

## WHAT'S ON

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



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



# Taskeen Rahman finding purpose in acting

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Sinister and yet dashing, the steely blue eyes of the villain portrayed by Taskeen Rahman left an unforgettable mark on viewers watching "Dhaka Attack". But the actor never intended to make a villainous debut; he had been in Bangladesh shooting for a supporting role in another action flick titled "Aadi", where Shatabdi Wadud, would appear as the main antagonist. Taskeen's first forays into Dhallywood created an unexpected sensation, leaving viewers to wonder what he has in store next. Taskeen's experiences give him a distinctive edge, and the actor is determined to take the bull by the horns and display his acting prowess in a variety of genres this year.

The emerging artiste returned to Bangladesh briefly from Sydney, Australia, to film for his next venture, a romantic drama titled "Jodi Ekdin". Helmed by Mohammad Mostofa Kamal Raz, the film includes popular singer-actor Tahsan and Tollywood star Srabonti Chatterjee in starring roles. It is yet unclear as to what Taskeen's character will contribute towards the plot, as the actor is determined to keep mum. "I can't divulge too much about the story and the character, but it's very different from what I portrayed in 'Dhaka Attack'. Here I'm a complete Romeo, and there are plenty of plot twists which I am sure will keep the audience on their toes. The release date of the film has not yet been fixed," he stated.

Filming for the first lot of the film began on January 4, after which the

actor will take a month-long hiatus to return to Sydney, before returning to Bangladesh to shoot the rest of the film in March.

His return in March will also hopefully undo what he had missed last year following the release of "Dhaka Attack", as the month marks the release of "Aadi", directed by his elder brother and well-known small screen director Taneem Anam Angshu. While the "Dhaka Attack" cast and crew enjoyed being under the spotlight, Taskeen Rahman had to return to his regular day job in Sydney where he had been living since 2002.

"I didn't want to be away at all; I constantly kept in touch with the team to be able to feel some of the impact of the film's success," Taskeen told The Daily Star. "But they did screen the film in Sydney, so I was able to enjoy a measure of the success."

Many noted the depth of his portrayal of the Zishan, the diabolical and formidable villain of "Dhaka Attack", and his close understanding of the character could have stemmed from his profession in Australia. In Sydney, Taskeen Rahman is a government employee working in the corrective services of Crime Prevention Department, where he deals with criminal files and investigative work closely. "It's a proper 9-5 job," he added, "I wouldn't call it exciting; the things I deal with are very real. Acting is very important to me, as nothing makes me happier when I am being creative. It's the only way I can set myself free."



## NEWS bytes

# Chastain, Spencer reunite for holiday comedy

Jessica Chastain and Octavia Spencer are reuniting for a new film. "The Help" co-stars will lead a holiday comedy for Universal. Following a heated bidding war, the studio won the rights to the untitled pitch from Chastain's Freckle Films.

Chastain and Kelly Carmichael wrote the original treatment and "Crazy Rich Asians" scribe Peter Chiarelli is on board to pen the script. Chastain is attached to produce, along with Maven Pictures.

Universal beat out Fox and Paramount for the pitch, which follows two women fighting the elements to make it home for Christmas.

The movie marks a re-team for Chastain and Spencer, who each earned an Oscar nomination for the smash hit "The Help", with Spencer ultimately taking home the trophy for best supporting actress. Since then, the A-listers haven't stopped garnering praise for their work, with both earning additional Academy Awards nods (Chastain for 2012's "Zero Dark Thirty" and Spencer for 2016's "Hidden Figures").

Chastain can be seen next in "X-Men: Dark Phoenix", while Spencer recently wrapped production on the indie "A Kid Like Jake".

Source: **Variety**



# "Gohin Baluchor" releasing in North America today



A CORRESPONDENT

*Badrul Anam Saud's directorial debut, the engrossing riverine drama "Gohin Baluchor" is all set to release in North America from today, making it the first Bangladeshi film of 2018 to see an international release.*

Swopno Scarecrow are distributing the film in Toronto, Winnipeg and Calgary in Canada through the Canadian multiplex chain Cineplex Entertainment, while in the US, the film will be screened at multiplex chains Regal and Cinemark in New York, Virginia and Dallas. President of Swopno Scarecrow, Md. Oliullah Sajib, confirmed the news. He said because of Christmas and New Year's movie releases there is some scheduling pressure, but the film will expand to more theatres in coming weeks – including Los Angeles and Florida.

Swopno Scarecrow has been distributing films in North America and Middle East for the last few years. Their distributed films include "Ostitto", "Musafir", "Shikari", "Aynabaji", "Premi O Premi", "Nawab", "Dhaka Attack" and "Halda".

# Kendrick Lamar, Elton John, U2 added to 2018 Grammy Lineup

Kendrick Lamar, U2, Sam Smith and Elton John have been announced as the latest round of performers at the 2018 Grammy Awards, set to take place January 28 in New York City.

John will perform 'one of his classic hits' alongside special guest Miley Cyrus, according to the organisers.

The already stacked Grammys lineup will also feature performances from Cardi B, Bruno Mars, Lady Gaga, Kesha, SZA, Pink, Childish Gambino and Little Big Town. Logic, Alessia Cara and Khalid

– who teamed for the Grammy-nominated track "1-800-273-8255" – will also take the stage, as will "Despacito" masterminds Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee.

Lamar is up for seven Grammys this year, including Album of the Year for "Damn" and Record of the Year for "Humble". As for U2 and Smith, both released albums last fall that arrived after the Grammy's cut-off date.

John's performance comes as the musician is set to receive the Grammy's 2018

President's Merit Award. The musician and his longtime writing partner, Bernie Taupin, will also be honored with a special tribute concert, "Elton John: I'm Still Standing", set to take place at Madison Square Garden two days after the Grammys. The concert will feature John Legend, Kesha, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Little Big Town, Miranda Lambert and Keith Urban, and set to air on CBS later this year.

Source: **Rolling Stone**



A scene from the play.

# Double show of "Tragedy Palashbari" at BSA today

A CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Prachyanat will stage their production "Tragedy Palashbari" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), in two back-to-back shows. The play, written and directed by Azad Abul Kalam, is the 30th production of the troupe.

The first show will begin at 6pm, while the second staging will begin at 7:45.

The storyline of the play dates back to April 11 in 2005, when Spectrum Sweater and Knitting Factory situated at Savar's Palashbari area col-

lapsed at midnight, killing 64 garment workers and injuring several others.

The play tells the story of that night through the monologues of Taravan who describes how the accident shattered the dreams of wage earners like her.

Shahana Sumi, Parveen Sultana Koli, Shahriar Rana Jewel, Pradyut Ghosh, Mohammad Rafique, Rifat Ahmed Nobel and others played different roles in the play. Abul Hasnat Bhuiyan Ripon has done the stage and light design, while Neel Kamrul was on the background score. Saiful Islam Jarnal has designed videography and projection for the production.