

WHAT'S ON

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Three Worlds  
Venue: Shipangan Gallery,  
Lalmatia, Dhaka  
Date: January 31 –  
February 11  
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm

**Winter Festival**  
Title: Heem Utshab  
Venue: Jahangirnagar University  
Date: February 6-7  
Time: 10 am onwards

**Book Fair**  
Title: Amar Ekushey Bui Mela  
Organiser: Bangla Academy  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Premises  
Date: Feb 2 - 29  
Time: 3 pm onwards

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Breaking Ground: Modern Art  
in Transition  
Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition  
Hall, Bengal Shipalay, Dhanmondi  
Date: Dec 17 – Feb 15  
Time: 1 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: 7  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara  
Date: January 24 –  
February 7  
Time: 11:30 am – 7:30 pm

## EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

# Mauli Azad dedicates 'Boier Pata Shopno Bole' to Humayun Azad

SHARMIN JOYA

In the era of digitalisation and augmented reality, capturing the human imagination in pages has become quite challenging. Keeping that in mind, talented writer Mauli Azad, in her book 'Boier Pata Shopno Bole', took an attempt to grab the attention of the young generation.



PHOTO: COURTESY

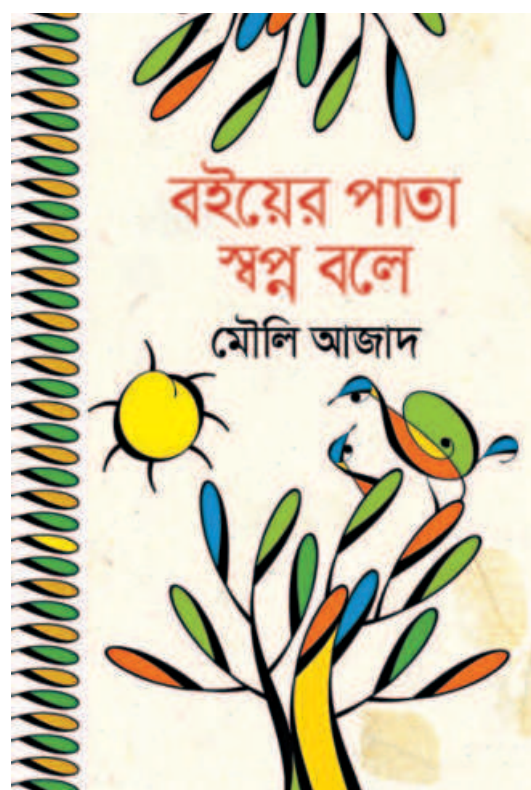
The writer is the daughter of the legendary Humayun Azad. She was previously appreciated for her first memorial book, *Humayun Azad Amar Baba*, which was selected in the Prothom Alo's 'Top 10 Books' in 2011, and was also honored with Natyashobha prize for the same book.

Mauli has achieved 'Bishesh Bangabandhu Puroshkar' in literature, from Kolkata, in 2018.

The title of *Boier Pata Shopno Bole* was taken from one of the lines of Humayun Azad's poem, which was banned. This is the seventh book by Mauli – consisting of nine different stories, relevant to today's timeline. "It took me two years to complete the book," says Mauli. "Teenagers are now habituated to the digital world, as they can get instant gratification from the internet." She also mentions that her father's book, *Phuler Gondhe Ghum Ashena*, inspired her a lot to start writing this book.

One of her stories, *Trauma*, focuses on the harassment that children often face. *Amra Ghurey Darabo* tells the tale of adolescents getting brainwashed, and stepping towards terrorism. "Stop War" sheds light on war children, and the catastrophic situation that they reside in."

*Boier Pata Shopno Bole*, published by Agami Prakashani, is available in Pavillion 1 in the Ekushey Bui Mela for BDT 150. The cover of the book was designed by the popular artist, Dhruva Esh.



# "I expect to see a large turnout in the theatres tomorrow"

- Aparna Ghose

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Over the years, National Film awardee Aparna Ghose has enthralled the audience with her remarkable performances in films like *Third Person Singular Number*, *Bhuban Majhi* and *Mrittika Maya*. Besides acting and modelling, Aparna has also managed to keep her pace in the theatre industry with the theatre troupe, Nandikar. Her film, *Gondi*, will release tomorrow. In a chat with *The Daily Star*, the actor talks about her expectations from the film, and more.

**Tell us a bit about your role in 'Gondi'.**  
I play the role of Neelu in *Gondi*. I have never played an antagonistic character before. I just hope that the audience appreciates my effort.

**What would you say is the unique selling point of 'Gondi'?**

*Gondi* narrates a unique story of friendship. As our audience likes film based on stories, I think they will enjoy the film as much as I enjoyed working alongside renowned actors like Suborna Mustafa and Sabyasachi Chakraborty.

**What else are you currently busy with?**  
I want *Gondi* to have my full attention at this point, and thus, have been busy promoting the film on various media. However, I plan to start shooting for the film *Ontostikriya* after *Gondi* is released.

**How was this experience different from that of working in Bhuban Majhi?**

*Bhuban Majhi* is based on the Liberation War of Bangladesh, and *Gondi* is a tale of friendship. The experience was very different from each other as I play an entirely different character in *Gondi*. I expect to see a large turnout in the theatres tomorrow.



