

WHAT'S ON

Amor Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan & Bangla Academy Premises
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3-9pm (Sun-Thurs), 11am-9pm (Fri-Sat)



Solo Art Exhibition
By Artist Rashid Chowdhury
Venue: Gallery Chitrag, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 28- Feb 10
Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Jahangirnagar Theatre
Venue: Muktamancha, JU
Date: Feb 2-11
Time: 6pm



Dhaka Art Summit 2018
Organiser: Samdani Art Foundation
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 2-10
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Fragmented Unity by artist Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
Venue: La Galerie, AFD
Date: Feb 1-13
Time: 3-9pm



NEWS bytes



JT keeps it classic at Super Bowl

Following the release of his fifth studio album "Man of the Woods," Justin Timberlake combined his classics with new tracks for a dance-filled Super Bowl halftime performance. Timberlake promised in a video announcing his new album in January that he would return to his roots, and with chart-topping songs like "Rock Your Body" and "SexyBack," he certainly delivered. He kicked off the show with an intro from Jimmy Fallon, segueing from the Pepsi ad that had aired just before. He began with "Filthy," and then transitioned into a medley of "Rock Your Body" and "SexyBack." Backed by a tuxedo-clad marching band, Timberlake sang "Suit & Tie" from his album "The 20/20 Experience" on a raised white platform. He sat at a white grand piano for "Until the End of Time," which transitioned into a cover of Prince's "I Would Die 4 U." As he sang the song, a projection of Prince from "Purple Rain" appeared on a massive purple curtain. The song ended with Prince's infamous shadow from the 2007 Super Bowl projected on the sheet. Timberlake released singles "Filthy," "Supplies," and "Say Something" to build anticipation for his Super Bowl performance, but only sang "Filthy" off his most recent album.

Source: Variety

Many happy returns

In conversation with Guru Razwan Ali

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Today marks the 55th birthday of renowned classical music vocalist Razwan Ali, who recently received the Sangeetacharya honour from India's Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Mumbai.

The senior Chhayanaut Guru is also an Assistant Professor at the Department of Music, Jagannath University, a guest trainer at Bengal Parampara *Sangeetalaya*, a visiting trainer of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and the master trainer of Lakshyapar.

The artist's friends, colleagues, relatives, disciples, fans and other well wishers have arranged a celebration programme today at 6:30pm at the rooftop of Chhayanaut Building. The three-hour long programme will start off with a classical music performance by prominent and promising singers of Bangladesh.

Razwan Ali, one of the pioneers of initiating Chhayanaut's annual Shuddha

Sangeet Utshab, recently spoke to The Daily Star on many aspects of classical music practice in Bangladesh.

Students of Chhayanaut performed "Asta Kalyan", a Raagmala based on eight distinctive ragas - Yaman, Bhoopali, Shuddh Kalyan, Maru behag, Chhayanaut, Kedar and Nand (Anandi Kalyan) on teentaal at the recently held Chhayanaut Shuddha Sangeet Utshab and Lakshyapar Classical Music Festival. He composed the *bandish* of the Raagmala and directed the performance.

"The purpose of the presentation was to make the students effortlessly switch from one distinctive raga to another," said Razwan Ali.

Chhayanaut's role is very important in promoting classical music and producing more of its practitioners. "Classical music is a vast subject and our students are really interested to learn it. Though we have some sorts of institutional shortcomings to teach the students following

Guru-Shishya Parampara, we believe Chhayanaut's efforts will overcome these shortly. We, the teachers, should invest more time to teach them properly."

The singer, who is also an academic syllabus designer, is an enlisted artiste of BTV and Bangladesh Betar. He started receiving lessons on classical vocal music from Bholanath Bhattacharya at District Shilpakala Academy in Magura in 1978, after which he continued training under Pt. Chandiprasad till 1983. Later he received tutelage from Ustad Abdul Bari Khan from 1984-1988. During this time he also learnt Nazrul Sangeet at Bubul Lalit Kala Academy. The singer is effortless in performing dhruwad, khayal, thumri, tappa, tarana, ghajal and bhajan as well. He completed his BPA and MPA in Classical Vocal Music from M.S. University, Baroda, India, on an ICCR scholarship. During that time he studied intensively for seven years under Pt. Narayan Rao Patbardhan of Gwalior Gharana.



