

**Fundraising Exhibition**  
 Title: Pray For Nepal  
 Organiser: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts  
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts  
 Date: May 17-24  
 Time: 10am-8pm



**Solo Exhibition**  
 Title: River Stories  
 Artist: Vinita Karim  
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge  
 Date: May 16- June 6  
 Time: 12-8pm



**Rabindra Nazrul Jayanti**  
 Organiser: Star Melodies, The Daily Star  
 Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall (Level 3), The Daily Star Centre  
 Date: May 23  
 Time: 6:30pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Soft Reflections  
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos  
 Date: May 15- June 14  
 Time: 11am-10pm



**Celebrated Violence -3**  
 Artist: Ripon Saha  
 Venue: Kala Kendra, 1/11, Iqbal road (3rd floor), Mohammadpur, Dhaka  
 Date: April 30- May 23  
 Time: 5pm-9pm



# NEWS bytes

## Sam Smith undergoes vocal cord surgery

Sam Smith has had successful surgery on his vocal cords at a hospital in USA. Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston said in a statement that he is expected to make a full recovery.

The surgery was performed by Dr Steven Zeitels, who has carried out the same procedure on Adele, Aerosmith's Steven Tyler and Lionel Richie.

According to the hospi-



tal, Smith's condition was the result of unstable blood vessels in his vocal cord. They can rupture and stop people singing.

Smith's song "Stay With Me" won Grammys for song and record of the year and he also was named best new artiste in February. The British singer's "In the Lonely Hour" was named best pop vocal album.

Smith's next live show is scheduled for July 3 at Thetford Forest in Suffolk. He was forced to cancel a series of shows after finding out he needed vocal cord surgery.

## IT'S TRUE!



The main leads of "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara" -- Farhan Akhtar, Hrithik Roshan and Abhay Deol -- have song the Salsa song "Senorita" along with traditional Spanish flamenco artist María del Mar Fernández, who made her debut with the song. The lyrics were penned by Javed Akhtar. The Latino flavored Spanish flamenco song is about being yourselves and having fun. The video features the three leads along with the mayor of the town Alájar, Andalucía.



# FERDOUS-MEEM GO UNDERWATER FOR TVC

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Film stars Ferdous and Meem wrapped up a lavish shoot for a TV commercial on Thursday, at a five-star resort. Ripon Nag directed the TVC for a development company, which was shot at Srimangal's Grand Sultan Tea Resort. Mim informed that the commercial is about a newlywed couple, while Ferdous called the work 'romantic'. The duo also

supposedly shot underwater at the swimming pool of the resort. Mim said it was a challenge for her because she can't swim, but added that Ferdous' support made it easier for her. The TVC is slated to release in TV channels before Eid.

Ferdous, fresh off the Tele-Cine Award from Kolkata, is mulling his second production venture (after "Ek Cup Cha"), while Mim has her hands full with big-screen projects.

Her new film "Poddo Pata'r Jol" -- which Mim says is her 'dream film' -- is set to release this Eid, where she appears opposite Emon. She has also completed shooting for Wajed Ali Sumon's "Sweetheart", where she will share screen space with Bappi. Mim also has an Indo-Bangla joint venture film in the pipeline in September. The yet-to-be-titled film will also cast Kolkata film actor Soham Chakraborty.

# REESE WITHERSPOON to star in live-action TINKER BELL

Reese Witherspoon may soon be spreading some fairy dust. The actress is attached to star in and produce "Tink", a live-action take on the classic Peter Pan character Tinker Bell.

Victoria Strouse, who wrote the script for Pixar's upcoming "Finding Nemo" sequel, "Finding Dory", is penning the script for the project, which does not have a director on board and is still in development.

Details on the project's angle are being kept hush-hush, but insiders say it will play with the idea and the timeline of the well-known Peter Pan narrative. It is also being developed in the vein of "Maleficent", Disney's 2014 hit that starred Angelina Jolie as the evil witch from Sleeping Beauty. Like Maleficent, this Tinker Bell tale is conceived as "the story you don't know," and will offer a new perspective on the character.

Initially a minor and nonspeaking character in JM Barrie's Pan story -- Tinker Bell has, since her appearance in Disney's 1953 classic animated feature, become one of the symbols of Disney and is at the center of the lucrative Disney Fairies franchise. Witherspoon, who has the comedy "Hot Pursuit" in theatres, just set up the drama "Pale Blue Dot", to which she is also attached as star and producer.



