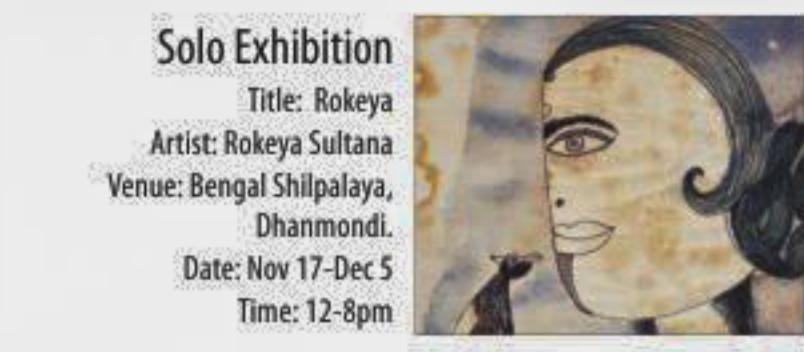


## WHAT'S ON



**Solo Oriental Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Reunion of Shakuntala  
Artist: Malay Bala  
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU  
Date: Nov 16-22  
Time: 10am-8pm



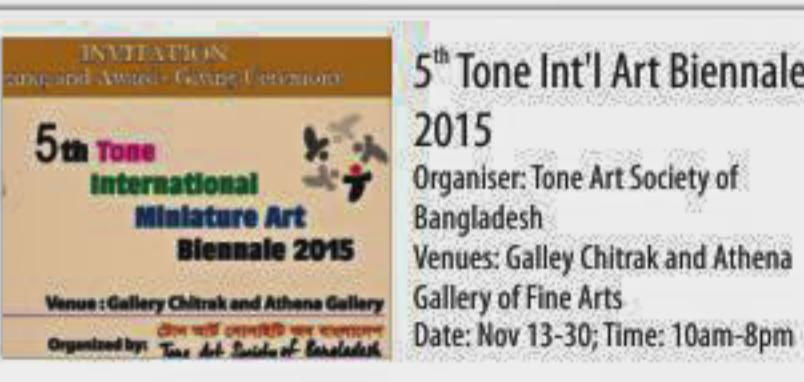
**Solo Exhibition**  
Title: Rokeya Sultana  
Artist: Rokeya Sultana  
Venue: Bengal Shilpajaya, Dharmodi.  
Date: Nov 17-Dec 5  
Time: 12-8pm



**Solo Exhibition**  
Chromatic Delusions  
Artist: Makhsuda Iqbal Nipa  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge  
Date: Oct 31-Nov 21  
Time: 12-8pm



**Comedy Show**  
Organiser: Naveed's Comedy Club  
Venue: The Stage, 1st Floor, House 31, Sector 13, Uttara  
Date: Nov 21  
Time: 7:30pm-9pm



**5th Tone International Miniature Art Biennale 2015**  
Organiser: Tone Art Society of Bangladesh  
Venues: Galley Chitrak and Athena Gallery of Fine Arts  
Date: Nov 13-30; Time: 10am-8pm



## ZAHANGIR ALOM

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's saga "Shakuntala", (originally translated from poet Kalidas' epic drama "Abhigyan Shakuntalam") narrates the soliloquy of Hero Dushmanta elaborating Shakuntala's beauty. The reading of the text would charm Malay Bala while he was an intermediate student.

A solo oriental painting exhibition titled "Reunion of Shakuntala" by Dr. Malay Bala, Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Oriental Art, is now on at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU). Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor of DU, inaugurated the art show on November 16. Eminent artist Samarjit Roy Choudhury, among others, was present as special guests while Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, FFA, DU presided over the programme.

Keeping up the originality, nature and

tradition and upholding the six canons of Indian Art, Malay Bala has completed each of his painting that is evocative of his aesthetic senses, classical compositions and devoted efforts to serenade the saga of Shakuntala.

"I see the reflections of Shakuntala in the women of Ajanta cave paintings, Mughal miniatures, female characters depicted in Neo-Bengal wash paintings or in the feminine grace of eternal Bengal. The multifaceted beauty of Shakuntala appears many times in my Shakuntala series. 'Reunion of Shakuntala' represents the diverse facets and aspects of Shakuntala," said Malay Bala.

