

WHAT'S ON

12 ANGRY MEN
 THEATRE
 Title: 12 Angry Men 14th show
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: February 24

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

গীতি
 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

PARK
 Photography Exhibition
 Title: PARK - In place for public
 Venue: Counter Foto Mirpur Campus
 Date: February 10 – March 10
 Time: 10 am onwards

IGCC celebrates SPRING in Chhayanaut

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL
 An Indian and Bangladeshi collaborative lyrical-musical-dance ensemble, titled *Madhur Basanta*, was recently held at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut. Indira Gandhi Cultural Center (IGCC), in collaboration with Indian High Commission, Bangladesh, organised the event to celebrate spring in Bangladesh.

The evening started in remembrance of Poet Al Mahmud, and the deceased in the Kashmir terror blast. *Satkar Mantra Matra*, and the song *Borisho Dhora Majhe*, were performed in order to pay respects to them. "While we celebrate spring, it is important to remember those we lost," said one of the featured artistes of the event, Rabindra Sangeet exponent Shreya Guhathakurta, from India. Other featured artistes included elocutionist Samiul Islam Poluck and Bharatanatyam Dance expert Amit Chowdhury and his team, from Bangladesh.

The voice of Shreya Guhathakurta enthralled the audience, as she sang the songs of spring, including *Basonti Hey Bhubonmohoni*, *Ami Tomar Songe*, *Aha Aji E Bosonte*, *Aha Tomar Songe*, *Sokhi Bhabona Kahare*, *Tumi Robe Nirobe*, and many others. Samiul Islam Poluck, with his mellow yet powerful voice, captivated the crowd as he recited *Sanskrit Shiva Tandavastotram*, and various poems from *Riturangshala*, *Gitanjali* and others.

Dancer Amit Chowdhury choreographed the entire show. His team included Sweetie Das, Taskin Anha, Anika, Arnab, and Aviroop Hridoy Sharma.

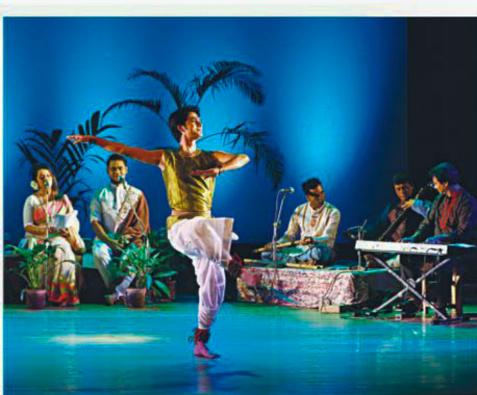


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

PORTRAIT OF A COVER ARTIST Indira Sarker Chaity



AFSANA AZIZ NITOL
 Cover artist Indira Sarker Chaity has devoted her life to art since childhood. When her fellow classmates aspired to be doctors and engineers, she dreamt of filling her canvas with creativity. To make her dreams come true, Chaity studied art in Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka. This year, in The Ekushey Grantha Mela, this promising artist has designed around twenty books by different writers. She talks to *The Daily Star* about her work.

What are you expecting from this year's Ekushey Grantha Mela?
 I want it to be more colourful than ever. I want to see more young writers and cover artists.

Tell us about your work in this year's book fair.
 I primarily worked for Tamralipi Prokashoni this year. I designed book covers for a lot of talented writers including Shah Jalal Jonak and Tashfikal Sami, among other young aspirants.

What medium do you use for your artwork?
 I use watercolour techniques. I do not use digital mediums as of yet.

After you receive a script, how do you approach the cover design?
 I want my covers to reflect the gist of the script. Different people will look at the cover from different perspectives, and that is natural. However, I want my design to tell the story that is intended by the writer.

Are you inspired by any artists in particular?
 I admire the work of Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean of FFA, DU. The works of Mostafiz Karigar and Shohag Parvez also inspire me.

Do you have any suggestions to those who want to study art?
 I think parents' support is very important in this regard. I feel lucky to have a mother who always encouraged me. My request, hence, will be to all parents instead. I hope they support their children if they want to study art.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bhabna reflects on being a writer

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL
 Actor, dancer and a writer, Ashna Habib Bhabna, is often struck by the little things of everyday life. Aspiring to tell the stories that affect her so deeply, Bhabna recently published a book titled *Tara* in this year's Ekushey Boi Mela. In an interview with *The Daily Star*, she talks about her new book, and other projects.