Source: Variety

## IN CONVERSATION

# "People and nature inspire me to write" ... Rubayet Ahmed



**SAURAV DEY**

Rubayet Ahmed is a young playwright and director tagged with Dhaka Theatre. A graduate in Drama and Dramatics from Jahangirnagar University (JU), Rubayet went on to do his PhD in the same subject. His directorial repertoire includes "Iti Potromita" and "Ashchorjo Shundor Ei Beche Thaka", while he has adapted serious scripts like Camus' "The Outsider". In a recent conversation, the bright theatre activist talked about his journey and more.

**How did you begin as a theatre activist?**  
 Rubayet: I liked theatre from my childhood, but became quite involved after coming to JU where I found my identity as a theatre actor. Later, I grew interest in writing. It happened because of my close contact with Selim Al Deen sir. I saw him writing and he is the greatest inspiration in my life.

**What was it like to work with a man of Selim Al Deen's stature?**  
 Rubayet: Sir used to be absent-minded while writing. Once we asked him how he wrote and sir replied, "It's a spark which eventually turns into a complete piece." Also, he was an adept director. Sir would allow us to work freely and sometimes he used to guide us. He always preferred us to

learn in the course of working instead of having a complete work plan beforehand. Sir preferred to work with ordinary things and had a soft corner for our traditional styles and elements.

**What inspires you to write plays?**  
 Rubayet: People and nature inspire me to write. Starting from mythical crisis to contemporary socio-political issues, my interest lies everywhere. When anything resonates within me, I feel an urge to write. My surroundings have a tremendous impact on me.

**How would you evaluate the present theatre scenario?**  
 Rubayet: Many plays are coming to stage and there are lots of theatre activists but the number of quality plays is minimal. We need to focus on ways of bringing the audience to the theatre instead of just bringing out productions. Also our theatre badly needs professionalism so a theatre artiste can earn a livelihood from it.

**What are the qualities a writer must possess?**  
 Rubayet: A good writer has to be liberal and a freewill agent. Also a writer should keep their eyes and mind open so that they can perceive what's happening around. The thirst for becoming better is also a must.



The 34th National Rabindra Sangeet Conference was inaugurated yesterday by Dr. Anupam Sen at Chhayanaout Sangskriti Bhaban, Dhanmondi. Organised by Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad, the opening ceremony included delivery of speeches by the inaugurator, Laisa Ahmed Lisa and Dr. Sanjida Khatun and performance of solo and choral songs, dances and recitations.

## Farida Parveen to perform at IGCC

Indira Gandhi Culture Centre is organising An Evening of Lalon Sangeet by eminent Bangladeshi exponent Farida Parveen, at 6:30pm today (May 23) at the Gulshan premises of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), says a press release.

Lalon Shah is an icon of religious tolerance and secularism who is remembered for eternity for his rejection of all distinctions of mankind based on caste and creed. Farida Parveen is one of



the most popular vocalists and a leading exponent of Lalon songs in Bangladesh. Her melodious rendering has contributed significantly towards making Lalon Geeti attractive and popular amongst listeners both in Bangladesh and abroad. She has rendered Lalon songs throughout the world: in India, Pakistan, Japan, UK, USA, France, Russia, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Australia, Qatar, Morocco, Turkey etc.



## Varun-Alia finalised for "Shuddhi"

Filmmaker Karan Johar has roped in his "Student of the Year" stars Varun Dhawan and Alia Bhatt for his ambitious project "Shuddhi".

Johar took to Twitter to announce the film's leading cast. "And finally..SHUDDHI starring VARUN DHAWAN and ALIA BHATT... Directed by KARAN MALHOTRA..." -- Johar posted on Twitter.

The film, which will be directed by Karan Malhotra (of "Agneepath" fame), earlier had Kareena Kapoor Khan and Hrithik Roshan as the lead pairs. But the project derailed due to Hrithik's health issues, which forced Kareena to walk out of the film.

Then Salman Khan signed on the dotted lines to play the lead role in "Shuddhi", with his leading lady still undecided. But Khan also opted out of the venture.

After the news, Salman also congratulated Varun: "Kamaal karte ho Varun Dhawan... Made your dad and me so proud of you... Happy Shuddhi," he tweeted.

This will be Varun and Alia's third film together, after "Student of the Year" and "Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania".

"Shuddhi" is expected to hit theatres during Diwali next year.

Source: TOI

# STAR MELODIES PRESENTS LOVE SONGS OF TAGORE AND NAZRUL

### PERFORMERS:



Tapan Mahmud, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Ferdous Ara, Nasima Shaheen, Adity Mohsin, Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb and artistes of Nrityanchal.

Today, 6:30pm  
 AS Mahmud Seminar Hall,  
 The Daily Star Centre.