

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Truce - Juddhobiroi
 Artist: Ata Mojlish
 Venue: Dwpip Gallery, Lalmatia
 Date: January 25 - February 1
 Time: 3 pm - 9 pm (Except Mondays)

Winter Festival
 Title: Heem Utshab
 Venue: Jahangirnagar University
 Date: February 6-7
 Time: 10 am onwards

Music Conference
 Title: Shurey Milay Guru Tomay,
 Tumi Milao Praney Pran
 Venue: Bandar Girls' High School
 and College, Narayanganj
 Date: January 27-30
 Time: 12 pm onwards

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: 7
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
 Date: January 24 - February 7
 Time: 11:30 am - 7:30 pm

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)



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

"I cherish and treasure my friends"

— TONY DIAS

SHAH ALAM SHAZLI

Tony Dias, who was a prominent face in Bangladeshi television and films, has been settled in the USA for many years. He recently paid a short visit to Bangladesh. Before he left, we caught up with him to find out what he has been up to.

How does it feel to be back in Bangladesh?

There truly is no place like home. I cannot express in words just how happy I am to be back in my own country. As soon as I landed in Dhaka, I could feel a great sense of joy and peace.

What brings you back to the country after so many years?

I am a graduate of Adamjee Cantonment School & College. Some of my classmates planned a reunion of sorts and two of my closest friends, S M Khaled and Abdullah Hil Rakib, informed me about it. I cherish and treasure my friends and I came here because of them.

How are you spending time with your friends during this visit?

I went on a three-day trip to Cox's Bazar with my friends. We went to the beach every day to watch the sunrises and sunsets. We feasted on different kinds of sea fish. In Dhaka, I went to New Market with a few of my friends from University of Dhaka to have some *fuchka* and *jhaalmuri*. I also bought a lot of books. All of us had a great time.

Do you have plans of coming back to Bangladesh any time soon?

I hope to visit Bangladesh at least once a year. I would also like to work on some television projects here.



Prof Ahaduzzaman's poetry book launched

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Nakshatra Nivey Jai, the first poetry book by Prof Ahaduzzaman Mohammad Ali, was unveiled at Dhaka University (DU) on Monday.

National Professor Anisuzzaman presided over the book launching ceremony held at the Mozaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of DU Social Sciences Building.

Former Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Vice-chancellor of Rabindra University Prof Biswajit Ghosh, Prof Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam of DU English department, Bangla Academy Director General Habibullah Siraji, and Onno Prokash Director and Publisher Mazharul Islam, among others, addressed the function.

Onno Prokash published the poetry book.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Ahaduzzaman, former teacher of DU Mass Communication and Journalism department, said he never had any plan to publish a poetry book. "It's just my hobby to read poems and write, and I've written those only for my self-

satisfaction."

Describing the background behind publishing the book, he said he wrote poems and posted those on his Facebook wall. "After going through the poems, my students, colleagues and friends insisted that I publish a book compiling those. Then I decided to go for it," he said.

Referring to the tragic loss of Ahaduzzaman's wife in an accident, National Professor Anisuzzaman said it was also reflected in his book. "These poems show he's very careful in his choice of words and shaping the poems."

Voicing his hope that Prof Ahaduzzaman will continue his work, Anisuzzaman wanted to know why he has taken too much time in emerging as a poet.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam said, "I know Prof Ahaduzzaman for a long time as my university colleague. We've lots of memories together. I really appreciate his work and hope it'll get an enormous response from readers."

Source: UNB

ADRIÁN VILLAR ROJAS' works under spotlight

NADIA SAMDANI

The fifth edition of the Dhaka Art Summit, to take place from February 7-15, explores the movements that have brought us to the world we live in today. Through geological, linguistic, political and artistic movements, there has been a radical upheaval of reconsidering the history that we have come to know. The participating artists in this year's show explore these themes of how these thoughts can be presented.

