

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

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



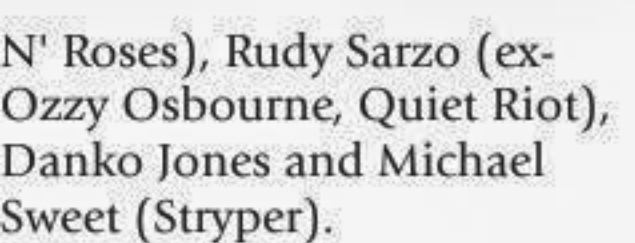
Solo Art Exhibition
 Alluvial Soul- Soil- Symbol
 Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhatasali Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: Jan 3-24
 Time: 9:30am - 7pm

Celebrating Life Gala
 Theme: Celebrating the Heritage of Bangladesh
 Venue: BICC, Dhaka
 Date: January 10
 Time: 5pm

NEWS bytes

All-star lineup sing for Paris victims

An all-star group of musicians have come together to benefit victims of the November 13 Paris attacks. Veteran rockers from bands like Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden and Guns N' Roses recorded a cover version of David Bowie's "Heroes", which will soon be available for digital download. The cover of "Heroes" features a lineup of 18 musicians including Paul Di'Anno (ex-Iron Maiden), Vinny Appice (ex-Black Sabbath, Dio, Heaven & Hell), Ron 'Bumblefoot' Thal (ex-Guns



N' Roses), Rudy Sarzo (ex-Ozzy Osbourne, Quiet Riot), Danko Jones and Michael Sweet (Stryper). The lineup was assembled by French singer Stéphane Honde (Hollywood Monsters) and all proceeds from the single will be given to the French Association of Victims of Terrorism. "It's just a few of us quite well known musicians. It's more of a private thing, I think, more for me and Stéphane, more than anything, 'cause we are European," says Paul Di'Anno. "So we wanna try to get this thing out. And you can download it and pay for it, and the money goes to a charity thing. It's quite scary at the moment, especially now that musicians are being targeted as well. It's a bit scary." The single is scheduled to be available for digital download on CD Baby and iTunes by the end of January or early February.

Source: Loudwire



A still from "Under Construction".

Good news for alternative cinema
 14th Dhaka International Film Festival set to begin

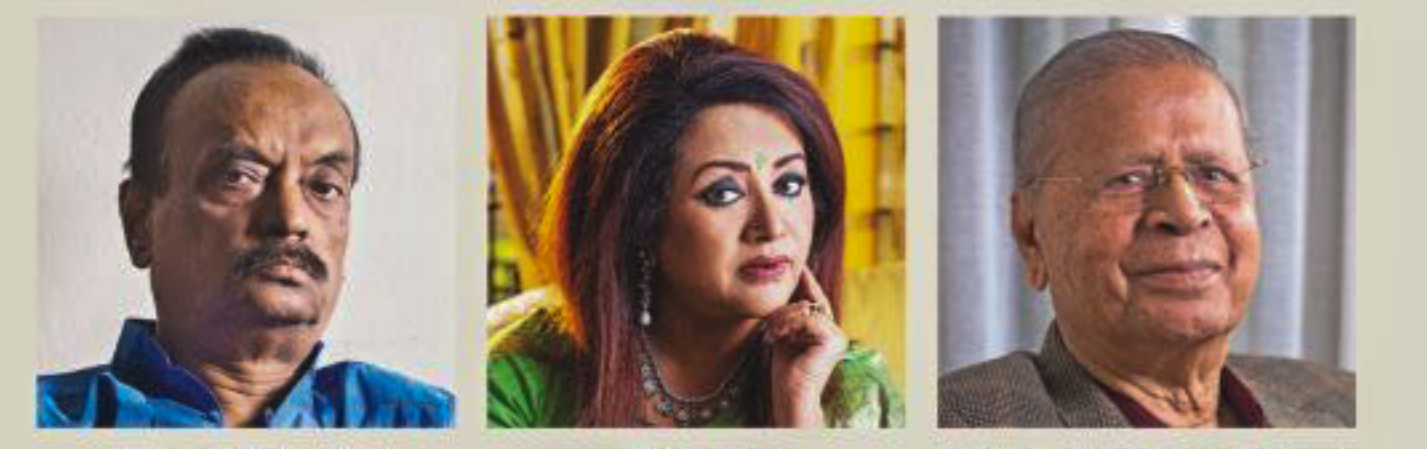
PALLAB BHATTACHARYA
 Rubaiyat Hossain-directed "Under Construction" will have the honour of being the opening film at the 14th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF), to be held from January 14-22. Hossain's second feature film, starring Indian actors Rahul Bose, Sahana Goswami and Mita Rahman among others, had recently won the top award at the Mindanao Festival in the Philippines. The festival organisers expect to screen approximately 170 films from 55 coun-

