

WHAT'S ON



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Lost in Transition  
Artist: Afida Tanzim Mahi  
Venue: Kala Kendra  
Date: Jan 12-27  
Time: 5-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Joratalir Chalcitra  
Artist: Hashem Khan  
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya  
Gallery, BNM  
Date: Jan 5-31  
Time: 10am-5pm





**11th International Children's Film Festival**  
Organiser: Children's Film Society Bangladesh  
Venue: National Public Library  
Date: Jan 27- Feb 2  
Time: 4pm-8pm

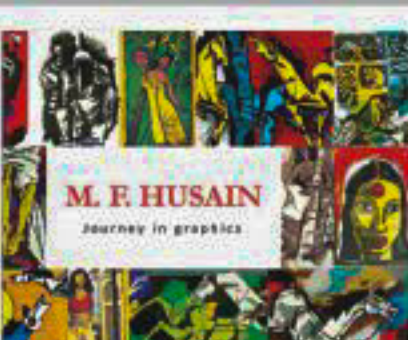
**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Cha Chakra  
Artist: Faham Ebna Sharif  
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 19-26  
Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs) and 9am-12 noon; 5-8pm (Fri-Sat)





**Bulbul Birth Anniversary**  
Organiser: BFA  
Venue: Nat'l Govt. Primary School Premises, Mirpur-2  
Date: Jan 26  
Time: 9am Onwards

**Solo Graphic Exhibition**  
Title: "M. F. Husain- Journey in Graphic"  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara  
Date: Jan 25-31  
Time: 11am-7:30pm





BFA's movie theatre (L); the film vault, where reels are stored at a freezing -8 degrees celsius.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Bangladesh Film Archive gets a makeover

MD. ROKANUZZAMAN

Though established in 1978, Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA) did not have its own grounds and lay in relative obscurity, until recently. With the implementation of a Tk. 86 crore project for a new multi-storied building and world-class facilities at Agargaon in Dhaka, this department under the Ministry of Information has had a major makeover.

Md. Rokanuzzaman, had a one-on-one with Shachindra Nath Halder, the Director General of Bangladesh Film Archive, who shed some insight on the mammoth government initiative:

#### A few words about BFA

SNH: Bangladesh Film Archive is a department under the Ministry of Information. Established in 1978, BFA became the member of International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) in 1980.

#### Tell us about the new BFA premises.

SNH: BFA did not have its own premises until last year. The present government decided on a project of TK. 86 crore to establish a brand new centre for BFA. The new office is a modern multi-storied building enriched with standard resources required for an ideal film archive.

#### What infrastructure does the new BFA have in place?

SNH: The new office is equipped with film scanning systems, film vaults, a projection hall with 300 seat capacity, an auditorium, a seminar room with 120 seats, a library, a film museum, a film checking and cleaning unit, an editing panel and a multi-purpose hall with the capacity to accommodate 500 people.

#### What role is being played by BFA to nurture our cine-cultural resources?

SNH: BFA has been preserving our cine cultural heritage since inception. It collects and preserves films and film-related books from home and abroad. Students, teachers, researchers, film makers and anybody interested can have a journey through our rich film heritage.

#### How rich is our film archive in comparison with other countries?

SNH: In the archive there are nearly thirty two hundred films out of which 900 are foreign, and more than fifty one hundred books. BFA is a member of FIAF whose Executive Committee praised our new office arrangements terming them as world-class. Today BFA can be proud of its film archive resources and hold themselves in high com-



Shachindra Nath Halder

parison with other FIAF bodies.

#### How can people benefit from BFA?

SNH: Students and researchers generally come here for research work. Film makers can use our technologies for making new films and preserve their work here for future reference. Our theatre hall is open to viewers every Thursday, where we screen films for free from morning till evening.

#### What are the challenges you face as a Director General of BFA?

SNH: The major challenges of BFA are manpower and budgetary allocation. We are currently a small team of forty members. However, we are in the process of recruiting 30 more, and have proposed 38 positions that are already under the consideration of the Ministry of Finance. The total budgetary allocation is TK 5 crore which is insufficient for smooth operations. We are trying to increase the annual allocation and we hope the Government will keep that issue in consideration.

#### What are your achievements as a DG?

SNH: I have been working for eight months only so I cannot claim that I have done a lot. I have formulated a project for a collection of footages of the Liberation War from home and abroad. I also took the initiative to set up a film museum.

