

**WHAT'S ON**  
**Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2016**  
 Organiser: Bangla Academy  
 Venue: Bangla Academy premises & Suhrawardi Udyan  
 Date: February 1-29  
 Time: 3-9pm & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)

**Dhaka Art Summit**  
 Organiser: Samdani Art Foundation & BSA  
 Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: February 5-8  
 Time: 10am-9pm, Daily

**Bharatnatyam Dance Recital**  
 Title: Kanaka Manjari by Nriya Nandan  
 Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum  
 Date: Feb 6; Time: 6:45pm

**Duet Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Fragments of the Anthropocene  
 Artists: Zihan Karim & Shimul Saha  
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan-1  
 Date: Jan 30- Feb 27; Time: 12-8pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Gregarious Harmony  
 Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, FFA, DU  
 Date: Jan 31- Feb 6  
 Time: 10am-8pm

**NEWS bytes**  
**Two more Fast & Furious films announced**

Universal Pictures and Vin Diesel have confirmed there will be a ninth and a 10th film in its "Fast and Furious" franchise with release dates in 2019 and 2021. The news was first unveiled late Tuesday night through Vin Diesel's Instagram account. Diesel had revealed on January 18 that eighth film would be titled "Fast 8" and released the first poster for the action movie, showing the New York City skyline. Universal had already staked out April 14, 2017, as the release date for "Fast 8". Diesel and Universal both said Tuesday that "Fast & Furious 9" will open on April 19, 2019,



with "Fast & Furious 10" coming April 2, 2021. "Fast & Furious 10" is the first title to be given a specific date in 2021. Plot details have yet to be revealed for "Fast 8" although news broke last month that Universal was exploring shooting the actioner in Cuba. "Straight Outta Compton" director F Gary Gray is directing and Neil Moritz is producing with Diesel. "Furious 7," which was dedicated to the late Paul Walker, was a massive success with worldwide grosses topping \$1.5 billion. Source: Variety



(L-R) Zakir Hai, Nadia Samdani, Rajeeb Samdani and Mohammad Muniruzzaman at the press meet.

**Celebrating global artistic links to South Asia**  
**DAS 2016 Press Conference held**

**ZAHANGIR ALOM**  
 Dhaka takes its turn to become a hub of art, as the third edition of Dhaka Art Summit (DAS) sets off tomorrow. Thanks to the magnanimous initiative by Samdani Art Foundation, a number of Bangladeshi artists (65% of the total participants) are getting a rare opportunity to showcase their works alongside big names of contemporary art from South Asian countries and beyond. Art lovers, connoisseurs and organisers from across the world are looking forward to see the proceedings of all-around artistic expressions and arrangement that the world's largest non-commercial and research-based exhibition platform for South Asian Art is offering in a four-day (February 5-8) grand art fiesta from 10am to 9pm daily. Art connoisseur and Finance Minister AMA Muhith will inaugurate the biennale Dhaka Art

Summit as chief guest while Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon and Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will attend the ceremony as special guests. On the other hand, Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry has started a campaign called "Visit Bangladesh 2016", as Bangladesh government marks 2016 as the year of tourism. Produced by Samdani Art Foundation, the grand art summit is being organised by Samdani Art Foundation in association with Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), Bangladesh Tourism Board and over 50 international partners. Golden Harvest is the title sponsor of the event. A press conference was held yesterday at National Art Gallery auditorium of BSA where Nadia Samdani, President and Co-Founder of Samdani Art Foundation (SAF) elaborated the diverse aspects of the summit.

Among others, Rajeeb Samdani, Co-Founder of SAF; Zakir Hai, COO of Golden Harvest and artist-curator Mohammad Muniruzzaman were present. "For 2016, there will be 17 solo projects curated by the SAF's artistic director Diana Campbell Betancourt. Other content includes five curated exhibitions, eight durational performances, a film programme, panel discussion, and book launches. To grow DAS as a research platform, we invited curators from different institutions like Tate Modern, Centre Pompidou, the Guggenheim, and the Kunsthalle Zürich to extend their research deeper into South Asia. Works from the National Gallery archive, National Museum of Bangladesh, and various private collections will also be on display at the exhibition," mentioned Nadia Samdani. Following a QA session, the organisers directed a guided tour for the journalists.

