

WHAT'S ON

National Instrumental Music Fest
Venue: Nandanmancha, BSA
Date: Jan 1-10
Time: 4pm-9pm

Contemporary Indian Print Exhibit
Venue: Gallery No. 6, National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: Dec 25-Jan 6
Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Beyond the Insignificant
Artist: Tasadduk Hossain Dulu
Venue: Kala Kendra
Date: Dec 15-Jan 6
Time: 5-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Code of Conduct
Artist: Mohammad Hasanur Rahman (Reaz)
Venue: La Galerie, AFD
Date: Dec 19-Jan 2
Time: Mon-Thurs (3-9pm), Fri-Sat (9am-12noon & 5-8pm)

Theatre
Play: Modhu Shikari
Troupe: Bot Tala
Venue: Studio Theatre, BSA
Date: Jan 4
Time: 5pm & 6:30pm

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NEWS bytes

CABELLO gifts fans new video for New Year

Camila Cabello gave fans a look at some of the special moments that have led up to the release of her much-anticipated solo album, in her new "Never Be the Same" video that she released on Friday. It's a montage of childhood home videos and behind-the-scenes footage, plus clips of Camila and various fans singing along to the song, which is the opening track on her upcoming album.

"I wanted to give this to you guys as a New Year's Eve present but I was too excited and couldn't wait!!!!" she wrote on Twitter December 29.

"This is a thank you from the bottom of my heart for always being here for me and for all the memories we've made together this year."

Cabello, who left girl group Fifth Harmony this year to start a solo career, already made waves with her chart-topping single "Havana", and with an army of fans at her disposal looks to make an impact on the pop scene in 2018.

Source: **Billboard**



NEW YEAR, NEW HOPES

STARS LOOK FORWARD TO 2018

SHAH ALAM SHAZLI and ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

A new year brings new hopes and expectations for everybody, and the stars that light up our screens and our minds are not too different. They too set targets for the year ahead, and have expectations and anticipations. Five of 2017's most successful artistes – actors, singers, TV hosts – spoke to The Daily Star what the New Year will bring for them. Excerpts:



AFRAN NISHO
actor

I believe that life is what you make of it, and for that reason I always strive to remain positive. That being said, we must also work hard for good outcomes to happen. I identify myself as an artiste rather than an actor, and I look forward to exploring new avenues in acting and emulating challenging characters.



BIDYA SINHA MIM
actor

I always greet every year with anticipation. First of all, I hope everyone has a healthy, happy year. I wish my country good times ahead, because a stable country ensures our security and happiness. Regarding my career, I hope to stay involved in good projects, as I still have a long way to go. Last year was very good for me as I did a number of good films, and I hope 2018 has even better in store for me.



NABILA
TV anchor and actor

It's hard to believe how an entire year went by so quickly. Even though "Aynabaji" was released in 2016, the film's success still put me in the limelight the following year, which was very fortunate for me. I began my career as a TV presenter and model, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to make my mark in film. I'd like to focus solely on cinema, but will only play roles that appeal to me.



APARNA GHOSE
actor

Being an actor means everything to me, whether it is on the big or small screen. While I haven't done many films, I look forward to more film opportunities this year, and will remain as active as ever on the small screen. Nothing is as satisfying as receiving praise for your work, and I hope to deliver even better this year.



SANIA SULTANA LIZA
singer

Last year gave me much to be thankful for. I released new songs that were received well by my listeners, and I hope to do the same this year. Music is the backbone of our culture, and to be involved with singing, and appreciating as listeners is an important act of preserving our traditions. I have a few surprises planned for this year, which I am preparing to present publicly quite soon. I also hope to work on a few music videos which will appeal to my fans.

Zainul's birth anniversary observed in Barisal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

A Zainul Charukala Utsab marking the 103rd birth anniversary of legendary artist Zainul Abedin was organised by Charukala Barisal at Ashwini Kumar Hall of the city on Friday. The daylong programme included a painting competition, discussion, exhibitions of paintings, folk art and crafts and a cultural function.

