

WHAT'S ON

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



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



11th International Children's Film Festival
Organiser: Children's Film Society Bangladesh
Venue: National Public Library
Date: Jan 27- Feb 2
Time: 4pm-8pm



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



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

"Padmaavat": special screening ahead of release

After facing a lot of controversies and death threats, the makers of magnum opus "Padmaavat" have finally screened the movie to a group of journalists in New Delhi. While everyone was in praises for Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone and Shahid Kapoor's acting, they felt that the modifications recommended by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) made an adverse effect on the movie storyline. One journalist stated, "The modifications have ruined the story-telling of the movie. I would have given four stars to the movie if it would have been shown to us without any modifications." Meanwhile, another journalist said that because of these modifications,



the film loses many references in the story and has lost all its soul. They also said that all the controversy was not required at all because nothing as such has been shown in the movie, which would affect the Rajput community in a wrong way. "The movie has been made for the Rajput community, not against them," noted one journalist. Sanjay Leela Bhansali's magnum opus is all set for a worldwide January 25 release in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil. The film is based on 16th-century Sufi poet Malik Muhammad Jayasi's epic poem "Padmaavat". The flick has run into trouble since its inception, as members of several Rajput factions have accused the director of the film of distorting history.

Source: TOI

SHILPI BISWAS' journey as a singer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Promising singer Shilpi Biswas started learning music at an early age from her father at Sirajganj. Later she was under the tutelage of Ustad Salamat Hossain Chowdhury (of Shahajadpur, Sirajganj). An enlisted singer of Nazrul Sangeet of BTV and Bangladesh Betar, she is currently taking musical lessons from noted singer Sujit Mustafa. The singer married tabla artiste Ratan Ghosh in 2005. Born at her grandfather's residence in Manikganj, Shilpi would regularly visit the shrine of the famous Kalu Shah Fakir to listen to songs. It was there that she gained confidence to perform, and earn a living from it. "Music is my life. I love to perform, and I intend to do so until my final days," said Shilpi. Shilpi's first solo album "Kagojer Nouka", was released in 2007 under the label "Sangeeta". Noted musicians Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul and Pinto Ghosh were among others to write lyrics for the album. The album featured 10 adhunik and folk tracks. Later, she recorded a hit duet song "Sonapakhi" for



a mixed album (under the label "CD Choice") with the same title. Promising singer-musician Belal Khan composed the track while Jiban Mahmud wrote the song. "Belal Khan has also composed and directed music for my second solo album titled 'Jaan'. Zulfikar Rassel, Anurup Aich and Robiul Islam Jibon were among others who wrote the songs for the album. CD Choice Music has recently produced a duet song 'Allah Meherban', recorded by Belal Khan and I, which went on to become a huge hit on YouTube. I have also received great responses from the audience for my solo number 'Torey Chhara', under Laser Vision," mentioned Shilpi. The singer, who regularly performs on stage both at home and abroad, dreams of taking Bangla music, especially folk songs, to the rest of the world.



Poster for the film "Tesoros", directed by Maria Novaro from Mexico.

11th Int'l Children's Film Fest to begin Jan 27

The 11th edition of the hugely successful International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh is ready to take off in Dhaka from January 27 until February 2, after which the festival is expected travel to Chittagong, Rajshahi and Rangpur, says a press release. Organised by the Children's Film Society Bangladesh, the festival will screen 21 films across 6 venues in the capital. The festival will be inaugurated by Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith on January 27 at 4pm, at Shawkat Osman Auditorium of Central Public Library. Minister of Information Hasanul Haq Inu will attend as chief guest, while British Council's Country Director Barbara Wickham will attend as special guest. Chairman of the Children's Film Society Bangladesh Mostofa Monwar will preside over the event.