**BOOK CORNER**  
**"Writing is a third profession in our country" ... Anisul Hoque**

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
 Noted litterateur and journalist, Anisul Hoque has won several awards, including the Bangla Academy Award for his outstanding works. Some of his books will be published at this year's Ekushey Boi Mela. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the celebrated writer talked about the book fair, his upcoming books and busy professional life. How many of your books are being published at the fair? Anisul Hoque: Two novels -- "Lift-e Atka Pora Jubok Jubotira" and "General O Narigan". I'm still writing the latter. Besides this, a book named "Prithibir Rupoboti Nari Apnar Jonno" and others on teenagers are to be published. When did you publish your first book? Anisul Hoque: In 1989. It was a poetry book named "Khola Chithi Sundorer Kachhe". I was a student of BUET back then. We published the book ourselves. It earned me much acclaim. What are your expectations from this fair? Anisul Hoque: As the country's political situation remains stable, I'm very hopeful about the fair this time as a writer. I hope that a good number of readers will through the fair to browse through books. I also hope that proper security arrangements are in place. With all this, I think we will see a good fair this year. You are used to writing fiction, but what is your favourite reading material?

Anisul Hoque: Columns and memoirs. Apart from this, poetry books also attract me. You often write satires. When did you first start such writing? Anisul Hoque: I have been writing a satire column for newspapers for the last 27 years. One of my humour books named "Koutuk Toutuk" will be brought out this fair. When do you usually concentrate on writing? Anisul Hoque: In the morning, I start writing after I have my morning cup of tea and go through the newspaper. But if I skip writing any morning, I don't sit down to write the rest of the day. What is the life as a writer like? Anisul Hoque: I would like to spend the rest of my life writing. But writing is the third profession in our country. You have to spend a lot of time for this besides maintaining your family and job. What else do you enjoy, besides writing? Anisul Hoque: Drawing, enjoying movies and listening to music. Cricket also entertains me a great deal. Tell us about your bestselling book "Maa"? Anisul Hoque: The novel is based on a true story. It is a story based on the life of Shaheed Azad. The 60th edition of this book has been published. Over one lakh copies of this book have been sold till now. It has been published in English from Delhi and Orissa. The book is also published in Swedish and Spanish.



**Tarin-Mir Sabbir in 'Megh-heen Bhalobasha'**

**A CORRESPONDENT**  
 Tarin and Mir Sabbir, two tremendously popular television actors, have paired up for single-episode television play "Megh-heen Bhalobasha". Written by Kona Reza and directed by Mehedi Bin Ashraf, shooting for the play wrapped up recently in the capital's Uttara. The play casts Tarin and Mir Sabbir as a married couple with their share of happiness and sorrow. Sabbir said, "I like Kona Reza's story, and have previously worked with her. Tarin and I are very good friends; as a co-actor she is amazing. I hope the audience enjoys our chemistry." Tarin added, "The storyline is interesting and there was scope for fine acting. Sabbir and I tried to make our roles as realistic as possible. I believe it will entertain the audience." The play will go on air on Channel i on upcoming Valentine's Day.