The search is on! Channel i Lux Superstar audition begins

A CORRESPONDENT

Channel i Lux Superstar is on the hunt for its next glamour queen, and began its ninth season yesterday (February 5) with an audition round. Scores of aspiring beauty contestants lined up outside Emmanuelle's Convention Centre in Gulshan, Dhaka, waiting for their turn.

The audition round followed after a lengthy selection process in which the programme unit traveled around Bangladesh in search of potential contestants. Out of a staggering 12,000 young women, 250 have been selected for the auditions,

where they have to go through a challenging process by facing three judging panels. Judges for the auditions include Aparna, Shanu, Shorna, Shahed Ali, Alif and Shafayet Mansur Rana. Today judges will select 60 women for an intensive grooming period at boot camp, before battling it out in the main competition.

This season's main judges are Arifin Shuvo, Sadia Islam Mou and Tahsan Khan.

Powered by Unilever, this year's programme theme is "Dekhiye Dao Odekha Tomae", to emphasise on the complex requirements needed to win the show.

Curtains on 47th edition of IFFR 11-day spectacle ends with "The Death of Stalin"

FAHMIM FERDOUS, writes from Rotterdam

Armando Iannucci's political satire "The Death of Stalin" (a film banned in five countries including Russia) brought this year's International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) to an official close on Saturday night, after 11 days of enthralling film screenings, talks, masterclasses, conferences and networking. Some programmes of the festival, however, continued over the weekend on Sunday.

A total of 531 feature, mid-length and short films screened this year, of which 140 had their world premieres at the 12-day festival, which saw its 47th edition being held this year. Among them were 267 feature films of which 60 had world premieres, 35 international premieres and 19 European premieres. Around 264 short and mid-length films were also screened, of which 80 were world premieres, 37 international pre-



mieres and 24 European premieres. Some 2,405 film professionals from all corners of the world attended the event, including 332 filmmakers. More than 32,900 attendances were counted at the screenings and events, who voted 76 films a 4 out of 5 or higher.

The festival's main competition award, the Hivos Tiger, was won by Cai Chengjie for "The Widowed Witch", while a special jury award went to Rami Alayan for his screenplay in "The Reports on Sarah and Saleem". Gustav Möller's "The Guilty" won the IFFR Audience Award, and the Bright Future Award was picked up by Tiago Melo for "Azougue Nazare". The awards, along with a host of others, were handed out on February 2.

Some of this year's highlights included Thai master auteur Apichatpong Weerasethakul's grand project SLEEPINEMAHOTEL, a video installation project that served as a fully-functional hotel where people could sleep in, surrounded by images and sounds; Czech surrealist filmmaker-animator Jan Svankmajer's final feature-length film "Insect"; a masterclass by US filmmaker and screenwriter of films such as "Taxi Driver" and "Raging Bull" Paul Schrader; a talk by Charlotte Rampling, the British actor-model known best for her European arthouse - along with a screening of her latest film "Hannah", and a special screening of Paul Thomas Anderson's "Phantom Thread" - which has scored six nominations at this year's Oscars - with the film's entire soundtrack played by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra.

The festival offered five extensive theme programmes this year - "House on Fire", "Pan-African Cinema Today", "Curtain Call" and "Maximum Overdrive", and "A History of Shadows". The festival also had a special focus on the work of Polish artist Artur Żmijewski, and presented a retrospective on films by Argentinian filmmaker José Celestino Campusano as well as a Deep Focus Short Profile on the work of Chinese artist-filmmaker Zhou Tao.

IFFR's endeavor in the direction of independent film distribution - IFFR Unleashed, a round-the-year VOD platform for films screened at the festival - was also met with positive response as over a thousand users from 44 countries signed up for it.