Following the Neo-Bengal watercolour wash technique, the artist has mingled the beauty of Shakuntala with natural grace like banyan roots intertwined with the tree and barks. Intertwined in the roots and barks of trees in the paintings, images of a dancing Shakuntala, Shakuntala busy

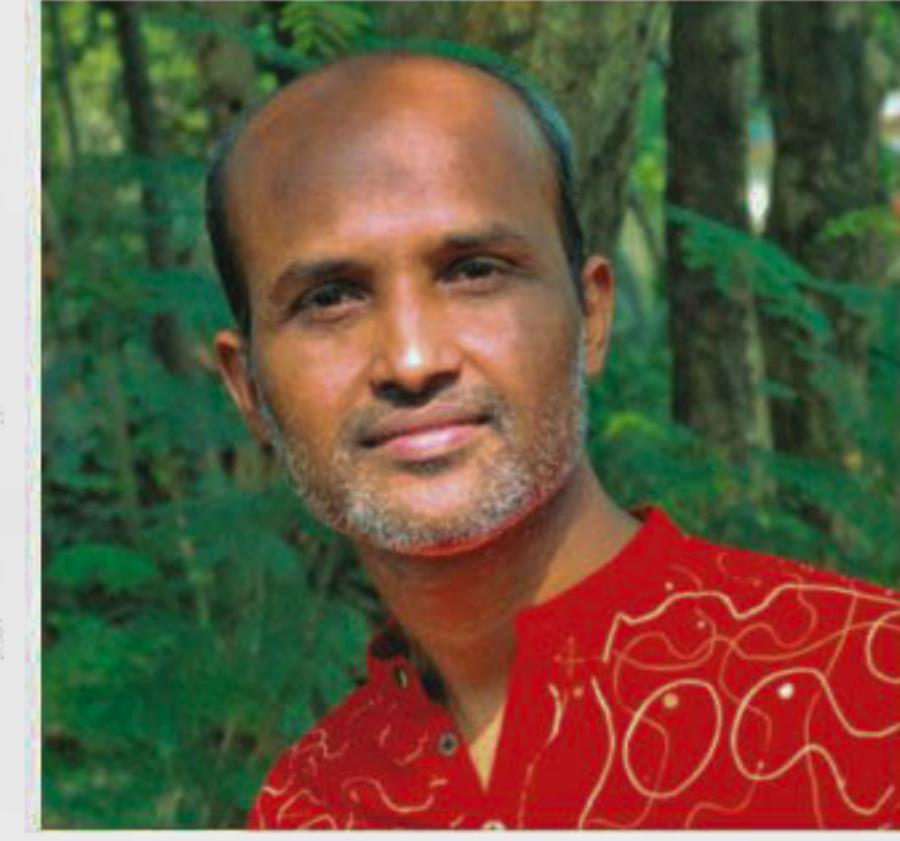
conversing with her friends, Shakuntala adoring a fawn, Shakuntala deeply in love with Dushmanta, Shakuntala in twilight glow, Shakuntala immersing in moon-beam, Classical fiesta in Tapabon and other series works on watercolour, acrylic and oil. Some of his recent works evoke abstract imagery, delineating lyrical rhythm and vibrant colours.

The aspiration for unifying the co-existence between nature and human beings in an urbanised life drives the artist to depict such compositions time and again. The prime objective of these paintings is to provide pure joy to both eyes and mind in the midst of daily life's restlessness.

"In my paintings, I envision all the women of the society singly in light of Shakuntala's graceful forms and everlasting grace. The beauty of watercolour wash is even reflected on my oil or acrylic painting. The real aesthetic appeal lies in the visual forms of my paintings that claim

## BOUNTY OF BEAUTY IN MALAY BALA'S PAINTINGS

**"Reunion of Shakuntala"** at Zainul Gallery



evaluation from art exponents, connoisseurs and lovers," added the artist.

Grontho Kutir, Hamid Fabrics Limited, CSDC and Oriental Painting Study Group assisted in the exhibition that is open daily from 10am to 8pm, till November 22.

## "Nabab Siraj-Ud-Doula" staged Nirmol Jatra Utsab in Mymensingh concludes



PHOTO: STAR

## AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The unforgettable dialogue 'Banglar Akashe Aaj Durjoger Ghanaghata, Taar Shyamol Prantore Rakter Alpona, Shudhu Supto Santan Shiyore...' of historical play "Nabab Siraj-Ud-Doula" held a capacity packed audience spellbound on the concluding day of a 11-day jatra festival on November 15 at Mymensingh Gymnasium.

The festival, titled 'Nirmol Jatra Utsab' began on November 5 with the staging of "Nichu Tolar Manush", a social jatra pala.