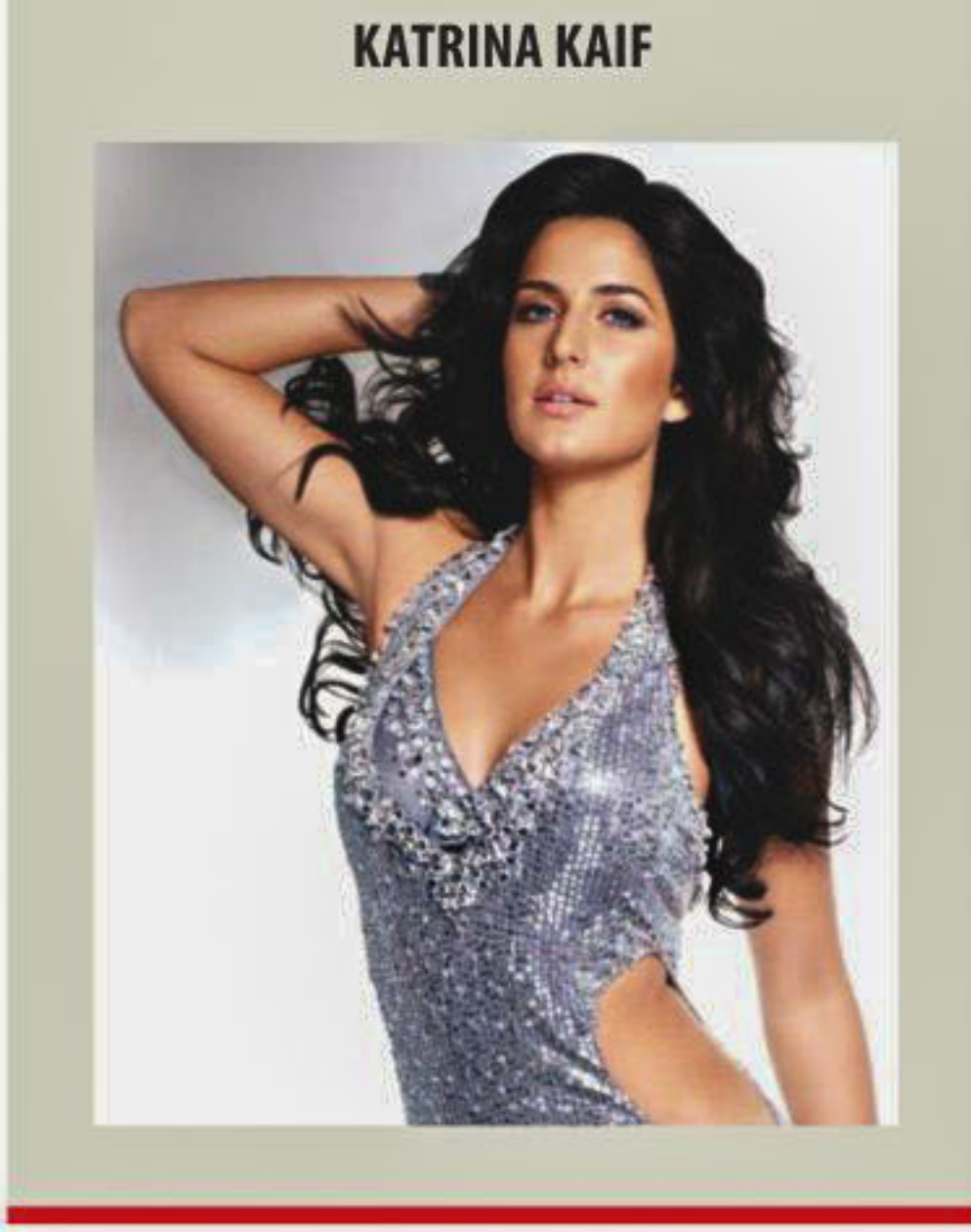


**শ্রেষ্ঠ কার্ফিশিল্পী পুরস্কার ও কার্ফিশিল্পা**  
 4 February 2016  
 At Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth premises