An unforgettable spectacle amongst a journey of art and exploration is Adrián Villar Rojas's immersive floor based installation. As one of the first things you see when you enter the vicinity, the materiality of the 400-million-year-old ammonite and orthoceras fossils transports oneself through a journey of humanity. Made up of the now-extinct species of undersea creatures that thrived for 300 million years, swam across the super-ocean Panthalassa and witnessed the creation and breakup of the single continent, Pangaea. Paintings of burned-out fireplaces emerge from the rammed-earth walls that rise from the fossil floor, tracing the seismic shift that occurred in the evolution of humanity and our



planet when we learned to control fire, invented agriculture, and began to settle and build civilisations. This work serves as a metaphor to think outside of human-bound time, and to consider common ground on which to come together.

Villar Rojas creates site-specific installations using both organic and inorganic materials that undergo change over time. Tied to their exhibiting context, they generate irreproducible experiences relying on a "parasite-host" relation. His team-based projects that extend over open-ended periods allow him to question the aftermath of the normalised production of art in the Capitalocene era.

This comes after the success of the 2018 Dhaka Art Summit with 368,000 people in attendance throughout the Biennial. As the momentum builds for the upcoming 2020 Dhaka Art Summit in February, the development of Srihatta Sculpture park and its artist residencies in sylhet is under way to open its doors to the public soon after. Bangladesh has already become a budding art scene, thanks to the Samdani Art Foundation at the centre of its success.

Nadia Samdani is the Co-Founder and President of the Samdani Art Foundation and the Director of Dhaka Art Summit.



The Theater of Disappearance (detail), 2017. Floor tiles and blocks of brown marble with incrustations of ammonites and orthoceras fossils. Courtesy of the artist and Marian Goodman Gallery. This work will comprise part of a permanent pavilion as part of the Samdani Art Foundation collection at Srihatta, the Samdani Art Centre and Sculpture Park.

PHOTO: COURTESY

BSA confers Sultan Swarna Padak to Farida Zaman



PHOTO: COURTESY

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) has conferred the Sultan Swarna Padak 2020 to renowned artist Dr Farida Zaman at Sultan Mancha, Narail, on January 27. State Minister for Local

Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Swapan Bhattacharjee handed over the award to the artist for her outstanding contributions to Bangladeshi art.

The Sultan Swarna Padak named after legendary artist

SM Sultan, is a prestigious award conferred every year on a renowned Bangladeshi artist by BSA on the birth anniversary of master artist SM Sultan. Md Kabirul Haque, MP, was present as an honourable guest, among others, at the event.

"I express my gratitude to the BSA authorities for giving me the award," said Dr Farida Zaman. "SM Sultan is a pioneering artist of our country. He is revered amongst the local artists of Narail. They are doing a great job in projecting Sultan's works, along with communicating his philosophy to the masses."

Dr Farida Zaman depicts the riverine life of Bangladesh in her works. Fish, fishing nets, cats, birds and women are recurring subjects in her paintings. Her series, *Sufia*, captures the bucolic and beguiling expressions of rural women, while her line drawings are inspired by Bangladeshi folk elements.

Dr Farida Zaman is an honorary professor of the Department of Drawing and Painting, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. She graduated from the same department in 1974 and received her master's in Fine Arts in 1978 from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India. Dr Zaman received her doctoral degree in 1995 from Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan, India. In a career spanning over five decades, she has exhibited her works in eight solo shows and more than 100 group exhibitions at home and abroad.

Artcell gives out prize for 'Obhoy' cover

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Daily Star's Tawfiq Aziz Khan Seminar Hall saw the prize-giving ceremony of a unique event by Rock4Peace yesterday, as autographed guitars were handed over

to the winner of the *Obhoy* cover contest. The initiative was brought forth by USAID Obirodh: Road to Tolerance and Creinsre Limited. The winner, Samir Shahriar, won an electric guitar, while the runners up, Mehedi

Hasan Bivan and Sahran Mahmud won two acoustic guitars each for their fantastic covers of the song. *Obhoy* was initially performed on the Peace Day concert, where it was revealed to the public for the first time.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED