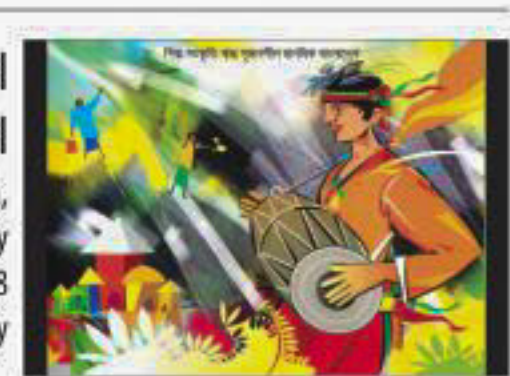


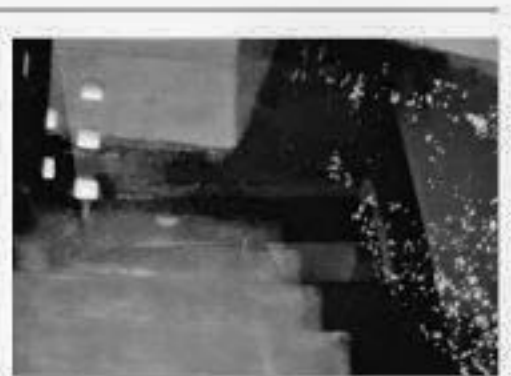
WHAT'S ON
Bangladesh Cultural Festival
 Venue: Nandanmancha, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Jan 1-18
 Time: 4:30pm daily



Solo Exhibition
 Manifestation of the Human
 Artist: Md. Mainuddin
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD
 Date: Jan 2-18; Time: 3-9pm



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



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



Drawing Exhibition
 Celebrated Violence-5: Wound
 Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: Dec 26-Jan 20
 Time: 2-8pm



NEWS bytes

"Sherlock" tops Christmas drama ratings

Bbc One Show "Sherlock" attracted more than eight million viewers for its New Year's Day special - the highest TV drama audience of the festive season. "The Abominable Bride" - which starred Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman as Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson - attracted 34.7% of the TV audience. The final episode of ITV drama "Downton



"Abbey" won the Christmas Day ratings battle with an average of 6.6m viewers.

Sherlock attracted 8.4m viewers, the highest overnight audience across all channels for a drama of the festive season, the BBC said.

The two-hour "Downton Abbey" finale attracted a peak audience of 7.1m, beating the "Strictly Come Dancing" Christmas special as the most watched Christmas Day show.

Source: BBC



Twenty five and still counting...

Pitha Utshab and adda at The Daily Star

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In celebration of the silver jubilee of The Daily Star, the Arts and Entertainment section of the daily held a 'pitha utshab' (traditional cakes festival) along with a vibrant adda and performance of music at AS Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star on January 2. The event, titled, "Boyosh Jokhon Pochish: Pitha o Golpo", was attended by artistes, singer, actors, theatre activists and members of the Star Family.

Sadya Afreen Mallick, eminent Nazrul exponent and Editor of Star Arts and Entertainment, welcomed all, steering the momentum of the event to a vibrant adda. Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, took part in the festival, recounting stories of his youth.

Meanwhile, Close-Up 1 star Salma set off the musical programme. Accomplished ghazal artiste Alope Kumar Sen earned accolades performing Manna Dey songs, alongside a thumri and a popular Ghulam Ali ghazal "Chupke Chupke". Noted singer Shelu Barua beautifully presented a Hemanta Mukherjee song "O Nodirey" while Nasimul Mahub Rubel presented a Sachin Dev Burman song "Borne Gondhe".

Young artiste Prerona, daughter of renowned lyricist Kabir Bakul, captivated the crowd with her fantastic performance of two English songs on her guitar: Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" and John Lennon's "Imagine". Noorjehan Alim, daughter of legendary folk singer Abdul Alim, rendered several folk songs, originally popularised by her father.

Close-up One artiste Sabir entertained all with his melodious presentation of golden oldies including, "Shobai To Sukhi Hote Chaye" and "Amaye Proshno Korey". Shamim Ashraf and Lippu Osheem rendered a Hason Raja song and Lalon number respectively.

The presence of actresses -- Bonnya Mirza and Bhabna; play-



Guests with the Star Family (top); Alope Sen sings a classic (middle) and Salma shares a funny story.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

wright Brindaban Das, theatre director Sudip Chakroborthy, TV director Arif Khan, singer Rafiqul Alam, artist Gulshan Hossain, printmaker Asit Mitra and musicologist HQ Chowdhury -- was a major attraction. They also contributed their

parts to turn the event into a vibrant adda. Arts and Entertainment team with Selim SH Chowdhury, (GM production and events, The Daily Star), hosted the programme.



