

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Three Worlds
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Lalmitia, 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 Bhai 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, Dhanmondi
 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



PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

Saiful Huq Omi's 'In Search of The Future' ends

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

Saiful Huq Omi has been documenting the lives of Rohingyas since 2009. A solo photography exhibition, *In Search of The Future* by Omi was arranged by UNHCR at Edge Gallery, Gulshan, recently. Steven Corliss, UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh and Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh were present as guests in

the opening day.

Through the eyes of the photographer, the audience were taken through a journey of pain, suffering, sacrifice and despair. The exhibition, curated by Counter Foto, featured 41 recent photographs of Rohingya refugees and the Bangladeshi communities who gave shelter to them. Some of the photographer's previous works were also on display. The exhibition is set

to launch in Geneva, among other cities.

136: I Am Rohingya and *136: I Think Rohingya* -- are two of Omi's published works on Rohingyas. The photographer has been working on a film on the lives of Rohingya refugees which will be released this year.

Omi will travel to the Middle East to work on his upcoming book, *Memories of War*, soon. He also aspires to work on climate change.

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

'Boshonto, Kokiler Kortobyo'

– A delightful read by Pias Majid

SHARMIN JOYA

Pias Majid is a renowned name in the world of Bengali literature. The poet-writer was honoured with HSBC-Kali O Kolom Young Poets and Writers Award for his contribution in the literary arena, in 2012. He also achieved City-Ananda ALO Literary Award and the Prodottyo Darabar Jayga literary award, Kolkata, in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Currently, the poet is working as a Public Relations Officer at Bangla Academy.



PHOTO: COURTESY

effort to make the readers feel the necessity of nature in our lives."

The poet says that he intends to keep a parallel connection between the consequences of disrupting nature in the world. He also tried to keep his works in simple tone for the readers' comfort. "I have tried to work

more on themes rather heavy words, an aspect that readers often complain about," laughs Pias.

His other books releasing this year are *Kobitay Kaya O Kushum* published by Bidhya Prokash (pavilion 266-69), *Kothar Kolloi* issued by Mawla Brothers, *Ek Prithibi Boier Bari* printed by Bengal Boi, *Golaper Nohobot*, Panjeri Publications (pavilion 19) and *Shoron Bhromon Japon* published by Shomoy Prokashoni.