tries. DIFF will have a competition section for Asian and Australian cinema and segment categories for: Retrospective, Cinema of the World, Children's Film, Women Filmmakers, Short and Independent Films, Spiritual Films and Scandinavian Countries Films. Meanwhile, in more good news for Bangladeshi cinema, director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki is embarking on two more feature films, including his first on a family drama this year, after a two-year hiatus since making his last feature film "Pipa Biddya". The shoot of the family drama tenta-

tively titled "No Bed of Roses" will start in February next with a cast yet to be finalised, says the director. But one thing he makes clear is that while some of the cast would be those with whom he has worked before, some will be first-timers for him in it, for which Farooki says he is looking for a suitable Bangla title. The other proposed film by Farooki is titled "No Land's Man" whose shooting begins in October this year and some of its sequences are likely to be shot in New York, according to the director.

CELEBRATING LIFE GALA TODAY
 Three luminaries to get Lifetime Achievement Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The awards ceremony of Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life 2015 is all set to take place this evening at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital. Actress Babita, photographer Afzal H Chowdhury and lyricist Alauddin Ali will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards for their monumental contributions to Film, Photography and Music respectively. The gala event will include Celebrating Life Photo Exhibition, featuring winning photographs of this year's contest. Popular band Chirkutt will perform live at the programme based on this year's winning lyrics. Noted singers



Sabina Yasmin and Syed Abdul Hadi will perform songs penned by Alauddin Ali. There will be a documentary on the winners of Celebrating Life: Lifetime Achievement Award followed by presentations on awards for Film, Lyrics, and photography. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will inaugurate the photo exhibit. Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star will deliver the welcome speech, while Abrar A. Anwar, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh will give the vote of thanks. The event will begin at 5pm.



RIAZ begins a new venture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Riaz Ahamed, the film star-turned powerhouse TV actor, is now venturing into new grounds -- as an entrepreneur. His restaurant, Food24/7, opened in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area yesterday. The restaurant will be open round the clock, and has world-renowned chef Tony Khan in charge of food engineering. "Artistes require a peace of mind in terms of finances, and it's especially true for Bangladesh," Riaz told The Daily Star when asked his motivation for starting a business venture. "I've realised that in order to work selectively, a secondary earning support is necessary. If I could open a Cineplex, that would be a dream come true, but with the resources I have at hand, that is difficult at the moment, so I decided to enter the culinary world." About the restaurant, he said "We don't really have restaurants open 24 hours in our country. This is what makes Food24/7 unique. Our kitchen will be online and will cater to foodies at all times in the day. This is just a pilot project; if it is successful, I plan to make it a chain restaurant, and open branches in other parts of the capital."



NINE & A HALF on Desh TV

A CORRESPONDENT
 Drama serial "Nine & A Half" will air on Desh TV at 10:30pm tonight. Written by Tuhin Russel and directed by Mabur Rashid Banna, the serial revolves around a group of university students whose individual stories unravel along the way. Hasan Imam, Kumkum Hasan, Mumtahina Toya, Siyam Ahmed, Tawsif Mahbub, Salman Mukhtadir, Shanta Jahan and others are in the cast. The drama serial airs Sundays through Thursdays.

