

SHAHIDUL ALAM SACHCHU REFLECTS ON OBHINOY SHILPI SHONGHO

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Shahidul Alam Sachchu is a revered name in the entertainment arena. From theatre plays to films and tele-fictions, he has honed his acting and directing skills over the years and earned the admiration of fans throughout the nation. The two-time Bangladesh National Film Award winner is the elected president of ObhinoY Shilpi Shongho. The man of many talents discusses his current endeavours with *The Daily Star* in a recent interview.

With the elections for ObhinoY Shilpi Shongho nearing, how would you assess the nearly two year term you served? In its 25 year history, I am the first president of the organisation to be elected through a process. Earlier it was based on a selection system. However, it is for the members to decide how I have committed to my role. During my term, I planned on a dream project titled *Bela Sheshe*, where I wanted to work with the veterans of the industry, but I could not complete it as of yet. So in that case, I have not achieved as much as I wanted to.

Can you elaborate on some of the developments the ObhinoY Shilpi Shongho has had during your term? An office was established on behalf of the ObhinoY Shilpi Shongho, with seating arrangements along with a library. The members of the organisation now have designated identity cards, marking their first time, receiving official



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

identities as actors of Bangladesh. Also, there are around 30-40 veteran actors in our consortium, who can avail their monthly groceries from the retail chain Shwapno, for up to BDT 5000, free of charge. Besides the aforementioned, we are working to provide health services to our members, and arrange a discounted fare on the railway. Also, we are trying to revive the once popular National Television Awards.

How do you feel about your presidential role and when is the upcoming election?

I tried to provide for the betterment of the organisation to the best of my limits. There are four different offices in the building, including the offices for playwrights, directors and producers. We also implemented the practice of making tele-fictions through an official agreement. As for the date of election, the annual general meeting will be held today, during which, a date for the election will be announced.

Will you contend to be a presidential candidate at this year's election as well?

We are involved with a handful of activities, many of which are currently underway. Based on the current work flow, my associates would like me to run for the upcoming term once again, and I'm rather optimistic about it. Presently, there are over 900 members of ObhinoY Shilpi Shongho and hopefully they will find me fit to serve another term.

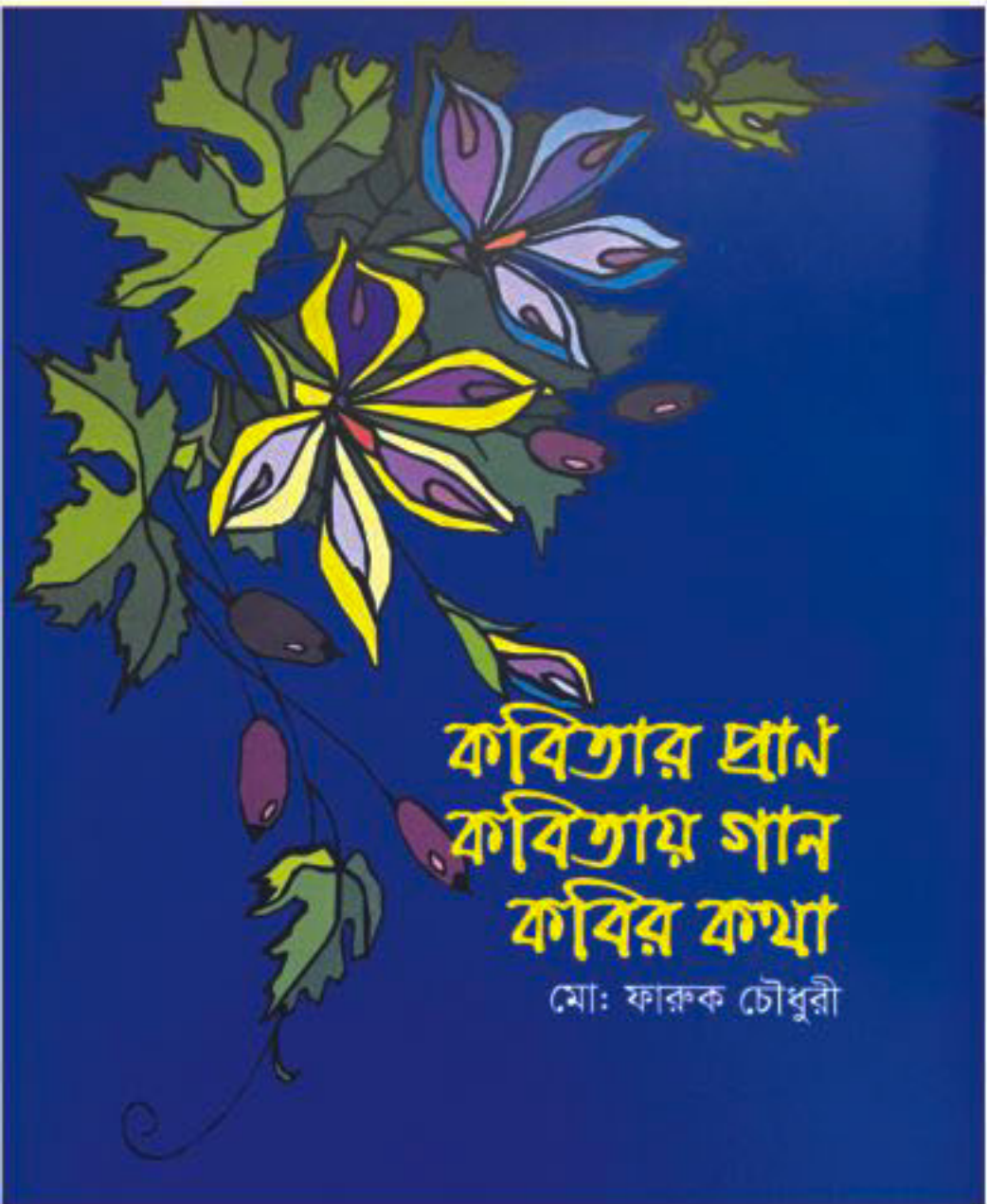
What else would you like to improve on behalf of the artistes?

