

WHAT'S ON

National Instrumental Music Fest

Venue: Nandanmancha, BSA

Date: Jan 1-10

Time: 4pm-9pm

কালীদাস যুদ্ধসংগীত উৎসব ২০১৮

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

Tenth Anniversary of Sporsho

Venue: Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Auditorium, Bangla Academy

Date: Jan 6

Time: 3:30pm

Theatre

Play: Modhu Shikari

Troupe: BotTala

Venue: Studio Theatre, BSA

Date: Jan 4

Time: 5pm & 6:30pm

# Lux Super Star back for a new season

## Leading beauty pageant presents new format, judges

**ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN**

A star-studded affair marked the launching event of Channel i Lux Super Star 2018, held at the Grand Ballroom of Westin Dhaka on January 3. The programme is making a comeback after three years, and introduces new features and segments for the first time in its history. Along with the logo reveal, the registration for Lux Super Star was announced at the event.

Jointly organised by Unilever Bangladesh Limited and Channel i, the event presented this year's judges to be popular musician Tahsan, and actors Arifin Shuvo and Sadia Islam Mou. The organisers also stated that the beauty pageant's registration process has been fully digitised, and contestants can apply through the newly launched website [www.luxsuperstar.com](http://www.luxsuperstar.com) or through LuxBangladesh's Facebook page.

Managing Director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagar inaugurated the programme by wishing all the contestants luck for this season. Nafees Anwar, Unilever Bangladesh Limited's Head of Personal Care stated that the programme offers valuable training and exposure to participants, as evidenced by former winners who are leading figures of the showbiz industry today. The company's Category Head for Skin Cleansing Nadia Tabassum also emphasised that over time, standards of beauty has changed and the programme has made certain innovations in keeping with the times.

Judges Tahsan and Arifin Shuvo also delivered welcome addresses at the event.

The winner for this year's Lux Super Star will receive a grand prize of 5 lakh Taka, a car, as well as the chance to become the brand ambassador of Lux, and land a lead role in a film produced by Impress Telefilm and other special dramas by Channel i. The cash prize for the first and second runners up will be 4 lakh taka and 3 lakh taka, respectively. Participants in the top three positions will receive the opportunity to perform in Unilever brand communications, receive a training course from the Bangladesh Film and Television Institute, and grace the covers on prominent beauty magazines. All top ten contestants will get a portfolio done by renowned photographers.

The session concluded with former Lux Super Stars joining organising members on stage for a photograph session.



Guests and organisers pose for a group photo at the press meet.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



### FILM REVIEW: GOHIN BALUCHOR

# Saud delivers a character-rich, wholesome film

**FAHMIM FERDOUS**

Bangladeshi cinema is changing, and that change has become really apparent in the last couple of years. Call it coincidence, call it a pattern – this change has largely been brought about by TV directors venturing into the big screen. From "Aynabaji" to "Oggatonama" and "Halda" or even the blockbuster "Dhaka Attack", a lot of what has been new and fresh in our mainstream cinema in recent times have come from small-screen helmers. And now, Badrul Anam Saud has joined that club, and what a debut it is! "Gohin Baluchor", the first film of the seasoned television director was the last film release of 2017 and is a fitting closure to the turnaround year for Dhaka's filmdom.

Without giving any spoilers (because the film is story-driven and is much better watched than read), "Gohin Baluchor" is essentially a story of two villages and their conflict over a resurfacing 'char' (land rising from the river). Saud crafts a believable, character-rich story with a fantastic arc, and tells it with the expertise and assurance of a veteran auteur. The screenplay is taut despite the near two and a half-hour runtime, as the director gets the pace just right for the kind of story he is telling. With his diversity of characters, Saud brings out complex dynamics and emotions into the plot, puts contrasting characters in conflict, is masterful in his build-up of tension and finishes it well.

The film's biggest strength is its characters, and by extension that actors that play them. The acting in this film is a spectacle to say the least, and it is as much the actors' credit as the writer's (Saud, who wrote the story, dialogues and screenplay). Every character is well established, is rounded and has a specific character motivation and arc, and the actors in them are brilliant in their roles. From the veterans Suborna Mustafa (playing Asma, a strong village matriarch), Raisul Islam Asad (Latif, portraying Asma's next-village nemesis) and Fazlur Rahman Babu (playing Ismail, a lowlife drunkard) to the supporting actors Jeetu Ahsan (who plays Hanif, Latif's cold-blooded, shrewd son), Shahadat Hossain (Mizan, Asma's trusted associate), Sharmimala (playing Komola, Asma's meek widowed daughter-in-law) and Runa Khan (Shamima, Hanif's wife), every actor digs deep into their characters and puts out a memorable performance. The characters of the three newcomers – Abu Hurayra Tanvir (playing Asma's son Sujon), Jannatun Noor Moon (Parul, Ismail's daughter) and Neelanjona Neela (playing Latif's daughter Nishi) add a very interesting layer to the story, and the three also do

formidably well, especially considering the seasoned co-artists they have to share screen space with. Moon in particular is a natural, oozing romance and pathos in equal measures whenever the story calls for it.

