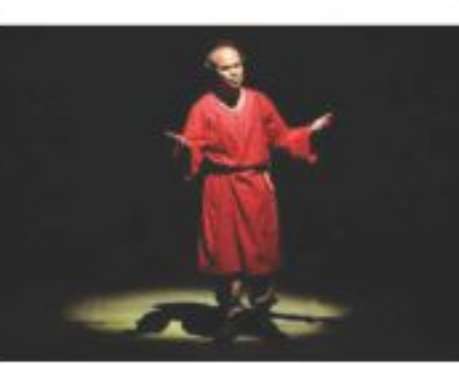


WHAT'S ON


**Zainul Quamrul Exhibition**  
 Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, National Museum  
 Date: Dec 22-Jan 18  
 Time: 10am-8pm



**Theatre**  
 The Trial of Mallam Ilya  
 Troupe: BotTala  
 Venue: Natmandal, Dhaka University  
 Date: Jan 1-3  
 Time: 6:30pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Shilpacharya and his Outer World of Art  
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Dec 28-Jan 8  
 Time: 12pm-8pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: City of Rhythm  
 Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed  
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Dec 20-Jan 2  
 Time: 12pm-8pm



**Concert**  
 Band: Chirkutt  
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
 Date: Jan 3  
 Time: 6:30pm



# MAHI

## looks to light up silver screen with "Agnee"

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

There was a time when our film industry followed a successful trajectory. In that golden era, cine-goers used to flock to cinema halls in huge numbers for a great viewing experience. Later, as other media like TV and the virtual world took over, Dhallywood films lost their popular appeal.

Thankfully, there are signs of revival as movies once again capture the popular imagination and many talented actors become hot favourites.

Among them is Mahi. After her successful debut in "Bhalobasar Rang", she has wrested a role in a remake of the 1970s movie "Moinamoti".

The storyline remains true to the original, but director Zakir Hossain Raju has given it a contemporary twist. Mahi plays the title role Moina while her co-artist Bappi plays Moti in the film. Recently, she was all smiles after shooting had wrapped up in Bhola.

Mahi has had a spate of good luck ever since "Bhalobasar Rang" became a box office hit in 2006.

Over the last two years, viewers have been entertained by her movies like "Onnorakom Bhalobasha", "Poramon", "Bhalobasa Aikjal" and "Tobuo Bhalobashi".

Mahi has worked with Dhallywood heartthrobs Shakib Khan, Arefin Shubho and Anisur Rahman Milon. Newcomers of the silver screen Bappi and Saimon have been cast opposite her as well.

Mahi's latest film "Agnee" is all set for release. Directed by Iftekher Chowdhury, "Agnee" is an out and out action film focussing on the underworld. Her many fans, having seen the trailer, posters and banners of the film, believe that it has the makings of a box office hit. Mahi also believes that "Agnee", shot in Bangkok, would set a new trend in Dhallywood.

Mahi is busy shooting for 12 big budget films now while she recently turned out to be a successful ramp model as well.

Mahi wishes a very happy New Year to all her fans and friends!!



# CELEBRITY TAKES

## 2014 HERE WE COME!!!

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Our celebrities have drawn up professional goals for 2014. But patriotism inspires them to dream also of the 'Sonar Bangla' that their forefathers struggled so hard to bring it to existence. Many of these dreams seem to have fallen by the wayside but our celebrities remain optimistic that the New Year will usher in better times.

As they said:

**Hasin:** I dream of becoming a model and dedicated TV artiste in 2014. I also dream of a prosperous Bangladesh. I believe that youth are change makers and can break all the barriers that impede the country's progress.

I hope for a violence-free society where people can live peacefully. Please think of what you can do for your country not what your country can do for you.

**Zhilik:** I won the Channel i Serakantha contest, leaving behind many hopefuls. But that doesn't detract from my concern for the country. I dream that we will emerge as a developed country in the near future and truly becomes Sonar (prosperous) Bangla one day.

