

WHAT'S ON

**Group Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Musings in Watercolor  
 Venue: Edge Galleries, Gulshan-2  
 Date: Nov 26-Dec 15  
 Time: 10am-8pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: The Uncaged  
 Artist: Zahangir Alam  
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD, 26, Mirpur Road  
 Date: Dec 1-15  
 Time: Mon-Thurs (3-9pm), Fri-Sat (9am-12noon & 5-8pm)

**Solo Painting exhibition**  
 Title: Memories Beyond Time  
 Artist: Syed Jahangir  
 Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts  
 Date: Nov 11-Dec 01  
 Time: 10am-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Mystery of Innocence  
 Artist: Khandkar Nasir Ahammed  
 Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Rd-6, H-4, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Nov 24-Dec 8  
 Time: 10am-8pm

**SAARC Cultural Festival on Traditional Dance**  
 Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall & Nandan Mancha, BSA  
 Date: Nov 30- Dec 3; Time: 5pm-8pm

**Concert**  
 Big Rock Day  
 Organiser: Blues Communications  
 Venue: ICCB  
 Date: December 1  
 Time: 3pm-10pm



The artistes at the music video shoot.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# To rise from the storm ...

## Gems of Nazrul present "Jhor Jhonjhaye Orre Nishan"

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Gems of Nazrul, an initiative to portray National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's musical genius in new light and popularise his spirited songs, released the music video of "Jhor Jhonjhaye Orre Nishan" today, marking December, the month of Victory. This is the sixth production of the initiative, led by eminent Nazrul Sangeet exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick.

Kazi Nazrul often used storm as a central metaphor to his spirited songs, as proficiently in his popular songs as "Durgom Giri", "Mora Jhonjhar Moto Uddam" and "Notuner Gaan" as in lesser-known songs such as "Jhor Jhonjhaye Ore Nishan". Gems of Nazrul's vision is to record and produce the Rebel Poet's lesser-known spirited songs to disseminate among the music-loving audience and introduce them to the vast treasure-trove of Nazrul's musical cata-

logue, and this song fits that bill perfectly.

A number of noted and promising singers, including Shaheen Samad, Fatema Tuz Zohra, Nashid Kamal, Sheikh Jasim (who was also in charge of the musical arrangement for the track), Shelu Barua, Nasima Shaheen, Shahid Kabir Palash, Chhanda Chakrabarty, Bijon Chandra Mistry, Mahmudul Hasan, Tanjina Karim Swaralipi, Karim Hasan, Waqel Ahad and others joined Sadya Afreen Mallick in the song, sung entirely in chorus.

The message of the song is loud and clear: a call to wake up in the face of an impending storm and march on, like a river flows into the sea powering through any obstacle that comes its way. The symbolic lyrics also calls to walk into battle and to make flowers bloom on a barren desert, and ends with a message of universal inclusion in the world, with "Sthan dite hobe aji shobaye, bishwo-

sobha majhe". The dramatic ups and downs of the song also demonstrates Nazrul's prowess as a composer, playing with different musical scales in different sections of the songs to evoke the essence of each part.

With the song released in the month of Victory, the video of the song - produced by Pinhole Films --has the flag of Bangladesh as its central element. People of all walks of life hold up the green-and-red flag in a show of unity, interspersed with visuals of nature and storm, and the singers standing shoulder to shoulder in singing the song. The video of the performance was also shot at a very appropriate location -- the Suhrawardy Udyan. The two monuments -- the ever-flaming Shikha Chirantan (The Eternal Flame) and the Swadhinota Stombho (Independence Monument) glass tower provide fitting backgrounds to the spirit of the song.

"Jhor Jhonjhaye Orre Nishan" is set to hit

the airwaves from today, and will be aired on various TV channels throughout the month. The song and its video have been sponsored by IFIC Bank and Duncan Brothers (Bangladesh) Limited.

Gems of Nazrul started their journey in August 2016 marking the death anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, and have done a stellar job in producing six songs so far -- "Dao Shourjo Dao Dhoirjo", "Joy Houk", "Shongka Shunno Lokkho Konthe", "O Bhai Khati Sonar Cheye Khati", "Bajre Beena Baj" and now "Jhor Jhonjhaye Orre Nishan". However, sponsorship struggles have troubled the project since its inception, with various organisations lending support for each song but no coordinated, stable sponsor. The project aims to eventually release many more songs of the kind, and greater financial support could do wonders for this ambitious yet important project.

## NEWS bytes

### Live-action "Mulan" finds its star

Chinese actress Liu Yifei, also known as Crystal Liu, is set to star in Disney's live-action adaptation of the classic Chinese tale "Mulan".