Tell us about your book.
 My book *Tara* is about a young girl named Tara, who happens to be very gullible. It is published by Tamralipi Prokashoni. As a writer, I want to tell the stories of many Taras living in our society. Even my last book, *Gulnehar*, had a plot centred around a female protagonist.

How do you juggle between writing, acting and dancing?
 I am very selective when it comes to work. I believe that being swamped with work does not help an artiste produce good work. I take breaks often and do the things I love. Writing is one of them.

Do you think it is important for more women to tell their stories through books?
 I think a woman author's narratives pertaining to the struggles of women will be different than that of a male perspective. The narratives, hence, should come from women.

Which do you enjoy more, writing or acting?
 I have always loved acting. However, I really enjoy picturing stories in my mind. I am in my own little bubble at those times. Sitting in my car, while going to work, I often notice the women outside, fighting with thousands of stares hurled at them. These incidents inspire me to write more, and I absolutely enjoy it. I remember when I finished writing *Tara*, I felt a void inside me. I was so attached to the character that it made me cry.

Are you planning to publish another book any time soon?
 I am currently working on a new book called *My Funny Aunty*, releasing on next year's Ekushey Boi Mela.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

TRESemmé Bangladesh Fashion Week to begin on February 23

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
 TRESemmé has owned the fashion platform in Bangladesh, sponsoring fashion events since its launch in 2015. This year, TRESemmé intends to revolutionise the Bangladesh fashion scene by launching the TRESemmé Bangladesh Fashion Week 2019.



PHOTO: COURTESY

TRESemmé is partnering with Bangladesh (FDCB), a non-profit organisation that aims to promote Bangladeshi culture and fashion internationally. 19

local, and 11 foreign designers will showcase their work in the fashion week for three days. TRESemmé will also work closely with top hair stylists in the country.

Nafees Anwar, Beauty & Personal Care Director of Unilever Bangladesh, announced the event. Maheen Khan, President of FDCB, also spoke at the press conference.

TRESemmé Bangladesh Fashion Week 2019 will take place from 23 to 25 February at the International Convention City Bashundhara in Dhaka.

Le Meridien Dhaka is the hospitality partner of the event.

A journey to the architectural worlds of URBANA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
 Bangladesh, which has been stigmatised in many respects as a peripheral region, has hardly been present on the global architectural map. However, this is likely to change in the near future, because of the work of Bangladeshi architect and founder of URBANA, Kashef Chowdhury.

Kashef Chowdhury's buildings – such as his storm-proof school or island-shaped village near the Bramaputra River – seem to have emerged directly from the local context of Bangladesh. His work has universal appeal, spanning space and time from east to west, from the past to the present. His implementation of light, space and materiality in his work is powerful.

URBANA's works are not only spatially and architecturally extraordinary in their immediacy, they also bear witness to the high social relevance. They

thoughtfully address grave issues such as population density, climate change, migration etc.

Bangladesh's urban centres, such as Dhaka and Chattogram, are rapidly expanding under the pressures of rural exodus. Kashef Chowdhury wants to find new strategies that offer the rural population a sense of security and identity. He is aware that improvement of rural living conditions can halt the seemingly unstoppable flow of rural emigration, and with it, the collapse of urban regions. Bangladesh's river delta landscape is an area prone to flooding, cyclones, and rising sea levels. In this context, URBANA's buildings reveal a permanence based on clear geometries, local materials, and vernacular building methods.

With the first comprehensive European exhibition, the Aedes Architecture Forum presents the work of Kashef Chowdhury. He received the

prestigious Aga Khan Award in 2016, for the Friendship Centre on the flood plains of Gaibandha in northern Bangladesh. With projects such as the Gulshan Society Mosque in Dhaka and the Cyclone Shelter in Kuakata, he gained widespread international acclaim. Kashef Chowdhury's buildings are carefully arranged in areas marked by extreme climatic conditions. At the same time they are combined with local building techniques and material. Hosted in Berlin, the exhibition documents more than a dozen buildings and projects by means of models, photographs, film footage, and plans, that provides a kaleidoscopic view of the studio's design and construction processes. It invites visitors on a journey to Bangladesh and the architectural worlds of URBANA. The exhibition, curated by Niklaus Graber and Andreas Ruby, opened on January 25 and will continue till March 6.



PHOTO: COURTESY