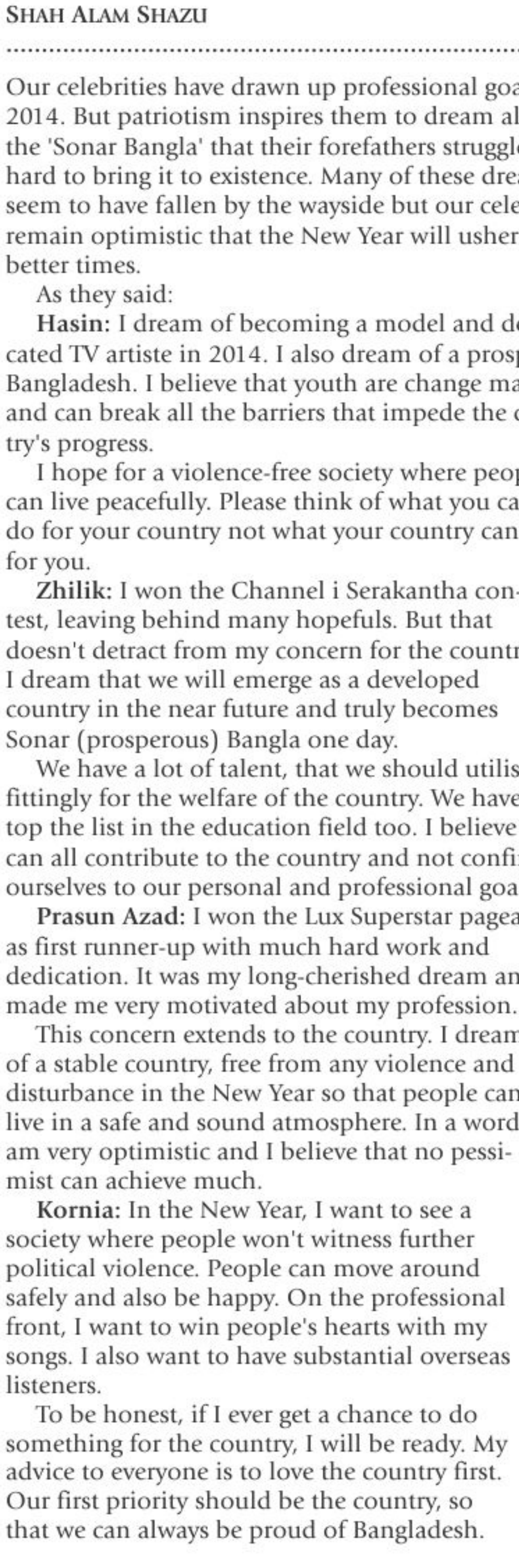
We have a lot of talent, that we should utilise fittingly for the welfare of the country. We have to top the list in the education field too. I believe we can all contribute to the country and not confine ourselves to our personal and professional goals.

**Prasun Azad:** I won the Lux Superstar pageant as first runner-up with much hard work and dedication. It was my long-cherished dream and made me very motivated about my profession.

This concern extends to the country. I dream of a stable country, free from any violence and disturbance in the New Year so that people can live in a safe and sound atmosphere. In a word, I am very optimistic and I believe that no pessimist can achieve much.

**Kornia:** In the New Year, I want to see a society where people won't witness further political violence. People can move around safely and also be happy. On the professional front, I want to win people's hearts with my songs. I also want to have substantial overseas listeners.

To be honest, if I ever get a chance to do something for the country, I will be ready. My advice to everyone is to love the country first. Our first priority should be the country, so that we can always be proud of Bangladesh.



# NEWS bytes

## Van Dyck original discovered



A painting bought for £400 and featured on the BBC's Antiques Roadshow has been revealed to be a Sir Anthony Van Dyck portrait worth about £400,000.

Father Jamie MacLeod, who runs a retreat house in north Derbyshire, first took the artwork to Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire, in 2012. More was revealed about the painting when Father Jamie took it to filming for another edition of Antiques Roadshow in Cirencester, Gloucestershire in June this year. It was identified after the show's host Fiona Bruce saw the painting and thought it might be genuine.

Following restoration, the painting was verified by Dr Christopher Brown - one of the world authorities on Van Dyck.

The portrait, originally bought at a Cheshire antiques shop, is the most valuable painting identified in the show's 36-year history.

Source: BBC

# Shilpakala Padak conferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) has instituted the Shilpakala Padak to recognise seasoned artists for their contributions to the fields of arts, theatre, music, dance, instrumental music, folk music and film. Seven creative personalities from different arenas received the awards at a ceremony held at National Theatre Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on December 30.

