

WHAT'S ON

**4th Kibria Print Fair**  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, Rd-7/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 1-5  
Time: 3-9pm

**Selected Nakshi Kantha Exhibition**  
Collection of Zainal Abedin  
Venue: Bengal Gallery  
Date: Dec 23-Jan 10  
Time: 12-8pm

**Shawkat Osman Memorial Programme**  
Organiser: Khatishah Shawkat  
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamil Auditorium, National Museum  
Date: January 2, Time: 4pm

**1milē**  
Organiser: Britto Arts Trust  
Venue: All over Old Dhaka  
Date: Jan 2  
Time: 10am-6pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: On Borders  
Organiser: Bengal Foundation and Goethe Institute Dhaka  
Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Art Project  
Date: Dec 16-January 04  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Book Festival**  
Venue: Public Library, Shaahbagh  
Date: Jan 1-14  
Time: 11am-8pm

**Art Exhibition**  
Album Return  
Artist: Kallidas Samakhar  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Jan 4-16, Time: 11am-8pm

**Let's Beat**  
Organiser: Dhaka Drum Circle  
Venue: Chhobi Beat  
Date: Dec 26  
Time: 3pm

REAR VIEW  
**Dhallywood in 2014**

The year 2014 was action packed for the film fraternity. And of course cine goers were equally busy keeping tabs on their favourite stars. A look at the newsmakers of 2014 in Dhallywood:



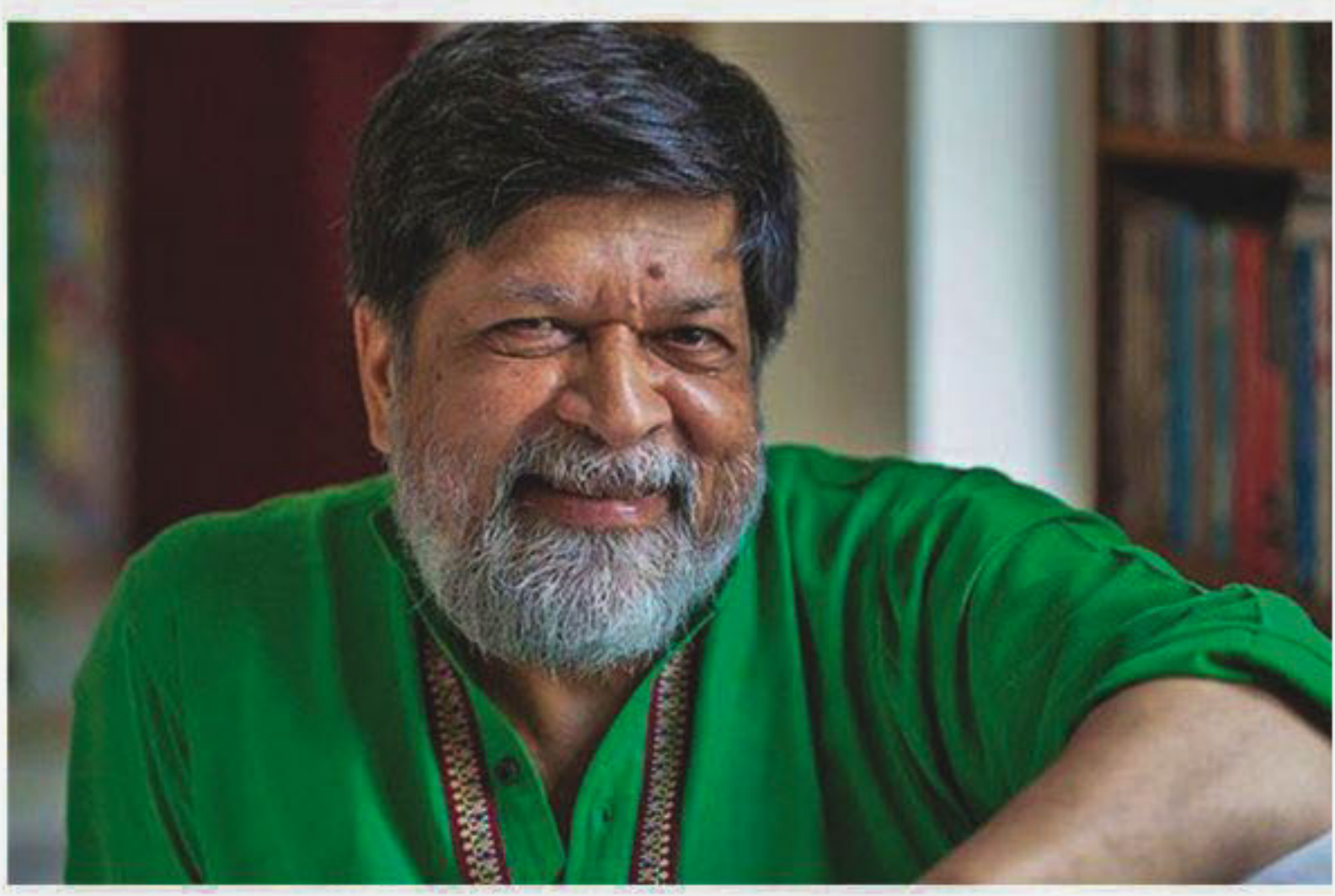
**SHAH ALAM SHAUZI**  
Evergreen actress Kobori has a career spanning 50 years. She made her 1964 debut in "Sutorang". Suffering from old age complications, another film legend, Nayak Raj Razzak, was admitted to Square Hospital and shifted to ICU as his condition worsened. Fortunately he made a full recovery and returned to acting. At the end of 2014, Bangladesh Cholochitro Sangbadik Samity conferred Lifetime Achievement Award to Kobori and Nayak Raj Razzak. As in previous years, Dhallywood heartthrob Shakhid Khan secured top position. Three of his films were released during Eid. He also made his debut as a film producer. Besides, he worked with renowned Indian actress Paoli Dam in a film. He also did a second movie with Jaya Ahsan. Apart from this, he and noted TV actress Tisha paired up for a film for the first time. Meanwhile, Arefin Shuvo once again shot into the spotlight with new movie "Kistimat". He played the lead in several other films. On the contrary, Jaya Ahsan lay low this year, but signed yet another movie in Kolkata. The celebrated actress was awarded with Shailjananda Award of India and nominated for India's Filmfare Awards. Mostofa Sarwar Farooki released his much-awaited "Pipa Bidiya", that won critical acclaim internationally (at Shanghai, Busan, Kerala and at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards) and success at the box office. Wild card hero Noor Imran Mithu's performance was highly praised, while Indian actress Sheena Chohan made her mark. Among the newcomers, actress Mahi remained busy with shooting. Her year-end releases "Onek Sadher Moina" and "Desha the Leader" earned her plaudits. She was also busy shooting for a Bangladesh-India joint production. After a long time, Moushumi started making a film named "Sunno Hridoy". The much-awaited "Ek Cup Cha", produced by Ferdous, was also released. The Dhaka University (DU) alumna was honoured by his alma mater for his works. Popy's new film "Char Okkhorer Bholbasa" was released. Newcomer face on the small screen, Tania Ahmed made her directorial debut with the movie "Good Morning London". Nipun spent a busy year getting admission to a school in London. Purnima had a daughter. Sabnur, who had a baby in December 2013, returned to Dhaka with her son Aizan this year. Ananta Jalil went on an international tour to promote his movie "Most Welcome-2". Apart from this, he became a father at the end of the year. Bidiya Sinha Mim acted in several films and came into the spotlight through a TVC for Gramophone. Apu Biswas wore a new look and looked leaner. She and Shakib Khan paired for several movies. Bapparaaj made his directorial debut with "Kraus". Model Rubi's first film "Sangram" was released this



"Chobi Mela is the world's most demographically diverse photo festival"

- Dr. Shahidul Alam

SAURAV DEY  
Dr. Shahidul Alam is icon in his own right in the global photography scene and the mastermind behind 'Chobi Mela', spoke to The Daily Star about the upcoming eighth edition (Jan 23 - Feb 8) of South Asia's largest photography festival and more. Excerpts from the conversation:  
What is the motivation behind Chobi Mela?  
Shahidul Alam: The festival began when lots of young photographers were producing groundbreaking works. Major photography festivals were centred in North America and Europe. So, it was a question of familiarising the rest of the world with what was happening here. There's also another reason: most of the festivals in the West are very predictable; you hear names you already know and see what you are used to seeing. There's also dearth in coverage of works from Latin America, Africa and Asia. So, we thought of creating a platform for these regions. Right from the beginning, that was an attempt we made, and today, Chobi Mela is the world's most demographically diverse photography festival.



