

# Jessia in action

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Jessia Islam is on a secret mission after assisting special agent MR-9 in preventing a terror attack on Las Vegas. She has now landed at The Daily Star to reveal her challenging role as agent Rupa in the action-packed film **MR-9: Do or Die**.

**What made you choose 'MR-9' for your debut film?**

The character of agent Rupa drew me to the script. Her unbreakable spirit and her fight against crime captivated me. I can't believe I made my debut in such a terrific role.

**While reading the script, did you feel that your character was adequately highlighted in a male-oriented plot?**

I never had a problem working in a male-centric film because it motivated me to contribute to female-centric plots as well. Without understanding the psyche of male-oriented plots, it is difficult to appreciate the complexity of its counterpart stories.

As an actor, I will accept any role that suits me, regardless of its screen time—be it 10 minutes or 10 seconds. I have confidence in my ability to give my best.

**Initially, 'MR-9' was released in local theatres in English, but it struggled due to language barrier. How will the audience accept its Bengali version?**

Since **MR-9** is a collaborative effort between the United States and Bangladesh, and English is globally prioritised, we initially released it in English. While we received mostly positive reviews, there were some negative ones as well. However, we must gracefully accept both kinds of feedback as we plan for the next sequel.

**Recently, you faced an awkward question on a TV channel about having a 'sugar daddy'. Why do you think female celebrities are asked such derogatory questions?**

In Bangladesh, there is a misconception that if a woman is performing well in an industry, there must be a man backing her up. People think that no woman can be successful without a man's help, which is sad. TV channels often ask such derogatory questions to actresses to gain views for their content. It is crucial to stand against such issues and I encourage everyone to do so. I hope men are also questioned like this in the future.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



### Tirthojatri

September 12-13 | 7.30 pm  
National Theatre, Bangladesh  
Shilpakala Academy



### Let Me Out

September 14-15 | 7.15 pm  
Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium,  
Bailey Road



### Jatrapala 'Rebel Michael Madhusudan'

September 14 | 7 pm  
Studio Theatre Hall, Bangladesh  
Shilpakala Academy

## TRENDY STREAMS

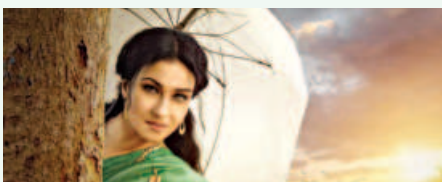
**Netflix**  
A Time Called You



**Amazon Prime**  
Sitting in Bars With Cake



**Hoichoi**  
Datta



**Disney+ Hotstar**  
Kaala



**Bongo BD**  
Puff Daddy



WHAT'S PLAYING

## Farq Hai

Suzonn's *Farq Hai* is a soul-stirring Urdu song that dives deep into the complexities of human emotions. The song begins with the gentle strumming of an acoustic guitar, the calm tone immediately setting a somber and melancholic mood. The chords played are slow and deliberate, carrying a sense of longing and introspection.

The lyrics, penned by the singer himself, are a poignant expression of the distinctions and disparities that can arise between two individuals, even in the closest of bonds. The symbolic imagery of land and sky beautifully illustrates the contrast between the two, depicting the inherent differences that make them unique.

ONE MINUTE REVIEW

## PAST LIVES



*Past Lives* marks the directorial debut of South Korean-Canadian filmmaker Celine Song. The movie can be described as a testament to enduring aesthetics. The narrative spans over 12 years, twice, to illustrate the points at which the story's leading man and woman briefly intersect.

Jung Hae Sung, portrayed by Teo Yoo, is a character who openly but subtly expresses his feelings with restraint. Nora, played by Greta Lee, is a more ambitious character, leaned towards assertiveness. The actors immerse themselves in portraying the roles, and the cinematography effectively engages the audience. The glimpses of both South Korea and America are presented through a fresh yet vintage lens.

The linear narrative of Hae Sung and Nora is the film's focal point. The emotional turmoil they undergo while grappling with Nora's life choices is palpable in every scene.

Throughout the movie, the characters frequently reference the Korean word "inyeon", which signifies the connections shared by two individuals over the course of their lives.

## STYLE STATEMENT

# VICKY KAUSHAL

We all know popular Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal is an actor par excellence but his sartorial choices are also no less than inspirational. For casual attire, he opted for a deep blue denim jacket that exudes a cool and relaxed vibe. Complementing this standout piece is a burnt orange colour-blocked shirt, adding a touch of vibrancy to his outfit. To round off his look, Vicky sports a rugged beard and a sleek pair of black sunglasses.

