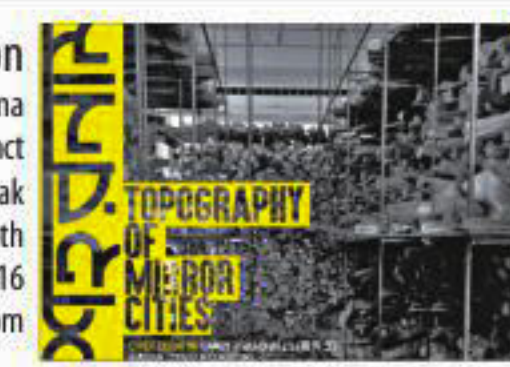


WHAT'S ON

Theatre Festival
38 Years of Dhaka Padatik
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Mar 9-16
Time: 7pm



Art Exhibition
Shohomama
Venue: Daily Star Bengal Arts Precinct & Gyantapas Abdur Razzak Bidyapeeth
Date: Mar 2-16
Time: 11am-7pm



Group Art Exhibition
Us Women
Organiser: EMK Center
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: Mar 8-22
Time: 9:30am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Oil Head
Artist: RA Kajol
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: Mar 09-18; Time: 3-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Remembrance '71
Artist: Shah Mainul Islam Shiplu
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi
Date: Mar 02-14; Time: 3-9pm



Ferdous to play Devdas in new film

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Dhallywood star Ferdous is ready to fill in the shoes of an iconic literary and cinematic character, taking on the lovelorn role of Devdas in a new venture titled "Kathgorae Saratchandra".

In the film directed by Arifur Rahman Arif, National Award-winning actress Poppy will join him as Parvati.

While the intense, tragic character has been represented numerous times on screen, this marks Ferdous's first portrayal of the complex hero. Regarding preparations for his role, Ferdous stated, "Shooting will begin towards the end of April, and I believe that this film will mark something new in my career."

The actor also added that he will be working with Poppy after three years, since their last film together titled "Chaar Okkhorer Bhalobasha".

Ferdous added that the film is not a direct adaptation of the famed novel. "Parvati, Chandramukhi and Devdas are revived to confront the writer, Saratchandra, with many questions."

Ferdous will also be starring in the film "Beauty Circus", for which the second lot has been filmed in Manikganj. The rest of the film will be wrapped up in Dhaka.

"Beauty Circus' is completely new, as it revolves around a circus troupe. Jaya Ahsan is starring with me in the film," he added.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

NEWSbytes

Pearl Jam unveils new song

Pearl Jam revealed members of their Ten Club fan club Saturday with a new song titled "Can't Deny Me." Following its Ten Club unveiling – which coincided with bassist Jeff Ament's 55th birthday – the song premiered on Sirius XM's Pearl Jam Radio.

The snarling new track is a protest song seemingly aimed at Donald Trump. "The higher, the farther, the faster you fly / You may be rich but you can't deny me / Got nothing, got nothing but the will to survive / You can't control and you can't deny me," Eddie Vedder sings on the chorus, later adding "Watch as the roots take hold / the country you are representing / critical condition."

"Can't Deny Me" was accompanied by artwork that captures a protest in action, with Pearl Jam writ-



PHOTO: STEVE GRANITZ/GETTY IMAGES



BARAK-SURMA Theatre Festival 2018

REJOICING TOGETHER

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Surma river of Sylhet and Barak river of Assam may be divided by a border but the Barak-Surma valley share common folklore, culture and traditions.

Now theatre proves a binding factor as the two valleys come together on the stage of Kabi Nazrul Auditorium in Sylhet.

Kathakali, a theatre organisation has put up "Barak-Surma Natyotshab '18" where four theatre troupes from Sylhet and three theatre groups from Assam are participating with their productions.

The nine-day festival was inaugurated on March 8 with a stage play by hosts Kathakali. The theatre group presented play "Durbin Shah", written by Mostak Ahmed and directed by Amirul Islam Babu, the play is based on the life and work of the mystic bard Durbin Shah.

In the festival--Nriyashaily presented dance-drama – "Mohajoner Nao" written by Shakur Majid and directed by Nilanjana Jui on March 9; Nandik Natyadal staged play "Hason Raja" written by Mostak Ahmed and directed by Amirul Islam Babu on March 10 and Little Theatre Sylhet staged "Bhaibe Radharaman",

written and directed by Tanvir Nahid Khan on March 11.

On March 12, Dashrupak Sangskritik Sangstha of Silchar, Assam will stage "Shekor Sondhane", written and directed by Chitrabhanu Bhowmik. Gono-Sur Sangskritik Sangstha of Shilchar will stage a Debesh Thakur play "Shesh Songlap", directed by Subrata Roy on March 13. The same group will stage "Legacy Code 19-05-1961", written by Arijit Aditya and directed by Subrata Roy.

Bibartan Theatre Group of Hailakandi will stage Indranil Dey's play "Aj Bashanto", directed by Shayon Biswas on March 15.

