


WHAT'S ON

**Photography Exhibition**  
Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed  
Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 19-September 8  
Time: 12pm-8pm



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: "Ode to Beauty" by Shama Shaom  
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Française De Dhaka  
Date: Aug 22- Sep 4  
Time: 3-9pm



**Solo Watercolour Exhibition**  
Title: "Jol Chobi" by Shahanoor Mamun  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française De Dhaka



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: "Momentary History" by Niamul Bari  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: August 12-30  
Time: 12-8pm



**Album Launch**  
Album: Koto Chameli Britha Jaye by Dia  
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum  
Date: August 22  
Time: 6:30pm



# NEWS bytes

## Cumberbatch, Elba to voice Shere Khan

Benedict Cumberbatch is to voice Shere Khan the tiger in one of the two Jungle Book films entering production. The "Sherlock" star is the first voice actor to be cast in the Warner Bros movie, the directorial debut by Andy Serkis of Gollum and King Kong fame.

Titled "Jungle Book: Origins", the film will be released in October 2016.

Idris Elba will voice Shere Khan in another adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's stories, a combination of live action and animation from the Disney studio. That film, which will also feature the voices of Bill Murray, Scarlett Johansson,



Christopher Walken and Sir Ben Kingsley, is currently scheduled for an October 2015 release.

Cumberbatch's dulcet tones will be heard later this year in the third Hobbit film, which will once more find him providing the voice of the fiery dragon Smaug. He will also be heard as the voice of a wolf in "Penguins of Madagascar", a spin-off from the DreamWorks "Madagascar" franchise.

Source: BBC

# IT'S TRUE!



US rock guitarist-singer Joan Jett, a sports fan, has remained actively involved in the sports world. Her song "Bad Reputation" was used by UFC's Women's Bantamweight Champion Ronda Rousey as her walk-out song at the pay-per-view event "UFC 157". Her cover of "Love is All Around" was used by the NCAA to promote the Women's Final Four, as well as the song "Unfinished Business". Jett supplied theme songs for the ESPN X-Games premiere and has contributed music to all their games since. The melody for her song "I Hate Myself For Loving You" is used as the theme music for NBC Sunday Night Football with re-worked lyrics and retitled "Waiting All Day For Sunday Night".

# ALL-TIME GREATS

## ZAHIR RAIHAN: CAPTURING NATIONAL STRUGGLES ON CELLULOID



A scene from "Jibon Theke Neya".

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Mohammad Zahirullah (better known as Zahir Raihan) -- born on August 19, 1935 in a village in Feni -- lived only to be 37, but left his mark in the heart of every patriotic Bangladeshi with his works. After moving back from Kolkata following the partition of 1947, Zahir Raihan obtained a post-graduate in Bengali Literature and began working as a journalist. After initially writing short stories (inspired by his brother, prominent litterateur Shahidullah Kaiser), Raihan ventured into films as an assistant with "Jago Hua Savera" (1959). He made his directorial debut with "Kokhono Asheni" in 1960. In 1964, he made Pakistan's first colour movie, "Sangam", and completed his first cinema-scope movie, "Bahana", the following year.

Zahir Raihan spent a busy decade in the 1960s, directing "Sonar Kajol" in 1962 (jointly with Kalim Sharafi), "Kancher Deyal" in 1963, "Behula" in 1966, "Anowara" in 1966, "Dui Bhai" in 1968 and "Jibon Theke Neya" in 1969.

Apart from films, Zahir Raihan was also an accomplished writer. His publications include "Surjya Grahana", "Shesh Bikeler Meye", the epic "Hajar Bochor Dhore", "Arek Falgun", "Borof Gola Nodi", "Aar Koto Din", "Koyekti



Mrittu" and "Trishna".

It was the subject matter of his work, however, that separates him from his contemporaries; Raihan had strong nationalist beliefs, and it reflected sharply in his work. Some of his works are iconic of the movement of the then East Pakistan that eventually culminated into the struggle for Independence. He was one of the first few to back the move of violating curfew on the fateful day of February 21, 1952, and wrote "Arek Falgun", a striking novel on the movement -- while in jail after being arrested in connection with the movement. His film "Jibon Theke Neya" is also a

satirical depiction of the ongoing national movement, portraying an entire country through the story of a family.

The Liberation War began when Raihan was the general secretary of Bangladesh Liberation Council of Intelligence, and was making his first English film, "Let There Be Light". He abandoned the project and made his most notable work, the documentary "Stop Genocide", depicting the horrendous atrocities of the Pakistani forces.

Zahir Raihan left his house on January 30, 1972 in search of his brother Shahidullah Kaiser, who was abducted by Pakistani forces just before Bangladesh's emergence on the world map, and never returned. It is believed that he was killed in Mirpur by Pakistani soldiers in hiding and their Bihari collaborators, while looking for the body of his brother at the Mirpur mass grave, where many intellectuals were killed and buried.

