

Film Festival
 Title: Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival 2019
 Venue: University of Liberal Arts
 Bangladesh
 Date: February 15

Live Art Show
 Title: Dhaka Live Art Biennale
 Venue: University of Dhaka
 Date: January 21 – February 14

Exhibition
 Title: LAL - An Ode to the Moon & Menstrual Cycle
 Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
 Date: February 19 - 23
 Details: Jatra Biroti's Facebook page

Book Fair
 Title: Ekushey Boi Mela 2019
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy, Dhaka
 Date: February 1 – 28

Photography Exhibition and More
 Title: Counter Foto's 6th Anniversary
 Venue: Bishwo Shahitto Kendro
 Date: February 10 – 15

HUMAYUN FARIDEE'S

seventh death anniversary today



PHOTO: STAR

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

On the first day of Falgun seven years ago, the world lost Humayun Faridee, one of the most celebrated actors of Bangladesh. Faridee was one of the most influential artistes of the nation, who captivated the audience for over two decades with his powerful and versatile performances in theatre, television and films. The iconic artiste, who won the National Film Award in 2004, was posthumously awarded with the Ekushey Padak in 2018.

Although he entered the University of Dhaka to study Organic Chemistry in 1970, his education was halted due to the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. Later, he went to Jahangirnagar University to study Economics and during his time there, he became a close associate of Natyacharya Selim Al Deen.

Faridee was one of the principal organisers of the drama festival of Jahangirnagar University in 1976. He further became a member of Dhaka Theatre during his student life in the university. He later acted in and directed many noted tele-fictions as well.

On the other hand, Faridee worked in films alongside his theatre and television career, winning the hearts of millions with his remarkable performances. He won the National Film Award in the best actor category for his role in the film, *Matritto*.

SHABABA IQBAL

Passionate about drawing, self-taught comic book and cover artist Tauhidul Iqbal Sampad began his professional journey at the age of eight, creating comic strips for *Kishor Potrika*, a publication of Sheba Prokashoni, founded by Qazi Anwar Hussain. "Growing up, I loved reading comic books. I was also an avid fan of the *Kuasha* series by Qazi Anwar Hussain,



who guided me in finding a foothold in this profession from the start," says Sampad. That is how Sampad developed an interest in not only comic book and cover art, but also writing. "Qazi Anwar Hussain plays a key role in my life," adds Sampad, who is also hugely inspired by American illustrator, author and art instructor William Andrew Loomis.

He further went on to work for Panjeree, a renowned name in the sphere of book publication in Bangladesh and Dhaka Comics, a publication house that aims to promote Bangladeshi comics all around the world. Sampad believes that covers are a crucial factor when it comes to selling books

PORTRAIT OF A COVER ARTIST

Tauhidul Iqbal Sampad

because they set the first impressions about books. Usually, he reads as much of the stories as he can or watches the film adaptations of the novels he designs the covers for.

He is the creative mind behind the covers of several of Panjeree's illustrated Bangla translations of western literary classics, aimed at young readers. These include Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty* and Rudyard Kipling's *Captains Courageous* among others. Moreover, he did the covers for three novels in the children's fantasy series, *Beast Quest*, translated and published by Panjeree in Bangla, and the covers for the children's sci-fi books, *Dur Groher Nigi* and *Roboter Jugy* by Mustak Ahmed.

He has written and illustrated the comic series *Durjoy* for Dhaka Comics and *Maruf* for Panjeree, both of which are currently on sale at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

For the first time in Bangladesh, Dhaka Comics, in collaboration with Liveaxis, unveiled collectible figures of the character, Durjoy, at the fair. Eminent cartoonist Ahsan Habib was present on the occasion, which was a great honour for Sampad.

"I was astonished to see the number of people who came to meet me at the fair," expresses Sampad. "Parents approached me, saying that their sons have been waiting for hours to get their comic books signed by me. It was a great experience, but it was also a bit overwhelming."