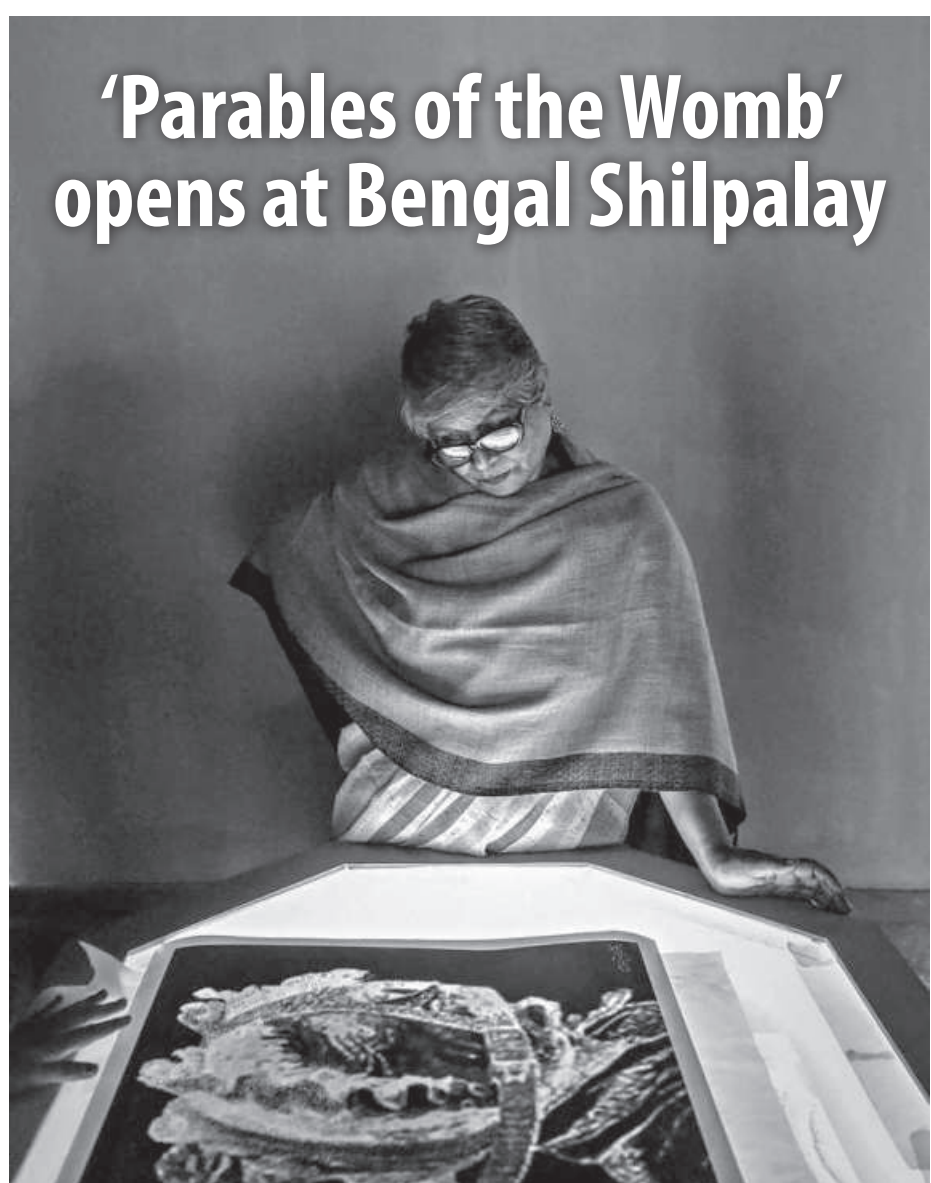


PHOTO: COURTESY

'Parables of the Womb' opens at Bengal Shilpalay

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Artist Dilara Begum Jolly is known for her works which touch upon themes of gender, trauma and the feminine figure. Initially trained as a painter from Government Arts College, Chattogram, and later as a printmaker from Santiniketan, Jolly has expanded her practice on various media. Her solo exhibition, *Parables of the Womb*, starts today at Bengal Shilpalay. In an intimate chat with *The Daily Star*, the artist shares her art concepts, inspiration and more.

The exhibition aims at showcasing her conception about how war destroys the 'womb', and in turn, destroys the existence of a nation. Jolly also focuses on the fact that in our everyday battle, the character remains the same. She dedicates the show to all the women who safeguard and nurture human race, even though they are juggling between their everyday struggles.

Jolly considers herself to be her only competitor and thus, her will to be better has worked as motivation through tough times. "Honestly, this journey began as a consequence of bad academic result," smiles the artist in nostalgia.

Although she was blessed with her family's support and her institution preferred a gender balanced environment,

the society she has grown up in always reminded her that she was a girl. "I still remember this incident from my 3rd year during my undergrad when we visited a brick field. I, like most of us, stood near the furnace where some of the workers were burning bricks. Some of the labours took offense and asked me to step down as they believed that the touch of a girl made the bricks impure!" she says. Baffled by this experience, Jolly began to inquire how the society actually portray women.

Jolly defines herself as an organic practitioner. "I develop my art through the process of creating it. However, I research the subject thoroughly," she asserts. Transforming her knack for stitch work in her art, Jolly developed a signature practice of needling on paper and, more recently on photographs – a painstaking process during which she draws motifs on paper, or highlights areas on photographs, through needle pricking.

The exhibition will feature the screening of her first documentary film *Jothorleena*, alongside performing arts and animation films. *Jothorleena*, an experimental production, portrays the life of war hero Roma Chowdhury along with archived letters collected while filming.

The exhibition is open for all till March 28.

'Jatiya Kabita Utshab 2020' concludes

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 34th national poetry festival, *Jatiya Kabita Utshab*, concluded yesterday at University of Dhaka.

Jatiya Kabita Parishad (JKP) organised the two-day festival with the theme of 'Mujib is the poet of immortal poetry of my freedom' (Mujib Amar Swadhinotar Omar Kabber Kobi).

Floral wreaths were placed at the Central Shaheed Minar and graves of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, painter Kamrul Hasan, poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, ahead of the inaugural function in the morning, according to a press release.

Noted poet Mahadev Saha inaugurated the festival, which began with the playing of the national anthem, along with hoisting of the national flag. The Ekushey song and festival song were also presented.

The festival will feature elaborate programmes, including recitation of



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

poems, seminars, discussions and exhibitions on poets and poetry.

Poets from different countries including India, Turkey, Nepal, Spain, Sweden, Uzbekistan and Malaysia participated in the festival.

At the event, three eminent poets and

language movement veterans — Ahmed Rafi, Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury and Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir — were honoured with the Jatiya Kabita Parishad Sommanona.

Poetry sessions took place on each day of the festival till 9 pm.

Best of BAFTAs 2020



Bong Joon Ho with his award for Film Not in the English Language for 'Parasite'.

1917, Sam Mendes's visually extravagant World War I drama that takes viewers into the chaos of the trenches was the big winner at the British Academy Film Awards recently, taking seven awards, including best film. Mendes was also named best director at the event. Better known as the BAFTAs, the programme is Britain's equivalent of the Oscars. Here is a list of winners in the other key categories:

- Best Actress**
Renée Zellweger – *Judy*
- Best Actor**
Joaquin Phoenix – *Joker*
- Best Casting**
Joker
- EE Rising Star Award (voted for by the public)**
Micheal Ward
- Best Film not in the English language**
Parasite
- Best Special Visual Effects**
1917



The team of '1917' with their award for Best Film.

- Best Supporting Actor**
Brad Pitt – *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*
- Best Original Screenplay**
Parasite – Han Jin Won, Bong Joon-ho
- Best Documentary**
For Sama
- Outstanding Debut by a British writer, director or producer**
Bait – Mark Jenkin (writer/director), Kate Byers, Linn Waite (producers)
- Best Adapted Screenplay**
Jojo Rabbit – Taika Waititi
- Best Supporting Actress**
Laura Dern – *Marriage Story*
- Best Cinematography**
1917
- Best Editing**
Le Mans '66
- Best Costume Design**
Little Women
- Best Production Design**



Joaquin Phoenix with his Best Actor award for 'Joker'.

- 1917
 - Best Sound**
1917
 - Best Original Score**
Joker
 - Best British Short Film**
Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone (If You're a Girl)
 - Best British Short Animation**
Grandad Was a Romantic
 - Best Makeup and Hair**
Bombshell
 - Best Animated film**
Klaus
 - Outstanding British film**
1917
 - Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema**
Andy Serkis
 - Bafta Fellowship**
Kathleen Kennedy
- SOURCE: REUTERS