Artist Syed Enayet Hossain was honoured with Zainul Sanmanona and a reception.

Barisal Education Board chairman Professor Zianul Huq inaugurated the programe and Habibur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Barisal was chief guest at the concluding session.

A large turnout of people at the programme opined that Zainul was well known for his leadership in organising



Syed Enayet Hossain (C) along with other guests visits the crafts fair.



PHOTO: STAR



Artistes render a chorus song at the programme.

"Shoto Kontthe Ronangone Rabindranath-er Gaan" at BNM

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Museum and Rabindra Academy jointly organised a unique musical soiree titled "Shoto Kontthe Ronangone Rabindranath-er Gaan" at the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) on Sunday.

The soiree featured songs from Rabindranath Tagore's 'Swadesh' parjaya – patriotic, spirited and humanitarian songs that have inspired people at various movements for justice, humane spirit and even at battlefields.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith,

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor and State Minister for Post and Telecommunications Tarana Halim were present at the event. BNM keeper Dr. Shihab Shahriar, Rabindra Academy general secretary Bulbul Mahalanabish and eminent cultural personality Kamal Lohani spoke at the event.

A hundred shades of Rabindra Academy and Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra sang together at the event, along with recitation of poetry. Elocutionist Dr. Rupa Chakrabarty anchored the programme.

Many happy returns to Shahnaz Rahmatullah



A CORRESPONDENT

It has been seven years since noted singer Shahnaz Rahmatullah withdrew from the public eye, but her mesmerising vocals remain beloved across generations. Today is her birthday, and despite the specialty of the occasion, the artiste prefers to keep the attention off her.

"At this stage of my life, the priority is quite different. I find myself turning more towards prayers and helping those around me. On this day I have arranged meals to be prepared for an orphanage," she said of her plans.

Fazlul Haque and Asia Haque. Under her mother's watchful grooming, Shahnaz was taught singing as a child, and gained public recognition from a young age. Her first professional experience began at the age of 11, playback singing for "Notun Shuur" (1963), and appeared on television from 1964. What followed after was an illustrious career spanning decades, where she was also noted for singing ghazals. Her accomplishments include the Ekushey Padak, National Film Awards, Bangladesh Shilpakala Award, and many other honours.

To her family she is lovingly known as Shaheen, and her childhood birthdays were arranged with special care. "My mother used to cook pulao and other special dishes, which my siblings and I relished with great delight," Shahnaz reminisced.

Despite having led such an important career, the singer is determined to stay in retirement. "I made the decision with no regrets," she informed, "when I said to myself I did not want to sing anymore, I never felt conflicted with the thought. I wish to remain steadfast in the path I have chosen now."

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi" tops 2017 US Box Office

Disney-Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" has cleared the \$1 billion milestone in worldwide grosses in less than three weeks.

The film pulled in \$120.4 million globally on the New Year's Eve weekend to take its domestic tally to \$517.1 million, and in the process also topped Disney's "Beauty and the Beast", which grossed \$504 million in North America, for the top spot among 2017 releases domestically.

It's the fourth 2017 title to go past \$1 billion worldwide, along with "Beauty and the Beast" at \$1.26 billion, "The Fate of the Furious" at \$1.24 billion and "Despicable Me 3" at \$1.03 billion.

"The Last Jedi" is now the eighth highest-grossing domestic movie of all time — only \$15 million behind last year's "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" in the seventh spot. On the worldwide chart, it's now 24th with \$1.04

billion, edging Universal-Illumination's "Despicable Me 3". The tentpole's international total, currently at \$523.2 million, will see a significant jolt when it opens on January 5 in China, its final market.

"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" has been "The Last Jedi's" biggest competitor by far since it opened on December 20. The action-comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart and on a budget of \$90 million budget, is projecting to a \$186.3 million until the weekend. It's also performed impressively in international markets with \$107 million.

Universal's "Pitch Perfect 3" led the rest of weekend's domestic pack with a projected \$22.7 million for Friday-Monday. The comedy threequel stars Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson.

Source: **Variety**

