

**WHAT'S ON**

**Pushpo 0 Mongol Int'l Theatre Festival**  
Organiser: Ananya Nayak  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Oct 22-26, Time: 7pm

**পুষ্প ও মঙ্গল আন্তর্জাতিক নাট্যবিলাস ২০১৭**  
৪১ আকর্ষণ - ৬০ অভিনয়  
৪১ আকর্ষণ - ৬০ অভিনয়

**Dance Drama**  
Teller: Insh  
Trimmer: Shaheen  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, RSA  
Date: November 1  
Time: 7pm

**Cultural Programme**  
Cultural Bureau  
Organiser: Manohana - BUE  
Venue: BUE Auditorium  
Date: Oct 31  
Time: 5:30pm

**চিঠিবুঝত**  
সংগীত  
১৯৭৮

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Layers  
Artist: Fahad Nazam Kazem  
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohanagar  
Date: Oct 22-Nov 22  
Time: 5pm-8pm

**Theatre**  
"Bioscope" and "Kabirnama"  
Trimmer: Prachyanta  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BUE  
Date: Oct 31  
Time: 7pm

**১৯৭৮**



# DOOB

## A heart-wrenching tale of family, love and loss

FAHIM FERDOUS

The extent of how hotly-anticipated Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's "Doob" is became clear on Thursday afternoon when I had to resort to pulling some strings to secure a first day show ticket for it. For all his international acclaim, Farooki's films typically have not caused a ticket crisis, and that this film was at the centre of such whirlwind anticipation owes largely to what transpired with it before release. There was considerable buzz when it was announced in March last year that Irfan Khan, one of the most high-profile actors of the sub-continent was not only starring in the Bangladesh-India joint production, but also co-producing it. But an explosive report in a newspaper in Kolkata in November that the film was based on the life of the late Humayun Ahmed, the most iconic novelist of contemporary Bangladeshi literature, did things heat up. Despite Farooki clearly stating that it is not a biopic, the film's non-objection certificate by a government committee was revoked a day after issuing it in February, and by the time it got censor clearance back at home the film had already gained some momentum in the international film festival circuit. Quite a few festivals, an award and some rave reviews later the film finally opened yesterday in theatres in the country, as well as in India and Australia.

One of the biggest challenges for a filmmaker (or any storyteller) is to make a fictional story convincing to the audience, and Farooki rather willingly takes the double-edged sword of crafting a story out of incidents that hit close to the late wordsmith's controversial later life, and out-of-frame dialogue) stamping the helmer's signature on it. The scores by Pavel Aren are also all kinds of amazing, and the lone song oozing melancholy (by Chirkuti) fits like a glove in the sequences it is used. But is the film flawed? No. While the format of shooting it in 'chapters' instead of a chronological continuous events is essential for the story Farooki tried to tell, it runs the risk of losing the general audience a little. Some events serving as plot devices allow a little

rehashed and not done with as much care as the ones where the characters are interacting in sincere personal moments (like when Javed calls up a newspaper editor, or in his and Nitu's TV appearance). While Javed's death calls back to his philosophy on death that he utters early on in the film, it is brought about without any explanation and it is a bit of a jerky transition in the narrative. Lastly on the list of things I didn't love is the young boy who plays Javed's son Ahir; a character somewhat wasted in poor acting and not having enough to do.

*Farooki's choice of subject material is bold, he sticks to his guns to deliver a sensitive story expertly delivered in understated expressions, and it makes for some classic cinematic moments.*

verve. Sheikh Rajibul Islam's cinematography is smart and constrained, with some typical 'Farooki' shots (like panned indoor and conversation shots instead of cuts, and out-of-frame dialogue) stamping the helmer's signature on it. The scores by Pavel Aren are also all kinds of amazing, and the lone song oozing melancholy (by Chirkuti) fits like a glove in the sequences it is used. But is the film flawed? No. While the format of shooting it in 'chapters' instead of a chronological continuous events is essential for the story Farooki tried to tell, it runs the risk of losing the general audience a little. Some events serving as plot devices allow a little

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My biggest gripes with the film however are that neither Maya nor Nitu's characters are rounded enough for the central roles in such a limited-character story. While the only sequence where Nitu and Javed spend some alone time is utterly brilliant in its subtlety and undertone impact, there is not nearly enough that substantiates Saberi's complaints against Nitu trying to replace her in Javed's life. We also never get to really know Maya as a person, and it leaves the audience lingering in the dark a little bit. What Farooki did with the characters played by Irfan and Tisha are great, but whether that came at the cost of the other characters' development remains a nagging question at the back of my head. Also, Javed is termed a filmmaker the entire time but there is no real evidence of it; what is established through a newspaper report, a TV interview and some autograph seekers I feel could be helped a great deal even in a brief moment of him behind a movie camera.

Overall, Farooki's choice of subject material (or inspiration, however you see it) is bold, he sticks to his guns to deliver a sensitive story expertly delivered in understated expressions without pandering to the lowest denominator of the audience, and it makes for some classic cinematic moments. Personally, I did not see Humayun Ahmed on screen; I saw Javed Hasan's helplessness as he goes through his innermost struggles. That his life trajectory is reminiscent of Bangladesh's most-loved author occurred to me, but didn't bother me.

# Celebrating Life Gala today

## The Daily Star & SCB's initiative in 10th year

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

*The awards ceremony of Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life 2017 is all set to take place this evening at the International Convention City Bashundhara in the capital.*

Celebrating Life, The Daily Star's initiative to discover talent in the fields of film, photography and song lyrics in partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, stands in its 10th year this year.

Three prominent personalities in the country's cultural arena - actress Suchanda, photographer Nasir Ali Mamun and singer Sabina Yasmin will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards for their monumental contributions to

Film, Photography and Music respectively.

The gala event will include Celebrating Life Photo Exhibition, featuring winning photographs of this year's contest, along with the awarding of winners of the film, photography and lyrics contests on this year's theme "Celebrating Diversity in Bangladesh".

Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Shafi Mondal, Dola and Kefer will

perform at the grand event, which will commence with a flute recital by Murtaza Kabir Murad.

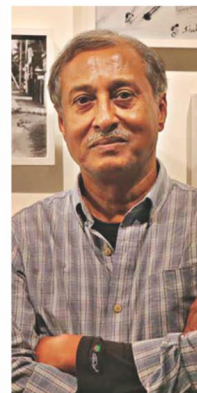
Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu will be the chief guest at the ceremony. Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star and Abrar A. Anwar, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), Bangladesh will also be present as special guests.



Sabina Yasmin



Suchanda



Nasir Ali Mamun



*Every piece, a Masterpiece*



# "Justice League" gives closer look at villain

With Warner Bros.' Justice League less than a month from release, more details about the DC superhero team movie are slowly emerging, and the movie's villain, Steppenwolf, finally shows up onscreen for more than two seconds, Hollywood Reporter says.

The villain makes his proper debut at the opening of the movie's

new Chinese trailer, where it turns out that he's really not into the idea of showing mercy to anyone because they have a family. That might be an entirely appropriate response, perhaps, given that his comic book incarnation is traditionally the uncle of arch-villain Darkseid.

The trailer also reveals more

snarky dialogue between Aquaman and Batman, and suggests that there may be more Alfred Pennyworth (played by Jeremy Irons) in the movie than was expected.

The Justice League soundtrack will be released digitally November 10, with the movie following a week later.

Source: **THR**

**Hazoorilal**  
BY SANDEEP NARANG

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