

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



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



Group Art Exhibition  
Title: Phirey Dekha by '79 Batch  
Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, FFA, DU  
Date: Jan 15-21  
Time: 12noon-7pm



Dhaka Int'l Film Fest  
Organiser: Rainbow Film Society  
Venues: BNM, Public Library, RCC, AFD & Star Cineplex  
Date: Jan 12-20  
Time: 10am onwards



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



## NEWS bytes

### JOHN WICK TV adaptation announced

US satellite and premium cable channel Starz has announced series premiere dates for three upcoming originals: "Howards End", "Vida" and "Sweetbitter", and a greenlight for a television series adaptation of the "John Wick" franchise.

Teaming with Lionsgate, Starz is developing the television adaptation of the "John Wick" franchise. The series, currently titled, "The Continental", will be focus on the



"inner workings" of the exclusive Continental Hotel, which serves as a refuge for assassins.

Chris Collins will write the series and serve as showrunner, and the show will be executive produced by Thunder Road Pictures' Basil Iwanyk, Chad Stahelski, Derek Kolstad, along with Collins, David Leitch and Keanu Reeves. Stahelski will direct the premiere episode.

The four-episode limited series "Howards End" will premiere Sunday, April 8, while both new half-hour dramas "Vida" and the adaptation of "Sweetbitter" will premiere on Sunday, May 6.

Source: Variety



Dhaka Theatre's production of "Dhaboman"; (below) Bulbul Ahmed performs on the second day.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

### Standing the test of time Int'l Bangla Literature Conference 1424 under spotlight

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The International Bangla Literature Conference 1424, on the theme "Bishwamanab Hobi Jadi Kayemon-e Bangali Ho", concluded yesterday at Bangla Academy.

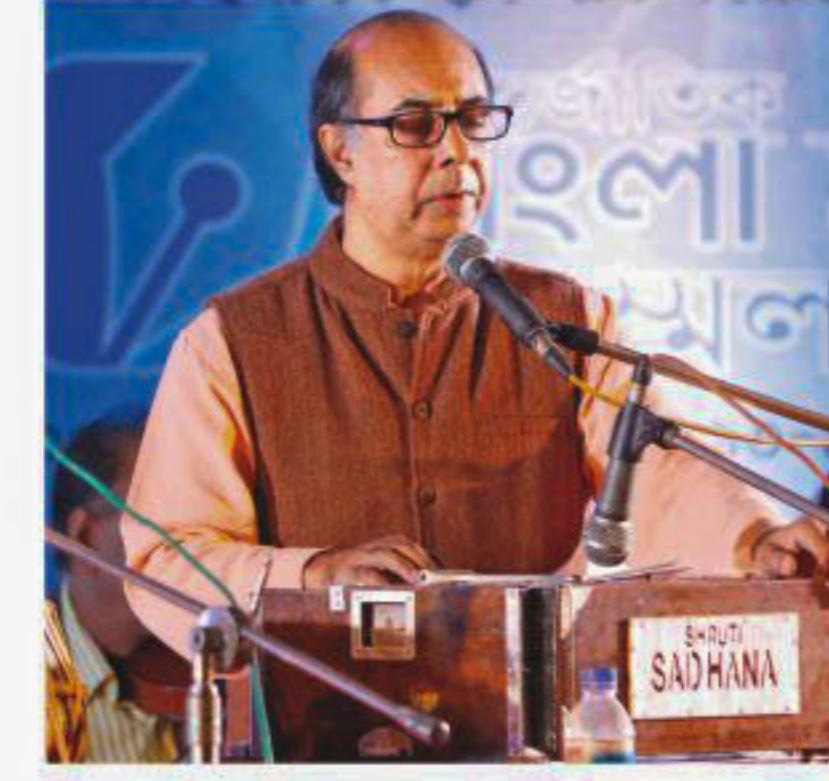
With a call to revisit the literary creations by classical and contemporary wordsmiths of Bangla Literature, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the grand conference as chief guest on January 13.

Bangla Academy buzzed with a variety of programmes including seminars, discussions, and open adda on Bangla Literature, poetry recitation, musical performances, storytelling, staging of plays, screening of films and more for the last three days.

On the second evening, renowned singer Bulbul Islam performed songs at the Rabindra Mancha of the Academy, as part of the cultural programmes. Elocutionists and folk singers from Bangladesh and India kept The Lalan Mancha vibrant, while Dhaka Theatre celebrated Selim Al Deen's birth anniversary through staging one of his important creations, "Dhaboman", at the Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad auditorium.

