

# Bangladeshi dancers make their mark in Kolkata

NAZIBA BASHIR

Every year a handful of aspiring dancers travel to Rabindra Bharati in the heart of Kolkata, to expand their knowledge and versatility in dance. Three young dancers from Bangladesh recently travelled there to get their academic degrees on Bharatanatyam, one of the most esteemed dance forms in India. Mita, Arthy and Upama, Arthy Ahmed and Mita Biswas took part in a performance titled "Vaishnaghoryam" at the end of last month.

The Daily Star caught up with them after the performance, to learn about their past, present and futures as dancers.

**Tell us a little about your background.**

**Upama:** I began learning at the age of three from Anisa Sultana, and in 2011, I started learning Bharatanatyam from Belayet Hossain Khan at Chikhanant. Since receiving the ICCR scholarship, I have been taking formal Bharatanatyam training from Smt Sajata Ramalingam.

**Arthy:** I began with Manjuri at Chikhanant and with Sharmila Bannerjee and Bharatanatyam Bannery from Hossain Khan. I also trained with Shadhona under Amit Chowdhury. I have also learnt other forms like aerial, jazz, Balinese and contemporary.

**Mita:** I began dancing at Bulbul



Mita, Arthy and Upama at their performance of "Vaishnaghoryam".

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Arhippu, a Kirtanam and a Padam. There was a special performance, Dasarpaya, by our Guru. We finished with a Thillana.

**Arthy:** "Vaishnaghoryam" is a story of four people surviving in a foreign land, and expressing their love for dance, and for each other. It is a story of us, crossing all the obstacles to fulfil our dreams.

**Mita:** The show was a dream coming true for us. We wanted to present our love for the art form. Through this show, we learned that we all share the same dream, and that we are lucky to be a part of each other's dreams.

**What are your future plans as a dancer and how do you plan to use your new-found expertise?**

**Upama:** I aspire to become a full-fledged classical dancer. I also want to teach. But I don't want to say much about what I want to do, and instead show people how far I am capable of going.

**Arthy:** I am one of the few students from Bangladesh who completed their Bachelor's and Master's education in India. I would like to spread my knowledge as far as I can, especially for the talented children under Dhaka.

**Mita:** Dance is such an ancient art form, and yet a lot of its beauty and integrity has gotten lost with time. I was to re-establish that ancient integrity and purity, and spread it among all the new dancers.

## "Star Wars" release pushed back

Disney made a slew of changes to its upcoming calendar of Tuesday, including pushing back the release of "Star Wars: Episode IX" by seven months following the announcement that JJ Abrams is taking over directing duties.

"Episode IX" will now open in theaters December 20, 2019, instead of May 24, 2019. The temple is swapping places with another high-profile title, the highly anticipated of "Aladdin", which had previously occupied the December 20 date.



The studio also pulled the upcoming family comedy "Magic Camp" from the calendar. Directed by Mark Waters and from a story by Steve Martin, Magic Camp had been set to debut April 6, 2018.

Several other Disney live-action titles now have release dates. The untitled Christopher Robin movie will open in theaters Aug. 3, 2018, while "Asterix Fowl" will launch August 9, 2019. They will be followed by "Nicole", starring Anna Kendrick as a female Santa Claus, on November 8, 2019.

Source: The Hollywood Reporter



## TV WATCH

# "Kagojer Phool" begins tonight on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

New drama series "Kagojer Phool" will begin airing tonight on ntv. Written by Manur Rahman, "Kagojer Phool" has been directed by Nayem Imtiaz Nazim. The series will star Faizur Rahman Babu, Nadia Rahman George, Saberi Alam Moshar, Nayem, Sohana Saha, Shilpi Sarkar Apu, Sazi Khadem, Lutfi Mamin, Noreen Bhuiyan and many others.

The plot of the series revolves around Shafiq, whose father was a freedom fighter. After the war,

Shafiq's father had isolated himself from everyone. Shafiq lost his father when he was just fifteen years old, and since then he has had to take the responsibility of his family—his mother, and younger brother and his older brother, an air of discontent surrounds their home. When Shafiq, upon this suggestion of his mother's doctor, also a freedom fighter, leaves his family in the city and moves to the village, his new story begins.

"Kagojer Phool" will air every Wednesday and Thursday at 9:50pm.



# Group painting exhibition at Galerie Zoom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) has organised a group painting exhibition titled "Diversity of the Nature" by the participants of Painting for Children workshop, coordinated by Mohammad Habib Ullah, at its Cultural Zoom. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition will take place on September 15. Eminent artist Samajir Roy Chowdhury will inaugurate the show

as visual guest. Chief art can be regarded as one of the ultimate reflections of the human mind. And the minds of children, unfettered by the laws of adults, can generate amazing views of the world around us. To display the beauty of the endless thoughts and imagination in the children and to inspire them in creating more art, Painting for Children Workshop at AFD is going to organise its first painting exhibition by its students.

A total of 55 young painters, who have learned their foundations of painting at the Painting for Children Workshop at various branches of AFD are displaying their artworks in two categories: folk-themed nature paintings on clay at the exhibit. The show is open until September 29 from Monday to Thursday (3pm to 9pm) and on Fridays and Saturdays (9am to 12 noon and 5pm to 8pm).

# Anushka shoots ad with beau Virat Kohli

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma and Indian cricket team skipper Virat Kohli have kept their relationship low-key, seen to no longer shy away from joint public appearances. In a latest photo leaked from the sets of an advertisement shooting, the chemistry between Virat and Anushka is sizzling, and leaves fans eagerly waiting for the actual ad to arrive. In one of the photos going viral online, Anushka looks happily in the camera lens but Virat can't keep his eyes off her. Both are dressed in traditional attires. While it is still unclear what the ad is for, many on Twitter claimed it was for a clothing line.



In another photo, the duo can be seen lovingly gazing into each other's eyes.

Kohli and Anushka have occasionally posted pictures together, fuelling tabloid gossip about their affair. While Virat has social media in the past, Anushka is yet to publically speak about their relationship. When questioned, this is what she said recently:

Everyone has a personal life but I would like to keep a few things very personal and the media too should respect my privacy. We both are busy with our individual work because our focus is on our career.

Source: Hindustan Times

# "Jhabela Unlimited" on Rtv tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

Television series "Jhabela Unlimited" will air another episode tonight on Rtv. Written by Ahsan Alamgir and directed by Shamim Zaman, the series will star eminent actor Mamun Rashid, along with Wahida Malik Jolly, Shamim Zaman, Faruq Ahmed, Mosharraf Karim, AKA Hasan, Prova, Kallyan Comaraya and many others.

The story is about an elderly couple Rahman and Shahana, who never bore their own children. And so,

some people who are close to Ananya, such as Shobuj, Mizan, Kofi, Anayya, Godhuli and Sobhan, bring living with them. With so many people in the house, there is always something or the other going wrong. While Shahana gets irritated to the point that she wants to kick them all out, Rahman explains to her how these people have become like her children. The story moves forward with one problem after the other.

Produced by Rafiqul Islam, "Jhabela Unlimited" airs every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9:50pm.