PHOTO: COURTESY



Nazia Andaleeb Preema (Second from right), with the esteemed guests at the book launch.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Preema Donna: The Bold and the Beautiful

## Retrospective exhibition with book launch at BNM

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned artist Nazia Andaleeb Preema's 22nd solo exhibition, *Preema Donna*, is underway at Nalini Kanta Bhattasali Gallery of Bangladesh National Museum (BNM). State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, as the chief guest, inaugurated the retrospective exhibition featuring Preema's works, ranging from paintings to live art performances, on February 2. A launching ceremony for Preema's book, *Preema Donna – An Infinite Journey*, was also organised. Rokia Afzal Rahman, Chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, Abul Khair, Chairman of Bengal Foundation,



Sidsel Bleken, Ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh, internationally acclaimed artist Monirul Islam, Professor Nazrul Islam, Former Chairman of the University Grants Commission, among others, attended the event as special guests.

"I have known Preema for years. She is a bold woman who has established herself in the field of art through ceaseless practices, experiments and exhibitions, garnering recognition worldwide," said Rokia Afzal



Rahman.

Sidsel Bleken described Preema as a powerful artist and feminist. "She is a strong voice for women. The veils in her artworks emphasise the contexts to protest, interpret and improvise society, in a contemporary way," said the Ambassador.

Abul Khair said that Preema's sensitive performances and assertions as an artist are remarkable.

"Preema has dedicated herself to empowering women. She addresses contemporary social issues, especially violence against women, in her paintings," said K M Khalid.

The artist regularly travels around the world to showcase her works. "Her paintings evoke both images and abstracts, which have attribute a powerful quality to her works," added Monirul Islam.

Preema's work has been recognised worldwide for its innovative approach and distinct technique. Her paintings, performances and installations reveal a personal narrative that showcases her

experiences. Her works depict the subtle emotions of women.

Her book, *Preema Donna – An Infinite Journey*, consists of five chapters: *Conflict, Courage, Wonder, Vision and Connection*. It also features her artistic philosophies and new media ventures, which index her journey through visual interpretations. The book is published and produced by Cosmos Books, supported by Bangladesh Brand Forum. Preema's artworks embody lyrical overtones, while her illustrations demonstrate the virtuosity of blending tradition with contemporary media.

"I believe that art is feeble. I create my own contexts by breaking and entering into different dimensions of it. So, this exhibition has paintings, installations and performances, which represent my own freedom of existence," said Preema, who is currently the Director and Creative Editor of Bangladesh Brand Forum, Founder of Bangladesh Creative Forum and President of Women in Leadership. The exhibition, jointly curated by Zeenat Ikramullah and Mohammad Wahiduzzaman, will conclude on February 15.

# 88th birth anniversary of FRANCOIS TRUFFAUT

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Film director, producer, screenplay writer, film critic and actor Francois Roland Truffaut has made over 25 films in his career spanning the last 3 decades. Pioneering the *Nouvelle Vague* (New Wave) movement in French films, Truffaut's character Antoine Doinel from his autobiographical film, *The 400 Blows (Le Quatre Cents Coups)*, was well received by the audience, both home and abroad. Today marks his 88th birth anniversary.

Born on February 6, 1932 to Janine de Montferrand, who later married Ronald Truffaut, Francois developed his interest in books and music from his maternal grandmother. However, the artist's life changed when he lost his grandmother and his newly born sibling at the age of eight.

As he stepped into his teenage, he became detached from school and started spending most of his time with friends. He grew an attachment with Robert Lacheney who later inspired him to develop the character Rene Bogey in *The 400 Blows*. Self-taught Francois modelled his lifestyle around "seeing three movie every day and reading three books every week", with Abel Gance's *Paradis Perdue* (Paradise Lost) being his first watch.

In 1949, Francois Truffaut formed his own film society and came into contact with Andre Bazin, a leading film critic who had his own film club. Following into Andre Bazin's footsteps, he soon started critiquing films. In his essay "Une Certaine Tendence du Cinema Francais", Truffaut called the French film makers as 'Gravediggers'. This led the Cannes Film Festival organisers to ban him from



the festival in 1958. The following year, Truffaut's *The 400 Blows* won Cannes Film Festival Best Movie award, casting Jean-Pierre Leaud as Antoine Doinel when he was fourteen.

Taking inspiration from the auteur film theory, a new dimension emerged from his productions, including *Shoot the Piano Player* (1960), *Jules and Jim* (1961), *The Soft Skin* (1964), *Fahrenheit 451* (1966), *The Wild Child* (1970), *Two English Girls* (1971), *The Last Metro* (1980), and *The Woman Next Door* (1981). In 1973, Truffaut's *Day for Night* received a number of accolades, including Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

Truffaut was diagnosed with brain tumour in 1983. The artist passed away on October 21, 1984, due to a stroke, at the age of 52.

In aid of MuktiJuddha Jadugar  
**Freedom Musicfest**  
6-8 February, 2020

Open-air Theater	2pm - 6pm	Entry: Tk. 300.00
Main Auditorium	7pm - 10pm	Entry: Tk. 1000.00

Participating Bands  
Bangla Five Band, AbantiSithi, Madol GaanKobi, Nemesis, Meghdol, Sacrament Avash, Chitkar, Gaatch, Obscure, Renaissance Nova, Shovvota & The Band, Sorol, Baul Xpress Reshmi O Mati, Sahajia, Warfaze, Maqsood O Dhaka

Ticketing website: [www.bkash.com/freedom-music-fest](http://www.bkash.com/freedom-music-fest)