

**WHAT'S ON**  
**Cultural Festival 2015**  
 Organiser: Kendriya Khelaghar Ashor  
 Venue: Music & Dance Centre auditorium, Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: Dec 24-26  
 Time: 4pm



**Kathak Dance Festival**  
 Organiser: Kathak Nritya Sampradaye  
 Venue: Chhayanaut, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Dec 24-26  
 Time: 6:05pm



**Solo Exhibition**  
 Microtears  
 Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly  
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct  
 Date: Dec 12-Jan 9; Time: 12-7pm



**Bangladesh Film Festival 2015**  
 Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, BSA  
 Date: Dec 10-24; Time: 6pm



**Theatre**  
 Bondukjuddho / Gadhar Haat  
 Troupe: Natyakendra  
 Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA  
 Date: January 1; Time: 7pm



**NEWS bytes**  
**Reznor promises new NIN album**

Nine Inch Nails mastermind Trent Reznor has given a reason to exclaim "Happy New Year!" after indicating the industrial rock outfit will be coming out with their ninth studio album in 2016. The album will serve as the successor to 2013's "Hesitation Marks".

The latest album was a bit of a departure from the angst that typically permeates the band's music. Songs were crafted with different electronic emphasis along with Reznor's affinity for delivering an unforgettable hook.



After a quiet 2015, Reznor will also leave his fingerprints elsewhere next year. The promise of "other stuff" can mean a variety of things, whether it's another film score with Atticus Ross, another How to Destroy Angels album — which features his wife Mariquene Maandig as well as Atticus Ross and Nine Inch Nails collaborator Rob Sheridan — or something else altogether.

Source: Loudwire



**Bappa & Friends' BENANANDO releases today**  
**A TRIBUTE TO SANJEEB CHOWDHURY**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 The first studio album of Bappa Mazumder & Friends, "Benanando", releases today. The album marks the birth anniversary of Bappa's Dalchhut band-mate, the late Sanjeeb Chowdhury (tomorrow), and is dedicated to him. The album will be released at Café 33 today, where apart from the band members, those in attendance will include Girona Bangladesh's (which is producing the album) Chairman Matiuir Rahman, theatre personality Sankar Saojal,

music director Partho Mazumder and Robi Axia Limited (which is sponsoring the album) General Manager Faisal Mahmud.

"Benanando" features eight folk songs: three Lalon tracks — "Jaat Gelo", "Khachar Bhitro Ochin Pakhi" and "Arshinagar"; three Radharaman songs — "Projonome Hoio Radha", "Karey Dekhabo Moner Dukkho" and "Shyam Kalia"; one song is from Hason Raja — "Agun Lagaiya Dilo Ko'ne" and Monmohan Dutta's "Benanando". The band has arranged songs for the album.

Bappa Mazumder said he has always had an affinity to folk songs, and it was special to be releasing the album on Sanjeeb's birth anniversary.

Although the album releases today, it will be available countrywide from January 1. The songs, however, have been available on Robi Radio since November.

Bappa Mazumder and Friends' lineup is: Bappa Mazumder (vocal, guitar and band leader), Sohail Aziz (keys), John Sharton (bass), Dano (drums), Masum (guitar) and Shahan Kabondho (manager).

**Kathak Dance Festival begins today at Chhayanaut**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 For the fourth consecutive time, a three-day Kathak Dance Festival '15 will begin this evening at 6pm at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban. Organised by the Kathak Dance Community, noted litterateur Selina Hossain will inaugurate the festival running till December 26.

The organisers will confer Zeenat Zahan Memorial Award this year to eminent dance artiste Lubna Marium, artistic director of Shadhona.

Along with solo and group dance presentations by both noted and promising artistes of Bangladesh, the festival will have a seminar on the title

"Globalisation and Contemporary Dance Thoughts of Present Generation." Artistes from the troupes — Sristi Cultural Centre, Nandan Kala Kendra, Turongomi Repertory Dance Theatre and Dhriti Nartanalay — will perform while both prominent and promising dance artistes— Amanul Haque, Golam Mostafa Khan, Lubna Marium, Laila Hassan, Sharmila Bandyopadhyay, Deepa Khandakar, Munmun Ahmed, Farhana Chowdhury Baby, Benzir Salam, Amit Chowdhury, Mehraj Haque Tushar, Sudeshna Swayamprabha, Aparajita Mustafa and Emon Kumar Dey will hold discussions at the seminar.



