

WHAT'S ON

17th Asian Art Biennale
Bangladesh
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am-8pm



Int'l Group Art Exhibit
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Nov 27-Dec 26
Time: 12noon-8pm



Kathak Dance Festival 2016
Organiser: Kathak Dance Community
Venue: Chhayanaout Auditorium, Dhanmondi
Date: December 24-26
Time: 6:05pm daily



BD Hip-hop Festival
Organiser: Rendezvous
Venue: Le Meridien Dhaka
Date: December 25
Time: 5pm onwards



Group Painting Exhibition
Title: Joloy - 2
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
Date: December 17-29
Time: 3pm-8pm





STAR FILE PHOTO

KATHAK DANCE FESTIVAL BEGINS TODAY AT CHHAYANAUT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
For the fifth consecutive year, a three-day Kathak Dance Festival will begin this evening at 6:05pm at the main auditorium of Chhayanaout Sangskriti Bhaban. Organised by the Kathak Dance Community, Kathak legend Pt. Birju Maharaj will inaugurate the festival running till December 26.
The organisers will confer Zeenat Zahan Memorial Award this year to Vidushi Saswati Sen, a leading Indian exponent of Kathak. Noted Bangladeshi dance artistes Laila Hasan, Minu Haque and Anisul Islam Hero will speak as guests on the opening day. Shazu Ahmed, the head of Kathak Dance Community will deliver welcome address at the event.
Apart from solo and group dance presenta-

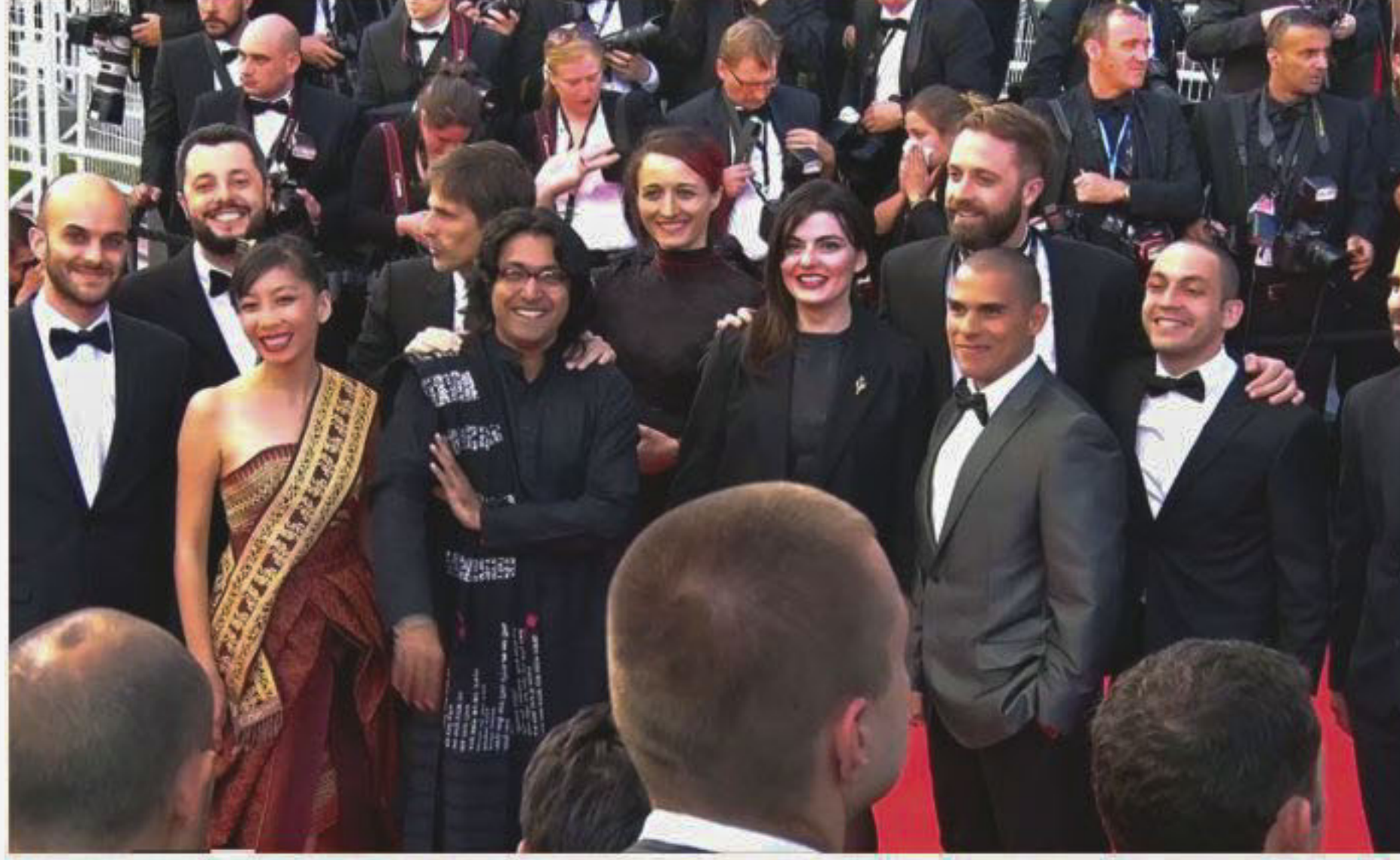
tions by both noted and promising artistes and dance troupes of Bangladesh, the festival will have a seminar on the title "Kathak Nrityakalar Bikashey Pandit Birju Maharaj" at 10:30am on December 25. The seminar, to be held at Chhayanaout's Seminar Room, will have Vidushi Saswati Sen and noted Bangladeshi dance artistes as discussants.
Artistes from the troupes Kathak Dance Community, Rewaz Performers' School, Pushpanjali, Angikam, Nrityashram, Nupur Nikkan of Moulvi Bazar and Rangpur will perform on the opening day.
Artistes of PFDA Vocational Training Centre, Atanu Biswas of Pabna, Rafajya Oishee of Kathak Dance Community, Zarin and Tasin of Dinajpur and Ainany Arpita, Tahmina Anwar Anika, Aporajita Mustafa and Abantika Al Reza of Dhaka will perform solo

