

# NEWSbytes

## Marvel recasts Thor as a woman

Marvel Comics has unveiled big changes for its hammer-wielding Norse superhero Thor; the character will become a woman. The publisher said it hoped recasting Thor would attract more women and girls to superhero comic books. New artwork reveals the once strapping and bearded Thunder God now as a blonde, clad in a caped costume.

Thor first appeared in a Marvel adventure in 1962 and has been the star of two blockbuster movies.



New York-based Marvel described the move as "one of the most shocking and exciting changes ever to shake one of the 'big three' of Captain America, Iron Man and Thor."

"No longer is the classic Thunder God able to hold the mighty hammer, Mjolnir, and a brand new female hero will emerge worthy of the name Thor," it said in a news article.

The female Thor is due to appear in her first adventure in October and be illustrated by Russell Dauterman.

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!



Before Stanley Kubrick came on-board for "A Clockwork Orange", writer Anthony Burgess considered selling the movie rights to Mick Jagger, frontman of rock band Rolling Stones, with the intention of Jagger playing Alex and the rest of the Stones playing the other Droogs. Despite the film's controversial nature, the 1971 film was a hit with American audiences, grossing more than \$26 million on a conservative budget of \$2.2 million, was critically acclaimed, and was nominated for several awards, including the Academy Award for Best Picture (losing to "The French Connection").

## 'Apes' thrashes 'Transformers' in US box office



"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" has burst into the North American box office taking \$73m in its opening weekend. It easily topped the chart, which saw "Transformers: Age of Extinction" slip to second.

The 'Apes' epic also picked up another \$31m from international markets. Set 10 years after 2011's "Rise of the Planet of the Apes", the sequel follows the battle for dominance between humans and intelligent apes. Andy Serkis has reprised his performance-capture role as Caesar, the ape who leads his species after encountering a colony of humans who survive a deadly virus.

Serkis also famously played Gollum in the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit films, which also used performance capture, which electronically tracks an actor's movements and expressions so they can be translated into computer generated

imagery (CGI).

Directed by Matt Reeves, it also stars Gary Oldman, Keri Russell and Jason Clarke. A second sequel to be directed by Reeves is already in the works to further extend the franchise which first began with 1968's "Planet of the Apes", based on Pierre Boulle's French novel. Four movies followed in the 1970s, as well as a critically panned 2001 reboot by Tim Burton.

Elsewhere on the chart, Melissa McCarthy and Susan Sarandon comedy "Tammy" - about a fast food worker who gets fired and takes her hard-drinking grandmother on a road trip - was at three. Sequels "22 Jump Street" and "How to Train Your Dragon 2" took the fourth and fifth spots.

Source: BBC

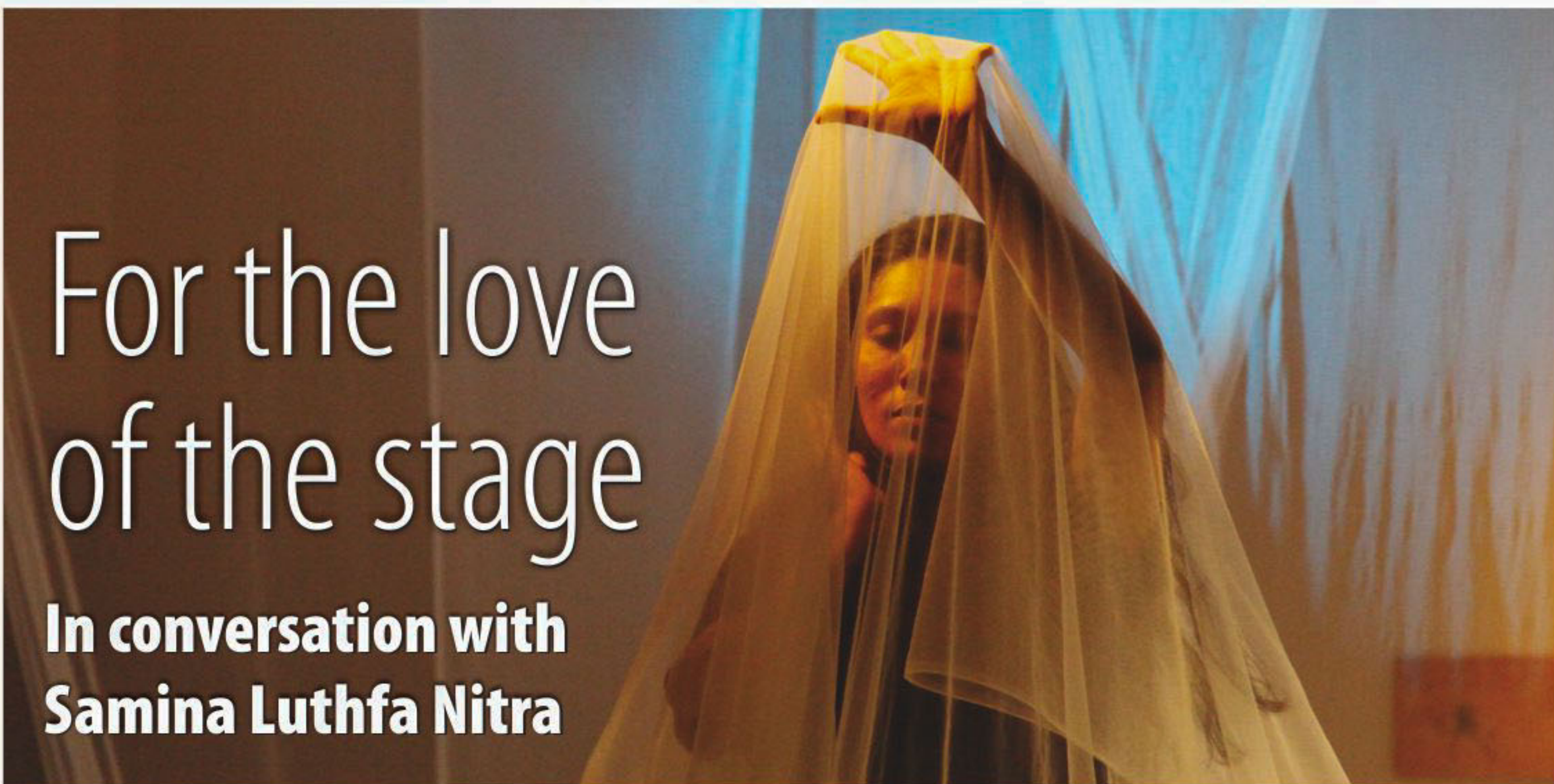


PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## For the love of the stage

### In conversation with Samina Luthfa Nitra

FAHMIM FERDOUS

At first glance, Dr. Samina Luthfa appears like any other academic; with a PhD from the University of Oxford under her belt, the Assistant Professor of Sociology at Dhaka University goes about the same routine as any of her colleagues in the daytime. But as the sun goes down, her alter-ego emerges from the professor's shadow, and takes to the rehearsal room. Samina Luthfa, known more commonly in the theatre arena as Nitra, has been a devoted theatre activist for nearly two decades. Beginning her career in 1996 with Subachan Natya Sangsad and now one of the founding cornerstones of BotTala (since 2008), the actor-playwright has received acknowledgement in the form of the Tanushree Padak (2010) and the Md. Zakaria Padak (2013). In a conversation with The Daily Star, the thespian shed light on her journey of the stage.

**From when you started in theatre to today, a lot of things have changed. What keeps you driven to theatre?**

**Nitra:** I don't know ... (smiles) it has grown with time, with phases. It started with a desire to act, but I realised there are other

aspects to it. I started writing for my troupe, and to see my lines being uttered by actors on stage, moments being created, it's very satisfying. I think I have invested in it too much, and now I don't want to let go. But to keep some young people engaged in a creative activity, to develop that side of them, that's also a motivation. I don't think I am leaving a big impact or anything like that.

**Tell us a little about the plays you've written?**

**Nitra:** The first play I wrote was for Subachan, called "Teerthangkar". Then I co-translated a play called "12th Night", wrote "Khona", and "Beerangona", that has been produced by the London-based Komola Collective. I've written a few more, but not all of them have been brought to stage yet.

**You've portrayed wide-ranging characters from Leelaboti in "Khona" to Woman in "Dog, Woman, Man". What is it like to switch such diverse roles?**

**Nitra:** It's actually quite difficult, to establish a character. I've donned different roles at different times. For instance "The Trial of Mallam Ilya" I portray three characters, two of which are male; all three are negative roles, but have their own nuances. To discover a character and be

that person is challenging. Every role I do feels like the most daunting, but portraying Woman (in Reetu Sattar's "Dog, Woman, Man") is probably the longest struggle. Because, the character I did was a part of me that I had left behind long ago, so it was like opening a Pandora's Box. It was a little scary.

**Your husband, Mohammad Ali Haider, is a theatre veteran and director at BotTala as well. What are the perks of that?**

**Nitra:** It's fantastic. Say, we continuously debate about a matter of a play, and eventually one of us is able to convince the other. I wouldn't get that scope with another director. All our conflicts are theatre-related (chuckles). Haider is like my partner-in-arts. We understand each other well, so working together is very easy. Our tastes are also similar, so that works well with us too.

**What's the big dream, with theatre?**

**Nitra:** We still haven't reached theatre to a wider audience. I have a dream to take my plays to the masses. I want to stage plays for the people outside of Shilpakala; in Savar, Ashulia and other places. I want to reach a place where we can tell stories of their lives, things that they can relate to. So yes, I want to do that.

## Bulbul Ahmed remembered

### Discussion and film screening at Shilpakala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation "Swapnalok" arranged a memorial programme marking the fourth death anniversary of noted actor-director Bulbul Ahmed at the seminar room of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on July 15.

Noted film director Chashi Nazrul Islam, Bulbul's wife, actress Daisy Ahmed, theatre personality Jhuna Chowdhury and assistant director of BSA Irin Parvin spoke at the event. Firoz Khan presided over the memorial programme emceed by Pankaj Kabir.

