

WHAT'S ON

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

Kathak Dance Festival
 Organizer: Kathak Dance Community
 Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayanaut
 Date: Dec 24-26
 Time: 6:05pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Beyond the Holographic
 Artist: Haasidat Hossain Dulu
 Venue: Sala Kendra
 Date: Dec 15-16
 Time: 5-9pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Call of God
 Artist: Mohammed Hossain Rahman
 Venue: Sala Kendra
 Date: Dec 19-20
 Time: 10am-12noon & 6-9pm

National Cultural Festival
 Organizer: Bangladesh Indian Shikhopathi
 Venue: Central Shalab Misa, Dhaka
 Date: Dec 28-30
 Time: 3pm

A Tremendous Transformation

Abahani Grounds get ready to host Bengal Classical Music Fest

FAHIM FERDOUS

Classical music lovers of the country have gone through a bit of an emotional roller coaster in the last couple of months, surrounding their favourite event of the year. Since early October, anticipation had been building up to the Bengal Classical Music Festival's announcement, followed by heartbreak when its cancellation was announced. A glimmer of hope returned in mid-November when it was reported that the festival was back on, at a new venue. As the official announcement of the five-night extravaganza from December 26-30 came on December 30, excitement returned to their hearts but with an air of apprehension: how would the Abahani grounds, part cricket field-part practice grounds for football, be able to handle the mammoth-scale festival in terms of the amenities and logistical convenience of the Army Stadium? The Daily Star looked to find the answer, visiting the field yesterday to see how exactly the Abahani grounds are being prepared. And the jury is out: It's going to be as good as it can get.

Starting off with the biggest question: how the festival regulars of the size of the venue – Bengal Foundation Chair Abul Khair had informed at the press conference that the square area of the setting is 3.60,000 square feet, a whole 100,000 square feet more than the Army Stadium. And looking at the half-completed arena, it sure looks like it's at no shortage of space. Although the Army Stadium space galleries which housed a lot of attendees in the past editions, for this ground the main



Workers busy setting up the ground for the grand event.

PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

seating area is structured by quite a bit using additional stables, along with the construction of a makeshift gallery at the far end of the ground.

To the stage right will be the food court, stretching along the length of the seating area, while the left side will house the stalls and exhibits of Bengal Foundation and festival partners. At the far back will be the media centre and some other logistical and security support units.

A 16-feet steel-plate wall is being erected along the boundaries of the entire field, to ensure security and to prevent outside sounds and distraction. There will be four main entrances, with the lines forming inside the field before the main festival area.

Another big concern for the audience was restrooms – and organisers have

given it due importance: A 48-unit makeshift restroom is being set up at the back of the food court, with another set of porta-potties at the other corner presumably for the VIP area.

Large groups of people were seen working through the day at the field, from laying down bricks for the walking area to erecting giant metal structures, setting up the stage, constructing the gallery, putting up the outer wall and setting up the crates for the food stalls. From huge tents to small hammer and nails and everything in between are kept easily a few hundred people away over the last few days, and will do until the curtain rises this Tuesday.

As someone who has spent a big part of their teenage afternoons at the Abahani grounds, the transformation

of the ground looks quite hard to believe. Blues Communications, who have been managing the event for the last four years, have shown that with the right planning, determination and resources, they can move mountains.

Having said all that, this festival will be different from previous years. Tens of thousands of attendees have formed a scene in the past five editions, as have the organisers. Being held in a residential area the traffic dynamics will be a little trickier, the relatively colder month of December will also play a part, but it's safe to say that no stone has been left unturned from the organisers' end to ensure that the festival is as enjoyable to the audience. The rest we'll know come December 26.

ASK ME ANYTHING

Suborna and Saud coming to Facebook Live at The Daily Star

Save the date! Eminent actor Suborna Mustafa and director Badrul Anam Saud are coming to The Daily Star's Facebook Live Show Ask Me Anything tomorrow, December 25 at 4pm.

The duo is gearing up for the release of their film "Gobin Baluchor", which is Saud's debut directorial venture for the big screen. The riverine romantic drama will see Suborna Mustafa return to the big screen in a central role after a long time, and also cast seasoned actors Raisul Islam Asad, Fazlur Rahman Babu and Jeetu Ahsan, Rana Khan and Shahadat Hossain. It also marks the film debut for three newcomers – Moon, Neela and Tanvir. The film releases countrywide on December 29.

Any subscriber to The Daily Star's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews>) can join the Facebook Live session, and pour in their love, adulation and questions to Suborna Mustafa and Saud, who will be on hand to answer all your queries, live!

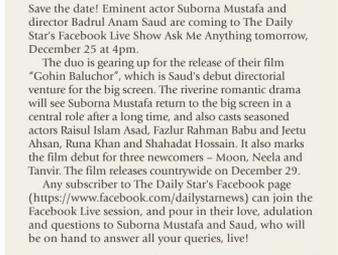


PHOTO: STAR

NEWS bytes

Kunis' "Spy Who Dumped Me" pushed back

Lionsgate has pushed back the opening dates of two of its 2018 comedies: the Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon-starrer "The Spy Who Dumped Me" and Tyler Perry's "A Madea Family Funeral".