Prominent jatra artistes from 40 different jatra troupes of the country performed at the festival.

The original jatra pala that portrayed Siraj as a patriot was written by Sachin Sengupta in 1938 and was directed by Milon Kanti Dey.

Kazi Belayet's artistic

acting for "Nabab Siraj-Ud-Doula" was repeatedly applauded by the audience that had come from different areas in the district.

The other cast of the play were Dulal Ghosh (Mir Zafar), Dr Tara Gulandaj (Watson), Abdul Kader (Mohan Lal), Sudarshan Chakraborty (Jagatsheth), GM Siraj (Raja Rajballabh), Baby Sagarika (Aleya), Moni Mala (Lutfia), Golam Hossain (Milon Kanti Dey) and Rikta Sultan (Ghasheti Begum) among others.

The festival, with its traditional touch, has created deep enthusiasm among people of different age groups, encouraging and inspiring us to go forward, said poet Farid Ahmed Dulal, joint convener of the festival.

Talking to this correspondent, some artistes said, they participated in the festival to promote this ancient art. They urged patronage from government and affluent

corners of the society for survival of jatra.

Five eminent jatra artistes of Mymensingh region and Manikganj were honoured with crests at the concluding session. They were Fajar Ali, Anwarul Gani Bolbon, Ustad Nayan Miah, ABM Siddique Master, all posthumous; and Sultan Selim (Manikganj).

Earlier, a discussion was held.

Dr Hori Shankar Das, Md Momtaz Uddin, poet Farid Ahmed Dulal addressed the discussion, among others. Professor Amir Ahmed Chowdhury Ratan, convener of the festival was in the chair.

We started a movement for vulgarity-free jatra from Mymensingh with the hope of spreading it to every corner of the country, the speakers said. If jatra pala is performed tastefully, the traditional art form will return to the auditorium, they added.

## I'M VERY CHOOSY ... NOUREEN



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Singer Noureen, of "Close up 1" fame is now very busy with stage shows, playback and audio albums. The Daily Star recently caught up with the popular vocalist.

## How did you venture into music?

Noureen: I've been involved with music since my childhood. I trained in classical and Nazrul songs at Bulbul Lalitakala Academy. Later, I took part in "Close up 1". After the contest, I continued learning music from Ostad Sanjib Dey.

## Tell us about your first album "Krishnochura".

Noureen: It hit the audio market in 2007. Produced by Gangchil, the album was received warmly. Written and composed by Kabir Bakul and Emon Saha, a track of the album "Krishnochura Lal Lal Hoyechhe Phule Phule" became very popular.

## Which songs do your fans root for during stage shows?

Noureen: "Krishnochura Lal Lal" remains the fan favourite.

## Why only occasional solo albums?

Noureen: I was busy with my studies. One must have full concentration to deliver a good piece.

