

**12 ANGRY MEN**  
 Title: 12 Angry Men 14th show  
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: Today

**International Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Celebrating Mother Language in the Light of Art  
 Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA  
 Date: Feb 23 - Mar 9  
 Time: 11 am to 8 pm (Sunday-Thursday); 3

**Unplugged live session**  
 Title: ARNOB Unplugged 2019  
 Venue: Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh - KIB  
 Date: March 1  
 Register: www.xirconium.com

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

**Musical Evening**  
 Title: Shakti - Live in Dhaka  
 Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka  
 Date: February 28  
 Time: 7 pm - 9 pm



# Creating the Durjoy collectible toy

**SHABABA IQBAL**  
 Liveaxis, a studio based in Bangladesh, specialises in toy-making, prototyping, brand concept development, make-up effects, custom digital jewelry, board game illustrations and collectible concept art among other areas. They recently launched a collectible toy, based on the comic series *Durjoy*, by Tauhidul Iqbal Sampad, published by Dhaka Comics. It is distributed as the first of its kind in Bangladesh, the *Durjoy* collectible toy is a highly detailed and expertly painted four-inch figure made of high quality polystone material. Liveaxis will produce only 100 pieces of the toy, in a limited edition offer. They are selling it on a pre-order basis and have received a widely positive response so far. The product was launched at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2019, in the presence of Ahsan Habib. We caught up with Nazmul Hoque, the founder of Liveaxis and the creator of the *Durjoy* collectible toy, to find out more about the initiative.  
**Tell us a little about your background in toy-making.**  
 I graduated in fine arts from Charukola Institute of Chittagong University. I consider myself a 3D character sculptor, and I enjoy working with new and different media to express my thoughts.  
**How did you conceive the idea for the**



**Nazmul Hoque**  
**Durjoy collectible toy?**  
 We do not have factories or production companies in Bangladesh that have collectible memorabilia based on our comic heroes. As a result, we collect imported toys and action figures, which is one of the reasons why characters like Iron-Man from Marvel Comics and Batman from DC Comics have such a tremendous fan following in our country. These circumstances inspired me to develop a production pipeline with top-notch technology. After years of research, I, along with my team, launched a collectible toy based on a Bangladeshi comic hero for the first time.

We chose *Durjoy* since the series has garnered immense popularity.  
**What is your take on the development of comic heroes in Bangladesh?**  
 We have a strong and rich culture of comics. Just the other day at the Ekushey Boi Mela, I saw a young boy waiting for hours with his mother to get an autograph of Tauhidul Iqbal Sampad, the writer and artist of the *Durjoy* series. It spoke volumes about the love for Bangladeshi comics in the readers' hearts. Many people who were not previously aware of the series, discovered it after they came across the collectible toy, which is great.  
**What can you tell us about the upcoming action figures and collectible toys from Liveaxis?**  
 Under the banner of Liveaxis, we have We R Makers, an online community where artists from different backgrounds share their own visions of a chosen theme, every month for collectible toys. The artists participate in monthly contests of character design challenges. Along with a cash prize, we give each winner a 3D toy of their own character. We will be working with those characters in the future.  
 There are also not many options in the line of educational toys for children, apart from Lego and a few others. We, at Liveaxis, aim to produce different interactive educational toys for them as well.

# Shalim Hossain Saju

**MINAM HAQ**  
 A graduate student from the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Rajshahi, Shalim Hossain Saju had a keen interest in the field of arts since his youth. His unique talent lies in his prowess to portray creativity in a simple yet elegant manner. During 1994, he worked as a cartoonist for the popular youth publication, Kishor Potrika and went on to contribute for various other newspapers over the years. Progressing through his career, Saju also worked for films and tele-fictions. Apart from his artistic undertakings, he has been actively involved in the field of advertising for over a decade, including many successful campaigns over the years. He also won an award at a prestigious competition held in Japan, for designing a logo. A zestful character at heart, Saju is currently the Associate Creative Director for a reputed advertising agency in the capital.  
 His involvement as a cover artist at the Ekushey Grantha Mela began in 1996. Ever since then, he has been contributing to the field purely out of passion. Throughout the years, Saju has worked with several renowned authors and publishers. Due to his busy schedule, this year, he was only able to design around 19 books for the fair. When asked if there was any aspect of the Boi Mela that he would like to see an improvement in, he replied, "It is sad to say that, except for a very few people, those who like to employ our talent, do not value it for what it is worth. There is this tendency whereby they want to take advantage of us." The artist further explained, "At times it is actually due to financial con-



straints, but they often use that as an excuse, even when they are capable. And as passion tends to be more precious than payment, many artists give in." He asserts that if this practice continues, the many artistic talents of our country will hardly be valued. According to Saju, when one sees the final outcome of an artist, they can barely evaluate the amount of effort that is required for a piece of work.  
 Besides the aforementioned activities, Saju has a fondness towards typography and designed 12 exclusive categories of Bangla fonts till date, which he uses when designing book covers. He also designs creative t-shirts, for a popular online apparel store. Saju aspires to publish his own book at the Boi Mela in the near future.



