

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR / HEMEL



# "ONE SHOULD NEVER STOP DREAMING" - Kona

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

She is one of the most prominent singers in the industry at the moment. Her latest release 'O Hey Shyam' from the movie 'Poramon 2' has garnered over six million views within a day of release, on YouTube. Even though she has countless hit numbers under her belt, Dilshad Nahar Kona is always reinventing herself as an artiste. The Daily Star talks to the songbird as she gears up for a busy season ahead.

**We usually see you touring all over the country for stage shows. Do you miss this during Ramadan?**

Not really. I see this as an opportunity to take some time off for myself. However, I am still very busy with television recordings, voiceovers, and special projects for Eid.

**What projects are you working on at the moment?**

The song O Hey Shyam that I have lent my voice to, along with Imran, has recently been released and is already very popular. It was for Poramon 2 and it was a pleasure singing this song. I have already sung two songs based on football -- it's football season after all! Besides this, I have worked on music videos for various channels, the latest one being for RTV. I have also signed five shows which will take place after Ramadan. I was actually planning to go abroad for a vacation, but I can't now as I have a show in Sirajganj on the third day of Eid.

**Tell us about the musicians who play alongside you.**

My band, who accompany me, have been playing for quite some time. Hanif plays the drums and he has been playing with me for 10 years. Besides him, there is Pavel on keyboard, Prince on guitar, Raja on Bass and Zico on percussion. They are amazing musicians and I am glad to have them with me. My brother, Badhon is also there with me to manage everything.

**You have accomplished quite a lot in your career. Is there any dream project that you want to be a part of?**

I dream about new things every day! (Laughs) I believe that one should never stop dreaming -- that is what I follow all the time. I am always looking for new things to do, and ways I can improve myself as an artiste.

# An array of roles for Shajal

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Every year during Eid, renowned actor Shajal is engaged heavily in his work, and this year is no different. With a long list up his sleeve, he is completely tied up with an intense shooting schedule every day.

For this season, he will be appearing in eighteen different tele-fictions, of which, he has successfully completed shooting for ten. Very recently, the shooting for a 10-episode comedy series titled Gachhe Kathal Gofe Tel, directed by Jewel Mahmud, had concluded. Shajal will be seen in the role of a greedy husband in the comedy series.

Another interesting character he will be seen playing is that of a delivery-boy, in Suman Anwar's Niyoti Park 2.

Some other names in his long inventory include, Ditiyo Jattrar Agey by Chayanika Chowdhury, Tumi Buker Moddhokhane by Shokal Ahmed, Tomakei Khujchhi by Mohan Khan, Shesh Prishtta by Azad Al Mamun and Chaand Uttheche Ful Futeche by Rezanur Rahman.

Shajal will be seen opposite Purnima in one of the tele-fictions, and in two others with famed model and actor Monalisa. He is also excited to work for the first time with the talented Mahfuz Ahmed, in the coming days.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Journey of a painter and writer



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Syed Iqbal is a renowned painter based in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Toronto, Canada. He is also a popular writer, who has 35 books to his credit in an illustrious four-decade career of writing novels, short stories and fiction. The writer's four books were published in this year's Amar Ekushey Book Fair.

On the other hand, Art Gallery of Mississauga, Canada organised a Benefit Art Auction at its space on April 26, 2018. Bangladeshi artists Syed Iqbal and Tajuddin Ahmed's multiple artworks were selected for the auction. The gallery also selected artworks by 36 renowned expatriate Canadian artists from across the world including Indian master artist Syed Haider Raza. This is a matter of pride for Bangladeshis that the Art Gallery of Mississauga, Canada, has nominated our artworks for the auction, according to the writer-painter.

"For the last six years, I have been writing books on the settings of Toronto, Montreal and New York," says Syed Iqbal. "Bengali people have now scattered all around the world and I try to depict their stories in my writings." Containing selected short stories for the juvenile, a book titled Notun Muktijoddha Rodoshi was published recently in Bangladesh Shishu Academy Anthology.

Another novel named Cynthia Brittanto is a triangular love story, and

reflects on Cynthia's personal likings, pains, love and self understanding.

"I regularly write on diverse themes of fiction for a weekly magazine. The book titled Kaler Kheyaye Syed Iqbal is a compilation of my works published by The Royal Publishers," says the artist.

Syed Iqbal believes that the number of quality galleries has become scarce in Dhaka. "I exhibited my works at Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi in 2001 and 2013. The galleries of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh National Museum are standard, but soon after the opening of the shows, visitors hardly come and sale of artworks is

abysmally poor," complains Iqbal.

The veteran has been working on the series Mindscape for a long time. "It is like my personal diary of life," says Iqbal. In protest of Global Warming, he has been working on another series, Tears of Nature for the last 15 years. Depicting life sketches and philosophies of Lord Buddha, another series called Gautama was also a project by Syed Iqbal. "Hindu mythical characters like Lord Krishna, Lord Ganesh and others are recurrent subjects of my paintings. Indian and Pakistani buyers in Toronto have taken a great liking to my artworks," says Iqbal fondly. He recalls designing covers for 200 books for the Amar Ekushey Book Fair this year itself. Even though the artist now resides in Canada, his heart remains in his motherland, Bangladesh.



Solo: A Star Wars Story

SHABABA IQBAL

For movie lovers, summer is a time of great meals, often with huge casts and even larger special effects all fighting for their attention. To cut through the massive list of films headed to a cinema in Dhaka near you, we are sharing few of the most enticing movies on the horizon.

**SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY (MAY)**

Solo: A Star Wars Story is a stand-alone prequel that takes place ten years before the action of the original Star Wars. This story, directed by Ron Howard, introduces the audience to a young Han Solo and his early life, including his relationships with Lando Calrissian and Chewbacca. This one is out in cinemas right now.

**OCEAN'S 8 (JUNE)**

Set during the Met's glitzy annual fundraising gala, Ocean's 8 is the all-female spinoff of the Ocean's 11 trilogy. This heist movie, helmed by Gary Ross, follows Danny Ocean's sister, Debbie Ocean, and her squad. It promises to be full of surprises.

**JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM (JUNE)**

When the dinosaur centric theme park is threatened by an active volcano, Chris Pratt, a dinosaur trainer attempts a rescue operation for the prehistoric animals that live there. Directed by JA Bayona, this action-adventure flick looks incredibly exciting.

**ANT-MAN AND THE WASP (JULY)**

After the breathtaking success of Avengers: Infinity War, Marvel's next offering is Ant-Man and the Wasp, directed by Peyton Reed. In this sequel to the 2015 film about a tiny superhero, Hope Van Dyne, also known as the Wasp, joins forces with Ant-Man to rescue her mother from an alternate dimension. It promises to be hugely entertaining and fun.

**CHRISTOPHER ROBIN (AUGUST)**

Disney's live-action Christopher Robin is directed by Marc Forster. In the film, Pooh, Eeyore, Piglet and Tigger are all introduced, as they march into the Hundred Acre Wood in London. Now they must help Christopher Robin, who is all grown up and living in London, find his way.



Christopher Robin



Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom



Ant-Man and the Wasp



Ocean's 8