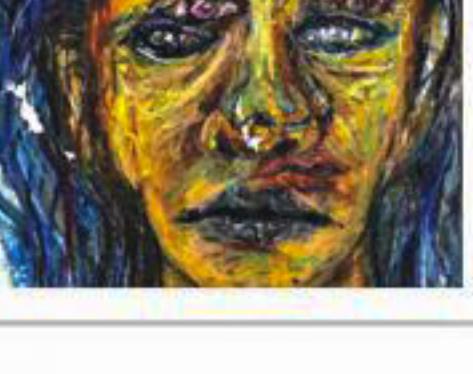


**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Lost in Transition  
Artist: Afira Tanzim Mahi  
Venue: Kala Kendra  
Date: Jan 12-27  
Time: 5-8pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Joratalir Chalchitra  
Artist: Hashem Khan  
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharjee  
Gallery, BNM  
Date: Jan 5-31  
Time: 10am-5pm



**Musical Evening**  
Organiser: IGCC  
Performers: Department of  
Music, DU  
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal  
Auditorium, BNM, Shahbagh  
Date: Jan 24; Time: 6pm



**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Cha Chakra  
Artist: Falham Ebna Sharif  
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 19-26  
Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs) and  
9am-12 noon; 5-8pm (Fri-Sat)



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Oporoog by Gopal Chandra Saha  
Venue: EMK Center (9th Floor,  
Midas Center, Rd-16 (old 27),  
Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 13-25  
Time: 9:30am-8pm



## A special day for Lavlu

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular artiste Salahuddin Lavlu initially carved his reputation as a TV and theatre actor. He went on to reach the heights of success as a director, but is expected to be the centre of special attention from fans and loved ones on his birthday today. The Daily Star caught up with the artiste who is currently shooting for a play in Kushtia town:

### What have you planned for today?

**Lavlu:** As you can tell, I am swamped with filming right now, so I doubt I'd have any time for a moment to myself. It appears that this is nothing out of the ordinary, as I always seem to have work commitments on my birthday. However, luck has favoured me this time, for Kushtia is my hometown, and this is the first time I've had the opportunity to work here on such a special day.

**But surely your family and friends have something planned for you?**

**Lavlu:** I am sure that they have already started preparations. My family and friends always go out of their way to do something special for me. Tonight they will arrange for a special dinner, followed by a cake. I feel truly blessed.

### What are your reflections on turning another year?

**Lavlu:** I feel as though there is still much left to accomplish. It is alarming to think how quickly the years fly by. I hope to remain healthy and strong for the years to come, so that I can achieve what my heart is set on.

### What are you currently filming in Kushtia?

**Lavlu:** I am filming a new drama series titled "Priyo Din Priyo Raat", scripted by Kazi Shahidul Islam. All my plays have been set in rural areas, but for the first time I have chosen the setting of a small town. All the memories of my boyhood and college years are flooding back; this series is an emotionally significant one for me.

### Are there any added advantages to filming in your hometown?

**Lavlu:** For a few years now, I have been returning to Kushtia to film a few Eid plays. My directorial debut, "Dichokrojaan", was filmed here. For the first time I am directing a drama series in this town. The biggest advantage is that I am surrounded by familiar faces, who are always there to extend a helping hand when needed. It feels like I am working from home, which is great.

## REBEKA SULTANA performs at BNM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Nazrul singer Rebeka Sultana performed at a solo musical soiree at the Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) on January 21. The artiste rendered various genres of Nazrul Sangeet, a few Tagore songs, golden oldies, patriotic and folk numbers as well as a few songs on request at the event. As part of their regular cultural programmes, BNM organised the event.

The singer began with the song "Muktrir Mondir Sopan Tol-e" and wrapped up the soiree with the patriotic number "Ek Sagar Rokter Binimoy-e".

In between she sang several Nazrul songs including "Morey Deke Lou Shei Desh-e", "Bajey Monjur Monjur", "Shawon Raat-e Jodi", "Jobe Tulshi Tolaye" and more.