and group dance on the second day. Directed by Shazu Ahmed, artistes of Kathak Dance Community will stage a dance drama titled "Proshongo 47". Sharmila Bandyopadhyay, Munmun Ahmed and Deepa Khandakar will be present as guests on the day.
A jugalbandi dance recital by Pt. Birju Maharaj and Vidushi Saswati Sen is the highlight of the concluding day's festival. Anirban Bhattacharya and Chandrachur Bhattacharya will accompany the performance on instruments while Utpal Ghosal will support on vocal music.
Veteran cultural personality Kamal Lohani, director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Liaquat Ali Lucky, Golam Mostafa Khan, Hasanur Rahman Bachchu and Hasan Arif will be present as guest on the concluding day.

"Shongkhodhwoni" renamed "Shikolbaha" Kamar Simon's new film to go on floors next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Kamar Ahmad Simon's upcoming feature film has been renamed as "Shikolbaha" ("Iron Stream"). The previous title of the film was "Shongkhodhwoni" ("Silence of the Seashell").
Kamar had won the World Cinema Fund (WCF) 2016 at the prestigious Berlinale Film Festival, recognising young talents from around the world.
"Changing the name has been long due in the list, since there has been confusion around with too many 'Shongkho' films lately ('Shongkhonad', 'Shongkhochil' etc)," Kamar Simon said about the name change. The production of the film starts in 2017.
The Berlinale Film Festival official website quotes the mandate of WCF as following: "Films that stand out with an

unconventional aesthetic approach, that tell powerful stories and transmit an authentic image of their cultural roots."
Films like "Uncle Bomme Who Can Recall His Past Lives" (Palme d'Or winner at Cannes), "Paradise Now" (Oscar nominee and Golden Globe winner) have been awarded in the past with the WCF by Berlinale.
Kamar, who shot to international recognition with documentary "Shunte Ki Pao!" that won major awards at international festivals, also won the National Film Grant for this script in 2016. Earlier in 2014, "Shikolbaha" (then known as "Shongkhodhwoni") was selected among 10 scripts by La Fabrique Cinema du Monde and Kamar was invited to the red carpet of the Cannes Film Festival with nine other upcoming directors.



Kamar Simon (5-L) at the 2014 Cannes Red Carpet.

MONGOL SHOBBHAJATRA RECOGNISED AS 'INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE' Celebration programmes at Charukala today

ZAHANGIR ALOM
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recently declared Mongol Shobhajatra, a unique celebratory procession of hailing Bangla New Year, as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
To rejoice the occasion, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA) (popularly known as Charukala) of University of Dhaka (DU) has organised a celebration programme on the theme "Esho Gahi Mongoler Joyogaan" at Bakultala of FFA today at 1pm.
"To hail Bangla New Year, FFA of DU has been organising Mongol Shobhajatra from the Bangla year 1396 (1989 AD). The Mongol Shobhajatra has recently been declared as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by Inter Governmental Committee of ICH, UNESCO. Like the entire country, we are delighted and proud of achieving such an honour. So, we would like to take part in a celebratory programme with those who were involved in the initial arrangement of the Mongol Shobhajatra, especially the 27 students of 1986-1987 session of Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka



Mongol Shobhajatra has become one of the most signature cultural celebrations of Bangladesh.