Where does Chobi Mela stand in comparison to other photography festivals in the world?  
Shahidul Alam: Considering the size, it's not the largest but it probably is the most interesting festival. It has become the centrepiece of global photography, and is a must-see. What is unique is that the setting up and running of Chobi Mela is done by Bangladeshi photographers. It's entirely a Bangladeshi-run festival for an international audience.

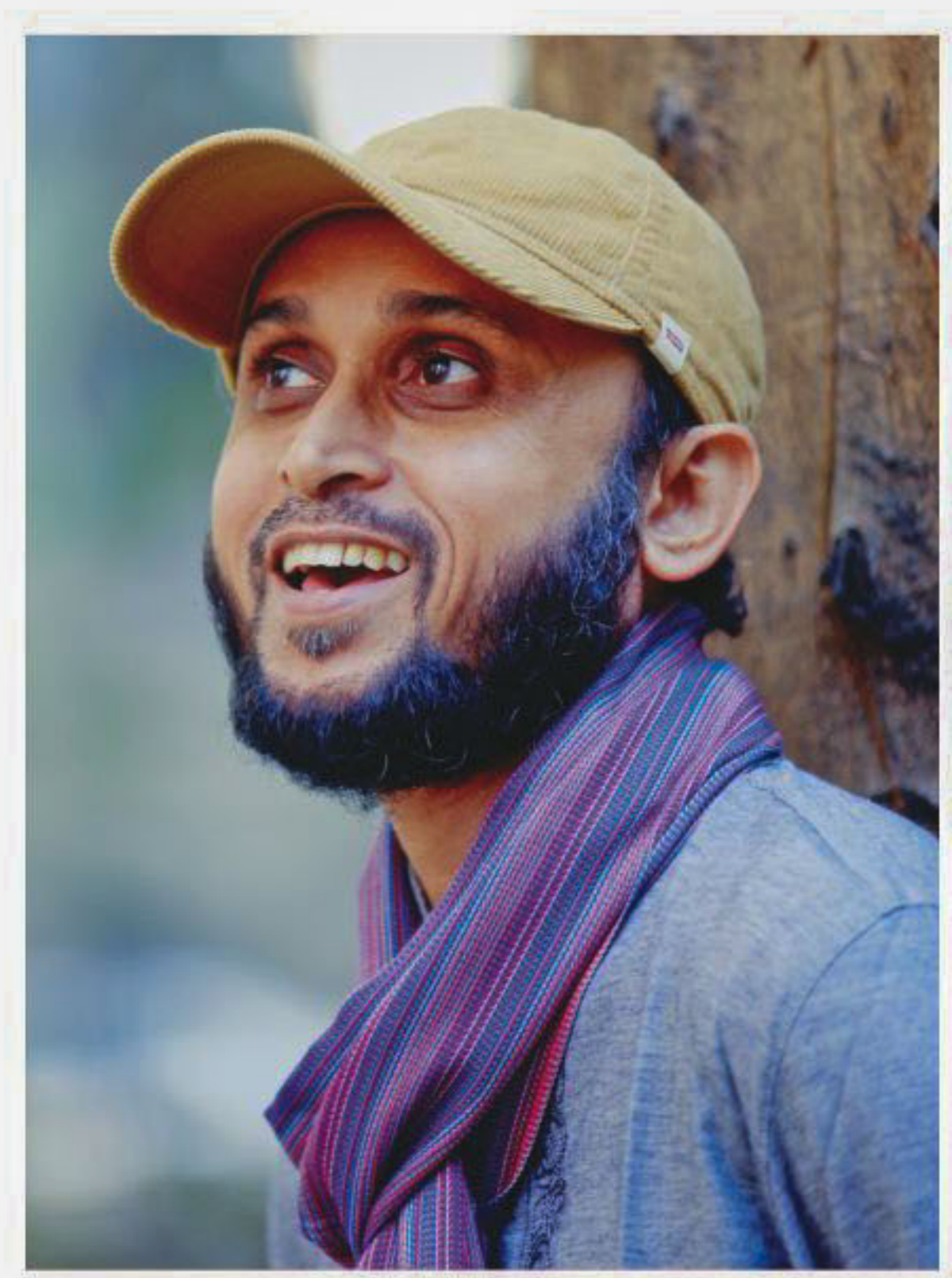
How does Bangladesh fit into Chobi Mela?  
Shahidul Alam: Chobi Mela is truly international, and yet, there's more work from Bangladesh than from other countries. There are fabulous works from Bangladeshi photographers, but we had to be very selective so that we could allow space for entries from other countries.