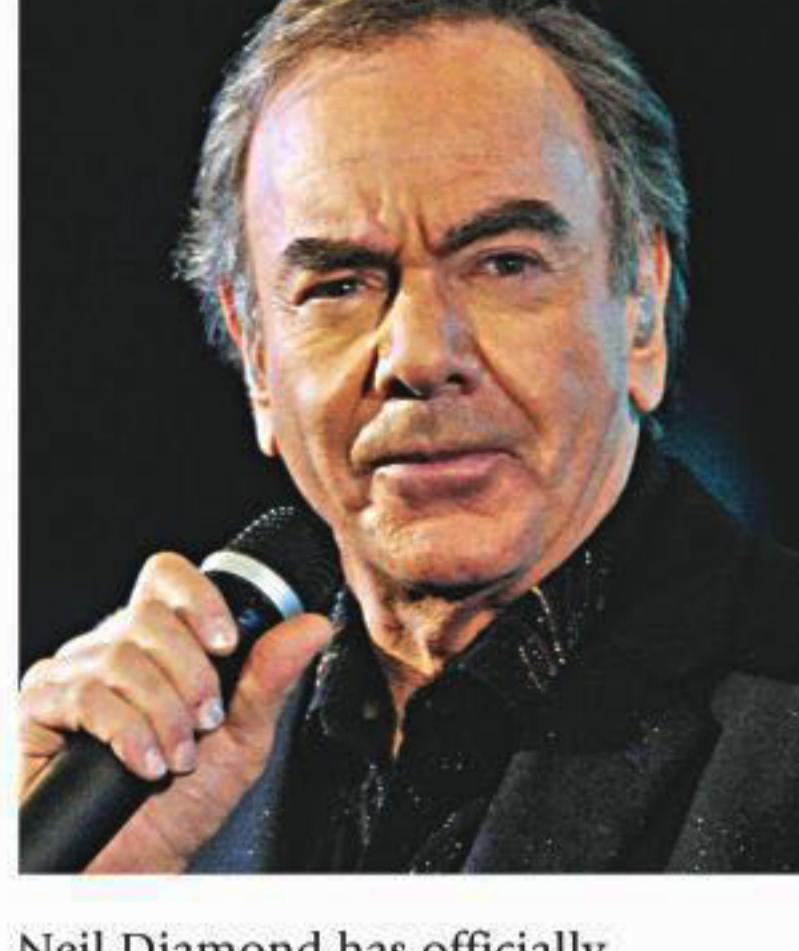
Rebeka Sultana also performed Tagore songs including "Amar Bela Je Jaye" and "Sakhi Bhabona Kaharey Boley" and golden oldies including "Prithibi Amarey Chaye" at the programme.

The artiste has earned accolades as a singer both at home and abroad.



## NEWS bytes

### NEIL DIAMOND announces retirement from concert touring



Neil Diamond has officially announced his retirement from touring due to his recent Parkinson's diagnosis.

The third leg of his 50th Anniversary tour, which was set to launch in March across Australia and New Zealand, has been cancelled as was medically recommended from his doctor. Fans who already purchased tickets will be refunded in full.

"I plan to remain active in writing, recording and other projects for a long time to come," the singer wrote in a statement Monday (January 22) on his website. "My thanks goes out to my loyal and devoted audiences around the world. You will always have my appreciation for your support and encouragement. This ride has been 'so good, so good, so good' thanks to you."

The icon will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Recording Academy at the Grammy Awards on January 28.

Source: Billboard

## Shohojia releases album "Ghora" at JU Himm Utshab ends

MD. ASADUZ ZAMAN, JU

Band Shohojia released their second album "Ghora" on Saturday at a concert at Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus marking the day-long Himm

Utshab.

Noted poet and singer Kafil Ahmed and Ziaur Rahman Zia, bassist and leader of Shironamhin band launched the album at the Selim al Deen Muktamancha (Open Stage) in the evening.



The album includes seven songs. While four songs focus on horses, their popular tracks are "Chhoto Pakhi", "Chocolates", "Jadukor", "Amader Kotha", "Chhut", "Ghora", "Bhor Hote Raat".