Nearly 42 years after his demise, the mark left by Zahir Raihan in Bangladeshi cinema remains as indelible as ever. Till date, his works continue to inspire filmmakers and audiences alike. As long as nationalism and patriotism are alive in the hearts of Bangladeshis, so is Zahir Raihan -- through the struggles he portrayed on celluloid, in a way only he could.

# ALBUM REVIEW

## Khuje Berai: Songs of Tagore plays under spotlight

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The greatest playwright must be a poet. William Shakespeare and Rabindranath Tagore are scintillating examples of this adage. Tagore, a timeless lyricist and composer, best inserted his musical prowess into his plays speaking of the poetry of life. Moreover, Tagore plays portray the overflow of lyrics and dances.

Accomplished Tagore artiste and teacher Tanjina Toma's latest audio album "Khuje Berai", under the label of G-Series, is now in the market. The album contains 10 Tagore songs featured in the bard's 10 plays.

Toma's mellifluous voice, excellent articulation and pouring of apt emotion in accordance with the respective songs including "Momo Chitrey Niti Nriye" (Aropratan), "Bojromanik Diye Ga(n)tha" (Shesh Borshon), "Dokhin Hawa Jago Jago" (Basanta), "Bhalobashi Bhalobashi" (Raktakarobi), "Ogo, Tora Ke Jabi Paar-e" (Chirokumar Sabha) -- make the album a



musical treasure-trove.

What makes the album more valuable is informative narration by noted actors-elocutionists Jayanta Chattopadhyay and Rokeya Prachi. Rahul Chattopadhyay arranged the music for the album.

This is the artiste's third audio CD while her maiden one titled "Modhu Jamini" and second one "Jibon Katha" (from Kolkata comprising 10 songs from Tagore plays) were released in 2011 and 2013 respectively.

Tanjina Toma has trained in Rabindra Sangeet at the prestigious Chhayanaut Sangeet Bidyaytan in Dhaka. She has also trained under renowned gurus Waheedul Haq and Dr. Sanjida Khatun. She has been teaching Rabindra Sangeet in the cultural organisation for the last 10 years. She is also an active member of Bangladesh Rabindrasangeet Shammilam Parishad and Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Shangstha.

A gifted artiste, Toma made a rendition for "Valmiki Prathibha", a Bangladesh-India joint production in 2010, and also in a documentary titled "Bangladesh-e Rabindranath", produced on the occasion of Tagore's 150th birth anniversary celebrations and screened in Bangladesh, India, UK and Australia.

Toma played the role of Promoda in "Mayar Khela" produced by Shadhona, a major dance organisation of Bangladesh. In Kolkata, she performed in "Hajar Kantha", representing Chhayanaut of Bangladesh.

Toma, a faculty member of Scholastica, is a senior grade artist and regular performer for Bangladesh TV and Bangladesh Betar.

# Defining factors in Chandni's career



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National award-winning actress-dancer Chandni says she has had several defining factors of success in her career. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, she looked back at how they shaped her career.

**First factor: Dance**  
"I've been involved in dancing from a very early age. I took dance lessons at Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA). I have given dance performances at a number of stage shows both at home and abroad. Later, when I started acting, I was able to emote better due to my dance training. So, the first turning point in my career is dance."

**Second factor: Films**  
"Although I appeared for a few movies, 'Dukhai' -- for which I received the national film award, was a definite turning point in my career. I also won an award for playing the character of Jamila in the film 'Lalsalu'. Later, I acted in the movie 'Joyjatra'. The three celluloid projects are major achievements of my career."

**Third factor: TV plays**  
"I played the role of Runi in the drama 'Bandhan', directed by Afsana Mimi. The hugely popular play was a major success in my career."

**Fourth factor: Family**  
"Without my family's support and inspiration, I couldn't have reached where I am today. My mother, in particular, has made a great contribution to my success."