#### What are the shortfalls?

SNH: I could not procure new machineries/technology that were needed. Also I wanted to get some of my staff members trained in accordance with international standards which is yet to happen. I hope the Government will pay attention to these concerns.

The author is a freelance contributor to The Daily Star.

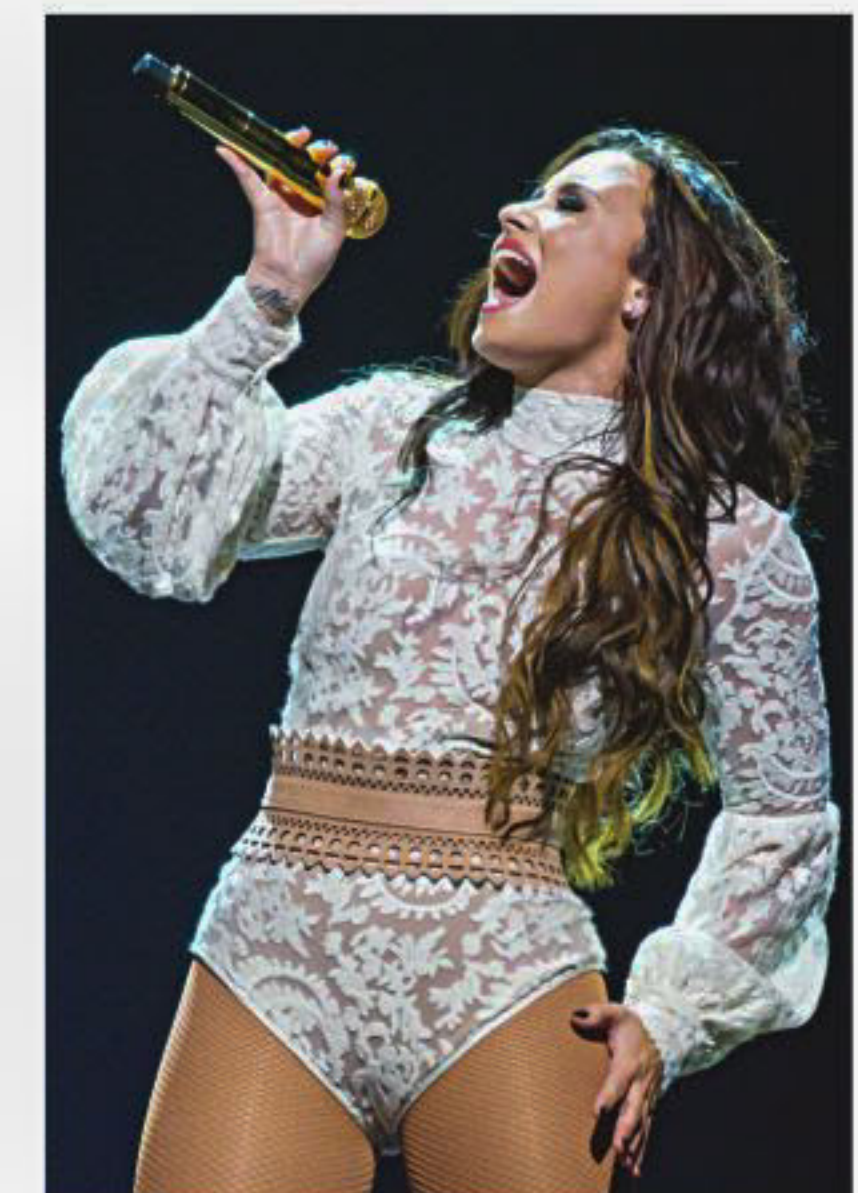
## NEWS bytes

### DEMI LOVATO

#### to include free therapy in tour

Demi Lovato is putting her fans first for her upcoming "Tell Me You Love Me" tour by providing free therapy sessions and wellness workshops through CAST Centers – a wellness, addiction and mental health program based in Los Angeles – the singer announced Wednesday.

Fans will have the chance to sign up for the intimate chats, led by CAST founder and CEO Mike Bayer, as well as listen to special guest speakers talk about their own personal journeys with mental health and wellness. Speakers from Lovato's 2016 tour included Joe Jonas, Nick Jonas, Phil



McIntyre, Bea Miller and Metta World Peace, among others.