"Prachir Periyee" announced

Ferdous, Jewel Aich to star in children's film

A CORRESPONDENT

A new film aimed at children, titled "Prachir Periyee", was announced in a mahurat event on Saturday at a city hotel. Directed by Shahnoor Ripon, the film will star Ferdous, renowned magician Jewel Aich, Sohana Saba and a group of child artistes.

Jewel Aich, who first appeared on the big screen in "Chhuti'r Ghonta" (1980), is returning in front of the camera after a long time. "I will be seen in the film as a magician," he informed, and hoped that

the film will be enjoyable.

"There aren't too many films made in the country aimed at young viewers; there should definitely be more children's films," said Ferdous, speaking at the event.

Ferdous will play the role of a school teacher in the film. "I have five favourite students in the film, who go on an adventure and I get involved with them," the seasoned actor informed.

Saba, meanwhile said she will play a 'guest role' in the film.

"Prachir Periyee" is expected to begin filming this month.

Nisho-Mili-Nayeem-Samia in "Bakshobondi"



A CORRESPONDENT

For the first time popular television stars Afran Nisho, Farhana Mili, Nayeem and Samia have joined forces for television serial "Bakshobondi". Written by Pantho Shahriar and directed by Noim Intiaz Neyamul, 25th episode of the serial will air on ntv tonight at 9:40pm.

The serial casts Nayeem, Mili and Samia as siblings, while Nisho plays the male lead alongside Mili.

Mili said, "Pantho Shahriar is a very good playwright, and I can easily relate to his storytelling. Also I am working with some talented actors which give me satisfaction to work in this serial."

Nayeem is also happy that the serial is being appraised by the audience.

Nisho also sees the serial as one of his best works in the present time.

The serial goes on air on Monday and Tuesday every week.

Yearlong celebrations on Abdul Karim's birth centenary



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In celebration of Baul Samrat Shah Abdul Karim's birth centenary, a yearlong programme will begin in February. The event was announced at a press conference held at the Liberation War Museum in the capital on January 2.

Ahead of the programme, a five-member committee was formed to celebrate the event, with Finance Minister AMA Muhith as the chief advisor. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, State Minister for Ministry of Finance

and Planning MA Mannan, human rights activist Sultana Kamal, and noted singer-composer Sujeyo Shyam are the other member of the committee.

The event will begin on February 16 in Dhaka. A three-day programme will be held in Sylhet first, and then in other parts of the country. The celebrations will wrap up in February 2017.

Abdul Karim Birth Anniversary Celebration Committee's convener Golam Kuddus, member secretary Hasan Arif, cultural activist Jhuna Chowdhury, Shakur Majid and others were present at the press meet.

TV WATCH

New TV serial "Antorjal" from today



A CORRESPONDENT

New TV serial "Antorjal" will premiere tonight on Maasranga TV. Written by Kamrul Ahsan and directed by Zahidul Islam Zahid, it casts Apurbo, Badhon, Shyamol Mawla, Nisha, Saberi Alam, Manas Bandoiphay, SM Mohsin, Shamima Naznin and others.

The series airs on Sundays and Mondays at 8pm.

