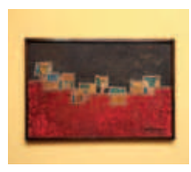
WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
Title: His Dream World
Venue: Shilpangan, Dhanmondi
Date: December 27 – January 11
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm

Workshop
Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo
Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur
Date: January 25, 2020
Time: 11 am – 6 pm

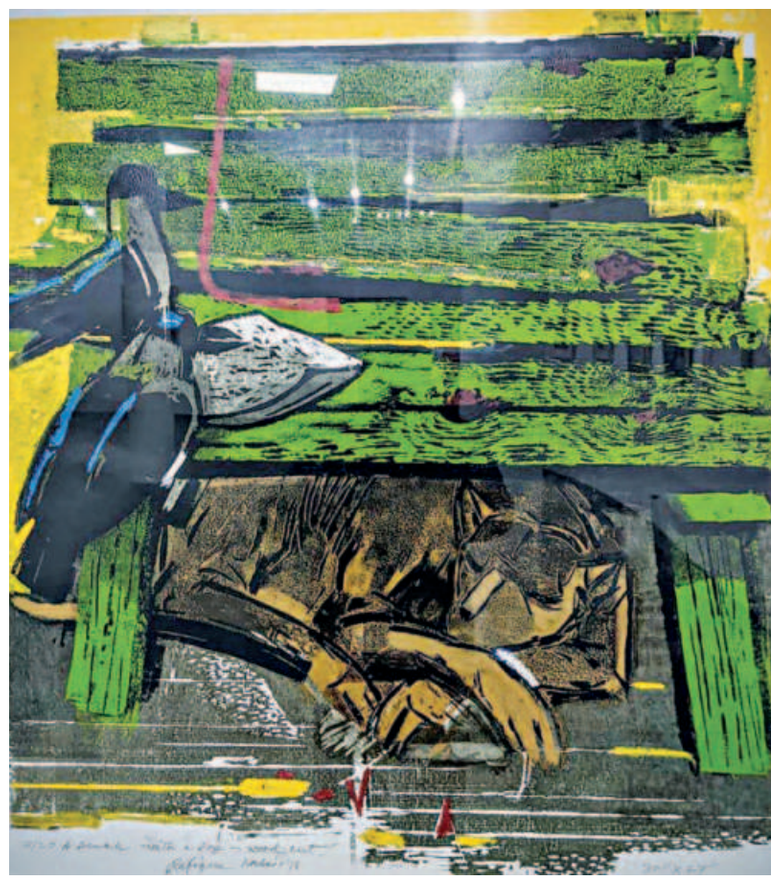
Cultural Festival
Title: Bangladesh Shanskritik Utshab 2020
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 3- 23, 2020
Time: 4 pm -8 pm

Musical Evening
Title: Plugged Out IV - One Night Stand
Venue: Counter Culture Club, Dhanmondi
Date: January 31, 2020
Time: 5 pm onwards
Tickets: BDT 300



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition
Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall, Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 17 – Feb 15
Time: 1 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)

An artwork by M F Hussain.



An artwork by Rafiqun Nabi.

'Calling of the Roots' underway at Zainul Gallery

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The art forms that showcase Bangladesh and India's shared legacy deserve celebration. Bearing that in mind, Prachi Protichi, an Indo-Bangla cultural organisation, has arranged the group art exhibition, *Calling of the Roots,* at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU), in collaboration with the Department of Drawing and Painting, FFA, DU. Eminent Bangladeshi artist Rafiqun Nabi inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest on January 8. Renowned artist Professor Jamal Ahmed, the President of Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad, attended the occasion as the special guest. Tapos Mallick, convener of Prachi Protichi, talked about the activities of the organisation. Dulal Chandrow Gain, Assistant Professor, Department of Drawing and Painting, FFA, DU, delivered the welcome address at the programme.