"Bulbul Ahmed is the symbol of a real hero. In my 52-year career in film, I can say from my experience that I have never seen a clean personality like him. Nowadays, actors become haughty even with a little fame. I have never seen him feeling proud of his fame," said Chashi Nazrul Islam.

An emotional Daisy Ahmed also recalled memories of her husband.

"Bulbul Ahmed was a humble person. He had such an acting quality for which director Chashi Nazrul Islam chose Ahmed for shooting Devdas. Eminent actor-director Soovash Dutta also highly appreciated the Mahanayak," said Jhuna Chowdhury.

Litterateur Imdadul Haq Milon once interviewed Ahmed for a programme titled "Ki Katha Tahar Sathey" that was screened at the event. Later, a film "Simana Periyee", in which he acted, was also screened at the programme.



## MEHZABIEN

### Counting days to Eid

Former Lux superstar Mehzabien has her calendar buzzing with TV plays and modeling assignments. The artiste shared her Eid plans with The Daily Star in a recent conversation.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

**Where will you celebrate Eid this time?**

**Mehzabien:** I'll stay in Dhaka, with my family. I had an offer to perform a show in Qatar, but I opted out of it.

**What's on your plan for Eid?**

**Mehzabien:** Oh, there's so much! I still have to find time for my Eid shopping. I plan to go to the malls with my mother when there is no shooting.

**What are you planning to get for yourself?**

**Mehzabien:** Maybe a lehenga or a three-piece outfit.

**How do you usually spend Eid day?**

**Mehzabien:** The day is relaxed. My mother does most of the cooking that day, while I usually entertain guests in the evening.

**Do you roam around the city during the time?**

**Mehzabien:** By and large, I don't go out on the day of Eid. The following two days, I make plans

and hang out with friends.

**Childhood memories of Eid?**

**Mehzabien:** It was totally different feeling. I used to live abroad those days. I shared the joy of Eid with my school friends who visited our home. Those celebrations are etched very clearly in my mind.

**What does Eid bring for you, professionally?**

**Mehzabien:** I'm participating in various TV and Radio live shows during Eid. That's an entirely different kind of enjoyment, totally showbiz-oriented.

**Tell us about your recent Lux TVC.**

**Mehzabien:** I co-modelled the advert with film star Moushumi and Lux Superstar Momo - the three 'M's. It was shot at the Coke factory.

**Apparently you went to France recently to shoot a play for this Eid?**

**Mehzabien:** It is a tele-film, directed by Mohon Khan, where I'll be appearing opposite Sajal. I played the role of a student who loses her luggage at the airport.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## Eid fashion show on ATN Bangla

A CORRESPONDENT

Fashion magazine show "Celebration with Eid Fashion" will air on ATN Bangla on July 19 at 8:45 pm. Hosted by Nusrat Faria and directed by Queen Rahman, the programme aims to keep the audience updated with the latest Eid fashion trends. The show -with its five themes: sufiana, western, regular, exclusive and jewelry - will highlight what's in on the front of attire, jewelry and accessories. The programme will feature 24 well-known models, including Munmun, Bulbul, Tumpa and Apurbo. Nirjhor will perform songs on the show, while interviews with celebs on their Eid plans will also be shown.



## "Bishad Sindhu" staged at JKKNIU



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Students of the Theatre and Performance Studies Department of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) in Trishal staged "Bishad Sindhu", a timeless literary work of Mir Mosharraf Hossain at its auditorium Tuesday evening.

Adapted and directed by Syed Mamun Reza, head of Theatre and Performance Studies Department, the play was coordinated by Imran Hasan Shimul. The play was also assisted by Torpita Dutta, Afsana Naurin, Mohirush Kanti Roy, Nasreen Haque, Farhad Hossain and Shawlin.

Twenty students of the department formed the cast. Farzana Tasmin, Jebin Sultana, Muslematul Jannat, Bipasha Saha, Nusrat Jahan, Amol Krishna Shil, among others, played central roles in the play.

Earlier, a discussion was held. The speakers opined that the play depicts the conflict between right and wrong, and differing ideologies. The work will motivate artistes of the play and its audience to fight against age old social ills, they said.



The cast and crew of "Priya Tumi Sukhi Hou", including director Gitali Hasan (L), actress Shayla Sabi (2-L) and Impress Telefilm Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagor (R), unveil the poster of the film at its premiere, held at Blockbuster Cinemas on Tuesday. The film, starring Ferdous, Sabi, Sohel Rana and Suchorita, opens in cinemas this Eid-ul-Fitr.

## Eid special drama on Ekushey TV

A CORRESPONDENT

A six-episode TV play, titled "Gobhir Joler Bhoot" will air on Ekushey television at 9:20pm from the first to the sixth day of Eid. Written and directed by Anjan Aich, the drama revolves around Rahul and his relationship with Kuhu. Rahul, the son of US expats, spends a lonesome life in Dhaka. One day Rahul heads towards Kuhu's village to talk to her father about Kuhu's marriage. He faces many problems en route to the village and finally finds himself confined in a deserted house. He experiences many paranormal incidents.

The drama casts Sadia Islam Mou, Majnun Mizan, Abdullah Rana and others.