The studio also announced a February 9 opening date for the Spanish-language romantic comedy "La Boda de Valentina".

For "Spy", the new date of August 3 pushes the release of the comedy back a full month from its original July 6 debut. The film will compete



against Disney's untitled "The Spy Who Dumped Me" family film, as well as against more adult fare like Shane Black's "The Predator".

For Perry's latest "Madea" film, a new release date sometime in fall 2018 pushes the film back from its original August 3 opening.

Source: THR



STAR FILE PHOTO

KATHAK DANCE FESTIVAL begins today at Chhayanaut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the 13th consecutive year, a three-day (December 24-26) Kathak Dance Festival '17 will begin this evening at 6:05pm at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhavan. Organised by the Kathak Dance Community (KDC), Professor Abdullah Abu Sayed, Founder, Bidisha Sahitya Kendra, will inaugurate the festival.

The organisers will confer Zeenat Nayan Memorial Award this year to eminent dancer Shamila Banerjee, director of Nitya Nandan. Noted dance exponents Amam Haque, Laila Hassan and Anisul Islam will attend the festival as

guests. Director of the KDC Saju Ahmed will deliver welcome address at the event.

Artist of KDC will perform 'Bhabhaya Sht Aboyoj' (Seven contemplative forms of Kathak Dance) at the event with live music by Mostak Ahmed on vocal, Yussuf Khan on sarod and Zakir Hossain on tabla.

The festival will have a seminar on "The diversity of dance forms found on the terracotta of Bengal region", at 10:05am tomorrow. Dr. Sheikh Meheddi Hossain will present the keynote at the seminar. Hosted by Saju Ahmed, the seminar will have discussants including Nriyati Sarathi Laila Hassan, Professor Nigar Chowdhury, Munsum Ahmed and MR Wasak.

Solo and group dance presentations by national award-winning young artists and promising dancers from outside Dhaka will follow in the evening session where renowned dancers and cultural personalities Minu Haque, Golam Kuddus, Nilufar Wahid Pappi and Fatema Kashem will attend as guests.

Celebrated and upcoming dancers from different troupes will perform solo and group performances highlighting *mishra chhanda* and *geet malika* on the concluding evening (December 26) of the festival.

Renowned dancers Golam Mostafa Khan, Deepa Khandakar and Tamanna Rahman and instrumentalist Hasnatul Rahman Bachchu will attend as guests.

TV WATCH

50th episode of Bhalobashar Rong on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

The 50th episode of TV series "Bhalobashar Rong" will air tonight at 9pm on ATN Bangla. Written by Arindum Gaha and directed by Ashis Roy, it casts Mahmud Sajjad, Dolly Islam, Babul Ahmed, Chhanda Mehbabin, Ilyas Kanchon and others.

The story revolves around Titi, a young college-going girl growing up with her grandparents. She lost her parents at a young age but never got the closure for a long time. One of her closest friends is her cousin Nodi, but their relationship comes to cross-roads when Nodi falls in love with Niloy, a close friend of Titi's who also has feelings for her.



A tense moment from the show.

"Tiger Zinda Hai" roars at Bollywood box office

Salman Khan's box office returns have been steady in the last few years, and his latest release, Katrina Kaif co-starring spy thriller sequel "Tiger Zinda Hai" has opened big at the Bollywood office.

According to leading trade analyst Taran Adarsh, the film has opened to packed houses, gathering more than Rs 33 crore over a day one from 5700 screens worldwide. This makes "Tiger Zinda Hai" the second-highest opening film of the year after box office juggernaut "Baahubali 2".

The film ranked in more than Rs 6 crore in UAE and over 1 crore in Australia.

As per boxofficeindia.com, the number of cinema-goers in India has gone down to 22.5 crore in 2017 from 34 crore in 2013. This coupled with rising ticket prices has presented a big problem for the producers who look for recovering their production cost within the first weekend. Now, their films need to run in the cinema halls for at least 10 days to start turning profits, according to Hindustan Times.



The huge number of theatres "Tiger Zinda Hai" has been released might be a setback. Even 60% occupancy can ensure a weekend with more than Rs 6 crore.

The film, a sequel to "Ek Tha Tiger", is the story of daredevil RAW agent Tiger returning

from exile. He, along with Pakistani agent and his wife Zoya (Katrina Kaif), is in the den of the world's most wanted terrorists, in a rescue mission of abducted nurses.

Source: Hindustan Times

JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE!

QUIZ CONTEST
 The Daily Star | STAR
 10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER

Email your answer to stargam@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winner of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email.

We are requesting you to follow the instructions given in detail.

QUIZ - 02
 How many kids were involved in the game?

WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ-01

- Muhammad Iman Khan, Kavasia Bazar
- Samiul Hossain, Mohammad Mazar
- Ehsanul Kabir Sakib, Savar
- Riswan Hossain, Ziajola
- Sohel Ahmed, Mohammadmasud
- Rohan Sabin, Baranai
- Hijobul Shaheed, Mirpur 14
- Fayyaz Asad, Adabari
- Hamedul Rahman, Central Road
- Touhid Hossain, Lalmarita