

**WHAT'S ON**



**Concert**  
Title: Concert for Autism Awareness  
Venue: Bangladesh Army Stadium  
Date: September 28  
Time: 2pm-10pm  
Tickets: www.bagdoom.com




**DHAKA COMICON**  
Title: Daraz Presents DHAKA COMICON Express  
Venue: MIDAS Center (top floor)  
Date: September 28-29  
Time: 11am-8pm  
Entry: One day Pass BDT 200



**Art Exhibition**  
Title: State of Mind  
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur  
Date: September 7 – October 3  
Time: 4:30pm - 8:30pm  
Facebook Page: Kala Kendra  
Contact:



**Movie Premiere**  
Title: Rock Strata: Live On Silver Screen  
Venue: Star Cineplex, Bashundhara City  
Date: September 29  
Time: 7pm-9:30pm



**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: S.M. Sultan-The Cosmic Journey of a Fugitive  
Artist: Nasir Ali Mamun  
Venue: La Galerie, AFD



**Live Performance**  
Title: No Excuses - Indalo Revisits AIC  
Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi  
Date: October 5  
Time: 3:30pm - 8pm  
Tickets: BDT 400



'Dark and Lovely'



'Puppets of Patriarchy'

## Addressing colourism with art

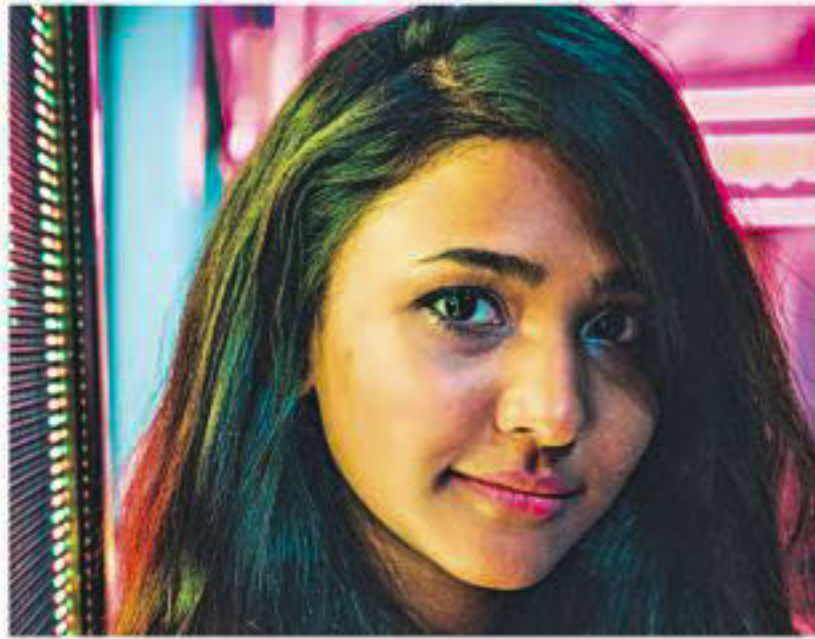
AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

The Indian subcontinent's obsession with lighter skin is not unknown. In a world where the word 'fair' is often associated with the word 'lovely', a young artist from Dhaka came up with a rather telling artwork titled *Dark and Lovely*.

A lot of people, who have been victims of colourism, could relate to the artwork - which is why it went viral on the internet.

Waseka Nahar is the artist behind the piece, for whom art is an everlasting passion.

*Dark and Lovely*, which was a collaboration with a Canada-based Pakistani



artist Zainab Anwar, is a rendition of Zainab's self-portrait. Both of them have been featured on NDTV India.

Waseka did not expect the artwork to receive such a huge response. However, she is glad to have reached out to a large

audience. She believes that dark skin is as beautiful as its counterpart, and hopes that people will start having conversations about this often neglected topic.

Apart from *Dark and Lovely*, Waseka has created brilliant artworks in the past, which she promotes on her Facebook page named 'Triory'.

"I don't always like having the spotlight on me," says Waseka, "So I wanted to have a pen name. Triory is a character I built, that was loosely based on myself."

Waseka wants to keep on making art both for herself and the society. "I aspire to do my best by addressing social issues in my art," adds Waseka.