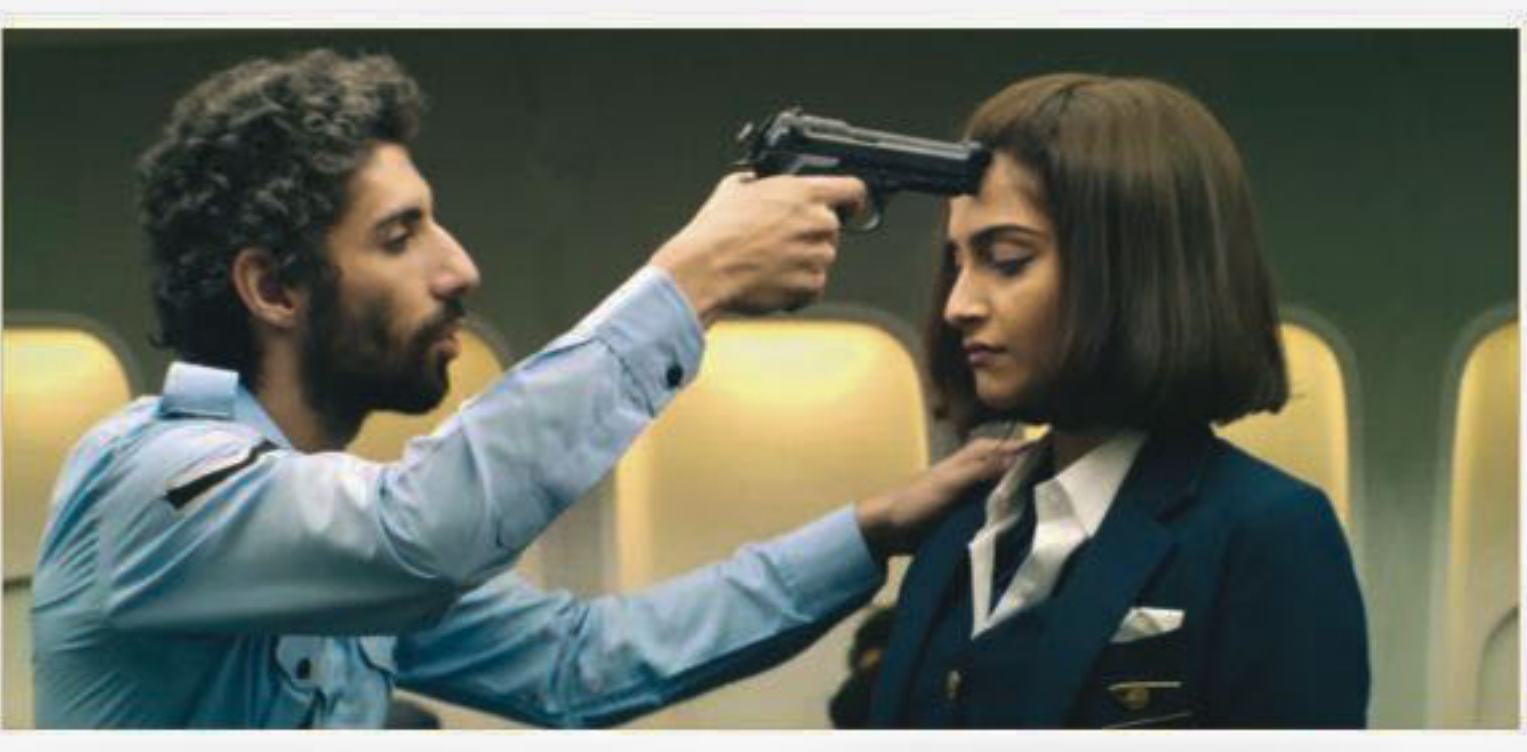
REALITY ON ORDER FOR BOLLYWOOD IN 2016

While romance has been one of the most tried and tested genres for filmmakers in Bollywood, movies inspired by real-life incidents are now catching up. If 2015 had films like "Talvar", inspired by the Arushi Talwar murder case, "Bajirao Mastani" that brought to screen the life of Maratha warrior, "Bajirao and 'Main Aur Charles'", based on Charles Sobhraj's life, this year will also see many films based on real-life incidents.

Kick-starting the trend is Ram Gopal Varma's "Killing

Veerappan", based on the real story of Veerappan, a sandalwood smuggler and the operation carried out to nab him. The film hit theatres on Friday, January 1, 2016.

Akshay Kumar's "Airlift" follows closely, with the release date set for January 22. Akshay essays the role of Ranjit Katyal, an Indian businessman who controls a large conglomerate in Kuwait, while Nimrat Kaur plays his wife. Set in the backdrop of the Gulf war of 1990, the film shows how



"Neerja"

Akshay's Ranjit suddenly loses everything and has to depend on the country he left behind, India, for his very survival.

Shortly after is Sonam Kapoor-starrer "Neerja", based on the life of flight attendant Neerja Bhanot who died while saving passengers when her plane was hijacked by terrorists in 1986. "Playing Neerja was not an easy task. I wanted to do justice to the character and gave it my 100%. It left me emotionally exhausted," said Sonam about her role. The film releases on February 19.

Then, there are biopics on cricketers Mohammad Azharuddin and Mahendra Singh Dhoni and another one planned on badminton player Saina Nehwal.

Aamir Khan-starrer "Dangal" and Ashutosh Gowariker's next with Hrithik Roshan, are also said to be inspired by real-life incidents. Aamir Khan plays former wrestler Mahavir Singh Phogat in his upcoming film, Dangal. Manoj Bajpayee-starrer "Aligarh" is a true story of a professor who is made to quit his job for his sexuality.

Source: Hindustan Times

Photos of Chittagong enthrall Nepalese viewers

A CORRESPONDENT

A recent photography exhibition by photographers from Chittagong in Kathmandu's historic Pathan museum saw enthusiastic attendance from Nepalese people.

Titled "My Soil My Soul", the exhibition organised by Chittagong Photojournalists' Association (CPJA) featured 44 photographs by 22 photographers, depicting the lifestyle of Chittagonian people from different walks of life, historic places and architecture, and the hilly landscapes.

While inaugurating the exhibition,

Bangladeshi Ambassador to Nepal Mashfi Binte Shams said the lifestyle of Nepalese people are somewhat similar to those of Chittagong, and the viewers could relate to it.

CPJA's exhibition curator Anurup Das said apart from locals, a number of foreign tourists also enjoyed the exhibition. He said the goal of the exhibition was to portray greater Chittagong to the world.

The Pathan Museum, venue of the exhibition, stands among the destruction of last year's devastating earthquake in Nepal, and still attracts visitors.

Two prior exhibitions of the same title were held earlier, one in Chittagong and another in India's Agartala.



"Killing Veerappan"