

WHAT'S ON

Bangladesh Cultural Festival
 Venue: Nandanmancha, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Jan 1-18
 Time: 4:30pm daily

Photography Exhibition
 World Press Photo 15
 Organiser: Drik
 Venue: Drik Gallery
 Date: Dec 27-Jan 8
 Time: 3-8pm

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

Nrityacharya Bulbul Chowdhury Mela 2016
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: January 1
 Time: 6pm

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

Theatre
 Play: Khona by BotTala
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: January 4
 Time: 7pm



Moushumi Hamid



Liza



Kona



Ishana

CELEBRITIES' PLANS FOR 2016



Nayeem

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Yet another year has passed away. Everyone, especially the people of glamour world, is keenly waiting to welcome the New Year. In a chit-chat with the Daily Star, some of them talked about their plans for 2016. Excerpts:

NAYEEM: This year, I want a change in my acting career. The viewers will get to see me in a new look. I want to act in more drama serials and play romantic characters as well. Apart from this, the audience will see me acting in more plays on special occasions. I love shopping but I really want to avoid it this time.

MOUSHUMI HAMID: I have a plan to act



Bhabna

in some new films. I will start the New Year shooting the film "Koila" where I'll play the leading role. I want to work in films which will earn me immense fame. I will also work in some TV plays. 2015 was my lucky year as my film "Jalaler Galpo" was critically acclaimed nationally and internationally. Last year, I also appeared in commercial movies. I hope this year will go the same way.

LIZA: I had a successful last year. I exceeded several TV programmes and performed a number of stage shows at home and abroad. In 2015, my dreams came true and I hope I will also pass a happy time this year. I want to stay in people's mind with some unforgettable songs in 2016.

BHABNA: Classes at my university will commence on January 17 where I'm a student of English literature, so my year will start on an academic note. My film "Bhoyonkor Sundor" will release this year. Besides this, I'm going to sign a new film the New Year. On top of it, I will act in TV plays but it will depend on the plots.

KONA: I plan to release a number of music videos featuring songs of different genres this year. Apart from this, I will sing songs for audio albums besides singing playback for cinema. Like previous years, I want to sing some good songs and perform in stage shows at home and abroad.

ISHANA: I want to focus on quality works rather than quantity in 2016. I also want to do some experimental works besides modeling. I will do some assignments on special occasions. It has been a successful year for me and I hope that 2016 will spell the same success.

Bangladeshi cinema goes from success to success

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
 It was celebration time for makers of meaningful Bangladeshi cinema in the year 2015 with accolades and appreciation pouring in at international film festivals. If veteran Morshedul Islam returned with his trademark competence in "Anil Bagchir Ek Din" in December, the young torchbearers of the meaningful cinema like Abu Shahed Emon, Rubaiyat Hossain and Shahnewaj Cacoly began the journey earlier in the year with works like "Jalaler Galpo", "Under Construction" and "Nodijan" to drive home the point that the promise held out by Bangladeshi meaningful cinema is not flash in the pan. Zahidur Rahman Anjan-directed "Meghmallar" was also a notable release this year. Besides critical appreciation, "Jalaler

Galpo" achieved a hat-trick by winning awards at International Film Festivals in Jaipur, India, in February last year and then in Portugal in June and Thiruvananthapuram, India, in December this year. As an icing on the cake, the film also brought Mosharraf Karim the best actor's award. "Under Construction", Hossain's construction, also took the top award at the Mindanao Festival in the Philippines in December. Both Emon and Hossain's films featured at several festivals across the world. National award-winning Cacoly's "Nodijan", a fine film on a sensitive subject, got a very good response at the non-competitive category in Third Eye Asian Film Festival in Mumbai in December when she was also part of the jury in the competitive section. One of the admirers of her film is



"Meghmallar"

none other than accomplished Marathi and Hindi cinema and stage actor Mohan Agashe who headed the jury. This was the first time that Cacoly became a member of the jury. "Anil Bagchir Ek Din" was also screened at international festivals in Bangkok and Colombo before its theatrical release in Bangladesh on December 11. While these filmmakers helped Bangladesh to be taken seriously by the discerning international audience, another notable contribution to draw the world's focus on cinema in the country was made by veteran Australian writer John W Hood's book "The Bleeding Lotus: The Notion of Nationhood in Bangladesh cinema" brought out by New Delhi-based Palimpsest Publishing House. Hood, who knows Bengali well and is a familiar face in Kolkata, has in the past writ-

ten several articles on films by masters like Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen and Buddhadeb Dasgupta. This is the first time that he has devoted a full book on meaningful feature and documentary films made by some Bangladeshi directors based on the Liberation War. The book's almost frame-by-frame analysis of the works of directors like Morshedul Islam, Tareque Masud, Tanvir Mokammel, Humayun Ahmed, Touqir Ahmed, Naseeruddin Yusuf Bachchu, Shameem Akhtar, Sajib Bakul and Khizir Hayat Khan has mirrored the immense potential of Bangladeshi cinema. Buddhadeb Dasgupta's blurb for Hood's book makes out a strong case, as much as the book itself, as to why the world should look at meaningful cinema in Bangladesh as it had done in the case of Latin American cinema almost three decades ago.



MANNA UTSHAB '16 at Shishu Academy today

A CORRESPONDENT
 In a new initiative, Manna Foundation is holding "Manna Utshab 2016" at the open stage of Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Doel Chattar in Dhaka. The festival, in memory of late film actor Manna, will start at 6pm today. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu will attend the event as chief guest while Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon and ntv chairman and managing director Mosaddak Ali will be special guests. Invited guests will attend the event that includes a cultural show along with a get together of film artistes and prominent cultural personalities.



"Anil Bagchir Ek Din"

Bangladesh Cultural Festival 2016 begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 For the first time, Bangladesh Cultural Festival 2016 begins today at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The 18 day (January 1-18) long cultural festival, aiming to build an artistically and culturally rich, creative and humanistic Bangladesh, will take place at Nandanmancha. Organised by BSA, the festival is being participated by the artistes of all the District Shilpakala Academies. Performances of music, dance, recitation, acting and traditional folk presentation of every district, will start everyday at 4:30pm.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will inaugurate the festival today at 4:30pm while ambidextrous writer Syed Shamsul Haque will attend as special guest. BSA secretary Jahangir Hossain Chowdhury will deliver welcome address while BSA director general Liaquat Ali Lucky will preside over the programme. A press conference was held in this regard at BSA on December 30. Among others, Liaquat Ali Lucky said, "Earlier we have organised theatre festival, participated by the artistes of BSA. This year, we are holding Bangladesh cultural festival so that an artistic competition prevails among the artistes of the entire District Shilpakala Academy."



Speakers at the press conference announce the event.