

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition

By Artist Rashid Chowdhury

Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi

Date: Jan 28- Feb 10

Time: 10am-8pm

Kathak Recital

Dancers: Mumtaz Ahmed & Students of IGCC

Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum

Date: Jan 29

Time: 6pm

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 Graphic Exhibition

Title: "M. F. Husain- Journey in Graphic"

Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara

Date: Jan 25-31

Time: 11am-7:30pm

Group Art Exhibition

Title: Collector's Show

Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi

Date: Jan 23-Feb 2

Time: 3-8pm

# Talent brims at Int'l Children's Film Festival



A CORRESPONDENT

The grounds of the Public Library premises were filled with the joyous shrieks of children running around in statement orange t-shirts, herded about by older youths donned in the same attire. Saturday marked an occasion young talents with a passion for cinema have looked forward to for the past 11 years, and the Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith ceremoniously set things off by inaugurating the International Children's Film Festival that day. Minister of Information, Hasanul Haq Inu attended as chief guest, while British Council's Country Director Barbara Wickham was present as special guest.

The Festival opening proved

to be a wonderful spectacle with the hoisting of the National Flag following the national anthem and inaugural song. To everyone's delight, this was followed by setting balloons and pigeons free into the blue sky. The event was presided over by Mostofa Monwar, Chairman of Children's Film Society, which was also attended by the organization's President Mohammad Zafar Iqbal and General Secretary Monira Morshed, and festival advisor Morshedul Islam. Noted director Mohammad Abir Ferdous also delivered a welcome address at the event.

Aside from playing a crucial part in the festival management, children and adolescents are also delegated the responsibility in managing screenings. "Children

are working in the Jury Board, doing public relations, managing the office, taking care of the delegates, maintaining the film screening schedule and more," said Jisan, a college

student who is working in the media section of the festival. An elated Sayeda Abrar Tohat Raha, a young filmmaker and a student of class ten in Viqarunnisa Noon School, said she was very

excited about the arrangement as this was the third time her film had been selected for showing at the festival.

The inaugural ceremony was followed by the festival's first film screening of Maria Novaro's "Tesoros."

More than 200 films made by children and young adults from 58 countries are expected to be screened across six venues at Dhaka over the six day festival which concludes on February 2. Films will be screened daily from 11am-2pm, and 4pm-6pm at Central Public Library's Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum's Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Alliance Française de Dhaka, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, The British Council, and Goethe Institut.



## "Maze Runner: The Death Cure" overtakes "Jumanji"



Fox's "Maze Runner: The Death Cure" is set to knock "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" out of its first place slot at the box office, with \$22 million from 3,787 North American locations.

The last installment in the "Maze Runner" series, "The Death Cure" stars Dylan O'Brien as a young man fighting for survival in a dystopian world. The film's opening was delayed for a year after O'Brien sustained injuries on the set two years ago. Kaya Scodelario and Thomas Brodie-Sangster also star. Wes Ball has directed all three films.

Sony's "Jumanji," starring Kevin Hart and Dwayne Johnson, had maintained the top spot at the box office for the past three weekends after opening in second place behind "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" in December. The sixth weekend of "Jumanji" will likely finish at around \$15 million at 3,553 sites, giving it \$337 million domestically after 40 days — topping Sony's "Spider-Man: Homecoming" for 49th place on the all-time list.

2,663 locations, respectively. The number represents only a 15% decline for "The Greatest Showman," which has proven a solid draw for Fox and should finish the weekend with roughly \$126 million. The weekend marks an expansion for "Hostiles," which opened Dec. 20 at three theaters to \$22,849.

In fifth is Steven Spielberg's "The Post," which stars Meryl Streep as Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham alongside Tom Hanks as the editor of the same paper. The film chronicles the exposure of the Pentagon Papers and the outlet's fight to publish them.

The Maze Runner franchise has been a reliable performer for Fox since 2014, when it opened the original "Maze Runner" with \$32.5 million; the film ended up grossing \$102 million in U.S. revenue. The 2015 follow-up, "The Scorch Trials," opened with \$30 million and totaled \$82 million at the domestic box office.

Source: **Variety**

On Saturday evening (January 27) Battery Dance Company of New York presented its Dhaka debut, "Dancing for Peace and Tolerance" at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The programme is supported by the US Embassy in Dhaka, the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and BSA. Five dance performances took place over a 90-minute session, including the productions "People Get Ready", "Ultraviolet", "Observatory", "Terra and Astra" and "Shakti". All performances worked under the theme of Gandhi's desire to secure a culture of peace and tolerance. The Company also conducted workshops with local dancers.



## "B te Bondhu" on Duronto TV

A CORRESPONDENT

Duronto Television, a television channel designed only for children, is running successfully on all satellite channel providers. Running both international and local content, the channel has many interesting child-friendly

projects in the pipeline. One such content is the television series "B te Bondhu" by Jubaraj Khan. The series stars senior actors Tanveen Sweetie, Shahadat Hossain, Naznin Hasan Chumki and Shahed Ali Sujon, and joining them are child actors Rafi, Nafi and Sreshtha.

"I have worked with children before, so I was ready for this project. Duronto Television asked me for a series, and so I contacted Matiya Banu Shuku for a script. She mentioned how the everyday activities of her three children could make for a series on its own. And so that's what we went

for," said director Jubaraj.

"While casting children can be a difficulty on its own, getting them to act the part is another. For 'B te Bondhu', we held a 2-day workshop involving 8-10 children who had potential. Through games and activities that involve acting, the workshop was quite successful. We had found our three child actors on the first day itself," he added.

When asked what the biggest appeal would be in this show for children, Jubaraj said, "It will teach children the value of friendship. The three children on the show play the roles Bonny, Bunty, and Bubly. These three are constantly up to their own shenanigans. They play, they fight, and they make up, but always stick together."

"B te Bondhu" is telecast from Sunday to Thursday at 7.30 am. Repeat shows can be viewed at regular intervals at 8.30 pm, 12:30 am etc.



### KOLKATA BOOK FAIR

## Bangladesh Pavilion to replicate Ahsan Manzil

SUBRATA ACHARYA, Kolkata

The Bangladesh pavilion is to replicate the historic Ahsan Manzil in the upcoming Kolkata Book Fair to be held from January 31 to February 8.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will inaugurate the fair on January 30. The Kolkata Book Fair will place special emphasis on the art and literature of France, the country theme of this year. The city will also pay homage to Bangladesh by celebrating Bangladesh Day on February 3 at the fair, according to organiser Tridib Kumar Chatterjee, General Secretary of the Publishers and Booksellers Guild.

"Like previous years, Bangladesh is taking part in the fair with a larger presence than previous years. The interest of Kolkata book lovers towards Bangladeshi books is on the rise. So the Bangladesh Pavilion will rightly attract a large number of bookworms," said Tridib Chatterjee.

"To uphold the art, literature and culture of Bangladesh to the people of Kolkata, Bangladesh is participating in the fair on a larger scale," stated Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata Toufique Hasan to The Daily Star.

In his words, "Bangladesh Pavilion will be modeled on the historic Ahsan Manzil on a space of about 3500 square feet. Apart from Bangla Academy, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Islamic Foundation, Nazrul Academy, many prominent Bangladeshi publishing houses are taking part in the pavilion."

"Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will grace the programme on Bangladesh Day as chief guest. Famous poets, litterateurs and artists of West Bengal, India will participate in various programmes of Bangladesh Day," added Toufique Hasan.

This year, Kolkata Book Fair is being held at the Central Park of Salt Lake.