The film gets so many things so very right that finding flaws in it takes considerable nitpicking. The music (by Emon Shaha), while it has nothing major wrong with it, feels predictable and formulaic, and the background score is also sometimes too obvious and gives away scenes before they play out. My only other gripe is with the deaths in the film; while the first one is gut-droppingly horrifying and raises the stakes to perfectly set the climax up, the last one I feel is a little melodramatic, and counter-productive to the realist approach of the story.

Overall, "Gohin Baluchor" is easily one of the best films of 2017, despite going through setbacks like a delayed release and less-than-great distribution. It is a shame this film is running in less than 30 cinemas, which is ironic because it is exactly the kind of film that could appeal as much to the geographically marginal population as it would do to urbanites. It is the kind of film our cinema needs, but maybe not one it deserves right now.

# Three day Loksangskritik Utsab held

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah**

A three day Loksangskritik Utsab was held recently at Shaheed Minar complex of the district town of Jhenidah. Noted litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque inaugurated the function while Professor Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari, VC of Islamic University; Prof Dr. BM Rezaul Karim; Kalpana Mitra head of the Department of music Rabindra Varati University, Kolkata; Shamsul Islam, Director of CO (NGO); Mahmudul Islam GS of Bangladesh Gonoshilpi Sangthas were present. DC Zakir Hossain presided over the meeting. Hundreds of viewers from all walks of life

attended the programme. Discussants at the three day programme said that traditional culture plays an important role in rooting out indiscipline, militancy and chaos from the society. As it originates from our soil, nobody can deviate from the path of virtue if they carry on research on traditional culture.



# Beyonce, the Weeknd, Eminem to headline Coachella '18

The lineup for the 19th annual Coachella Festival has been announced, with Beyonce, the Weeknd, and Eminem headlining Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, respectively.

Other big named include SZA, HAIM, Kygo, Jamiroquai, Tyler the Creator, Post Malone, Portugal the Man, ODESZA, Migos, Cardi B, and St. Vincent.

The festival, which features the same lineup over two weekends, will take place over the weekends of April 13 and April 20 at its usual location of the Empire Polo Club in Indio, California (USA) and as always is produced by Goldenvoice.

Last year's festival was headlined by Radiohead, Kendrick Lamar, and Lady Gaga, the latter of whom performed in the slot originally held for Beyonce, who postponed her set after announcing in February that she was pregnant with twins. The 2017 festival grossed more than \$114 million in 2017 and welcomed more than 125,000 people per weekend after receiving the city's approval to expand its capacity.

The first Coachella festival took place October 9-10, 1999 and featured Beck, Rage Against the Machine, Tool. It has since become one of the biggest music festivals in the world.

Source: **Variety**

# SRK is a charming dwarf in first look of "Zero"

## Aanand L Rai's film to release in December



After teasing fans with black and white sketches of the actors and the filmmaker, the first look and title of Aanand L Rai's film was finally unveiled on Monday evening. Titled "Zero", the movie is slated to hit theatres on December 21. The film also stars Anushka Sharma and Katrina Kaif in lead roles.

The first look video was shared by Shah Rukh, who plays a dwarf in the film, on Twitter.

The one-minute long video shows a dwarf SRK entering what looks like a party hall and dancing with swag, as Muhammad Rafi's famous song, "Unko Humpe Pyaar Aya" plays in the background. The video ends with SRK's voice over saying, "Hum jiske peechhe lag jaate hain, life bana dete hain (Whoever I support, I make their life)," as the video shows the film's title Zero being written in lights.

This is first time Rai has collaborated with all the three leading stars - SRK, Katrina and Anushka. Aanand's catalogue includes entertainers like the two "Tanu Weds Manu", and he has also produced "Shubh Mangal Saavdhan".

Source: **Hindustan Times**



Little man, big impact; a still from the teaser.