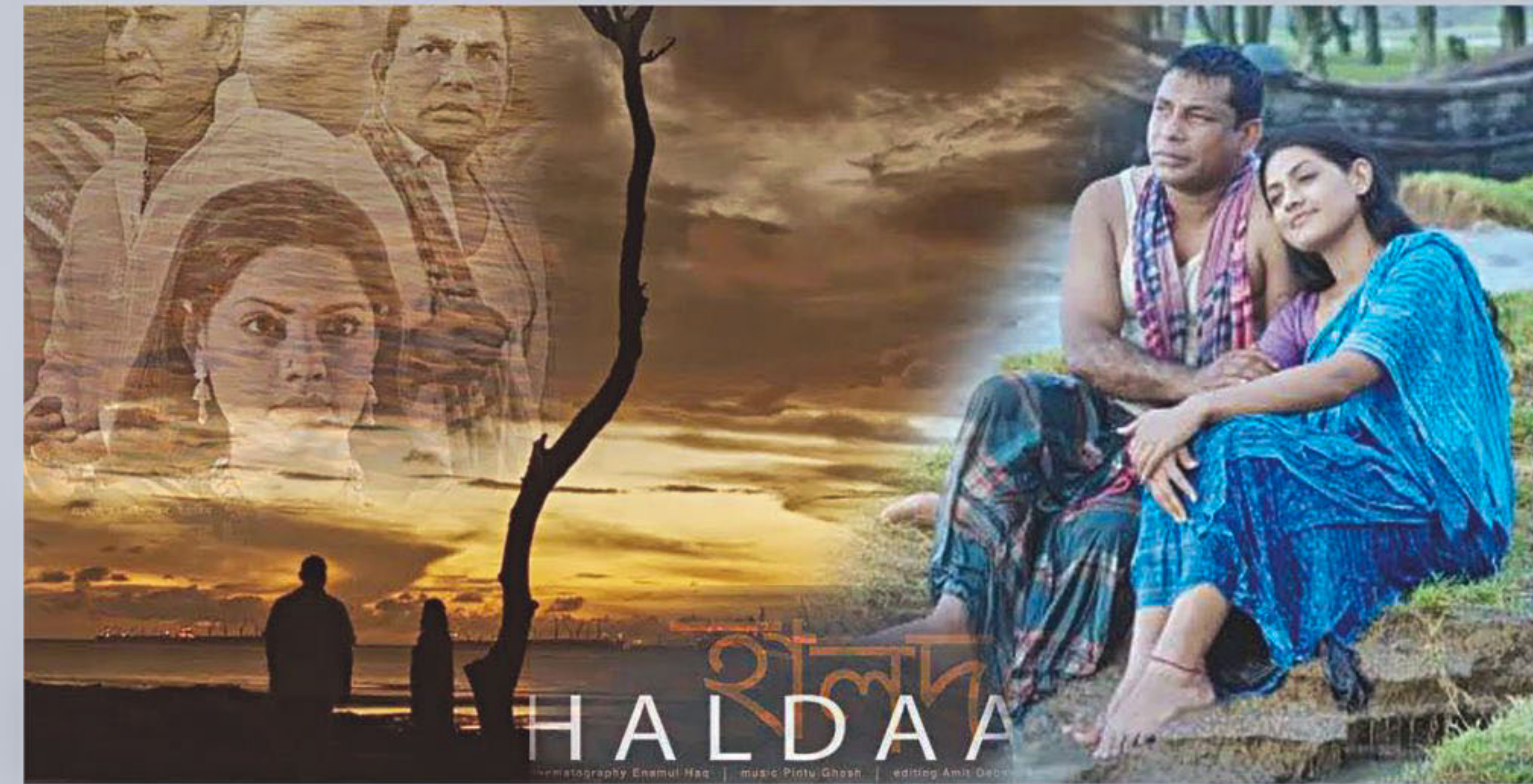


A LOVE LETTER TO 2017!

Although plagued by some duds and controversies in between, 2017 has proved to be a tremendous year for Bangladeshi entertainment. The audience has received a dose of critically acclaimed movies, as well as a healthy selection of television drama and music that has resonated well throughout the industry. This was a year where new stars emerged, and the established ones shined brighter than ever. For some, it was a year of realization of their true status as mega-stars. All in all, it was a year that has given us a lot to cherish and this is a look back in fondness and a love letter to 2017!



In some ways, 2017 for the entertainment industry was like the previously newlywed bride that built a rapport with you over time. You have good understanding with each other, but at the same time have some tumultuous fallouts that, in the long run only help you to become a stronger couple. Similarly, the achievements that the industry had received far overshadowed the controversies that had surrounded it.

No conversation in Bangladeshi entertainment can take place without mention of the undisputed 'King', Shakib Khan. Starring in multiple movies which include the likes of *Ohonkar*, *Operation Agneepath*, *Rajneeti* and *Rangbaz*, Shakib's breakthrough came through the record-breaking *Nabab*. Shakib's pairing with Subhasree Ganguly brimmed with chemistry, and thus he retained his position as the most popular actor in consistency with his last year's mega-hit *Shikari*. It is safe to say that the storm that shrouded Shakib's personal life had little to no effect on his box-office drawing power. Besides Shakib Khan, Bappy Chowdhury did a fantastic job with *Sultana Bibiyana* and *Bubly* was much talked about for *Ohonkar* as well as assumptions of her relation-

ship with Shakib Khan. Nusrat Faria was the most dominating leading lady with films like *Premi o Premi*, *Dhat Teri Ki* and *Boss 2*.

After months of speculation, a prolonged tug-of-war between legal disputes and ethical questioning, *Doob* came out later in the year to silence naysayers once and for all. It was a beautifully crafted piece of art, and by far Mostofa Sarwar



Farooki's finest work. The inclusion of the internationally recognized Irrfan Khan brought the film to new heights, and the veteran delivered one of his best performances to date in the film. Tisha, Rokeya Prachy and Parno Mitra also did commendable jobs at supporting him. "Yes, the film was somewhat inspired by Humayun Ahmed, but it is in no way a biopic and the people who actu-

ally saw it in theatres can attest to that. What Sarwar did, with commendable skill, was handling the story with great maturity and subtlety. From storytelling to direction, it is obvious that he has honed his craft as a director and has reached a level of near-perfection with this particular film. The language that he has wanted to convey to the audience for so long was finally molded in words with *Doob*." Star Showbiz's Editor had said in a much appreciated honest criticism of the film.

Tauquir Ahmed surprised everyone late-2017 with *Haldaa*, which starred Mosharraf Karim, Zahid Hassan and Tisha among others. Previously, the actor turned director had received hefty praise with *Oggatonama*, and with *Haldaa* his streak doesn't look to end very soon. The film is still doing well in the box office as we speak.

However, the biggest hit of 2017 that came out of nowhere and took everyone by storm was *Dhaka Attack*. The silver-screen debut of Dipankar Dipon exceeded all expectations to provide an intriguing thriller that the audience could not get enough of. The film was arguably the "coming of age" of Arifin Shuvo, whom many felt had all the tools