**Crafts Fair opens Boost for artisans**

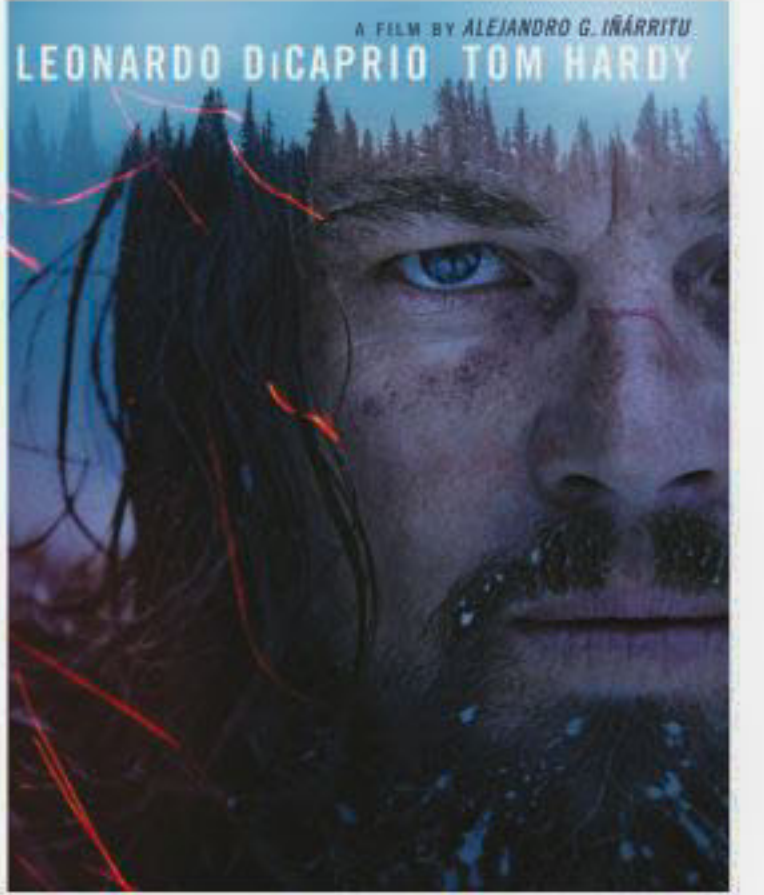
**A CORRESPONDENT**  
 The National Mastercraftspersons Award was introduced in 1989 by the National Crafts Council of Bangladesh with the objective of reviving traditional crafts, recognising the value of artisans and encouraging others to follow their traditions. Since 2010, the National Crafts Council of Bangladesh and Bengal Foundation have jointly organised the Mastercraftspersons Award and Crafts Fair. The five-day Crafts Fair will commence on February 4 at 4 pm, at the Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth premises. Rights activist advocate Sultana Kamal and Rabindra Gope, Director, Folk and Crafts Museum, will jointly inaugurate the fair and award four artisans the Mastercraftspersons Award on the day. Renowned Chakma hand-weaving artisan, and previous winner of the Mastercraftspersons Award, Sharatmala, will be attending the event as a special guest. The Crafts Fair will run from 4 to 8 February, 11 am to 8 pm.

**QUOTES**  
 "I would love to do action films. I recently saw 'Mad Max: Fury Road'. When I saw that, I was telling Bosco (renowned Bollywood choreographer) that someone has to do something like this. I really wish to do something like this."



**THE REVENANT**  
**COMING TO STAR CINEPLEX**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Golden Globe-winning Hollywood blockbuster "The Revenant" is all set to debut in Dhaka. The action-adventure will premiere at Star Cineplex in the capital's Bashundhara City this evening, and will be screened from Friday. Academy-Award winning director Alejandro G. Iñárritu's latest film has won Best Picture Award at the Golden Globes 2016. The film is also leading Oscar nominations, with a staggering 12 nominations including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor.



Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hardy, Domhnall Gleeson, Forrest Goodluck and Will Poulter, "The Revenant" centres on an expe-

dition of the uncharted American wilderness by legendary explorer Hugh Glass (DiCaprio). In the expedition Glass is brutally attacked by a bear and left for dead by members of his own hunting team. In a quest to survive, Glass endures unimaginable grief as well as the betrayal of his confidant John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy). Guided by sheer will and the love of his family, Glass must navigate a vicious winter in a relentless pursuit to live and find redemption. Inspired by true events, the film has been entirely shot in natural light. It is an immersive and visceral cinematic experience capturing one man's epic adventure of survival and the extraordinary power of the human spirit.

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