President Abdul Hamid was present as chief guest at the programme. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu was present as special guest. Cultural Affairs Secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas presided over the award ceremony where director general of the academy Liaquat Ali Lucky gave the welcome speech.

The Shilpakala Padak 2013 was conferred on veteran dancer Amanul Haque, veteran sitarist Ustad Matiul Haque Khan, folk singer Saidur Rahman Bayati,



artist Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Tagore singer Fahmida Khatun, filmmaker Manzare Hassin Murad and theatre activist Khaled Khan (posthumous).

President Abdul Hamid distributed the awards of Taka one lakh each, certificates and an uttorio. A cultural programme featuring two dance recitals and an instrumental presentation followed.

Dance troupe Nandan Kala Kendra showcased the diverse lifestyle of the ethnic minorities in a vibrant dance production titled "Bangladesh-er Khudro Nri-Goshti". Another dance troupe presented a dance recital, choreographed by renowned dancer Munmun Ahmed.

Musicians of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy entertained the audience, presenting an instrumental number, composed by Md Moniruzzaman.

# Looking to pick up the pace

## Amit Ashraf's 2014 foresight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amit Ashraf was one of the breakout storytellers of the year in the country, stirring up a buzz with his big-screen directorial debut, "Udhao". In a conversation with *The Daily Star*, the young filmmaker looked back at the year that was, and forward to the one that just began.

**How has 2013 been for you?**

Amit: It was not ideal, but I don't regret much at the end of the day. Due to the political situation of the country almost all throughout the year, it was not a great year for the film industry. Although everything was kind of 'slow', it was still good to be able to release my first film and reach out to the audience. The film did well, and is still running in theatres in Dhaka (Balaka) and Khulna, so I'm happy about that. All in all, it was difficult, but rewarding.

**How do you think this year is going to be for the film industry?**

Amit: I'm really looking forward to this year, and sincerely hoping the scenario gets better and friendlier for the creative arts. I

# The top 10 albums of 2013

10. "Wrote A Song For Everyone", John Fogerty  
 The songs Fogerty wrote in Creedence Clearwater Revival are as embedded in the American grain as any in rock & roll. But this collection of recut CCR hits and solo tracks -- recorded with fans like Bob Seger, My Morning Jacket, Keith Urban, Miranda Lambert and Foo Fighters -- shows how vital and relevant his songwriting remains. Fogerty updates his Vietnam War missive "Fortunate Son" for the Iraq-Afghanistan era backed by the Foos, belts out "Born on the Bayou" alongside Kid Rock and gets locked in a guitar duel with Brad Paisley on the underrated solo gem "Hot Rod Heart".

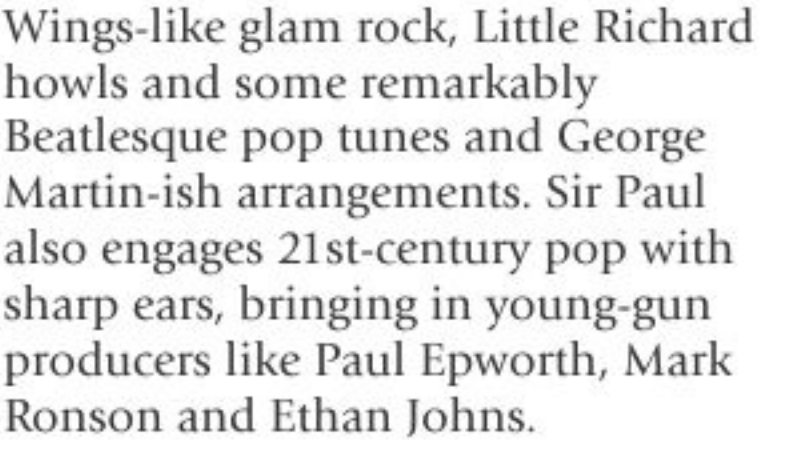
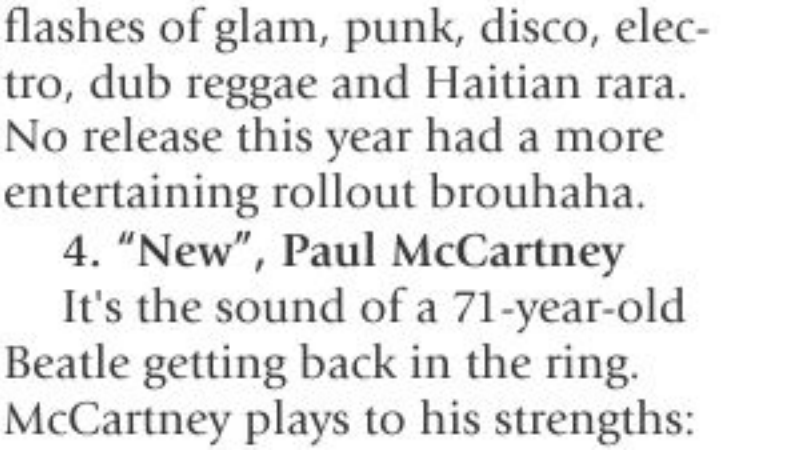
9. "AM", Arctic Monkeys  
 On its fifth album, this quintessentially British band moved to LA, took inspiration from old Aaliyah hits and glam Bowie, and made a spiky, slinky beast of a record. Songs like "Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High" and the achingly slow "Do I Wanna Know" are full of slow-simmering heartache.