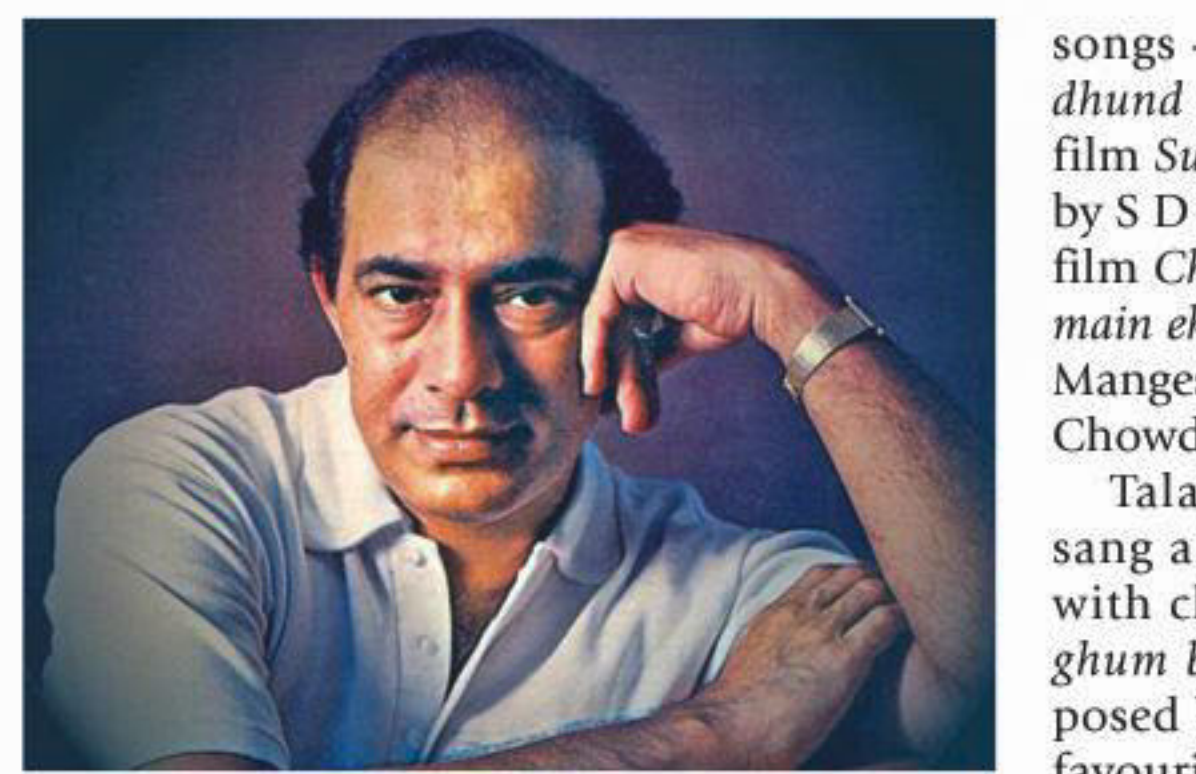
# 'Moving' film exhibition by Padatik Natya Sangsad

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**  
 Padatik Natya Sangsad celebrated International Mother Language Day with a 'moving' exhibition of documentary film, *Mother Tongue*. With the slogan *Buker Khun e Juddhojari, Omor Ekushey February*, the celebration attracted the masses in Dhaka

on February 21. The film, directed by Nadim Iqbal, stars renowned cultural activist and Ekushey Padak winner Asad Chowdhury. Nadim Iqbal bagged seven international awards for *Mother Tongue*, which was previously exhibited in 42 international film festivals in 17 countries.

# Remembering Talat Mahmood on his birthday

**SYED MAQSUD JAMIL**  
 Talat Mahmood, as a singer, had a special gift being endowed with what is called a melodious voice, or *makhmali awaz* in his native Urdu.  
 His followers from all over the world call him 'The Shahenshah of Ghazal'. Indeed, he came to fame with his exquisite ghazal *Tasveer teri dil mera bahela na sakegi* for All India Radio in 1944. Talat Mahmood started his music career in 1939 at the age of 16 on All India Radio, Lucknow. After he came to Calcutta, he became a renowned name there. Onwards, he recorded a number of Bengali songs under the name 'Tapan Kumar'.  
 In 1949, Talat Mahmood moved to Bombay. Music director Anil Biswas gave his first big break, as he sang *Meri yad me tum aansoo na bahana na jiko jalana mujhe bhul jana* for the film *Madhosh* in 1951. The song, composed by Madan Mohan, tells of a lasting bond between broken hearts. For the film *Dekh Kabira Roya* (1957), he sang *Humse*



*aya na gaya tumse bulaya na gaya fasla pyar me dono ka mitaya na gaya*, also composed by Madan Mohan.  
 Talat Mahmood's ghazals are exquisite presentations of this genre of music. A southern movie, *Parchain*, had a lovely ghazal by Talat Mahmood - *Mohabbat hi jo na samjhe woh zaalim pyar kya jane* composed by C Ramchandra.  
 Talat Mahmood sang two evergreen love

songs - *Jalte hain jiske teri aankhon ki diye dhund laya hun wohi geet teri liye* for the film *Sujata* (1959). The music was composed by S D Burman. The other song is from the film *Chayya* (1961) - *Itna mujhse pyar bara ke main ek badal awara*. It is a duet with Lata Mangeshkar, while the music is by Salil Chowdhury.  
 Talat was also fluent in Bengali, and sang a number of popular Bengali songs with clarity and precision. *Andho raate jodi ghum bhenge jai mone pore more priyo*, composed by Nirmal Bhattacharya (1948) is a favourite. *Tumi sundar jodi nahi hou* is also a gem; the music was by V Balsara. Talat Mahmood was in Dhaka (then Dacca) in 1960 and recorded two songs for the film, *Rajdhanir Bukey*.  
 The celebrated singer also acted in 13 Hindi films, primarily opposite Nutan and Mala Sinha, among others.  
 Talat Mahmood was born on 24 February 1924 in Lucknow in a conservative Muslim family, and died on May 9, 1998 at the age of 74.

**The Mark of Aristocracy**

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