

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Solo Print Exhibition Title: The Soul of the Soil Artist: Farzana Rahman Boby Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, Lalmatia Date: July 5-18 Time: 3-8pm</p>	<p>Solo Print Exhibition Title: Grits and Grains Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka Date: June 14 - 29 Time: 3 pm - 9 pm (Monday-Thursday); 9 am - 12 noon (Friday and Saturday)</p>	<p>Exhibition Title: Mukhosher Aaraley Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhammondi Date: July 12 - 14 Time: 3 pm - 8 pm</p>	<p>SUMMER BOOK FEST Book Festival Title: Summer Book Fest Venue: The Junction, Niketon Date: July 5 - 7 Time: 11 am - 7 pm</p>
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"Speaking at the UN will be my greatest achievement" - Sheena Chohan

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Crowned 'Miss Kolkata' while still in high school, Sheena Chohan went on to participate in Miss Universe, and subsequently made a notable career in film and television. She was recently awarded the prestigious Human Rights Hero Award at the United Nations in New York, for her work enlightening more than 36 million people about their Human Rights. The Daily Star caught up with the renowned actor for an exclusive interview.



Documentary on poet ABUL HUSSAIN

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Today marks the 5th death anniversary of eminent poet Abul Hussain. One of the greatest poets of the 1940s, Abul Hussain had a history of connection with Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

A documentary titled *Prothom Adhunik* on the poet has been made. The 27-minute long documentary depicts his poems, reticence in his poetry and various aspects of his literary life. Besides, the visual portrays the poet's childhood and adulthood passed in the concurrent Khulna, Kushtia and Krishnagar of British India, along with his youth in Kolkata and the latter life in Dhaka.

Renowned poet-essayist Ahmad Rafique, National Professor Anisuzzaman, Emeritus Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury, Poet Mohammad Nurul Huda, Poet Sajjad Sharif and others have contributed much to make the documentary more relevant.

Poet and visual artist Shyamal Chandra Nath has made the documentary, produced by Sabera Zareen. The documentary will be screened on the next birthday (August 15) of the poet.

He has been honoured with many awards, including Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Award, Padabali Award, Nasiruddin Gold Medal, Mazharul Islam Kobita Puroshkar and more. He helped initiate modern trends in Bengali Literature in the forties and remains an inspiration to many in the contemporary era. *Duswapna Theke Duswapne* (1985), *Hawa Tomar Kee Dussahos* (1982), *Ekhono Somoy Ache* (1997), *Aar Kisher Opekkha* (2000) are among his most notable literary works.

Congratulations on being selected to speak at the United Nations on behalf of Youth for Human Rights, the largest education programme in the world. As an award-winning actor, where do you place this achievement in your career?

Thank you so much. Being able to speak at the UN will be my greatest achievement, because of the effect that it will have. When I was nominated as the Best Actress at the Shanghai and Dubai Film Festivals or when I was picked by Mammooty to star alongside him, I felt like it changed my life. However, at the UN, I am calling for mandatory human rights education across the world - that can change every life. Gold statues on a shelf are not valuable to me - a smile on a disadvantaged child, or a life I was able

to save, makes me genuinely happy. You have worked as the ambassador of Youth for Human Rights for eight years. Tell us about your role in the organisation.

My role is to use my voice to achieve our goals in South East Asia - human rights education for all. As an actor, I have reach and meet a lot of influential people. My job is to use that power to inform people about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and ask them to help in the call for mandatory human rights education in schools. Through my Netflix featured film, *Ant Story*, I got so much attention that I was able to get Youth for Human Rights free education kits in the curriculum for over 30 universities!

What are your current film/television projects?

Something that is dear to my heart, is a film by the late great director Bappaditya Bandhopadhyay, where I star alongside Rajashree Deshpande and Bidita Bag. It will soon be released in International film festivals. It is surreal, very unusual, and quite forward thinking. We lost Bappaditya just days after the shoot, so it's bittersweet, and its release will be very emotional. After that, I will be back to Kolkata to finish a shoot for director Ayan Chatterjee, where I'm starring alongside Kaushik Ganguli and Saswata Chatterjee.

Among the many achievements you have in your career, which one is your most memorable?