How are the participants chosen?  
Shahidul Alam: The process of selecting the theme is democratic; this year's theme, "Intimacy", was chosen by the public. Once that is done, we ask for works to be submitted from different parts of the globe, and this time we had some 800 submissions. However, the curators have the prerogative to choose works which they would particularly like to see and the works which go with the theme and can enhance the festival.

works. This time, particular ambience and settings have been created for different types of works. Aside from the galleries, this festival has three venues in Old Dhaka: Bafa, Beauty Boarding and Northbrook Hall. We worked hard to find apt places for displaying the different kinds of work. This time, there are more entries from former Soviet Union countries, and also we are beginning to see more interesting images coming out of the Middle East. There is a video installation by Shirin Neshat who is one of the absolute superstars. This is one of the seminal works in terms of video art, which is being introduced to the Bangladesh public. We will also have a workshop on bookmaking.

What's your take on the emerging Bangladeshi photographers?  
Shahidul Alam: We are at the edge of revolution and what is happening in Bangladesh today is remarkable. In September 2014, Pathshala had a show in Oxford since the University was interested in a pedagogic model of the former. They wanted to know how within such a short time an incredible dramatic shift in the photography scene has happened.

Bangladeshi photographers have made their mark globally but it is only the beginning and there's a lot more to come. We need support from the state, and photography, visual literacy should be taught at universities. Also, criticism of photography at intellectual levels is missing. We have great photographers today but unless collectors, connoisseurs and the audience are educated, photography will not develop.



Farooki and "No Land's Man" A search for identity

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi  
When I first heard the title of acclaimed film director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's upcoming project "No Land's Man" which won a grant of Rs10 lakh at the Film Bazaar at International Film Festival of India in Goa last November, it immediately reminded me of the Oscar-winning Bosnian movie "No Man's Land".

At a superficial level, the first commonality one finds between the two is the involvement of production houses drawn from different countries in the project. If the Bosnian war movie was co-produced by companies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia, Italy, France, Belgium and the UK, Farooki is scouting for producers from India, Bangladesh, the US and Australia to make his forthcoming project in predominantly English language.

However, if "No Man's Land" spoke about soldiers trapped in the civil strife in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Farooki's film - to be shot mainly in New York - is going to deal with a different kind of conflict raging across the world: the crisis over what the director says is human identity. "No Land's Man is one individual's search for a safe identity in a world that is brought together by communication technology and torn apart by intolerance," said Farooki in an interview to a foreign publication.

According to Farooki, "No Land's Man" is going to have "a strong South Asian element" not only in terms of its production houses but also in choosing the cast, "which is going to see a mix of important actors from India, USA and Bangladesh". Farooki says his forthcoming film is going to be a big-budget venture compared to his earlier films.

Besides winning the financial grant at the Film Bazaar in Goa, Farooki's project won another big award of 100,000 dollars from Asia Pacific Screen Academy and Motion Pictures Association in Australia.

Dreek gets ready to rev

FAHIMM FERDOUS  
Dreek, one of the most active rock bands of the country, has had an album in the pipeline for a while now. After teasing fans with release of three songs on Radio Footi last year, the band is finally going full throttle ahead to release their first, self-titled album at the end of the month.