8. "Trouble Will Find Me", The National  
 These Brooklyn guys have spent the past decade building their rep as the most resplendent sadsters in indie rock. But on the best record of their career, they pare back that richly ornamental sound to reveal its black-candy pop core. The National's fast songs have never had such immediate surge, and their slow ones have never had such elegiac power.

7. "Pure Heroine", Lorde  
 Lorde's debut album ended up ruling the pop charts, thanks to a sultry, swaggering, hip-hop-savvy, fully grown voice and stark synth jams as earworm-y as Miley's or Katy's splashiest hits. Set against the music's minimal throb, Lorde's languidly aphoristic lyrics balance rock-star swagger and torqued-up teenage angst.

6. "...Like Clockwork", QotSA  
 Josh Homme came back after a life-threatening illness, called up some rock-star pals Dave Grohl, Trent Reznor, Elton John and revived his arch-metal outfit to kick out a darkly suave Camaro rock like only he can. Yet for all the awesomely negative vibing and genuine twisted-ness, Clockwork hit with an every-dude heaviness that's getting rarer and rarer these days.

5. "Reflektor", Arcade Fire  
 The Grammy-grabbing indie-earnest family band does what the Clash, Talking Heads and so many before it have done: reconnect rock to its dance-floor soul. There are



3. "Random Access Memories"  
 Now that the pop world has caught up with what Daft Punk were doing 15 years ago, naturally the French electro pioneers decide to rip it up and start again. So they spend most of Random Access Memories doing lush Seventies-style studio funk fusion. For all the lovingly detailed live-band touches, Daft Punk proves they're still pop fans at heart with "Get Lucky" -- an instant disco classic.

2. "Yeezus", Kanye West  
 Kanye's electro masterpiece is his most extreme album ever. The music is part Eighties synthblitz dark wave, part Jamaican dancehall. But it's all Kanye, taking you on a guided tour of the dark matter inside his brain.

1. "Modern Vampires of the City", Vampire Weekend  
 The first two Vampire Weekend albums showed off a precocious mix of indie pop, African guitar grooves and wry lyrics. But with this album, they went deeper, adding scope and ambition to all the sophistication. In 2013, no other record mixed emotional weight with studio-rat craft and stuck-in-your-head hummability like this one.

Source: Rolling Stones



think a lot of projects were stuck and put on hold due to the country's prevailing situation, and hopefully they will get a go-ahead when the turmoil calms down. There has been talk about agreements with the West Bengal (India) for export and import of movies, so if that happens, it will be a boost. More cinema theatres are set to open doors, and that will certainly give filmmakers some motivation as well. All in all, I think the whole film industry is going to pick up the pace this year.

**What are your plans for 2014?**

Amit: I'll hopefully be making a movie alongside two other directors; it's like a three-part story told by three different directors, but the story is connected. Although the other directors have not been locked, it should be interesting. I'm also looking to do my own film -- an animation feature -- in association with an animation studio here. It's going to take a while to finish it, though, but the audience will get to see some cool samples and pieces by this year, hopefully.