Being brought up in Kolkata, and then winning Miss Kolkata in school kick-started my career. Then I went on to

win a title under Miss universe India, mentored by Sushmita Sen. I feel like working on two films for National Award Winning Director Budhadeb Dasgupta was an experience I can't forget - his attention to detail, his artistry - I learned a lot. Working with Mostofa Sarwar Farooki in *Ant Story* changed my life as well.

However, I am speaking at the United Nations, and I can't think about anything else - my speech on the world stage is one performance that I know that I will never forget.

What are your ambitions for the future?

I want to ensure mandatory human rights education in all schools in South East Asia. I also look forward to playing powerful roles in films which inspire, touch, entertain and change lives.



Mahmud Khurshid writes 'Joy Hok' for Feedback



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Lyricist Mahmud Khurshid has recently written *Joy Hok*, a World Cup themed song for legendary band Feedback. Feedback released this with an inspirational new music video, dedicated to the Bangladesh team.

"This song is very inspirational," says Mahmud, "it can be played at any occasion related to achievements, celebration or hope."

Mahmud Khurshid's popular lyrics for Feedback include *Uru Uru Monto* and *Nijum Rodey*. For Miles, he wrote *Dhiki Dhiki*, *Jala Jala*, *Nila*, *Firiye Dao*, *Jadu*, *Swopno Bihongo*, *Bismoy Jatra* and *Ridoyheena*. He also wrote *Dhupchaya*, *Asha* and *Maouta* for Warfaze. Mahmud Khurshid, a Business Marketer by profession, is also celebrating 30 years of songwriting this year.



Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho's debut programme held at BSA

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

The new panel of the Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho (Television Actors' Association), debuted amidst celebrations at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) yesterday. The programme began with a recital of the National Anthem, led by singer Farhin Khan Joyita. The newly

elected president Shahiduzzaman Selim and General Secretary Ahsan Habib Nasim, along with other committee members, were greeted with flowers. Speeches by renowned personnel, including Mamunur Rashid and Zahid Hasan followed, congratulating the new panel. The programme ended with music by Swagata and others.



Afsana Mimi's directorial venture with Shajal after a decade

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

It has been ten years since Shajal last worked in the much popular TV serial *Doll's House*, directed by Afsana Mimi, which used to air on ATN Bangla. During that time, Shajal also did a commercial under Mimi's direction. After the decade long hiatus, the duo recently paired up for a tele-fiction titled

Shomantoral, the story of which revolves around a residence. It is currently being shot at Old Dhaka.

Shajal has expressed his gratitude regarding his latest venture with Afsana Mimi after such a long time. According to him, Afsana Mimi is equally dedicated to her role even as a director as she is as an actor, and he cherishes the opportunity to work with her again.



Vicky Kaushal to play general Sam Manekshaw

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, From Delhi

Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal will be seen in the role of legendary military general Sam Manekshaw, under the leadership of whom the Indian army fought the 1971 war against Pakistan, leading to the emergence of an independent Bangladesh.

Kaushal will feature in the role in the film *Sam*, to be directed by Meghna Gulzar, who announced the news on her Twitter account along with the first look of the actor in the role of Manekshaw, coinciding with the death anniversary of India's first and only Field Marshal.

Sam Manekshaw, who passed away on this day in 2008, was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for his military leadership during the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

Ronnie Screwala and RSVP Productions will produce the film after having delivered the successful film *Raazi* and *Uri: The Surgical Strike*.

Vicky Kaushal said in a Twitter post that he was so proud to play the role of Manekshaw, and posted his photo as the military general.

"The swashbuckling general & the first Field Marshal of India- Sam Manekshaw. I feel honoured and proud to get a chance to unfold his journey on-screen. Remembering him on his death anniversary and embracing the new beginnings with Meghna Gulzar," said Vicky.

"This film has been brewing between RSVP and me, for some time now. With

Vicky now coming on board to play Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, it has begun to simmer. Looking forward to things to come to fruition one step at a time," Meghna said in a statement.

"I could not have asked for a better storyteller than Meghna to collaborate with on this one and will be a treat to do this with Vicky again," said Ronnie Screwala.