I sincerely request that people pay more respect to Bangladesh Television (BTV). Many talented people are part of BTV, who do not get the due recognition and respect. I want to bring about a positive change in that aspect, and I'm working towards it.

Two of the films you have acted in recently, were released within the span of a week. How was the experience?

Yes, *Fagin Hawai* and *Ratir Jatri* were both released as of recently. Both the films have fine plots and were well received by the movie goers. It was a great experience and I am hoping they will continue entertain the audience.

MD FARUK CHOWDHURY'S POETRY BOOK LAUNCHED



Kobitar Pran, Kobitay Gaan, Kobir Kotha, by Md Faruk Chowdhury is out now at the Ekushey Boi Mela. The book, published by Danantik, has 48 original poems, including *Tomar Bihone*, *Rater Rani*, *Facebook*, among others.



PORTRAIT OF A COVER ARTIST

Kheya Mezba Shormi



PHOTO: COURTESY

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Cover artists across the country become extremely busy during the month of February, and Kheya Mezba Shormi is no different. However, the talented artist wants to stay busy all year long, hoping that there will be more work for artists throughout the year in the future.

This year, in the Ekushey Grantha Mela, Kheya designed *Atmay Chilo Trishna* by Syed Tarik, *Amra Ek Golper Shohore Thaki* by Tushar Abdullah, and *Kalketu O Fullora* by Selina Hossain. While working with such renowned writers, Kheya wanted her designed book covers to justify the beautiful stories.

"I tried to design the covers pertaining to the

content of the book. I want the readers to get an idea of the story just by looking at the cover," says Kheya. To design the covers, she uses graphics editing software along with a Wacom tablet. The artist is also interested in typography, which she often experiments with in her designs.

Kheya derives her inspiration from the works of Dhruba Esh, Sabyasachi Hazra and Razib Datta. "They have created such marvelous works over the years, that it has always motivated me. I also love to see and appreciate the works of my contemporary artists," adds Kheya. The young artist could not manage time to visit the book fair due to her busy schedule. However, she hopes to do so soon.



Press conference of Bangabandhu Shobdoti Amader at BSA



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

An artist camp titled 'Bangabandhu Shobdoti Amader' with 50 promising and prominent artists, organised by Shadhinota Charushilpi Porishad, will be held tomorrow at the National Art Plaza of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Regarding this occasion, a press conference will take place today at the seminar room of the Department of Fine Art, BSA at 4 pm.

Maheen Khan speaks about TRESemmé Bangladesh Fashion Week 2019

LS DESK

TRESemmé, a leading brand of hair-care products, is organising one of the biggest fashion events in Bangladesh — the TRESemmé Bangladesh Fashion Week 2019, in partnership with Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh, between February 23 - 25, at the International Convention City, Bashundhara.

Maheen Khan, the founder and president of the Fashion Design Council, elaborated on the 3-day affair. "This fashion show will be an international event showcasing the very best in bonafide and hand woven couture wear," she said. "Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh (FDCB), the apex body of designers in the country, is a major partner to the exclusive show." FDCB is a not-for-profit organisation that is engaged in activities for the advancement of the fashion and design industry in Bangladesh.

Nine countries are participating at the TRESemmé Bangladesh Fashion Week 2019, to encourage a regional space for design. "We want to put Bangladeshi designs on an international platform to be able to learn from the experience, and also share our rich and complex designs with other nations across the borders," says Maheen.

Participants from all over the world will attend the fashion week, including Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Bangladesh, among others.

"I hope that all those who are remotely interested in fashion designing, will look out for this gem of an event," says Maheen.



PHOTO: COURTESY

WHAT'S ON



Musical Evening
Title: Sovvota And The band & The Seesaw Quartet Live at DU
Venue: Natmondal Auditorium, University of Dhaka
Date: February 23
Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Musicality in Wood
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-Villa de Anjuman, New DOHS Mohakhali
Date: February 22 - March 5
Time: 5 pm - 8 pm



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



Theatre
Title: 12 Angry Men 14th show
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 24
Time: 7:30 pm



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



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