 Venue: Abahain Field  
 Date: December 26-30  
 Time: 6pm onwards

**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
 in Line  
 Photographer: Suman Paul  
 Venue: IMA Centre, Dharmaram  
 Date: November 19-21  
 Time: 9:30am-6pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Projection of Identity  
 Artist: Alif Hossain  
 Venue: Shilpakanya Gallery (Dharmaram)  
 Date: December 9-11  
 Time: 12-6pm

**National Rabindra Sangeet Festival**  
 Organizer: BSCS  
 Venue: Shaikat Dasmajumdar Auditorium, Public Library  
 Date: Dec 20-23, Time: 6pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Beyond the Highlight  
 Artist: Saadika Hossain Datta  
 Venue: Kala Kendra  
 Date: Dec 15-16  
 Time: 9-6pm

# Jaya wins Best Actress (Bengali films) at Zee Cine Awards



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jaya Ahsan has won the Zee Cine Award as Best Actress (Bengali films) for her Indian Bangla film "Bishorjon", at a grand gala ceremony in Mumbai on Tuesday evening.

"Since last year, Zee Cine Awards have begun recognition for regional cinema as well, for the Bengal, Marathi and South industries," the actress told The Daily Star over a Whatsapp call. "The regional awards are given at the start of the ceremony, after which the awards for the Hindi films begin."

The actress also informed that Prosenjit Chatterjee won Best Actor in the awards for the Bengal films, while "Bishorjon" won Best Film. These are the only three awards given for each regional industry, she added. Kaushik Ganguly-directed "Bishorjon" had earlier also won this year's Indian National Film Awards for Best in Film (Bengali). Abir Chatterjee stars in the film opposite Jaya, for which the late Kalikprasad Bhattacharya did music direction.

The Zee Cine Awards is an award show primarily for the Hindi film industry that began in 1998 and has become one of Hindi cinema's biggest reunions. At the ceremony held Monday at Mumbai's BKC Grounds, Varun Dhawan was awarded best actor (male) for "Badmashi Ki Dulhania", Sridevi won Best Actor (female) for "Mom", "Golmaal Again" won best film, Ashwini Iyer Tiwari won best director for "Barveilly Ki Baani".



# Chhayanaut's Shuddha Sangeet Utshab begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanaut's two-day Shuddha Sangeet Utshab, featuring vocal and instrumental music, begins today at 5:30pm at its main auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The annual festival comprising two sessions will end on December 23 morning.

The tenth edition of the festival will be formally inaugurated by noted music expert and Guru Manjuresh R Choudhury [of Rajshahi] as chief guest.

The programme will begin with the lighting of candles as a symbol of diffusing knowledge, followed by a short inau-

gural ceremony by the organisers along with a choral performance by the artists of Chhayanaut. The festival aims to fulfil the desire of music lovers for events dedicated to classical music and to inspire the practice of the genre in Bangladesh.

Noted and promising vocalists -- Khatirun Haldar, Anil Kumar Saha, Shafrin Anam Shakil and Diptee Samadder -- Dipu along with and instrumentalists -- Ebadat Huq Shaikat (sitar) and Sheuli Bhattacharjee (violin) will perform on the opening day of the festival.

The nightlong second session of the

festival will start at 6pm and continue till the next morning. Besides group vocal and instrumental performances by Chhayanaut artists, noted and upcoming vocalists and instrumentalists -- Shekhar Mondol, Rezwan Ali Labib, Asit Dey, Asit Roy, Jagadanda Roy, Bizon Chandra Mishra, Shrabanti Dhar, Supriya Das, Abhijit Kundu, Bipul Kumar and Tasaouf Islam will perform vocal music. Md. Moniruzzaman (flute), Murtaza Kabir Murad (flute), Dolon Kanungo (mohonvona), Nishit Dey (sitar) and Proshanta Bhowmik (tabla) will present instrumental recitals in the session.



Members of the Srishti Cultural Club (SCC) presented a number of performances at Tribhuban Army Officers' Club Auditorium in Kathmandu, Nepal, on December 17. Organised by the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal Masfaiya Binte Shams to commemorate Bangladesh's Victory Day, the event witnessed the attendance of Mayor of Kathmandu Bidya Shukrya as chief guest, as well as other foreign and national dignitaries. SCC, which is headed by renowned dancer Anisul Islam, presented a one-hour dance performance on our National Poet, folk, contemporary and patriotic numbers.

# Sporsho, BSA hold programme for special-needs children



Specialy-abled participants pose for a group photo with guests at the event.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 10th anniversary of Sporsho Braille Prokashona, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Sporsho Braille Prokashona jointly organised a music competition at BSA on December 19.

Noted singers Kiran Chandra Roy, Nasima Shaheen and Mahmudul Haan were the judges of the competition.