Niki Caro is directing, and Chris Bender, Jason Reed, and Jake Weiner are producing the reboot.

The movie is eyeing a 2019 release. The English-language version of the original "Mulan" (1998) featured the voices of Ming-Na Wen, Eddie Murphy, Miguel Ferrer, and BD Wong, while Jackie Chan voiced Chinese dubs of the movie. The film grossed \$304.3 million worldwide.

"Jurassic World" and "Avatar" sequel scribes Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver came on board in 2015 to rewrite the spec by Lauren Hynek and Elizabeth Martin.

In its search to find the film's star, the studio was determined that the actress was young and of Chinese decent. Disney auditioned thousands of individuals for the role. The newcomer will star as Hua Mulan, who disguised herself as a man to take her father's army conscription in fifth-century China.



## Dramatists honoured at Munier Chowdhury Memorial programme



Guests with the award winners at the ceremony.

A CORRESPONDENT

To commemorate the 92nd birth anniversary of noted playwright and Martyr Munier Chowdhury, a memorial programme was held at the National Art Plaza of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on November 27. Organised by drama troupe Theatre, the event also observed the conferment of the Munier Chowdhury Award and Mohammad Zakaria Memorial Award.

Noted dramatist, director, actor and Professor Israfil Shaheen of Dhaka University was the recipient of the Munier Chowdhury Award, whilst actress Ruma Modok received the Mohammad Zakaria Memorial Award. The Munier Chowdhury honour consisted of a Tk. 50,000 cheque which was handed over by Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister.

Special guests in attendance included Shah Alam Sarwar, Managing Director and CEO of IFIC Bank Ltd. Ferdousi Majumdar, director of Theatre, presided over the event.



## Bhabna returns to TVCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bhabna's last modeling stint goes back five years, when she appeared in a commercial directed by Mostofa Sarwar Farooki. In the years that followed, she focused on building a popular career in acting. However, Bhabna is all set to return to her modeling roots by taking up two TV commercials.

## "Avengers: Infinity Wars" trailer has MCU fandom in fits

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The first trailer for the much-hyped "Avengers: Infinity Wars" was released on YouTube and Facebook Wednesday night, packing together every big screen Marvel hero of mention battling the all-powerful Thanos, in a culmination of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's 10-year, multi-billion dollar journey. And it has got the entire MCU fandom in a fit seeing all their favourite stars in one; within the first 16 hours of release, the trailer amassed 35 million views on YouTube and a staggering 51 million on Facebook from its official uploads alone.

The trailer begins with a voice-over in various characters' voices interlaced with cuts of Iron Man, The Hulk, Doctor Strange and others in shock and despair. The film's story outline is fairly well-known: Intergalactic despot Thanos (played by Josh Brolin) is looking to collect all the Infinity Stones to establish absolute dominance over the universe, and it will take the collective might of all the Marvel superheroes, from Ant-Man to the Hulk and from Rocket Raccoon to Doctor Strange, to stop him. The trailer gives a good glimpse at all the who's who of the MCU: almost the entire Avengers crew is there: Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Black Widow



(Scarlett Johansson), Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Scarlett Witch (Elizabeth Olsen), Vision (Paul Bettany), Falcon (Anthony Mackie) and War Machine (Don Cheadle). The only absence is Hawkeye, which is causing some speculation among fans. The other major players include Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) with his faithful sidekick Wong (Benedict Wong), Spider-man (Tom Holland), Ant-Man (Paul Rudd), the Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan) and the most-recent addition to the lineup, Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman). The final piece of the puzzle, the lovable rogues that are Guardians of the Galaxy: Star-Lord (Chris Pratt), Gamora (Zoe Saldana), Drax (Dave Bautista), Mantis (Pom Klementieff), Rocket Raccoon (Bradley Cooper) and Baby Groot -- can be making their appearance only in the epilogue, in an encounter with Thor.

Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo and produced by Kevin Fiege, "Avenger: Infinity Wars" hits theatres no sooner than May 4, 2018, but the hype train has already left the station, and is only going to gather steam in months to come.

She is slated to appear in a commercial for a water pump brand, directed by Animesh Aich. Shooting is to take place in Old Dhaka on December 1. "I agreed to take up the project because at the heart of the commercial is an intricate story, and allows me to shine as an actor."

She is also to appear in a mobile phone advert, for which she has signed a yearlong contract. Filming will begin on December 8. Regarding the plot of the commercial, Bhabna stated, "The story takes place in a wedding."