Additionally, Lovato and Bayer will be partnering up with one mental health/wellness charity in each city, encouraging fans to donate via text message during the show itself. Lovato first worked with Bayer when she was undergoing treatment for substance addiction and her bipolar diagnosis. She is now a part owner of CAST Centers.

On Good Morning America Wednesday, Lovato emphasised her aim to use her public platform for good. "I make it my life goal to inspire other people," she said. "I think that it's important for me to use my voice for more than just singing. I just know how important it is to use my platform to help others and to share my story in hopes that it inspires people to either get into recovery or better themselves. Whatever it is, I just want people to know they're not alone and I'm here for them."

Source: Rolling Stone



## "Panchanari Akhyani" to be staged today

Dhaka Theatre will stage their 37th production; "Ponchanari Akhyani" today at 7pm at the Mahila Samiti Mancha in the capital's Baily Road area, says a press release. This is the 50th staging of the play. Written by Harun Rashid, the play has been directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim. Rosy Siddique plays five different roles in the monodrama.

Stories of five girls are woven into the plot of the play. Jolekha, Antora, Monoroma, Morium and Momtaz -- all confined to a boundary created by a rigid patriarchal society. Women are still not recognised as individuals and they are subjugated by their male counterparts. The play speaks for women through portraying their agonies in different social contexts. "Panchanari

Akhyani" combines stories from different social settings and times but in every story women are neglected.

Afzal Hossain has done the set design while Shimul Yousuff and Chandan Chowdhury have jointly done the background scores. Nasrin Nahar and Wasim Ahmed have done costume design and light design respectively for the play.

## Kolkata Int'l Children Film Festival

### Morshedul Islam's "Ankhi O Tar Bondhura" receives accolades

SUBRATA ACHARYA, Kolkata

After the inauguration at Nandan, Kolkata on January 19, Kolkata International Children Film Festival is in full swing. (OK) Filmmakers from 32 countries, including Bangladesh, Japan, Australia, Iran and India, are taking part in the festival that will continue till January 27.

Noted Bangladeshi filmmaker Morshedul Islam's "Ankhi O Tar Bondhura" has received accolades from all corners. Watching the film at Rabindra Sadan, veteran Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty, in an instant reaction, said, "Such a film should not be limited to this festival only; rather it should be screened in other districts of the state. The message that the film offers is very important. In a word, it is an outstanding film."

Many film lovers including youngsters like Trisha Kanti Chakrabarty, Nayana Raha, Pinku Singh and Arif were transfixed by "Ankhi O Tar Bondhura" at the festival.

Among the 225 films, two other Bangladeshi films -- "Boka Khey



A scene from "Ankhi O Tar Bondhura".

Boguraye" and "Rajshahir Roshogolla", directed by noted actor Afzal Hossain, were screened on January 24 at the festival. The organisers too are actively promoting Bangladeshi films.

Gautam Ganguly, Secretary to the Kishore Academy, Kolkata, said, "Morshedul Islam is a noted film director. He has a sizable fan following in Kolkata."

## Music Festival at Dhaka University begins today

A CORRESPONDENT

As part of their regular academic curriculum, Department of Music, University of Dhaka (DU) has arranged a two-day (January 26-27) long music festival 2017 on the theme "Bangla Gaan". The festival begins today at Mal Chatter at DU.

Vice Chancellor of DU Professor M Akhtaruzzaman will inaugurate the festival while Vice Chancellor of Jagannath University Professor Mijanur Rahman, Vice Chancellor of National



University Harun-or-Rashid, Vice Chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) Professor AHM Mustafizur Rahman, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University Professor Md. Alauddin, Vice Chancellor of Begum Rokeya University Professor Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, Vice Chancellor of Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology (SMUCT) Professor Quazi Md. Mafizur Rahman will attend the inaugural ceremony as special guests.

Students and teachers of the Department of Music, DU, will perform classical music, Nazrul Sangeet, Rabindra Sangeet, folk, adhunik and film songs and instrumental music. Renowned singers Subir Nandi and Khurshid Alam on the opening day and Rafiqul Alam and Abida Sultana on the concluding day will perform songs as guest artistes. Besides, singers from the Departments of Music of JKKNIU and SMUCT will perform at the festival.

The Honours student, who secured the first class with first position in 2016 examination from the Department of Music, DU, will be conferred Nilufar Yasmin Memorial Scholarship at the event. Nine eminent music personalities will be honoured at the programme.