STAR FILE PHOTO

University. We would also like to accord a special reception to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and its associate organisation Bangla Academy for their significant roles in attaining the global recognition of the Mongol Shobhajatra," said Professor Nisar Hossain,

dean, FFA, in a written statement.
DU Vice Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique will hand over the mementos to the honoured personalities and institutions at the programme.
Eminent artist and president of Bangladesh Charu Shilpi Sangsad Mustafa Monwar and Supernumerary Professor of the Department of Drawing and Painting, Professor Rafiqun Nabi will adorn the representatives and recipients with uttaro.
The Mongol Shobhajatra, a procession brought out by students, teachers and alumni of FFA, DU, has become an integral part of Pahela Baishakh, the biggest celebration of secular Bangla culture. Every year, the procession centres on a theme relevant to the country's culture and politics.
Mongol Shobhajatra features large colourful masks, various animal-shaped carnival floats, replicas of birds, dragonflies, butterflies, chorka [spinning wheel], traditional dolls and other motifs of Bangladeshi culture that highlight the traditional folklore of Bangladesh.

"Bollywood is a large family business" ... Prachi Desai



Prachi Desai is among the few Bollywood stars who have had a successful transition from television to films. The 28-year-old however, feels that the industry is still slightly biased towards those actors who hail from film families and have someone from the industry backing them.
"Bollywood is a large family business. It's primarily a family industry and that's what it thrives on. Even today, there's a constant barrage of star kids whose pictures are flashed all over the internet even before they decide when and how they are going to debut," said Prachi in an interview with Hindustan Times.
The actor, who was last seen in "Rock On 2", a sequel to her 2008 debut film "Rock On", says, "There are a lot of talented actors out there who may probably never get those opportunities like these star kids do get. So yes, I think it's very evident for everybody to see that it is always about family connection in Bollywood."
The actor revealed that she herself has faced the brunt of this nepotism in the film industry. "The few films that I have been in contention for, I know certain girls' fathers have called up those particular directors or producers that they are eyeing that film. So it's nothing new and happens all the time."
Prachi, who shot to fame with TV show "Kasamh Se", holds no qualms calling herself an outsider in Bollywood. "I have had a very unconventional journey. I have never had a fairytale debut. I did my first TV show as a 17-year-old and at the age of 19, I did my first film on big screen, which was a role way beyond my age. I was critically acclaimed and appreciated for all the roles that I have played on the small screen, but here (in films), I have to keep trying and prove myself time and again."
Not letting the journey come to a halt, she asserted, "I think all I have to do is keep going at it, be resilient, and do not give up because there must be a reason why I am here. Also, there are some wonderful actors such as Vidya Balan and Kangana Ranaut who I can look up to and really do what they did."
Source: Hindustan Times

Bon Jovi premieres "New Years Day" video

Bon Jovi is raising a toast to the New Year a week early, with the premiere of the video for "New Years Day".
The song -- inspired by Sting's Broadway musical "The Last Ship" -- is 'not about a date on the calendar,' but about new beginnings, Jon Bon Jovi said at a live listening party at the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, New Jersey.
"New Year's Day", lifted from the group's album "This House is Not For Sale", represents renewal with lyrics that vow to seize the day as he sings "let's toast to new beginnings."

The video -- featuring keyboardist David Bryan, drummer Tico Torres, guitarist Phil X, and bassist Hugh McDonald, focuses on seamen setting sail on a ship across the ocean on the Susan Miller. The clip -- which cuts to the band performing on a dock -- is stunning visually, with one shot of the ship seemingly ready to sail off the edge of the earth and a final shot of the boat in a bottle.
"This House is Not For Sale" is currently available on iTunes. The group also released the live album "Live at the London Palladium", featuring live commentary from the band's show in October.
The "This House is Not For Sale" tour kicks off February 8 in Greenville, South Carolina.
Source: Billboard



Dhruba Guha's second album awaits release

A CORRESPONDENT
Dhruba Guha's "Je Pakhi Ghor Bujhena" hit over a million views on YouTube since its first upload a year ago. The popularity of the song has reached far and wide within the country, propelling the singer's career forward. His recent song "Adorey Rakhiyo Bondho" has already reached five hundred thousand views over the past month.
Next year, Dhruba plans to release his second album titled "Tumi Bhalobasho Bolei", which includes the recent popular track along with seven other songs. The singer also pays homage to legendary composer and music director Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul by rendering one of his songs. The singer has composed and written the song "Tomar Hridoy Jototuku Diyo Tototuku", while the other songs have been written by various lyricists. Tarik Al Islam was in charge of musical arrangements and the album will be released under the banner of Dhruba Music Station. Regarding the album release, the singer said "I have carefully delivered each song on the album, and that is why I am eager to see it reach the audience."