**Priyanka in tough cop avatar**  
**First look of "Jai Gangajal" revealed**

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**  
 Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra appears in the role of a police officer, who takes on influential people in a district, in Prakash Jha-directed "Jai Gangajal", and says the challenge for her was to combine feminism and acting tough.

"The most important thing was to still be feminine while playing a tough character like that of a cop. As a woman, it is very important to celebrate womanhood and yet be in a position of authority. I enjoyed playing the part it was very different for me," Chopra said.

The actress was speaking at the trailer launch of "Jai Gangajal", which follows a similar plot to Ajay Devgan-starrer

"Gangaajal" (2003) by Jha, although the director insists it's not a sequel.

The film revolves around female police officer Abha Mathur, who takes on the high and mighty.

According to Priyanka, the film will touch relevant issues in the society. "Nobody talks about the relevance of what the film speaks about: Farmer suicides, corruption in society and politics, within which we all live. We have given importance to these issues in the film to show what really goes around. It is a very relevant and important film," she added.

The actress said she was an "extremely proud feminist" and that with "Jai Gangaal" they are trying to blur the lines between a

man and a woman.

"I am a very proud feminist. I am someone who believes feminism is just a conversation about equality. It is not about hating or berating men. For eons, women have been treated as second class citizens and it's high time we are given the credit due."

"We are talking about blurring the lines between a man and a woman," the actress said.

Priyanka is now enjoying the acclaim for her performance in "Bajirao Mastani" but says she still has not watched the film.

"I haven't even watched 'Bajirao Mastani' by the way. I haven't watched any film... The whole world is calling me and talking about Kashibai (the role she portrays) but I don't know how I've worked in the film."



**Shabnur in new TVC**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Seasoned film star Shabnur will be seen in a new television commercial of Euro Star Crockerries. Shooting for the TVC, directed by Ahmed Elias, wrapped up recently at FDC.

Despite being one of the top actresses of Dhallywood, Shabnur is nowadays barely seen on television. The actress returned from Australia in November, and this is her first assignment after a long gap.

About the TVC, Shabnur said, "I liked the concept and I felt I did justice to it. If I find quality work I will be regular on the small screen."

On the other hand, she is shooting her upcoming film "Pagol Manush". The film will wrap up soon.

The grapevine has it that Shabnur will be seen in Salahuddin Lavlu's upcoming film "Jonom Jonom". However, the actress declined to give away her plans.