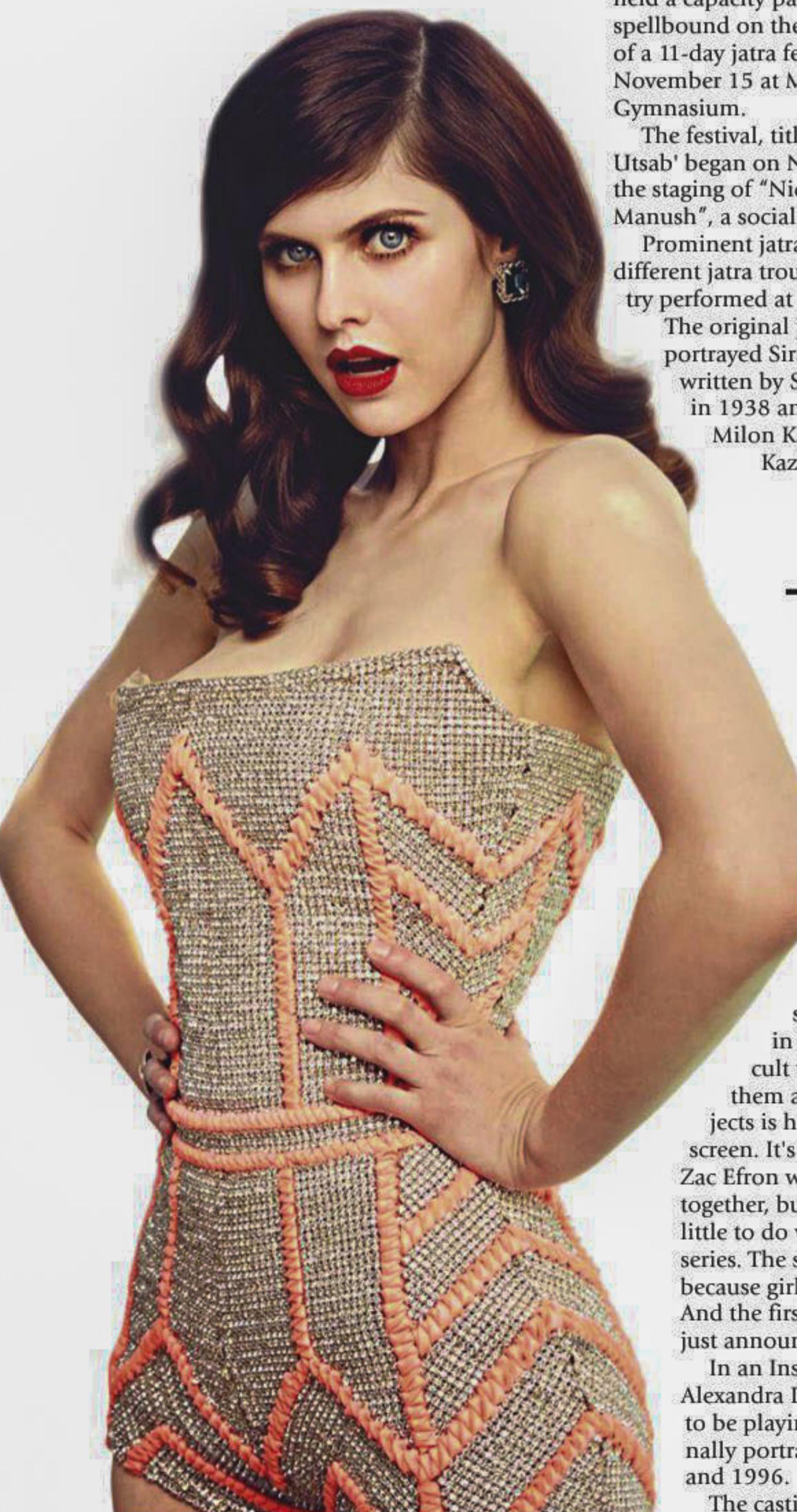
## How many playbacks have you done so far?

Noureen: A handful. The latest playback I did was for the film "Maa Amar Chokher Moni", directed by Nayak Raj Razzak. Another three movies for which I have playbacked are to be released.

## What's your ultimate musical dream?

Noureen: I have made a lot of plans. Due to my studies, I could not manage time for music. Recently, I completed my MBA so now I want to give more time to music. But I'm very choosy. So, I just want to sing songs which will be etched in people's mind forever.

## PANDIT RAVI SHANKAR



"I try to give to my music the spiritual quality, very deep in the soul, which does something even if you are not realizing it or analyzing it - that's the duty of music."

## The "Baywatch" movie has found its Summer

There is likely nobody in Hollywood busier than Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson these days. With a successful HBO series and more movies in development than anybody, it is difficult to see how the man has time to get them all done. One of his more eclectic projects is his plan to bring "Baywatch" to the big screen. It's already been announced that Rock and Zac Efron would be co-starring in the film together, but to be honest, David Hasselhoff had little to do with the success of the original TV series. The series became a global phenomenon because girls in swimsuits require no translation. And the first of the film's female lifeguards was just announced by The Rock himself.

In an Instagram post, Johnson named Alexandra Daddario as the first woman in the film, to be playing the role of Summer Quinn – originally portrayed by Nicole Eggert between 1992 and 1996.

The casting of Alexandra Daddario appears to

be a case of Rock keeping things 'all in the family', as her last major screen role was as his daughter in this past summer's "San Andreas". She also played Annabeth in the two Percy Jackson fantasy films. The gorgeous young actress also took to Twitter to acknowledge the announcement, saying: "Thank you! Extremely excited. Been practicing my slow-mo run all morning."

Summer is actually the first named role that has been announced, and knowing that both the Summer and CJ Parker (the role that made Pamela Anderson a household name in the 90s) roles are based on characters from the series, it says something about the film previously unknown; it now certainly appears that all the characters will be based on their television counterparts. This makes it likely that The Rock will be playing the role of Mitch Buchanan, as made famous by David Hasselhoff, the only actor to be in the entire series. Who Zac Efron will play is anyone's guess.

Source: Cinemablend