

WHAT'S ON

12 ANGRY MEN
 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

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



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

TISHA'S big day

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National award-winning actor Nusrat Imrose Tisha, who has won the hearts of millions with her remarkable performances both on television and the silver screen, celebrates her birthday today. Her film, *Fagun Hawaii*, directed by Tauquir Ahmed, was released in 52 cinema theatres across the nation recently. Siam Ahmed is her co-star in the film, which focuses on the struggles of the 1952 Language Movement, along with the love that kindles between the two. Tisha will also be seen in Tarun Chowdhury's *Mayaboti*. Alongside movies, Tisha is also busy with a number of television projects. We caught up with the actor to find out how she plans to celebrate the big day, despite having such a busy schedule.

Many happy returns of the day. How are you hoping to spend the day?

I do not have any shoots today and tomorrow. I will be taking part in some promotional campaigns for *Fagun Hawaii* and spend the rest of the day with my family. Birthdays are always special, as I am surrounded with so much love from my family, friends and fans.

Who is the one person that you think about on your birthday?

I think about my father, and I miss him every day, not just on my birthday. I know that his blessings are always with me.

How has the response to your latest film, *Phagun Hawaii*, been so far?

The reactions to the film have been hugely positive so far, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the cast and crew. It is delightful to see so many people come to the theatres to watch a film about the 1952 Language Movement with a patriotic zeal.

How was the experience of working in *Phagun Hawaii*?

I feel privileged to have worked on a film that touches upon such an important part of Bangladesh's history. It was a really special experience.

Tell us about the tele-fiction that you are working on with director Chayanika Chowdhury.

I am working with Chayanika Chowdhury after ten years. The tele-fiction revolves around Women's Day. I am playing three different roles in it, which was creatively satisfying.

Scholastica Inter-School Theatre Festival 2019



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

APORAJITA MUSTAFA

Scholastica, one of Bangladesh's leading educational institutions, is set to host a two-day long theatre festival, on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, at their premises in Uttara, from February 21-22. The festival will commence with the enactment of Munier Choudhury's famous play *Kobor*, by students of Scholastica Senior Section (Uttara). Following *Kobor*, students from some of the highly reputed schools in Bangladesh, namely International Hope School Dhaka, Notre Dame College, Viqarunnisa Noon School & College and Scholastica Mirpur, will stage the plays *Hridoye Bangladesh*, *Surjodoy*, *Buddho Bhutum* and *Mukhosh* respectively at the festival.

"It is extremely important for children to be in touch with their artistic spirit and in Scholastica, we encourage our students to actively

partake in performing arts activities throughout the school year," said Brig Gen Kaiser Ahmed (Retd), Principal of Scholastica Senior Section, at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

Scholastica aims to expand this platform for young theatre practitioners and hopes to see an increase in the number of participating schools at the festival over the coming years.

"Students in Scholastica have long been accustomed to the practice of after-school rehearsals for theatre, music and dance performances and as such, they don't find it difficult to juggle their academic work and extracurricular activities simultaneously. I hope more schools adopt this practice and mould well-rounded beings for the future," expressed Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon, Senior Drama Faculty at Scholastica Senior Section (Uttara) during the press meet.

SHAKTI to perform at Pan Pacific Sonargaon

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Music lovers in Dhaka are set to witness a brilliant performance by SHAKTI, a renowned fusion band which combines elements of traditional Indian music with elements of jazz. After a long hiatus, the band is returning on stage to perform live in the loving memory of their band member U Shrinivas, a renowned Indian Mandolin player and composer who passed away in September 2014.

Tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain (Tabla) along with world-renowned artistes, John McLaughlin (Guitar), Shankar Mahadevan (Vocals), V Selvaganesh (Kanjira, Ghatam, Mridangam) and Ganesh Rajagopalan (Violin) will perform at a concert to be held at Oasis, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka on February 28 at 7 pm. Blues Communications is organising the concert.

"We are hoping to have another great event as several living legends of world music are coming to entertain the Dhaka audience," said Farhadul Islam, the CEO of Blues Communications.

Zakir Hussain, son of tabla legend Alla Rakha, is an iconic figure in the field of percussion. With three Grammys under his belt, he has been equally prolific in the field of eastern classical and western jazz fusion.

John McLaughlin is an English guitarist, bandleader and composer. His music includes many genres of jazz which he couples with elements of rock, Indian classical music, Western classical music, flamenco and blues.

Shankar Mahadevan is an Indian singer and composer who is part of the Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy composing trio team for Indian films.

Indian classical violin maestro Ganesh Rajagopalan, of Ganesh Kumaresh duo brothers fame, is an internationally renowned performer and composer.

V Selvaganesh is an Indian percussionist working in the Carnatic tradition. He is one of the leading kanjira (south Indian frame drum) players of his generation.

Entry tickets (Gold and Platinum) for the concert are available at Art Cafe Banani, Tabaq Coffee Gulshan 1 and Mad Chef Dhanmondi. You may also call at: 01777100700 for further queries.



PORTRAIT OF A COVER ARTIST

Mahatab Rashid



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SHABABA IQBAL

Mahatab Rashid began doodling in notebooks and on walls from a young age. He joined Akantis, a community of illustrators in Bangladesh who aim to develop their visual literacy, in 2014. He further took part in the Bangladesh Cartoon Fest that year. Since then, he knew that he wanted to establish himself as a proficient cartoonist and illustrator, inspired by the likes of Ahsan Habib, Mehedi Hoque and Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy among others.

Mahatab has worked for numerous popular publications of the country, including *Kishor Alo*, *Rosh + Alo* and *Unmad*. His weekly comic series, *Mahakabbo*, is published in *Chutir Dine*, in addition to enjoying a huge fan base online. "My art has a relatable and 'slice of life'



aspect to it," says Mahatab, who is set to take his HSC examinations this year. He also addresses several crucial socio-political issues through his work.

Mahatab also has a keen interest in the field of cover art. He began designing book covers for the Ekushey Boi Mela in 2016, mainly working with children's books. "Reading the story before designing the cover is really important to me," explains Mahatab. "Besides that, my aim as a cover artist is to stand out from the crowd. To that end, my process involves plenty of sketching and brainstorming so that I can figure out what works and what does not." This year, he has done the cover and inside illustrations of *Coyenda Uncle* by Ahsan Habib.

In previous years, he did the covers of numerous books including *Shaat Shomundor* by

Jamil Bin Siddique Anudit and *Nimider Shohore Kola Miya O Rajkumari Ratata* by Mashudul Haque, both of which are currently on sale yet again, at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

He designed his first ever cover for Mashudul Haque. "I have been a fan of Mashudul Haque's books for a long time and I feel privileged to have worked with him," expresses Mahatab.

A bookworm at heart, Mahatab is really impressed by the ambience of this year's Ekushey Boi Mela. "It is delightful to see families attending the fair together and parents encouraging their children to pick up more books," he says. He has also designed the cover of a new edition of *Ventriloquist*, a thriller novel by Mashudul Haque, which was unveiled at the recently held Kolkata Book Fair.