



Purnima



Chanchal Chowdhury



Apu Biswas



(From left) Marco Minnemann, Tashfia Sui Tashfee and Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal.

A BUSY SEASON FOR ACTORS

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Over the years, the Bangladeshi film industry has turned to television stars to take on some of the most prestigious movie roles, while actors who found success on television moved over to films. With Eid nearing by the day, it is a truly busy season for actors, as they take on multiple projects.



Shikib Khan

Superstar Shikib Khan has many films to look forward to during the festive season. In addition, he has worked on many television commercials and is slated to appear in many Eid special talk shows. Apart from being a popular actor in films, Purnima features in several tele-fictions and TV shows during Eid and other special occasions. Chanchal Chowdhury, who has made a mark in the film industry with his performances in hit films like *Monpura* and *Debi* among others, stays busy with both films and television ventures around the year and especially during Eid.

On the other hand, young actor Siam Ahmed, who started out his career with tele-fictions, impressed movie lovers with his remarkable acting in *Poramon 2* and *Dohon*. The actor is currently busy with two new films. Popular actor Apu Biswas, who made her debut with the film *Kaal Shokale*, is also a dancer. She has worked in many television commercials and will appear in several television shows during the upcoming Eid.



Siam Ahmed

PHOTOS: STAR

What's happening on 'Wind of Change' season 5?

Minam Haq

As the festivities of Eid ushers in a wide arrangement of television programmes to keep the audience entertained and the essence pulsating, one event that stands out is Gaan Bangla's *Wind of Change*. Ever since its inception, the show made an impact that was promising and long lasting. The grandeur with which Kaushik Hossain Taposh, the brainchild behind the initiative, managed to welcome proficient artists from various corners of the globe and infuse their craft with those of the musician's of Bangladesh, is truly praiseworthy. Prior to *Wind of Change*, this unique amalgamation of talent in the country was unprecedented on our TV screens.

To this day, *Wind of Change* continues to blow with its melodious harmony. This year, amongst the many renowned artists participating in season 5, Tashfia Sui Tashfee had a vital role to play. "I was privileged enough to be appointed as the head of choir/harmony for *Wind of Change* season 5," she says. "Of course it came with a lot of responsibilities to be a part of one of the biggest musical projects in the country, but it was an absolute honour

and pleasure to work with so many amazing international artists at the same time."

As always, season 5 will showcase some of the most talented musicians from Bangladesh like Hasan, Balam and more. However, this year, the season has quite a brilliant foreign list as well. While proceeding with season 5, Tashfee was rather surprised to hear Kailash Kher's unmatched take on a Bangla song. Amongst the list of startling performances to air during Eid, celebrated playback singers Papon and Aditi Singh Sharma will also grace the screens with their mesmerising voices. Tashfee will also be seen in a special collaboration with Papon. "One of the best parts was getting to see the legendary guitarist of Guns n Roses, Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal and the one and only Marco Minnemann, who plays alongside of Satriani," expressed Tashfee. "The fact that these legends playing in Bangla songs, is an amazing experience and it happened only because of Taposh's crazy love and dedication for Bangla music."

With each passing year, as *Wind of Change* tries to outdo itself, season 5 will truly be an extraordinary experience for the music lovers above and beyond.



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Nisar Hossain's dream of excelling art education in Bangladesh

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Professor Nisar Hossain is a renowned artist, critic, connoisseur, activist, organiser and dons the hat of the Dean of the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka (DU) for the third consecutive time. As a socially conscious and responsible artist, he always tries to grasp the time and its spirit in his pursuit of art. "Our founding father of art and education Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin appointed teachers on the basis of not only merit but also other qualities of their being a teacher," says the professor. "When he was a teacher at the then Calcutta Govt. Art College, there was a course called 'Teachship for training teachers'. The irony is that a teacher is promoted on the basis of his/her personal achievement. I don't know how we can get out of this system." Professor Hossain strongly suggests of reintroducing fine art, music, dance and theatre education as compulsory curriculum at school level.

According to Nisar Hossain, there was a time when an artist and teacher would eagerly seek appreciation from another scholar or critic; now they consider quantity over quality – looking at the number of artworks sold at an exhibition. "We have a rich library at the faculty, but the teachers and students seldom issue books from there," he says. "They may argue

that they can find them online, but that is no true. If you want to become a contemporary artist, one has to read the costly books we have bought for the library. Not only teachers and students, anyone interested to study art can borrow books from here with due procedures."

A positive Nisar Hossain always regards art, culture, education, contemporary art, philosophy and even politics at the backdrop of global perspective. "The theme, aspect, language and presentation of the

art must represent the specific time," he says. "Some say that Van Gogh was 200 years ahead of his contemporary artists; but I think the contemporary artists during the time of Van Gogh were behind by 200 years."

About setting up of a Museum of Modern Art in Bangladesh, Nisar Hossain strongly proposes private and corporate initiatives to bell the cat. "We, the artists and concerned institutions are callous when it comes to using qualitative art materials, art preservation, restoration and proper archiving," he says. "I am personally taking initiatives to set preservation and restoration facilities in my faculty with assistance from the Delhi Modern Art Gallery."

A permanent display of artworks by the teachers and artists will be opened soon at the Faculty of Fine Art, DU. Education minister, Dr Dipu Moni, is expected to open the display at FFA, DU, on May 20.



SHABABA IQBAL

Growing up, Sharmin Rahman, Associate Vice President – Creative at Asiatic JWT, always had a passion for fashion designing. From an early age, she embarked on a journey to create beautiful clothes by working with a local boutique for over a decade. Having friends and family who are actively part of the media, designing clothing has been an integral part of her life. Recently, she presented a Jamdani collection in Paris at *Première Vision*, one of the most prestigious international fashion and textile shows across the globe.

For the exhibition, she collaborated with Living Blue, a cooperative initiated by CARE Bangladesh which encompasses an entire production chain of artisans, beginning with those cultivating indigo from indigenously-grown indigofera tinctoria. The organisation also contributes to the economic and social development of remote zones of Rangpur in Northern Bangladesh.

An avid Bengali at heart, Sharmin thinks highly of our local crafts and materials. "Bibi Russell once told me that fabrics are one of the most integral parts of Bangladesh's history



Sharmin exhibited a Jamdani collection at *Première Vision* in Paris.

and culture. We should be proud of the different fabrics that come from our country," says Sharmin. "Bearing that in mind, one of my prime goals as a designer has always been to promote the crafts and fabrics of Bangladesh." According to Sharmin, working with Living Blue has been

an exhilarating experience, and her Jamadani collection at *Première Vision* received an overwhelmingly positive response.

She further spoke about the importance of sustaining the craft that goes behind the production of Bangladeshi fabrics. "Artisans



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

who weave jamdani sarees cannot flourish until and unless there is a proper market and purpose for their products," she says. "Through the exhibition at *Première Vision*, I hope we have opened up opportunities for our industry to an international audience."

Miles's world tour to start with USA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular Bangladeshi band Miles is starting their world tour this June, celebrating their 40th anniversary. They will be performing in eight concerts in the USA. According to the band's frontman, Shafin Ahmed, they have plans to perform in some other countries as well. The tour will conclude with a grand concert in Dhaka.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

