

WHAT'S ON

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Three Worlds  
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery,  
Lalmatia, Dhaka  
Date: January 31 –  
February 11  
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm

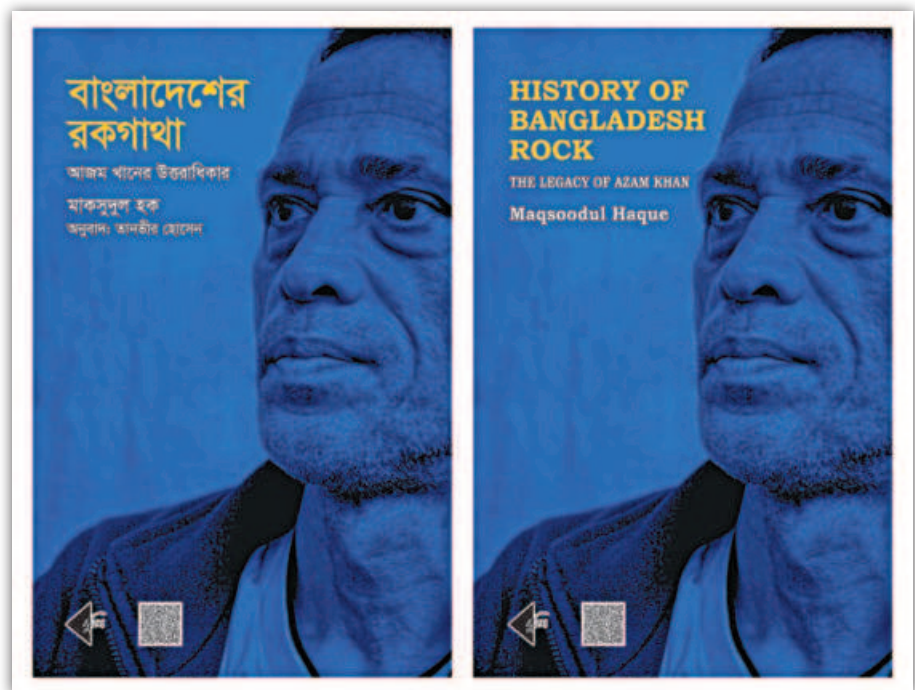
**Winter Festival**  
Title: Heem Utshab  
Venue: Jahangirnagar University  
Date: February 6-7  
Time: 10 am onwards

**Book Fair**  
Title: Amar Ekushey Boi Mela  
Organiser: Bangla Academy  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Premises  
Date: Feb 2 – 29  
Time: 3 pm onwards

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

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

## EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT



## Maqsoodul Haque on the legacy of Azam Khan

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

In 2011, the entire country mourned for an icon of Bangladeshi music -- Azam Khan, a man who went from liberating the country as a guerrilla fighter, to being a revolutionary in the pop music industry. When the 'Pop Samrat' passed away after his long battle with cancer, Maqsoodul Haque became distraught with sorrow.

"It was then that I decided to write a book dedicated to Azam Khan," said the anti-establishment musician,

"I wrote it for a month at a stretch, and finished it." The book touches upon



PHOTO: SAYEED SIDDIQUI

not only the life and legacy of Azam Khan, but also the tumultuous times of the Liberation War and its aftermath.

"I was fortunate enough to be close to him, and he would often tell me stories about the war. He was truly larger than life," said Haque.

*History of Bangladeshi Rock – The Legacy of Azam Khan* is bilingual, as it also comes with a Bengali translation by writer and poet Tanvir Hossain, titled *Bangladesher Ruggatha – Azam Khan er Uttaradhihar*.

Published by Bookish, it will be available at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

# International campaign to restore the ancestral homes of Ray, Ghatak and Sen underway

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

A movement in support of a global campaign to restore the ancestral houses of legendary film directors Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak and Mrinal Sen in Bangladesh, has started.



The human chain at Shahbagh, Dhaka.