The festival also held the 4th edition of "IFFR Live" through which six films, all by female directors, simultaneously screened in more than 45 cinemas worldwide - including post-Mugabe Zimbabwean capital Harare, as well as Singapore and Curaçao. Audiences from all over the world were able to join in the post-screening talk shows.

IFFR 2018 hosted the first edition of Reality Check, a two-day conference focusing on film distribution, while the 35th edition of CineMart was re-focused and offered a platform to 16 projects. Fifty-nine participants also joined Rotterdam Lab, a five-day training workshop for emerging producers.

The festival's expanded education programme - featuring special talks, screenings and workshops for children and students - reached 28,800 people. The IFFR Youth Jury also handed out an award at the awards ceremony, while the festival also organised a special workshop for teachers on how to incorporate film into the school curriculum.

The next edition of the IFFR will be held from January 23, 2019 to February 3, 2019.

The Daily Star's Fahmim Ferdous covered the 47th IFFR as part of its Young Film Critics Programme.

Contemporary sculpture exhibition concludes at CU

MD. ABBAS, CU

Artists showcased their prowess by turning discarded items into beautiful art-forms of aesthetic value through a sculpture exhibition at Artist Rashid Chowdhury Art Gallery of Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University (CU).

The exhibition titled "International Celebration of Contemporary Sculpture" was inaugurated on January 29 and concluded on Sunday with the theme of Sculpture and Architecture.

Sculpture Network, a Germany-based sculpture organisation arranged the event, held annually at the end of January to promote and support sculpture.

The exhibition was held at 97



Visitors admiring the displays at the exhibit.

A total of 60 sculptures by 55 artists were on display at the exhibit. The artists used metal rods and pipes, ceramic, fiber glass, cloths, metal sheets, wood, paper, sawdust, stone, terracotta, glass, sand, coal and re-cycled materials to make their sculptures.

Through their work, the artists tried to portray lifestyles and activities of people in their day to day lives, and more.

Bangladesh's venue coordinator and CU Fine Arts Institute's Associate Professor Pranab Mitra Chowdhury expressed the hope that the exhibition would help students and teachers to polish their artistic skills.

Some of the sculptures which captivated the audience most were... "The World Tower of Refugee Era", "Enough

...No More", "Shelter (dedicated to the homeless people)", "Time's Disillusion", "Looking Back", "Disorder of Addiction", "Intruder-03", "Duel Entity", "Composition", "The Last Journey", "Desire and more".

Chittagong University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Iftakhar Uddin Chowdhury inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest while Director of Alliance Française de Chittagong Dr. Selvam Thorez was present as special guest.

CU's Pro VC Prof Shireen Akhter, CU Arts & Humanities Faculty Dean Prof Md. Sekander Chowdhury, CU Fine Arts Institute's Director Shaela Sharmin, and the Institute's Prof Faizul Azim also addressed the programme among others.

Esha Gupta reunites with Arjun Rampal in "Paltan"

Arjun Rampal is currently shooting for J.P. Dutta's "Paltan". Now a familiar co-star, Esha Gupta, has joined the project along with Arjun. The actress will be seen in "Paltan", essaying the role of Arjun Rampal's wife. Arjun will be playing the role of a Lieutenant Colonel in the war drama. Talking about her involvement, Esha reportedly said that she is honoured to work with a filmmaker like Dutta.

This pairing makes it the second outing for the two actors, who had a crackling chemistry when they first worked together in Prakash Jha's "Chakravayuh". Meanwhile "Paltan" is based on the Indian-Sino war of 1962.

Source: TOI



Through their work, the artists tried to portray lifestyles and activities of people in their day to day lives, and more.

venues in 21 countries. Like last year, the exhibition is being held at two venues in Bangladesh--Artist Rashid Chowdhury Art Gallery of Institute of Fine Arts of CU and Alliance Française de Chittagong Gallery.