Walking in noted painter Tarun Dey's footsteps, Prachi Protichi started their journey in 1999, with the vision of fostering collaborations between painters of various schools as well as bringing prominent and promising artists together on a common platform. Eminent poet-litterateur Sunil Gangopadhyay and Bangladeshi artist Jamal Ahmed are notable supporters of the organisation. "In 2002, we organised our first International exhibition in Dhaka," said Tapos

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Mallick, convener of Prachi Protichi. "So far, we have organised 43 art exhibitions, and over 30 art camps and workshops in India and beyond. We also set up the Prachi Protichi Gallery at Santiniketan last year. We plan to launch another gallery in Kolkata soon."

Prachi Protichi has a publication, which has already published 8 literary books. The organisation has also honoured luminaries like Debes Roy, Sudhir Chakraborty, Mohan Singh Khangura, Santimoy Chakraborty, Bani Basu, Rafiqun Nabi, Jamal Ahmed, Hiran Mitra, Bulbul Mahalanbish and others with the annual 'Santiniketan Sammanana'.

Calling of the Roots features an array of artworks by 48 Bangladeshi and Indian artists. The participating Indian artists at the exhibition are M F Hussain, Paritosh Sen, Ganesh Pyne, Bijan Chowdhury, Buddhadev Guha, Somnath Hore, Ganesh Halui, Suhas Roy, Prakas Karmakar, Robin Mondal, Jogen Chowdhury, Bipin Goswami, Ramananda Bandopadhyay, Sanat Kar, Dhiraj Chowdhury and Washim Kapoor. The featured Bangladeshi artists are Rafiqun Nabi, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Alokesh Ghosh and Dr Farida Zaman, alongside Jamal Ahmed, Mostafizul Haque, Rokeya Sultana, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Nisar Hossain, Sheikh Afzal Hossain, Mohammad Iqbal, Anisuzzaman, Harun-ar-Rashid, Dulal Chandrow Gain, Abdus Sattar and Bishwajit Goswami. The artworks on display reflect the ethos of Bangladesh and India's shared heritage. The exhibition concludes on January 14.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Shabdaboli Group Theatre to stage 'Desire Under the Elms' in India

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Shabdaboli Group Theatre will be staging Eugene O' Neill's *Desire Under the Elms,* in *Nattyasrijan -4*, in Tripura today. They will also stage the play at the *Natyamancha Natya Utshab 2020* in Dharmanagar, and the *Shekhor Srity Natya Utshab 2020* in Agartala, on January 12 and 13, respectively. The team will be flying to India today. *Desire Under the Elms,* the 63rd production of Shabdaboli Group Theatre, is translated by Kabir Chowdhury, directed by Fazlur Rahman Polash and produced by Syed Dulal. The cast of the production includes Bulbul Ahmed Joy, Md Anwar Hossain Shameem, Nabila Nasrin, Shahidul Islam Shishir, Yeacher Arafat, Md Jahirul Islam and T I Tapu. The play explores the themes of love, violence, sexuality, longing, cleverness, conflicts and death.

Sylhet enjoys an evening with the maestro of rhythm

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, *from Sylhet*

The four-time Guinness World Records holder, London based Bangladeshi percussionist Pandit Sudarshan Das's rhythmic performances enthralled Sylhet's audience, recently.

He performed in an exclusive programme organised by the division's Sammilita Natya Parishad, and shared his experiences of four record breaking performances.

The programme, *Taal O Loy'er Oporup Oishwarya,* was held at Kabi Nazrul Auditorium in the city's Rikabibazar area on Wednesday evening after two days workshop on tabla on Sunday and Monday.

The percussion maestro set the Guinness World Record in 2016 by playing the tabla for 557 hours and 11 minutes, at a stretch. In 2017, he set the record for playing the dhol for 27 hours. He played 14 hours of drums in 2018. His latest achievement was drumming for 140 hours and 5 minutes in 2019.