This year's festival received over 200 film submissions from 58 countries, out of which 68 are from Bangladesh alone. Twenty one Bangladeshi films are expected to be released, from which five winning films will be selected by the jury. Three prizes are reserved for the Best Director (first, runner up and second runner up), and two special mention awards will also be given. Submissions have been classified into three categories- Young Bangladeshi Talent, Social Film Competition, and Under 18 filmmakers. The theme for this year's Social Film section is "Violence Against Girls." As with every installment, the festival includes an International Competition category where 189 films will participate this time. This year's judges for the International Films panel include noted Bangladeshi filmmakers Mostofa

Sarwar Farooki and Mezbaur Rahman Sumon, as well as Arun Gupta, Principal of the Film and Video Communications Department of the National Institute of Design in India. The festival will include a rich itinerary of seminars and workshops, for which prominent guests have been invited to take part. Screenings will commence from January 28 across six venues including Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, British Council, Bangladesh National Museum's Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Goethe Institut, with Shawkat Osman Auditorium remaining as the prime venue. The winners will be announced on February 2, followed by an award giving ceremony on the same day at Shawkat Osman Auditorium.



A scene from "Bachchu Shomachar".

Zahid Hasan dons a new role

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actor Zahid Hasan has emerged as a well regarded small screen director in recent years, and today he will be seen starring in another new venture directed and scripted by him. Titled "Bachchu Shomachar", the main cast will also feature Aatur Rahman, Minu Momtaz, Tania Brishthi, Pooja, and more. The series will air every Wednesday and Thursday at 8:30 on Asian TV. The narrative follows the life of an unambitious school teacher, Bachchu, from a rural middle class family. Bachchu leads a simple life, and has a flirtatious relationship with the village chairman's daughter, Jolly. However, things take a dark turn when his sister's murderer, Monir, escapes from prison.

Oscars 2018: "Shape of Water" leads with 13 nominations

"The Shape of Water," Guillermo del Toro's romantic ode to the horror films of his youth, dominated the 90th Academy Awards nominations on Tuesday (January 23), picking up a leading 13 nominations. It was followed by "Dunkirk" with eight nominations, and "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" with seven nominations. All three films earned Best Picture nods. The rest of the category was rounded out by "Call Me By Your Name," "Darkest Hour," "Get Out," "Lady Bird," "Phantom Thread," and "The Post." This year's Oscars are unfolding at a time of tumult for the movie business. In October, dozens of women stepped forward to accuse mogul and producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment and assault. Weinstein was a mainstay of awards season, credited with creating the modern Oscar campaign. Since the allegations broke, Weinstein has been fired from his company and drummed out of the industry. But the issue has only widened. Scores of big names — a group ranging from Oscar winners Kevin Spacey and

Dustin Hoffman to A-list director and film financier Brett Ratner — have all been accused of sexual misconduct or assault, often at the cost of their careers. Christopher Plummer was nominated for best supporting actor after he became a last-minute

replacement for Spacey in "All the Money in the World," filming his part as oil baron J. Paul Getty in a matter of weeks after principal photography had been completed. At 88, he is the oldest Oscar acting nominee in history. James Franco had been viewed as a lead actor contender for his work in "The Disaster Artist." But



allegations of misconduct affected last-minute ballots; when best actor nominations were announced, Franco's name wasn't among them. It was a morning of barrier-breaking in some important categories. Rachel Morrison became

the first woman nominated for a cinematography Oscar for her work in "Mudbound." Greta Gerwig is only the fifth woman nominated in the best director category for bringing "Lady Bird," while "Get Out's" Jordan Peele became the fifth black man nominated in the best director category. And Meryl Streep extended her

record streak of nominations, picking up a 21st nod for her performance as a newspaper publisher in "The Post." Christopher Nolan finally snagged his first best director nomination for "Dunkirk." The other nominated directors include Peele, Gerwig, del Toro, and "Phantom Thread's" Paul Thomas Anderson. With Franco out of the mix and Hanks overlooked, the leading actor category comes down to Gary Oldman ("Darkest Hour"), Daniel Day-Lewis ("Phantom Thread"), Timothée Chalamet ("Call Me By Your Name"), Daniel Kaluuya ("Get Out"), and Denzel Washington ("Roman J. Israel, Esq."). In addition to Streep, the best actress category is comprised of Sally Hawkins ("The Shape of Water"), Frances McDormand ("Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"), Margot Robbie ("I, Tonya"), and Saoirse Ronan ("Lady Bird"). The Oscars will be handed out on March 4, 2018 on ABC. Late night host Jimmy Kimmel will return for his second stint as emcee.

Source: Variety