**ASK AWAY TO MIM**

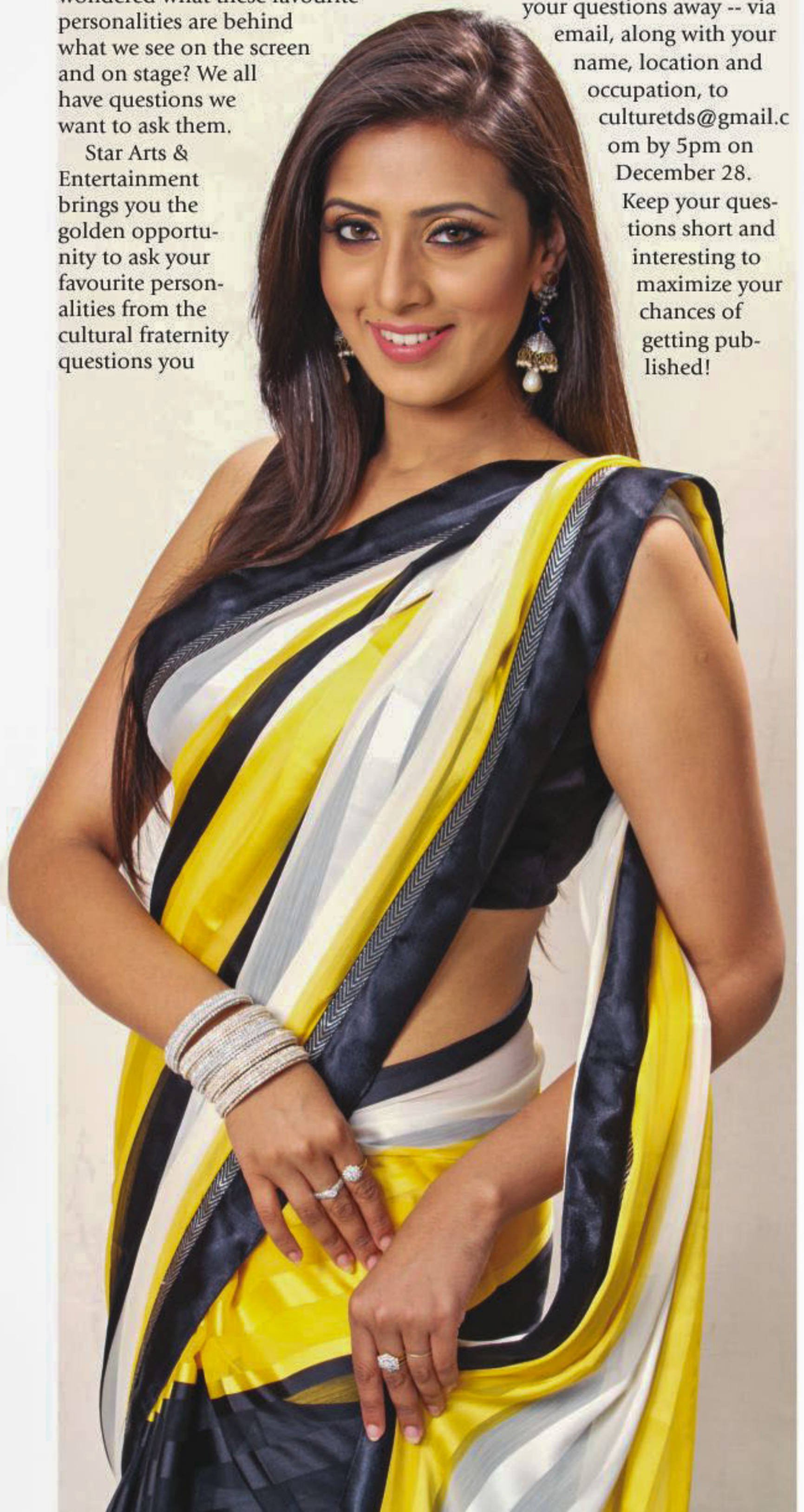
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**  
 Artists -- be on TV, concert stages or through their artwork -- reach out to us and become our favourite people, without any personal connection whatsoever. We know them through their volume of work, and the signature things that make them special. How often is it that we have wondered what these favourite personalities are behind what we see on the screen and on stage? We all have questions we want to ask them.

Star Arts & Entertainment brings you the golden opportunity to ask your favourite personalities from the cultural fraternity questions you

have always wanted to. Every month in 2016, one celebrity will take on your questions, and the best questions and their answers will be published on The Daily Star.

Bidya Sinha Mim, the beauty queen turned actress who is taking the silver screens by storm after conquering the modeling biz and TV, is the first featured artiste. Ask your questions away -- via email, along with your name, location and occupation, to [culturetds@gmail.com](mailto:culturetds@gmail.com) by 5pm on December 28.

Keep your questions short and interesting to maximize your chances of getting published!



**Loko Natyadal at Ganga Jamuna Festival Kolkata**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Leading theatre troupe Loko Natyadal will stage two productions, "Leelaboti Akhyan" and "Sonai Madhob", at Ganga Jamuna Theatre Festival in Kolkata.

The weeklong festival, organised by Kolkata's theatre troupe Anik, will begin today at Nazrul Shotoborsho Mancha in Madhyamgram. Renowned Bangladeshi thespian and leader of Loko Natyadal, Liaquat Ali Lucky will inaugurate the festival.

"Leelaboti Akhyan" will see two stagings at the fest, while "Sonai Madhob" will see one staging.

"Sonai Madhob", based on Mymensingh Geetika, has been planned and directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky.

"Leelaboti Akhyan" has been written by Nasrin Mustafa and directed by Liaquat Ali Lucky.

A 50-member team of Loko Natyadal travelled to Kolkata on Wednesday to participate in the festival.



A scene from "Leelaboti".