According to the band's front-man Saif, about 80% of the album's work is done, and the band has extensively booked dates at the Bengal Studio from Jan 1-15, determined to finish the work. Of the 10 songs expected to feature, three have found airtime throughout last year. "Tarunner Michelle" and "Notun Alo" have made the radio sta-

tion's 'Hot 100' list, with the other track "Golok Dhadhaye" - released on December 29 - is also faring well. The band is sticking to its hard rock roots for the album, although it will have two power ballads and an acoustic number. As the song titles suggest, the band's lyrical theme more often than not is about positivity, youth and energy; all of them have been written by the band's bassist Rahi.

With physical album sales on a steep decline, Dreek's album release plan is primarily online, although they will bring out a Collector's Edition CD, possibly a little later in the year. Dreek, founded in 2002, has been fairly popular with rock music fans.



They have four released tracks to their credit: "Opurnota", "Adhar Mamush" and "Khuji Tomaye" in hand mixed albums and their tribute to Kazi Nazrul Islam with "Jhomar moto Chonchol" released online. The band's current lineup is Saif (vocal), Ratal (guitar), Upal (drums) and Rahi (bass).

NEWS bytes



Jackie Chan, John Cusack face off in DRAGON BLADE

Jackie Chan's upcoming film "Dragon Blade" may not have gotten a US release yet, but the trailer for the upcoming historical epic has found a US audience. Set in 206-220 AD, the movie focuses on a key (fictional) battle between Rome and China's Han Dynasty. It follows Chinese officer Chan, who's framed and later enslaved, and Roman soldier John Cusack, who escapes to China after rescuing the Prince. The two cross paths in the Western Desert. Meanwhile, Adrien Brody plays general Tiberius as he leads the Roman army's fight to control the Silk Road. Of course, the real Tiberius never orchestrated such an attack. "Dragon Blade", which cost \$65 million to produce, boasts one of the heftiest budgets for a Chinese film. It hits theatres in China on February 19.

Prachyanat premieres TRAGEDY POLASHBARI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Theatre troupe Prachyanat premiered their latest production "Tragedy Polashbari" at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Tuesday evening. The play, written and directed by Azad Abul Kalam, is the 30th production of the troupe. The storyline of the play dates back to April 11 in 2005, when Spectrum Sweater and Knitting Factory situated at Savar's Polashbari area collapsed in the midnight, killing 64 garment workers and injuring several others. The play tells the story of that night through the monologues of Taravan who describes how the accident shattered the dreams of wage earners like her. Parveen Sultana Koli, Mohammad Rafique, Rifat Ahmed Nobel, Gopi Debnath, Moniruzzaman and others played different roles in the play. Abul Hasanat Bhuiyan Neel has done the stage and light design, while Ripon Kamrul was on the background score.



year, and later she married its director. Several movies of Anisur Rahman were released, and he received critical acclaim for his work. After media reports that Banasree, film actress of the '90s, was leading her life selling flowers on footpaths, the prime minister extended her a helping hand and gave her Taka 20 lakh. The premier also financially helped another poverty-stricken film veteran Rani Sarkar. In 2014, at least 65 movies were released while last year the number was 52. Towards the end of the year, National Film Award-winning director Chashi Nazrul Islam fell sick and was in ICU. Another filmmaker Shahidul Islam Khokhon and actor Telly Samad also had health issues. The government extended help for their medical treatment. Khalilur Rahman, a towering figure in the film industry, passed away in December this year.



IT'S TRUE!

US actress-producer Jennifer Morrison is not a one-trick pony. In high school, the actress who most famously portrayed Dr. Allison Cameron on the hit TV series "House", played clarinet in marching and symphonic bands, was a cheerleader, and sang in the choir. Her love for school-based musical groups continued in her professional life, as Jennifer was one of the producers that found another hit TV show "Glee" and brought it to show-runner Ryan Murphy. Though she didn't stay involved creatively, she is credited as an associate producer on Season 1 for her involvement in finding it and helping it get into the right hands.