PHOTO: STAR

The Federation of Film Societies of India (FFSI), the apex body of the film societies' network in the country, founded by Satyajit Ray in 1959, decided to initiate the international campaign for the restoration of the ancestral houses of the directors, during their Central Executive Committee meeting on January 30 in Kolkata.

Premendra Mazumder, Vice President of FFSI and Asia Pacific Secretary of the International Federation of Film Societies (IFFS), has been entrusted with the responsibility of taking up the issue at the international forum of IFFS, for supporting the demand of FFSI.

Mazumder told *The Daily Star* that he would be in touch

with directors Morshedul Islam, Tanvir Mokammel, Shameem Ashraf and Abu Sayeed for coordinating the campaign globally. The FFSI has decided to take the issue to the notice of the Indian Ministry of Culture Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage and UNESCO. Tanvir and Sayeed welcomed the initiative by the FFSI and said that the filmmakers of Bangladesh and India working together for the restoration will be effective. Sayeed added that the restoration of Ray's ancestral house at Kishoreganj should be a top priority, as it is also the house of Ray's father and grandfather.

Film activists in Dhaka have appealed to the Bangladesh

government through the District Administration for immediate renovation and preservation of the ancestral houses of the directors, and formed a human chain in this regard at Shahbagh recently. Eminent film personalities of Bangladesh, including Tanvir Mokammel, Morshedul Islam, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Shameem Akhtar and many others protested on the streets and signed a petition for the government to support the cause.

Ritwik spent his early years at his ancestral home in Rajshahi and studied in Rajshahi College. Ghatak's family left the house in 1948. The house was leased out in the late 1980s by the then military government of

Hussain Md Ershad to a private homeopathic college. Most of the house was demolished and restructured into a college building. Recently, the authorities demolished another room to build a bicycle garage.

The film and cultural community of Rajshahi and Dhaka hit the streets of Rajshahi, Dhaka and Toronto in the last week of December, in a protest joined by many leading filmmakers, film scholars, teachers, students and activists.

Mrinal Sen's ancestral house at Faridpur is now under the disposal of a private owner. Most of the property has been demolished to build something new. The original house can still be renovated and preserved.

## Fostering a sense of liberated creativity 'Three Worlds' underway at Shilpangan



Artworks on exhibit at the event.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

PHOTO: STAR

A group art exhibition, titled *Tribhuban (Three Worlds)*, is underway at Shilpangan Gallery in Lalmatia, Dhaka. Featuring works of three noted artists -- Karu Titas, Bipul Shah and Mahmudur Rahman Dipon, the exhibition shows off vast landscapes, seizing the contemporary time and experience and a lyrical depicting abstract imagery. Their creative efforts seem to foster a sense of liberated creativity, as a result of being in close proximity to nature.

The beautiful landscapes and natural beauty of Bangladesh recurrently serve as a muse for Karu Titas. In his untiring quest to portray the natural grace and conventional lifestyle of Bangladeshi people, he frequently travels around the country to garner inspirations for his artistic pursuits. "Bangladesh attracts me a lot. I roam around different places, where I discover different skies, light, greenery and people -- my works revolve around them," he says.