Former Indian president Pranab

Mukhjjee graced the closing ceremony at Nazrul Mancha, of the Academy yesterday. Finance Minister AMA Muhith chaired the session, while Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman delivered the closing address. Eminent Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya performed at the ceremony.



Bangla is not just a language for which we shed blood in 1952 to find our identity and stand upright on the conscience of Language Movement; nor is it just literature that glorified us in 1913 through the international recognition of Rabindranath Tagore's Nobel win. Bangla gives itself to the name of our country -- Bangladesh -- that has its

own history of glorious and sublime movements through which the Bangalis achieved independence in the War of Liberation of 1971.

Bangla Literature dates back to the seventh century and is divided into three main periods: ancient, medieval, and modern. The journey of Bangla Literature started with poetry and music, as the psalms of Charapada bear the testimony of ancient text of Bangla Literature. The successive literary texts like Nath Sahitya, Sri Krishna Kirttan, Mongol Kavya, Vaishnav Padavali, Shakti Padavali, PuNthi Sahitya, Kobigagan, Baul Gaan, Bangla Tappa, Panchakabir Gaan, adhunik songs, inspirational songs of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, patriotic songs, film songs, opulent folk songs, band music and more signify that the Bangalis are fond of poetry and music. Literature, art and music played a pivotal role in shaping our Bangladeshi culture.

The International Bangla Literature Conference Organisers' Council, in collaboration with Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan (All India Bengali Literary Conference) and Friends of Bangladesh organised the conference, sponsored by the Ministry of Finance and Cultural Affairs Ministry of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

### Farooki wraps shoot for "Saturday Afternoon"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's upcoming big screen project, "Saturday Afternoon", has completed its shoot schedule, the director revealed in a Facebook post on Sunday.

Terming the film "a dream" he saw "many months ago", and thanked all the people who believed in it -- cast, crew and producers from 12 countries including award-winning Kazakh cinematographer Aziz Zhambakiyev, Anna Katchko (from Germany's Tandem Productions who will produce the film).

The film, which has been shrouded in secrecy, casts Palestinian actor Eyad Hourani, Indian actor Parambrata Chattopadhyay, and Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Zahid Hasan, Iresh Zaker, Mamunur Rashid, Nader Chowdhury, Intekhab Dinar, Gousal Alam Shaon and others from Bangladesh.

The film, reportedly a 'political suspense thriller' (according to The Daily Prothom Alo), has completed principal photography in 17 days. When asked, Farooki told The Daily Star "the principal photography required very special preparation and execution," without divulging further details.

The director also revealed in a later Facebook



Farooki with cast and crew on the final day of shoot.

post that established TV and film directors Redoan Rony and Adnan Al Rajeev -- Farooki's accomplices from the creative collective Chabial -- are the assistant directors of the film.

Farooki had earlier told The Daily Star that the film "will feature characters from a number of nationalities, and is a thriller where the lives of several people collide."

"Saturday Afternoon" will set off Farooki's

"Identity" trilogy. The second film in line will be "No Land's Man", and the third will be on the Myanmarese Rohingya ethnic group.

Farooki's last film, "Doob" ("No Bed of Roses") did successful rounds at the international film festival circuit, but was met with mixed -- albeit largely positive -- responses at home after its release last October.

### 'Padmaavat' to release on January 25

The stars of controversial Bollywood film "Padmaavat" have confirmed its release date: January 25. In tweets shared by Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh and Shahid Kapoor with their character posters featuring a changed title, the actors finally put the rumours behind the release date to an end.

The film, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, was earlier titled "Padmavati" and drew the ire of organisations like Karmi Sena the Kshatriya Mahasabha. It still banned from releasing in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

"Based on 16th century Sufi poet Malik Muhammad Jayasi's epic poem Padmavat, the movie faced resistance from its early stages due to a misinformation campaign and rumour-mongering. Despite these challenges, the film that showcases the valor of Rani Padmavati, Maharawal Ratan Singh and the famed Rajput ethos of honor, brav-