Meanwhile, to welcome the winter session, JU students organised a three-day long winter festival titled "Himm Utshab" for the third time with the theme "Himdeshe Ushno Ak Pran". The organisers also dedicated the programme to the late eminent singer-composer Lucky Akhanda.

The festival featured photography exhibition, wide variety of pithas, folk songs, Pote gaan, Ghambhira, Ghatu gaan, art camp etc.

Talking to The Daily Star, Malika Mustofa Suchana and Partha, organisers of the festival said that the third edition of the festival under the banner "Poromporay Amra" was to emphasise on local art and culture.

## World Economic Forum summit at Davos Crystal Award for socially conscious celebrities



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Awards and accolades are nothing new for Bollywood's superstar Shah Rukh Khan. But the one conferred on him at a function in snow-covered Davos, Switzerland, on Monday night was special in more ways than one.

Khan received the 24th Crystal Award along with music legend Elton John and actress Cate Blanchett at a ceremony, which opened the annual World Economic Forum summit in the Swiss ski resort of Davos. The ceremony celebrates the achievements of outstanding artists who have shown exemplary commitment to improving the state of the world.

Khan was bestowed the honour for "His leadership in championing children's and women's rights in India," the World Economic Forum (WEF) said.

Khan, one of Hindi cinema's most globally recognised faces, is also a founder of a non-profit foundation which provides support to female victims of acid attacks and major burn injuries through medical treatment, legal aid, vocational training, rehabilitation and livelihood support. In his award acceptance speech, Khan said "we, the powerful, need to get out of the way, to pick the barriers apart, the ones that give us names and

races and colours and hierarchies."

"That is what I have learned from my beautifully scarred women," he added.

At the award-giving function, Khan did not let go another opportunity to showcase his prowess to be at his wittiest best. He publicly wanted to take a selfie with Cate Blanchett but quipped that it would leave his kids embarrassed. The audience broke into peals of laughter. That was a typical Khan humour.

"Honoured to receive the World Economic Forum's 24th Crystal Award, together with Elton John and Hollywood actress Cate Blanchett. My fan moment," Bollywood's most bankable actor tweeted after receiving the honour.

Blanchett received the Crystal Award for her work with refugees while British singer-songwriter Elton John got his for his charitable work with his AIDS foundation.

Blanchett, who has won two Oscars, was named a Goodwill Ambassador for UN's refugee agency UNHCR in May 2016. As part of her role, the actor has travelled to Lebanon and Jordan to meet refugees displaced by the Syrian conflict.

Among the past winners of the Crystal Award are Amitabh Bachchan, danseuse Mallika Sarabhai, composer A R Rahman, actress Shabana Azmi, sitarists Ravi Shankar and sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan.

## "Shera Kontho" chooses two winners



A competitive battle ensued six months ago among 35,000 participants as "Fizzup Channel i Sherakontho", powered by Sharif Kitchen Star, searched for their deserving winner for the programme's sixth season. After months of elimination leaving behind 12 contestants, the programme's grand finale took place in Hotel Chatriya in Bangkok, Thailand, where judges were hard pressed to choose just one winner, says a press release. On January 21, Oishi and Sumon were announced as the season's victors.

The top twelve contestants included Adiba, Sumona, Fatema, Oishi, Tariq Mridha, Trisha, Anisha, Tinni, Mowmita, Nannu, Dola and Apel. Taking place as judges in the show were noted singers Kumar Biswajit, Mitali Mukherjee, Samina Chowdhury and Rezwan Chowdhury Bannya. The grand finale was assisted by representatives of Thailand's Royal Family, Bangkok Tourism Corporation, and the Bangladesh Embassy in Thailand.

The grand finale saw the attendance of Channel i Marketing Director Faridur Reza Sagar, media personality Shykh Seraj, Chairman of Globe Pharmaceuticals

3 lakh and Tk 2 lakh respectively. Winners will also get the opportunity to have a solo album released from Impress Telefilm.

"Shera Kontho" is directed by Ijaz Khan Swapna.