*Bhngurotary Poth Chola* is a prominent series that Bipul Shah

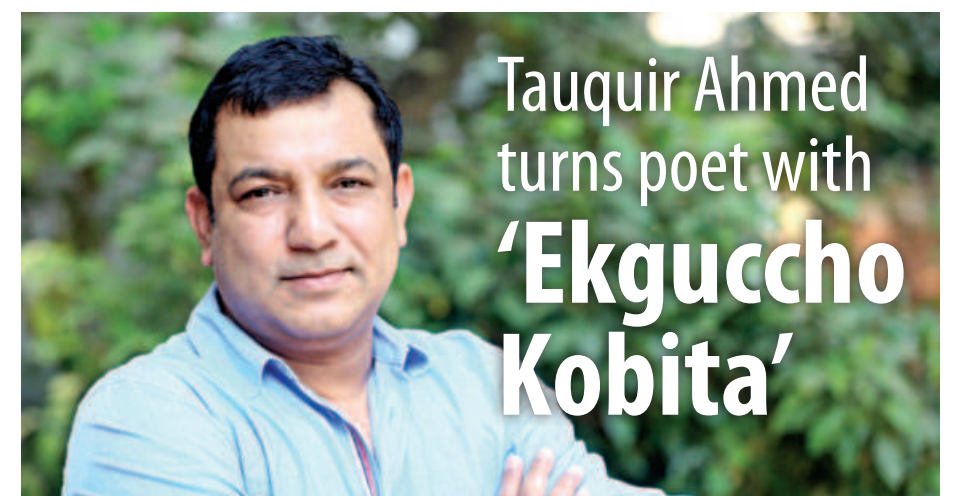
has been continuing for years. "We see the existence of life in the breakage of things. To bring the mundane and waste materials to life, I have tried to represent both the aesthetic aspects of the works and the insightful feature of our fragile and grey time," mentions the artist. The compositional balance of Bipul's works are something to behold. Although they represent a monochromatic use of colours at the background, his presentation of diverse objects like traditional instrument dotara, post box, a rickshaw crushed under a building and owl in an

abandoned house are worthwhile to see.

Mahmudur Rahman Dipon's works evoke geometric forms. Apart from that, he lets his vibrant colour pallet flow freely. The natural contour lines and abstract forms represent poetic expressions. Dipon has also displayed a female portrait from the hills, whereas *Wall and Vacuum* is a series that he has fondly portrayed for the exhibit. The pastel works also embody geometric shapes and patterns. A kaleidoscopic vision of cityscape coupled with a shaky treatment

of light and shade are prominent features of his works.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition took place on January 31. Eminent educationist Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest, while celebrated cultural activist Shampa Reza and prominent artist Tarun Ghosh were present as special guests. Internationally renowned artist Monirul Islam attended the event as honourable guest. The show, opening daily from 3 pm to 8 pm, will conclude on February 11.



## Tauquir Ahmed turns poet with 'Ekguccho Kobita'

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

For the first time, Tauquir Ahmed has written a poetry book, *Ekguccho Kobita*, which will be released at the Ekushey Boi Mela. The renowned actor and director, who regularly writes for television and theatre, has previously authored three books. These include: *Protishoron*,

*Ichchamritt* and *Oggayatonama*, which was adapted into a film as well.

His poetry book, illustrated by Bipasha Hayat, will be available at the stall of Anannya Prokashoni.

"The readers will be able to discover a new side of me through this book," Tauquir, who hopes to visit the fair frequently this year, shared.

## 13th International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh concludes



PHOTO: COURTESY

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

The festivity of the International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh 2020 continued as the winners were announced in the closing ceremony at the National Public Library, recently.

The programme began with the introduction of individual teams of the organising committee, who shared their experiences. President of Children's Film Society Bangladesh Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, General Secretary Munira Morshed Munni, Founder of CFSB Morshedul Islam and Festival Director Fariha Jahin Biva, among others, also spoke at the closing ceremony of the festival.

A total of 11 awards were handed over at the event. *Romy's Salon*, directed by Mischa Kamp (Netherlands), won the Best Feature Film Award in Best Film (International) Section, while Finnish director Merja Maijanen bagged the

Best Director Award for her film, *Good Girl*. The Best Short Film (International) Award was bagged by Katharina Rivilis for the German film, *Day X*. Best Director (International under 18 Section) Award went to *Comfortable Position* by DRF Children Animation Studio (Uzbekistan).

Ragib Mahmud Shafayet Shah received the Young Talent Award for *The Smoker* and Sudipto Shah won the Social Film Award for his film, *Khoka Jokhon Chhotto Chhilen*, from Bangladesh. In the Under 18 Section, five awards were handed over to six local makers, namely Bibhaon Chakma, Supriyo Poroma, Farhanoor Imtiaz, Mubassir Ibnat, Mir Ragib Tajwar and Sifat Shahriar.

Children's Film Society Bangladesh (CFS) works for children with an affinity for filmmaking to inspire the next generation of filmmakers and offer them a solid platform to exercise and exhibit their talents.