## DU's homage to Rabindranath and Nazrul

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

*University of Dhaka (DU) will host a programme in honour of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam at 4 pm today. Pro-Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka, Dr Nasreen Ahmad will inaugurate the programme in the presence of National Professors, Dr Anisuzzaman and Dr Rafiqul Islam.*

The Faculty of Art and the Departments of Music and Dance at University of Dhaka along with Kolkatar Rabinandan, an organisation dedicated to promoting Rabindra Sangeet, will arrange cultural performances at the event. Celebrated Rabindra Sangeet exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, who is also the chairperson of the Department of Dance, University of Dhaka, along with Dr Abu Md Delwar Hossain, Dean of Arts, DU, were present at the press conference about the programme recently.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## DR ISRAFEEL SHAHEEN reflects on theatre



PHOTO: COURTESY

APORAJITA MUSTAFA

*Dr Israfeel Shaheen is a noted director and professor at the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Dhaka. He graduated from the National School of Drama in Delhi before completing his PhD from Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata on 'Street Theatre in Bangladesh' in 1999. The Daily Star recently engaged in conversation with the director to discuss the current projects under his belt as well as evaluate the factors that contribute in shaping the future of the upcoming generation of theatre students and practitioners in Bangladesh.*

Dr Shaheen is presently directing *Macbeth*, set to be staged between October 9-14 by Master's students of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at the University of Dhaka. Apart from that, he is also developing a theatre project highlighting the struggles of the Rohingya refugee community. Dr Shaheen postulated that in order to succeed as a theatre practitioner, apart from the most basic requirements such as dedication, grit, passion and the ability to work hard, one must also have thorough technical knowledge of all that goes behind putting a production in motion, which includes familiarising with theatre diction, scriptwriting, character improvisation, set design, light design, sound design, stage management and production management, along with a multitude of other aspects. He also proposed that theatre should be included as an academic subject in educational institutions which will help garner social, familial and administrative support for theatre workers, further contributing to their success in the industry. Additionally, Dr Shaheen believes that the lack of research centres for theatre in our country has been a hindrance to the development of the subject in Bangladesh's context, but he is optimistic that an organised effort by the theatre industry could potentially change that.

## SHAMIMA TUSTY

### Always busy and never rusty

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

*Twenty-one years ago, Shamima Tusty graced the stage as a theatre actor. Years later, her career has expanded into modeling, television and film. Her movie 'Nondito Noroke' earned her a lot of praise as an artiste. The versatile actor is also a member of Shilpi Shongher Association, while simultaneously juggling between upcoming and ongoing TV projects which always keep her busy. The star opens up with more tidbits in an interview with The Daily Star.*

**What are you currently busy with?**  
I am currently busy with tele-fictions on air as well as some new projects. *Full HD* is currently airing on Maasranga TV. You can also watch me on Banglavisian in the tele-fiction *Pagla Hawa*. At this moment, I am shooting for *Cheating Master* by Sanjit Sarkar, as well as another new tele-fiction aired by Shamim Zaman.

**What would you consider your turning point in theatre?**  
I work with Lokonatyadal, which is based in Siddheswari. I joined 21 years ago, and appeared in *Kanjus*. This play was my first turning point.  
**Which television venture first brought you fame?**  
It was a tele-fiction titled *Bhober Haat*. I portrayed a character named Miss Nahela. It was directed by

Salahuddin Lavlu, and became immensely popular with the audience. Other cast members were ATM Shamsuzzaman, Humayun Faridi and other great names from the acting industry.  
**Do you like acting in commercials?**  
I do enjoy it. In fact, I have recently acted in an interesting commercial for a renowned brand of soybean oil, which will be on air soon. I've

done many ads during my career, but out of them, the Mirzapore Tea ad is probably the best known.  
**You have not appeared in films for a long while, why is that?**  
I have been on a long hiatus, but that's about to change soon. I will be appearing in a film named *Gor*, which is being directed by Gazi Rakayet.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Instrumental Musicians' Congress held at Bangladesh National Museum



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

The 4th National Instrumental Musicians' Congress began with an *anondo shobhajatra* recently at Bangladesh National Museum. The day-long event was organised by Bangladesh Musicians' Foundation (BMF).

Many arrangements were made to entertain the audience in the congress. Along with a discussion session afternoon tea was served at a cha chakra. In the evening, Asaduzzaman Noor, Minister of Cultural Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh, inaugurated the congress.

Prominent cultural personalities

including Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Akbar Hossain, BMF chief advisor, Narayan Chandra Shil, Director General of Bangladesh Betar and Abdul Mannan, Director General of Bangladesh National Museum were present at the event. H T Imam, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's political affairs adviser, was the chief guest.

Behala player Subol Dutta and renowned tabla and esraj player Ustad Phuljhuri Khan were honoured posthumously. Instrumentalist Imtiaz Ahmed was also awarded this year in the congress.

The congress concluded with a cultural programme.