QUOTES



"When you see the movie, you'll see. It's the greatest scene that I've ever gotten to take part in — it accounts for the change in hair."

- Jesse Eisenberg, speaking about his role as Lex Luthor in the upcoming Batman v Superman film.

Salman's "Sultan" finds leading lady in Anushka

Salman Khan's upcoming film, Sultan, has finally got a leading lady. Anushka Sharma has been roped in as to play the lead opposite Salman Khan's "Sultan", in the film. Salman plays the eponymous role in the film about wrestling. In order to essay the character of the 40-year-old wrestler from Haryana, Salman Khan has been undergoing strenuous training for quite some time now. Directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, "Sultan" is expected to hit the screens on Eid 2016. Speculations are still rife about the exact release date of the film, thanks to the expected big box-office clash between Salman's "Sultan" and Shah Rukh Khan's "Raees". Earlier, director Ali Abbas Zafar had been quoted as saying that they would announce the lead lady

of the film by January-end. From Deepika Padukone to Parineeti Chopra, several names had cropped up in the topic. While Salman had two films to his credit last year, "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" and "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo", Anushka was seen on the big screen thrice in 2015 - "NH10", "Bombay Velvet" and "Dil Dhadakne Do". This is the first time that Salman and Anushka have been paired together. With "Sultan", Anushka will have worked with all three Khans of the industry. She had made her Bollywood debut alongside Shah Rukh Khan in "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi", and then teamed up with him for "Jab Tak Hai Jaan". In 2014, Anushka was seen opposite Aamir Khan in "PK". Source: India Today



"Bridge Of Spies", "Carol" Lead BAFTA nods

The nominations for this year's BAFTA Film Awards were announced in London on Friday, with Steven Spielberg's "Bridge Of Spies" and Todd Haynes' "Carol" leading the field with nine nods each. Alejandro G. Iñárritu's "The Revenant" follows with eight. In the Best Film category, they are joined by "The Big Short" and "Spotlight". Ridley Scott's Matt Damon-starrer "The Martian" also has a six-nod presence. "Mad Max: Fury Road" picked up seven mentions while Box Office juggernaut "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" has four nominations: Production Design, Sound, Original Music and Special Visual Effects. The Best British Film category includes Asif Kapadia's documentary "Amy", Andrew Haigh's Berlin entry "45 Years", John Crowley's Irish immigrant drama "Brooklyn", Tom Hooper's drama "The Danish Girl", Alex

Garland's big BIFA winner "Ex Machina" and Yorgos Lanthimos' Cannes pic "The Lobster". Although the James Bond franchise has not traditionally been a major winner here, it's surprising to see "Spectre" come up entirely empty-handed across the nominations board, particularly since its predecessor "Skyfall" won the Best British Film prize in 2013. While "Room", Lenny Abrahamson's critically lauded drama, was not eligible in the British category, it has only two nominations: Best Actress for Brie Larson and Adapted Screenplay for Emma Donoghue. The film has not yet been released in the UK, though it had a spot at the London Film Festival in October. The acting categories largely match the Golden Globe races this weekend. Alicia Vikander is a standout with nominations in Lead and Supporting

for "The Danish Girl" and "Ex Machina". In the leading actress category, she will fight for the spot with Brie Larson ("The Room"), Cate Blanchett ("Carol"), Dame Maggie Smith ("The Lady in the Van") and Saoirse Ronan ("Brooklyn"). The actors in contention in leading roles are Bryan Cranston ("Trumbo"), Eddie Redmayne ("The Danish Girl"), Leonardo DiCaprio ("The Revenant"), Matt Damon ("The Martian") and Michael Fassbender for his portrayal of Steve Jobs in the eponymous film. The Animated Film had expected nominees in "Inside Out" and "Minions" being joined by "Shaun the Sheep Movie". The Oscar nominations are next on January 14. The BAFTAs take place a month later on February 14, hosted by Stephen Fry in London. Source: Variety