The festival will close on March 16, honouring theatre and music legends. At the closing ceremony, a solo dance presentation by Satyajit Basu will take place while a musical presentation by Dalchut of Silchar, India will follow.

Shamima Chowdhury, president of Kathakali, said that the present Barak valley was formerly known as Kachar which was a greater part of Sylhet and was separated in 1947.

"These valleys have been separated by a border, but the confluence of culture still unites both the peoples and the festival is to rejuvenate the bond of Barak and Surma valleys", she said.

Jacqueline Fernandez learning martial arts for 'Race 3'



Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez is going through an extensive training in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) to shoot action sequences in her upcoming film 'Race 3', opposite Salman Khan.

Talking about her training, her fitness trainer Kuldeep Sashi said: "Jacqueline is someone who has an athletic body type, so she does not require any special regime to tone up herself. However, as a requirement to her character, she is undergoing extensive MMA training, focusing towards kicking and punching."

"The action sequences that Jacqueline has to perform are very demanding. They require application of the right tech-

niques. As she has never performed hand-to-hand combat or martial arts before, getting the style and techniques right is our only focus."

Her diet has also changed. Kuldeep said: "There has been a lot of additions to Jacqueline's diet. She is consuming more calories these days owing to the extensive action sequences she has to deliver onscreen."

The upcoming schedule of the film will be shot in mid-March in Abu Dhabi.

"Race 3", being produced by Salman Khan and directed by Remo D'Souza, is slated to release on June 15.

Source: **TOI**

Joltorongo celebrates its fourth anniversary

Marking its fourth founding anniversary, cultural organisation "Joltorongo" held a musical programme titled "Bondi Pran Mon Hok Udhao" at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut on March 9.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent thespian Ramendu Majumdar spoke at the event as chief guest while renowned music director and artiste of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, Sujeya Syam and noted actor-elocutionist Jayanta Chattopadhyay attended the programme as special guests. Masuda Khan Eti, president, Joltorongo, delivered vote of thanks.

The event, featuring presentations of choral and solo songs along with poems, started off with a choral rendition of a Tagore song "Sobare Kori Ahoban". Biplob Mazumder and Salma Shabnam beautifully recited a long poem "Ishtehaar", composed by Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah at the event.

Rendition of choral songs such as

"Sokatorey Oi Kandichhey Sokoli" (composed by Tagore) and "Durgam Giri Kantar Moru" (composed by Kazi Nazrul Islam) was well synchronised. Performance of a solo song "Bistimo Duparer Oshongkho Manusher", originally recorded by Bhupen Hazarika, by a singer received rounds of applause.

Regular artistes and well-wishers of the troupe including Zakir Hossain Tapan, Tanvira Ashraf Shyama, Masuda Khan Eti, Enakshi Saha Roy, Ranjit Roy, Shefta Alam Aditi, Tanzim Mahmud, Nahida Rezwana, Ruba Mazumder, Parvin Yasmin, Shantanu Saha Roy, Humayun Azam Rewaz and Jishuram Sushil rendered songs at the programme. Zakir Hossain Tapan and Tanvira Ashraf Shyama directed music for the soiree.



Traditional Baul musical instrument makers need financial support

AMANUR AMAN, From Kushtia

Traditional Baul musical instrument makers in Kushtia have called for financial support to expand their businesses.

Thousands of instrument makers manufacture around 4,000 varieties of instruments everyday at about 50 small factories. The business is a source of livelihood to above 250 families.

The whole area has been developed based on Baul Fakir Lalon Shah's akhra bari (den) for the years contemporary to the mystic legends. Some villages like Cheuria, Mondolpara, Joynabad have earned fame for making the

instruments.

"We have reached a certain level; now we need financial backing if we want to move forward," said Amirul Islam Badsha, owner of Ektara Bari, the largest instrument making factory in the area.

Amirul envisages that their business will grow when there is sizeable economic growth.

The Baul musical tradition incorporates a number of musical instruments include ektara, dotara, dhol, mandira, banshi, khol, khamak and dung. Other percussion instruments include the baya or khol drum, and small cymbals called kartal and manjira. The dugi is a small handheld earthen drum.

A market called Akhra bari market with some 100 shops for the sale of such instruments has been set up outside the main gate of Lalon's shrine.

According to instrument-makers, they look forward to the two festivals when their sales are at their peak.

"We make all of the instruments in our factory and supply these to the Akhra market and different parts of the country according to demand," said Azhar Uddin alias Pillad Mistri of Cheuria village, the village where the Lalon shrine is located.

The demand for instruments has increased manifold, said Nasir

Uddin, owner of Nishita Ektara Factory.

Nasir, however, sees the need for a government loan for business expansion.

MD. Shahinuzzaman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Kumarkhali told this correspondent that government could possibly bring the factory owners under the state-owned Ekti bari Ekti Khamar (One Home, One Farm) project and advance them small loans.

"The matter can be considered," he said adding that "I will talk to the concerned authorities," said Deputy Commissioner (DC) in Kushtia Zahir Raihan.



PHOTO: STAR