Chittagong gets new arts complex, Bistaar

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong  
Aiming at bringing a stable, qualitative change and basic up-scaling in the art and cultural arena of Chittagong city, a multi-purpose cultural organisation titled "Bistaar: Chittagong Arts Complex" started its journey in the port city December 29. On the day of birth centenary of the country's pioneer artist Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, the cultural complex was inaugurated at its premises in city's Mehediabag area in presence of eminent personalities, educationists, famed artists, poets, journalists of the port city. With a Tagore song by Shila Momen, the inaugural ceremony opened. Later, poet Abul Momen inaugurated the arts complex as chief guest, with poet Ferdous Ara Alim as special guest. Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) Director Ahmed Ikhla Haider, artists Dhali Al Mamoon, Nazlee Laila Mansur, architect Bidhan Barua, famed photographer Shoeb Farooqui were also present at the programme. On the occasion, the walls next to the stairs of the arts complex were decorated with the famous paintings on the Bengal famine of 1940s of Shilpacharya.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015: INT'L FILM  
The Biggest Movie Year Ever?

Every year, it feels like box office records are imploding under the weight of each new 3D/IMAX/mega-sequel. But 2015 is guaranteed to blow them all out the water - and rake in an incredible haul that could ever be beaten. Here's what is awaiting film buffs this year:  
**Bond 24**  
Sam Mendes is back as director and there are rumours that it'll be based on Sebastian Faulk's Bond novel "Devil May Care", that makes an eager audience double whammy.  
**Avatar 2**  
"Avatar 2" becoming one of the biggest grossing movies of all time is a very strong possibility; after all, its prequel, with \$2.8bn and counting, is the biggest grossing movie of all time.  
**Avengers 2: Age of Ultron**  
Considering Marvel's ever-increasing movie grosses, the reunion of the whole cast (with some as-yet-unnamed but no doubt A-List additions) and the build-up of movies leading into it, "Age of Ultron" is a box office smash in the waiting.  
**Pirates of the Caribbean 5**  
With Jerry Bruckheimer and Johnny Depp both back on board, and the last entry "On Stranger Tides" still managing to take over \$1 billion despite being the worst reviewed installment yet, there's certainly still life in the old sea dog yet.  
**Terminator 5**  
Paramount has announced the first in a projected new trilogy and aside from Arnold Schwarzenegger being vocal about his desire to get involved, The Rock is also rumoured to star - and you have every ingredient for an action movie revival.  
**Alvin & The Chipmunks 4 and The Smurfs 3**  
Now, we know these may not be the most beloved of movie worlds, but it's hard to deny their box office clout. Annoying, squeaky, and shamelessly stupid they may be, but they're also guaranteed to dominate the family scene.  
**The Fantastic Four**  
The Fantastic Four may not have been cool on-screen, but with Josh Trank on-board to helm and Mark Millar overseeing the creative overhaul, there's every possibility this could be the rebirth the super-powered foursome needs.  
**Kung Fu Panda 3**  
DreamWorks looks set to continue their winning streak with their second "threequel", reuniting Jack Black with his A-list voice cast: Jolie, Seth Rogen, Lucy Liu, Dustin Hoffman - and now adding Bryan Cranston and Mads Mikkelson.  
**Mission: Impossible 5**  
"Ghost Protocol" proved there's life left in one of Hollywood's older action franchises, and Tom Cruise's encroaching years mean that a fifth "MI" outing could be his last.  
**Bourne 5**  
Matt Damon may be long gone, but Bourne lives on in Jeremy Renner, who's jumping back into the action with a follow-up to "The Bourne Legacy". Universal has an ace up its sleeve with director Justin Lin on board.  
**Jurassic Park IV**  
It's been a tumultuous pre-production journey, but it looks like cineagoers are finally heading back to Isla Nublar. Colin Trevorrow is attached to direct, with Steven Spielberg being rather hands-on along the way.  
**Star Wars: Episode VII**  
Despite every other almost-guaranteed multi-million dollar movie on the list, "Star Wars" is still what's set to define 2015. It has been voted the most-anticipated film of the year, edging out "Jurassic Park" and the Marvel/DC biggies.