PHOTO: STAR

Pandit Sudarshan Das's family hails from Chattogram and is based in London, where he started learning tabla at the age of four.

In the programme, he stated that he wants to break his own records in the future, and set an example for the future generations so that they can bring honour to the country.

The programme was supported by Chattogram Samity in Sylhet and Sylhet-Chattogram Friendship Foundation.

Dhaka International Film Festival 2020 begins today

220 films from 74 countries to be screened this year

Special guests and organisers at the press conference for the DIFF 2020. PHOTO: COURTESY

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

The 18th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) opens today with the screening of *Una Ventana Al Mar (Window to the Sea)*, directed by Miguel Angel Jimenez, at Bangladesh National Museum (BNM). Rainbow Film Society has been organising the festival since 1992, with the theme 'Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society'. Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen will attend this year's opening ceremony as the chief guest, while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, the chief patron of the DIFF, will preside over the programme. A cultural event will be held before the screening of the opening film.

Earlier this week, during a press conference held at Dhaka Club's Samson H Chowdhury Lounge, the organisers officially announced the dates and details of the festival. Festival Director Ahmed Muztaba Zamal stated that 220 films from 74 countries will be screened this year, across BNM, National Public Library, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD), Madhumita Cinema Hall and Star Cineplex.

Film tickets at BNM and Central Public Library are BDT 50, while shows at BSA and AFD are free. Students can watch the films for free upon showing their valid ID cards. However, ticket prices at Star Cineplex and Modhumita Cinema Hall are set by their authorities. "We have 26 films in DCP format, which can only be screened at Star Cineplex. This year, we managed a 4K projector and two more projectors sponsored by Jazz Multimedia," said Ahmed Muztaba Zamal. "However, we still lack a fully equipped festival zone. Most international film festivals have a fixed venue with the required equipment for screenings. We hope that in the near future, we will have one too."

The press conference was also attended by executive committee members M Hamid, Mofidul Haque and Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, along with Kishwar Kamal, Chairperson of the DIFF and Iranian filmmaker Zohreh Zamani, Head Programmer of the festival.

The jury board of the DIFF features Polish filmmaker Joanna Kos-Krauze, prominent Bangladeshi filmmakers Mostafa Sarwar Farooki and Nargis Akhter, renowned singer Maqsoodul Haque, Australian docu-filmmaker and human rights activist Robyn Hughan and several other notable film personalities from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Italy, Spain, Kosovo, Canada, Russia and Iran.

The films will be screened in eight sections, including Asian Competition, Retrospective, Cinema of the World, Children's Films, Spiritual Films, Women's Films, Short and Independent Films and Bangladesh Panaroma.

This year, the Retrospective section features four films by Polish director duo Joanna Kos-Krauzey and Krysztof Krauze. Bangladesh Panaroma, a section for local films, offers eight films — *Amra Ekta Cinema Banabo, Mayaboti, Shuttle Train, Chandrabati Kotha, Tunes of Nostalgia, Maya - The Lost Mother, Nigrohokal* and *No Dorai*. One film from among the eight will be awarded by the International Federation of Film Critics jury.

Rainbow Film Society will also host the 'Sixth International Women Filmmakers Conference', a two-day event, starting from tomorrow. Female filmmakers, actors and several other notable personalities from all over the world will participate in the conference, along with BGMEA President Dr Rubana Huq, at Dhaka Club's Samson H Chowdhury Lounge. A daylong programme, 'West Meets East', will also be held on January 14 at the same venue.

The DIFF 2020 will conclude on January 19. For more information about the event, visit *www.dhakafilmfestival.org*.

Taneem Rahman Angshu's 'No Dorai' is one of the eight films in the Bangladesh Panaroma section.

Miguel Angel Jimenez's 'Una Ventana Al Mar' is the festival's opening film.

Srijit Mukherji's 'Shah Jahan Regency' is one of the films to be screened at the festival.