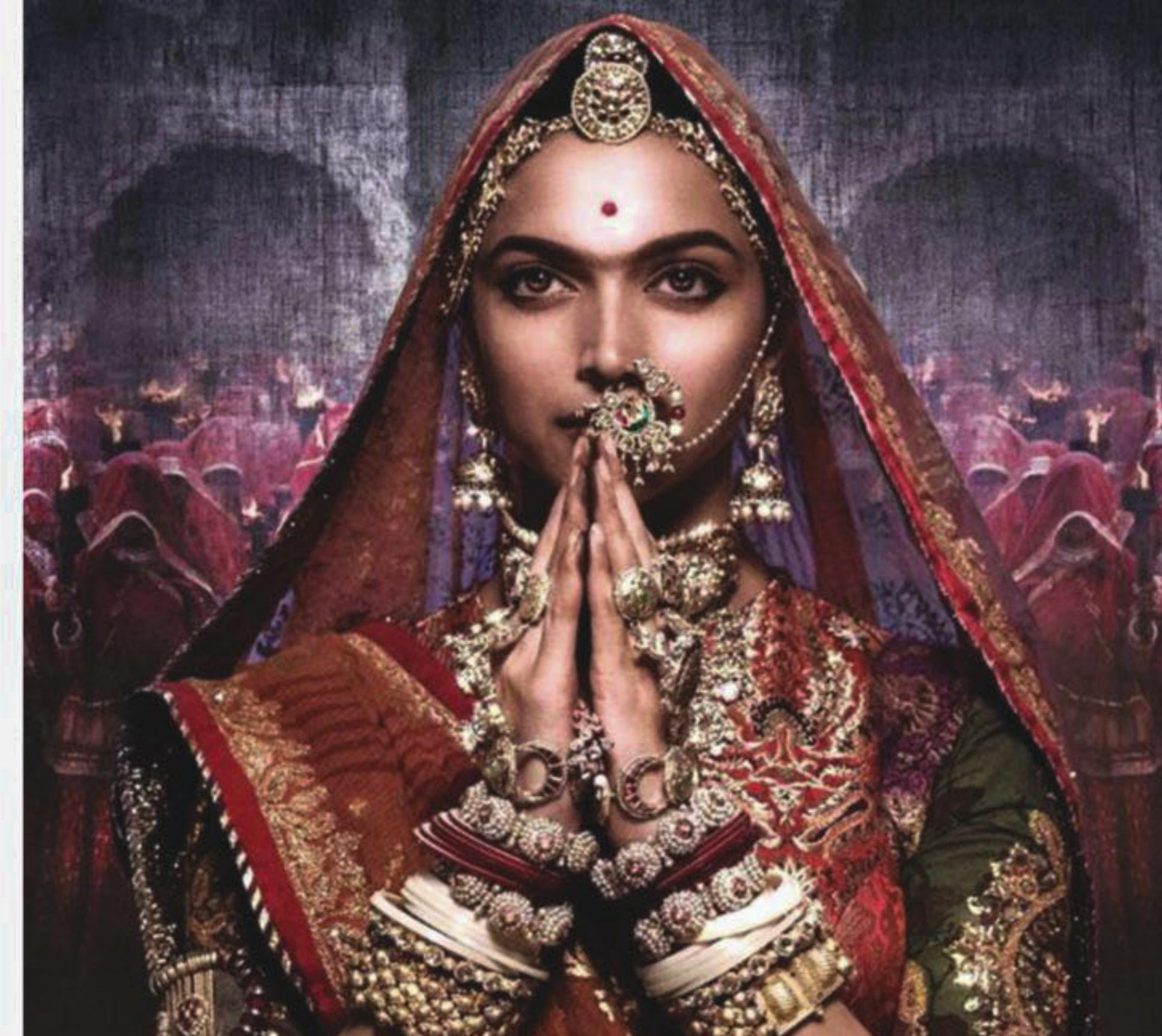
ery and sacrifice, has managed to overcome all odds; aided by the support of well-wishers from across the film fraternity, the government authorities and the society at large," Viacom said in a statement.

Padmavati was scheduled for a December 1 release which got postponed due to protests in several states for alleged misrepresentation of history and maligning the image of Queen Padmavati.

The Central Board of Film Certification recently cleared the film for release with U/A certificate and a set of five recommended changes, one of which was the name change.

With a January 25 release, "Padmavat" is set to clash with Akshay Kumar's "PadMan".

Source: Hindustan Times



Winners of the Kumarka Miss Natural beauty pageant pose for a photo at the grand finale of the contest, held in the capital on January 13. This year, Sumaiya Anjum won the champion's crown of the pageant, while Tiyasha Shams Sristy won first runner up and Nadia Sultana won the second runner up.