

WHAT'S ON

PORTRAIT OF A COVER ARTIST

# Sadatuddin Ahmed Amil

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

A graduate from the Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka, Sadatuddin Ahmed Amil started scribbling art since he was a child. Ever since he started receiving praises from his friends while drawing caricatures of his teachers in school, he thought of a career in art as his first choice. Sadat is also a staff artist/cartoonist at The Daily Star.



sionate about creating art for children." Some of his inspirations in the craft are Hashem Khan, Shishir Bhattacharjee and Rafiqun Nabi.

This year, some of Sadat's notable works include *Jokhon Tuntuni Tokhon Chhotachu* by Mohammad Zafar Iqbal, *Sreshtho Kishore Golpo* by Anisul Hoque and *Sundarban e Saat Bochhor* by Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay, among others. In response to a question regarding the difficulty of balancing a full-time job with book fair work, Sadat says that the publications in the country need to be more professional. "We are given very tight deadlines which are difficult to meet, and often, the quality of work suffers because of it. The work needs to be distributed throughout the year," he says. The artist also thinks that specialisation is required in order to induce professionalism in the industry. "Everyone looks to be an 'all-rounder' who does illustrations, paintings, cartoons and cover designs at the same time," says Sadat, who emphasises the importance of segregation in these fields.

Moving forward, Sadatuddin Ahmed Amil looks to be more careful about selecting projects keeping his hectic time-schedule in mind. "I definitely want to work on cover art and illustrations in the foreseeable future, but I will do so in a way that does not put last-minute pressure on me," smiles Sadat.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**Film Festival**  
Title: Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival 2019  
Venue: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh  
Date: February 15  
Time: 11 am - 5 pm

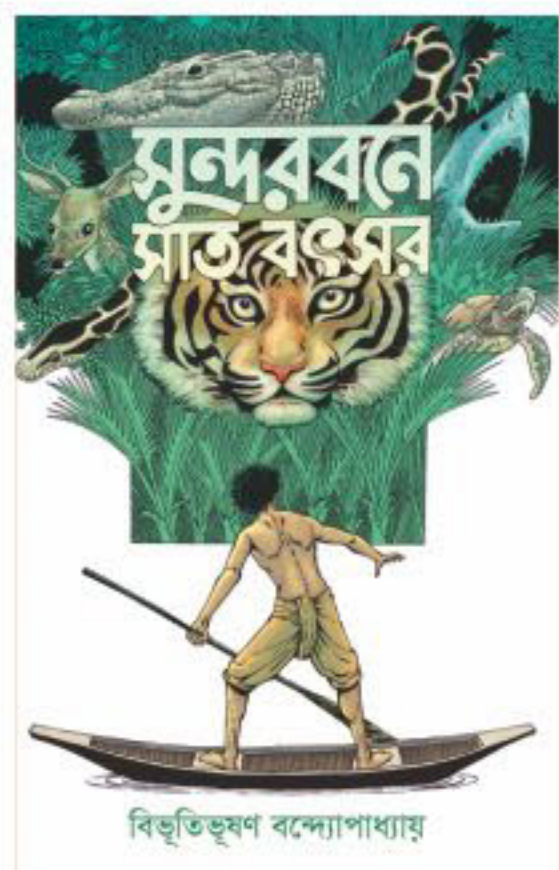
**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Musicality in Wood  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-Villa de Anjuman, New DOHS Mohakhali  
Date: February 22 - March 5

**Book Fair**  
Title: Ekushey Boi Mela 2019  
Venue: Bangla Academy, Dhaka  
Date: February 1 - 28  
Time: 3 pm - 8:30 pm

**Photography Exhibition and More**  
Title: Counter Foto's 6th Anniversary  
Venue: Counter Foto Mirpur Campus  
Date: February 10 - 15  
Time: 10 am onwards

**Bulbul Chowdhury Birth Centenary**  
Organisers: BSA & BNSB  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Yearlong Celebration currently underway

**Exhibition**  
Title: LAL - An Ode to the Moon & Menstrual Cycle  
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani  
Date: February 19 - 23  
Details: www.facebook.com/jatrabirotiworld



When the Ekushey Boi Mela rolls around, the artist is in high demand for his visually enticing artwork, as his cover designs and illustrations instantly increase the appeal of any writer's book. Sadat has worked on 20 cover designs and completed illustrations for 9 books for this year's fair. His art has a distinctive style, as he loves working on children's books. "As children, we tended to re-read any book we owned over and over again. The art that we are exposed to at that age, stays with us forever, and this is why I am very pas-

## Rafiqun Nabi's 'Smritir Pothrekhai' launched at Bengal Boi's 'Phagun Samirone'

Eminent artist and cartoonist Rafiqun Nabi writes about life in his book 'Smritir Pothrekhai'. The narration starts from his birthplace, Nawabganj, and discovers the true beauty of Old Dhaka. Besides places that hold importance in his life, he talks about the memories he created around the city - parks, the stadium, his university etc.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Hosted by Luva Nahid Choudhury, the launching ceremony of the book took place at Bengal Boi on February 12, as a part of Bengal Boi's five-day festival, Phagun Samirone. The event brought together many prominent artists under one roof.



PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

At the event, Matiur Rahman, Editor, Prothom Alo, shared some of his memorable experiences with the author. "Rafiqun Nabi is a close friend of mine. I am reminded of beautiful memories when I read the book," he said. "I can relate to the incidents he has described and places he has been in. I thank Bengal Publications for

bringing his book to the readers." According to Nabi, Abul Hasnat, editor of Kali o Kalam, played a major role in shaping the literature for his book. The various events described in great detail in the book include the Language Movement, our struggle for freedom and finally, our independence. The novel is not just a

peek into Nabi's personal life but a larger narrative of the days of war and fear, leading to our liberation. The event ended with a concert by Gaan Pagol, which was applauded by the crowd. In an effort to welcome spring, Bengal Boi has many more discussions and musical evenings in store till February 16.

## 'Fagun Hawaii' releasing at 52 cinemas today

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tauquir Ahmed's much anticipated directorial venture, *Fagun Hawaii*, is set to release in 52 cinema halls across the nation today. Based on the 1952 Language Movement, this is his latest venture, mentioned the 52-year old director. It is certainly intriguing how the significance of the number 52 is rather relevant in this project. "February is a month of festivities for Bangladeshis, with celebrations including Pehela Falgun, Valentine's Day, and most importantly, the International Mother Language Day," added Tauquir Ahmed. "Keeping all that in mind, the film was scheduled for release this month."

Under the banner of Impress Telefilm Limited, starring Tisha and Siam together for the first time, *Fagun Hawaii* will focus on the struggles of the era, along with the love that kindles between the two. Bollywood actor Yashpal Sharma (*Lagaan*), also plays an imperative role as a Pakistani police officer in the film. The film will also feature Abul Hayat, Afroza Banu, Fazlur Rahman Babu and Shaju Khadem among others. *Fagun Hawaii* is an adaptation of the book by Tito Rahman titled, *Bou Kotha Kou*.

The director will have a rather busy schedule today, as he, along with a few of the cast members are set to visit the renowned movie theatre, Balaka in the morning. Later at noon, Tauquir Ahmed is also scheduled to be present at Bangabhaban for a special screening of *Fagun Hawaii* with President Abdul Hamid.

## Aagami Mohiraaj's exhibition in the USA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

An art exhibition by Aagami Mohiraaj, a young artist, was inaugurated in Barrington, Rhode Island, USA recently. Aagami's artworks are on display at the Jennifer English Gallery in Barrington Public Library. The ten year old artist is the only son of Mohitosh Talukder Taposh and late Nita Mahalanobish of Bangladesh.

"I am putting my music on pause since Aagami needs me at the moment. He is willing to interact with me and let me be a part of his life and dreams," says Taposh.

Aagami is just making his mark in the realm of art and painting. Taposh, an accomplished musician impresario is a former student of Chhayana. Since 2003, he has been prominent in the music scene of Boston and Cambridge as an artist, organiser, and presenter of Bangladeshi music and culture. His productions include *Thousand Years of Bangla Music* in 2003 and *Music in Bangladesh's Movies* in 2008.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Both were staged at MIT's Kresge Auditorium.

Aagami's art exhibition is now extended till February. He uses acrylic, watercolour, and mixed media on canvas, and shows an understanding of colour theory, specifically in the context of how colours are used to create moods suitable to the subjects.

Aagami's collection of art was selected for the grand opening of

the Jennifer English Gallery, dedicated to Jennifer, a Princeton University graduate and Barrington resident, who passed away in 2018. The gallery opened with Aagami's work, which was a great honour for the young artist. Aagami lost his mother when he was only five. He picked up colours at an early age, inspired by his father and his grandmother, Anjali Talukder.

## Level 5 to release 'Obosheshey' today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Dhaka-based indie band Level 5 will officially release the physical copies of their debut album, *Obosheshey*, at Jatra Biroti today. The band, which is known for the use of minimal and organic acoustic instruments in their music, have been gaining popularity as young musicians looking to experiment with their sound. The album has a total of 10 songs in it. Popular bands Poraho, Owned, Doob and Vinyl will also perform at the event, which starts at 5 pm.