A total of 24 differently-abled students from different educational institutes -- Beautiful Mind School, Begum Badrunnessa College, University of Dhaka, CRP, Baptist Mission, Notre Dame College, Mirpur Girls' Ideal Laboratory Institute and Dhaka Public School and College -- took part in the junior and senior level competition. In the junior level competition, Bihee [of

Baptist Mission] stood first while Abu Bakar [of CRP] and Sanjida [of Beautiful Mind School] jointly positioned second. Ira [of Beautiful Mind School] stood third in the trophy.

In the senior level competition, Bushra [of University of Dhaka] positioned first while Tamanna Aktar and Paromita Jitra [of University of Dhaka] jointly stood second. Sohana from the same university was positioned third in the category.

Following the competition, Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA, took part in a discussion session as chief guest. Nazia Jabeen, Founder, Sporsho, spoke at the event.

Liaquat Ali Lucky said that BSA will arrange cultural programme and workshops every three months at the academy. The chief guests handed over awards and books to all the competing students.

# First Bangladeshi young critic at IFFR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), held in Netherland's Rotterdam city annually is considered one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world. While the festival has had representation of Bangladesh cinema for many years, this year for the first time a Bangladeshi journalist has been competitively selected as a young film critic to cover the festival.

Fahim Ferdous, a journalist for The Daily Star, has been selected IFFR 2018's "Trainee Project for Young Film Critics". He becomes the first Bangladeshi to be selected in the Young Critics programme's 20 year history and is one of the five selected journalists/film critics from Romania, Chile, Singapore and Nigeria.



For the duration of the festival from January 24-February 3, 2018, Fahim will cover the festival as an accredited journalist for IFFR web sites and publications as well as his home publication, and will also serve as a FIPRESCI jury for films in the

"Bright Future" section of the festival.

Aside from being the first Bangladeshi elected in the programme, the event marks his first time being part of a film festival of such scale. "I am excitedly looking forward to the event. Experimental and independent films are especially focused on at the festival, and it is a great honour and responsibility to serve as a member of the FIPRESCI jury at the programme. I hope to learn and experience a lot at the festival," he added.

# NEWS bytes

## "The Voice" crowns season 13 winner

After a night packed with performances, Chloé Kohanski on Tuesday was named the winner of The Voice season 13 on NBC.

Before the announcement, the top eight artists of the season returned to sing with established performers as celebrity coaches Miley Cyrus, Jennifer Hudson, Blake Shelton and Adam Levine looked on and occasionally performed themselves.

Babe Rexha, Charlie Puth, Norah Jones, Bastille, future Voice coach Kelly Clarkson, Sia and Billy Idol performed on the stage with participants of the long-running musical talent show.

Of the other star performers of the night, Demi Lovato sang "Tell Me You Love Me", and then Jessie J took the stage again to sing "Not My Boy" with Team Blud semifinalist Davon Fleming.

The season's final act, Red Marlow, sang "When I Call Your Name" with Vince Gill.

Team Blake's Marlow came in fourth place; coming in third place was Team Miley's Simpson. Thus, it was down to Team Adam's Agen and Team Blake's Kohanski. After the nationwide vote, Kohanski won, giving Team Blake another win on the books.

Source: Billboard

# Sandra Bullock plots a heist in first "Ocean's 8" trailer



The first trailer of the all-female YouTube of "Ocean's" franchise dropped on Spotify on Tuesday night.

Sandra Bullock stars as Debbie Ocean, the estranged sister of Danny Ocean (played by George Clooney in the previous three "Ocean's" films), in the female-led heist comedy. The movie centers on Debbie's attempt to pull off the heist of the century at New York City's annual Met Gala. The star-studded cast is also comprised of Cate Blanchett, Helena Bonham Carter, Anne Hathaway, Rihanna, Sarah Paulson, Mindy Kaling, and Awkwafina.

The trailer opens with Bullock in an orange prison jumpsuit at a parole hearing and promising to pursue "the simple life" if she's released. Then we see the star meet with her would-be counterparts in a planned \$150 million jewel heist.

"Why do you have to do this?" Blanchett's character asks Bullock's Ocean. "Because it's what I'm good at," Ocean

replicates. Richard Armitage will play Debbie's ex and the target of the gang's robbery, while James Corden is seen at the end of the trailer. As previously announced, "Ocean's 8" boasts a number of cameos including Dakota Fanning, Matt Damon, Anna Wintour, Kim Kardashian West, Kendall and Kylie Jenner, Olivia Munn, Katie Holmes, Zayn Malik, Zach Posen, Adriana Lima and Serena Williams.

The movie -- directed by Gary Ross, written by Ross and Olivia Milch, and produced by Clooney and Steven Soderbergh -- is both a sequel and spinoff of the Ocean's trilogy.

Paulson dropped the first poster last Thursday on Twitter. The striking image features the film's stars in stunning coats with the tagline: "Every con has its pros."

"Ocean's 8" hits theaters June 8, 2018.

Source: Variety

