

WHAT'S ON

Solo Print Exhibition
 Title: The Soul of the Soil
 Artist: Farzana Rahman Bobby
 Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, Lalmatia
 Date: July 5-18
 Time: 3pm - 8pm

Musical Concert
 Title: Sunflow Musical Fest-1
 Venue: International Convention City
 Bashundhara, Hall 4
 Date: July 19
 Time: 6 pm onwards

Exhibition
 Title: Mukhsher Aaraley
 Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
 Date: July 12 - 14
 Time: 3 pm - 8 pm

SUMMER BOOK FEST
 Title: Summer Book Fest
 Venue: The Junction, Niketon
 Date: July 5 - 7
 Time: 11 am - 7 pm

Musical Evening
 Title: Gaan Kobitar Chhayatole
 Date: Today
 Time: 6:30 pm onwards
 Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum



An 'Easier' debut for DAMEER

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ
 18 year old Dameer Khan, son of seasoned musician Pilu Khan, made news when he signed up for Majestic Causal Records, a mainstream German label. His song, *Easier*, made waves in the indie circuit last year, and the music video recently debuted with much critical acclaim. *The Daily Star* talks to the young musician about his music, philosophy and future plans.

What inspired you to write 'Easier'?
 I was just experimenting with different sounds, and I had come up with the guitar riff for *Easier* spontaneously before. I was really into the indie-rock wave that was prevalent at the time, and I reckon that influenced my sound a lot. A part of the reason that I started writing



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

FARZANA RAHMAN BOBBY

Revealing 'The Soul of the Soil'

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 Promising artist Farzana Rahman Bobby is singularly devoted to art. As an ardent participant of creation, she closely observes the minute beauty and diversity of nature through the keen aesthetic lens of her mind. The shades of patience, discipline and her emotions are noticeable in her artworks that evoke the intensity of poetry, and is prominent with regard to both subjects and techniques.

Bobby's first solo print exhibition titled *The Soul of the Soil* opens today at the contemporary art gallery Shilpangan, Dhanmondi at 6 pm. Internationally famous artist Monirul Islam will inaugurate the show. Artist and critic Javed Jalil will be present as special guest, while renowned artist and Dean of the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, Professor Nisar Hossain will preside over the opening ceremony.

Soil intensely holds the plants and gives refuge to all the living creatures on earth. It gives birth to new souls inspiring the coexistence of humans, animals and nature into a balanced ecosystem. It plays the role of a mother, while Bobby, in her artistic pursuit, reveals the soul of the soil in diverse ways depicting roots, barks, leaves, trunks,



mystical twist. As roots hold the tree to the soil, it also plays the role of 'origin' or a 'source'. For Bobby, roots resemble our own starting point and connote a connection to our spirit. The print titled *Roots of a Tree Trunk* is an elusive print, which delves into white illuminative light of the background and validating forms of ones entanglement with spirit and matter.

In *Under the Water*, she creates a metaphoric association of thoughts. Things can totally be different from how they appear to be. The thought of fabrication, camouflaged tendencies are evident in most of the things, but here she tries to speak of the hidden beauty that is sacred and secret.

The artist has so far participated in a number of workshops, group exhibitions and international art biennales including the 16th, 17th and the 18th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh; several editions of national art exhibitions; 3rd International Biennale of Miniprint, Argentina; International Miniprint Exhibition, Rome, Italy; Dhaka-Brisbane Print Exchange Programme; Goa Affordable Art Festival, Goa, India and the 5th Tone International Miniature Art Biennale, Bangladesh. The exhibition, opening from 3 pm to 8 pm daily, will run until July 18.

foliage, lichen, rock, water, blossoms, birds and various aesthetic elements of nature, in many of her artworks.

According to Javed Jalil, roots of a tree are a complex rendering of pattern, manifested into a

TV WATCH



Written by Kamrul Hasan and directed by Habib Litu, telefilm 'Mondo Bhalo', starring Rawnak Hasan and Nadia Ahmed among others, is scheduled to air on Channel i today at 3:05 pm.

lyrics, is to do with me being out of my country. I moved to Kuala Lumpur about two years ago, and being away from home made me feel expressive. *Easier* was my first attempt at proper songwriting.

The music video is already a hit with the audience, who came up with the concept?
 The concept for the video was cinematographic, rather than it being a narrative. My friends Taha, Saif and I exchanged images or other videos that we thought captured a certain vibe that we liked, with lots of spontaneous improvisation. We created a surreal representation of Dhaka. We never had much of a 'story' in mind in particular, but we knew what emotions we wanted our audience to feel. I made some of the best memories I have in that week that we shot the video. I had never carried out such an elaborate project, and it was so spontaneous too. We all clicked instantly, we all wanted to portray these emotions of urban disassociation, romantic guilt and loss.

Do you consider yourself an 'indie' musician? If yes, what defines 'indie'?
 The indie genre has had different defining features throughout the past few decades, and I am sure that it will change again. It used to just mean that you're 'independent' of labels, but now it pertains a whole aesthetic, particular chord selections, particular narrative choices. I am not sure where I fall within all that, but it is easy to see some influence from this aesthetic in my music. If anything, I do consider myself as a singer-songwriter and hope to carry on writing more like *Easier!*

What are your plans for future releases?
 Right now, I am working on an EP (Extended Play) and a few more singles, the next one should be out by the end of this summer.

Will you make music in Bangla in the near future?
 I will most definitely write in Bangla, one of my main aims is to also make Bangla appealing to international audiences, so the songs will be in a certain sound and a vibe that has never been explored in the Bangladeshi scene. After moving to Kuala Lumpur, I realised how charmingly eccentric our country is, for better or for worse. I realised that I had been taking all these idiosyncrasies for granted. I have a budding, deep love and immense curiosity towards the city and I really want to represent it on an international level. It would be a disservice to not have some of that representation in our mother tongue. I have a lot left to explore, with myself, and with Dhaka, the city I love.

ZEE5 aims to present Bangladeshi entertainment for global audiences

During a press conference held recently in Dhaka with Robi Axiata Limited, ZEE5, one of the largest global streaming platform in South Asia, announced its plans to make Bangladeshi entertainment available for the global audience.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
 Archana Anand, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 Global shared the platform's vision of creating a partnership with Bangladesh by working closely with local talent and production houses. The announcement came at the formal launch of the service for Robi and Airtel subscribers in Bangladesh.

ZEE5 shared that it will be launching six projects in Bangla over the next one year. It will work with some leading artistes from the local entertainment industry, for these projects. It will also organise a talent hunt programme for fresh new faces who will get a chance to work in these shows.

Also present at the launching programme were prominent actor, Chanchal Chowdhury model and actor, Airin Sultana, television presenter, model and actor, Masuma Rahman Nabila, Bangladeshi heartthrob singer from ZEE Bangla's, *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa*, Moinul Hasan Nobel and *Bokul Katha*'s Ushasi Ray.



PHOTO: COURTESY