Sampad also opened up about people's growing interest in Bangladeshi comics today. "It is delightful to see such a splendid fan base for comic books rooted in our nation," says Sampad. "The smiles we bring on people's faces through our art are what makes the challenges of this profession worthwhile."

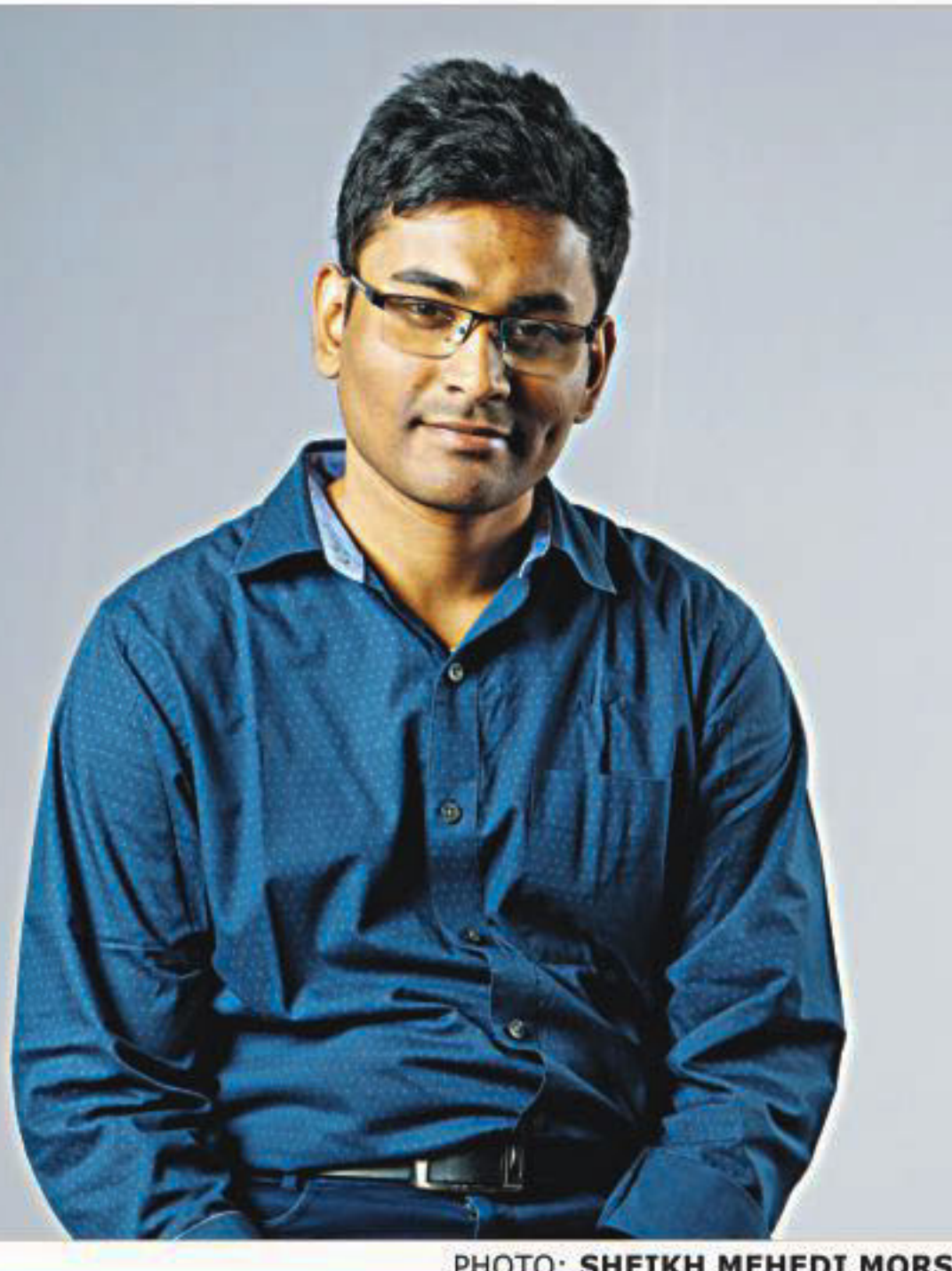


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Afzal Hossain unveils two books

MINAM HAQ

Afzal Hossain has entertained his fans and well-wishers throughout his career, not only as an actor, but also as a director, painter and writer. A man of many talents, he has written two books for this year's Ekushey Grantha Mela, *Unish Nong Kobita Mokam* and *Shaban Makha Rowd*, published by Anannya.

The books were unveiled during a ceremony organised by Mattra at Chhayanaut's auditorium recently. The occasion was graced by Afzal Hossain's colleagues, friends and admirers, including the likes of Faridur Reza Sagar, Mamunur Rashid, Bipasha Hayat, Afsana Mimi, Morshedul Islam and many others. Hosted by Aupee Karim, the event began with some melodious Rabindra Sangeet by Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, followed by the speeches from the guests who all spoke about Afzal Hossain's eminence. When it was time for the man of the moment to say a few words, he began with expressing his gratitude for all the appreciation. He requested the presence of his wife Tazeen Halim on stage and wished her a happy birthday, declaring that all the credit behind his illustrious career solely goes to her. "I never wanted to be influential or superior," expressed a hum-



PHOTO: COURTESY

ble Afzal Hossain. "That which I cannot express through my artwork, I try to convey in my writing. And when I feel my writings will not suffice, I try to articulate it through my direction. I constantly engage in my endeavours in order to

discover myself in different ways." With eleven earlier books under his belt, Afzal Hossain's latest books are now available at the Ekushey Boi Mela. The event concluded with a dance performance followed by refreshments for all.

TV WATCH

DEBI

on Maasranga TV today

Today, Maasranga TV is airing 'Debi', starring Jaya Ahsan, Chanchal Chowdhury, Animesh Aich, and Sabnam Faria, among others, at 7:30 pm. It will also air tomorrow at the same time on Maasranga TV.



The 2019 BAFTA Awards

At the 72nd British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards, more commonly known as the BAFTAs, Olivia Colman's performance as the unstable, self-pitying and hilariously bad-mannered Queen Anne in 'The Favourite' won her the Best Actress award – one of the seven awards bagged by film.

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The film was easily the biggest winner at the glitzy ceremony, picking up prizes including Best British Film, Best Production Design, Best Supporting Actress, Best Original Screenplay and Best Costume Design. However, *The Favourite* lost out to the widely lauded tear-jerker *Roma* in the Best Film category. *Roma*'s director Alfonso Cuarón was named Best Director, beating Yorgos Lanthimos, Spike Lee, Bradley Cooper and Paweł Pawlikowski. *Roma* also won Best Cinematography (by Cuarón himself) and Best Film Not in the English Language.

On the other hand, *Bohemian Rhapsody* won two awards, including Best Actor for Rami Malek's remarkable portrayal of Freddie Mercury. "This is totally extraordinary," he said. "Thank you for this generous gift."

Other awards included Best Original Music for *A Star Is Born*, and Outstanding British Debut for the filmmakers of *Beast*. The only award voted for by the public, the



Netflix black and white family portrait 'Roma', directed by Alfonso Cuarón, won Best Film and Best Director at the BAFTA Awards.

PHOTO: AFP

BAFTA Rising Star Award, went to Letitia Wright, the Guyanese-born British star of *Black Panther*. The evening's highest honour, the BAFTA Fellowship, was presented to film editor Thelma Schoonmaker, a three-time Oscar winner and one of Martin Scorsese's closest collaborators, who has worked on 22 of his features.

From Left: Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) Director Olivier Dintinger, Chairman of Gallery Cosmos and Cosmos Atelier 71 Enayetullah Khan with artists Biren Shom (4-L), Abdul Guffar Babu and Bishwajit Goswami among others at the inaugural ceremony of an art exhibition at La Galerie of AFD.



PHOTO: COURTESY