# IN LOVING MEMORY

## Film festival on Salman Shah's death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

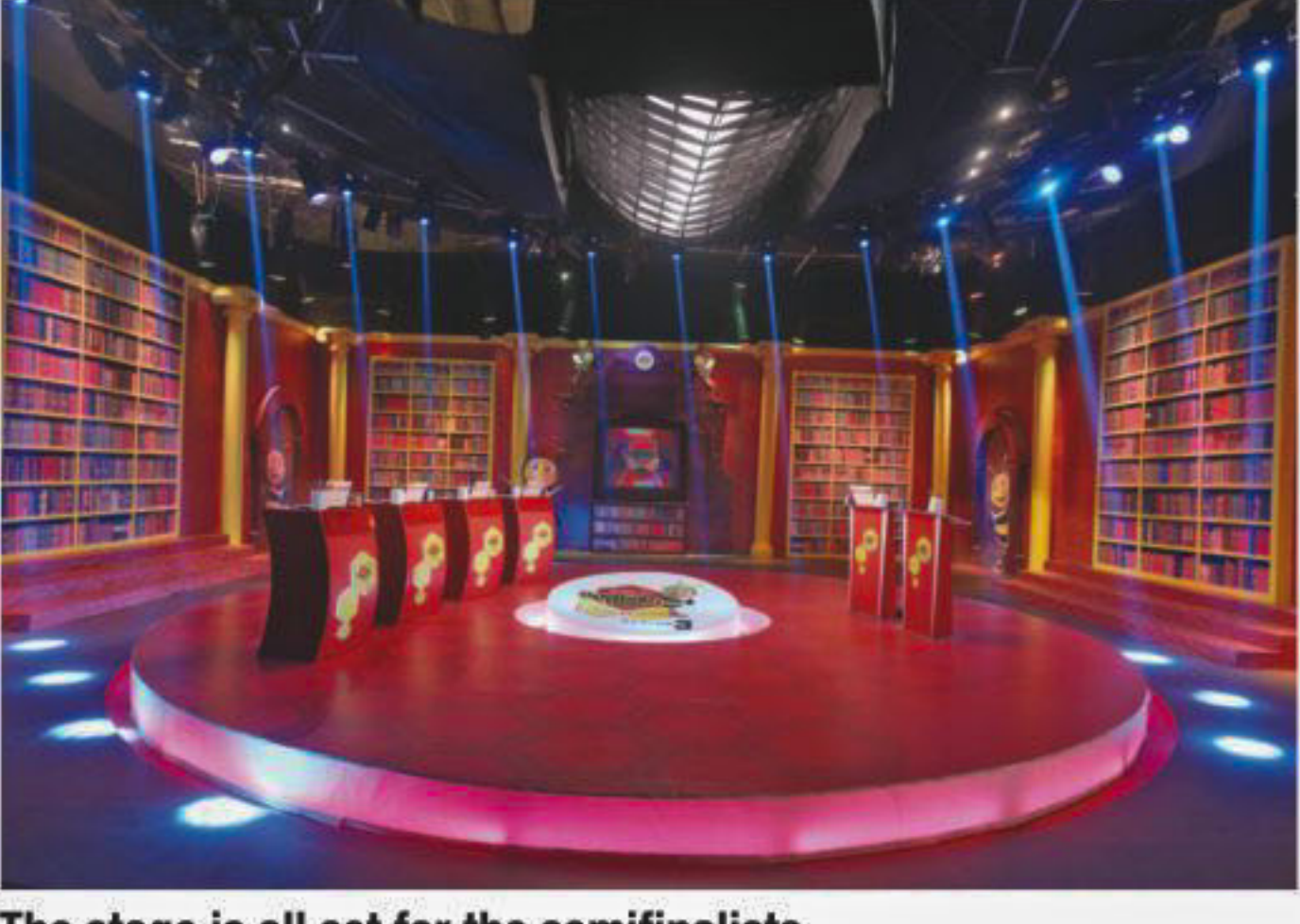
Salman Shah took Dhallywood by storm with his very first film "Qayamat Theke Qayamat", and never had to look back. Before his untimely demise on September 6, 1996, he acted in 26 films, and is

said to be the most popular film star since the '90s.

To mark his 18th death anniversary, Dhuli Communications is organising the weeklong "Salman Shah Memorial Festival 2014" at the Balaka Cineworld in the capital from September 6. A total of

seven of his films will be screened, while members of the film fraternity will also reminisce on Salman.

A souvenir will be launched as part of the festival, while a documentary will be screened on the actor.



The stage is all set for the semifinalists.

# Spelling Bee semifinals begin today

TAHRIMA AHMED TRISHNA

The Daily Star Spelling Bee semifinals start tonight in Channel i. Of the 96 participants who began the battle for the Spelling Bee trophy, the best 16 are left, and only 6 will go to the finals; like in the quarterfinals, every episode will see four participants competing, and only one emerging as finalist.

The competition has not only created a stir among the students and parents, but also among many other families who want to see their kids participate in next season of Spelling Bee.

Bee powered by Horlicks not just as a competition but as a platform to make friends around the country. They also think Spelling Bee gives them an opportunity to showcase their talents. They can also develop leadership skills and learn about stress management during gruelling shooting sessions, among other things. Spelling Bee has grown to be much more than a competition; the participants are not just memorising spellings and parroting them. One of the most delightful surprises is the reading habit and choices of books of these young adults, which surpasses most adults'.

The organisers and associate partners are constantly emphasising on nurturing these talents and have included sections in the programme, which gives the participants a sense of accomplishment. BSRM, an associate partner of Spelling Bee has given the participants an opportunity to win books for libraries around the country.

The show will air its first Semi-final episode tonight at 7:50pm on Channel i. The organisers also upload updated episode of the show on their Youtube page ([www.youtube.com/spellbangladesh](http://www.youtube.com/spellbangladesh)) regularly.