

**WHAT'S ON**

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

**Solo Exhibition**  
 Title: Parables of the Womb  
 Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly  
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhammondi  
 Date: February 4 – March 28  
 Time: 2 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)

**Book Fair**  
 Title: Amar Ekushey Boi Mela  
 Organiser: Bangla Academy  
 Venue: Bangla Academy Premises  
 Date: Feb 2-29  
 Time: 3 pm – 8 pm; 11 am – 9 pm on weekends

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

**Dhaka Art Summit 2020: Seismic Movements**  
 Title: Dhaka Art Summit 2020  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
 Date: February 7 – 15  
 Time: 10 am – 8 pm



(L) Visitors at 'Lighting the Fire of Freedom: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman'. (M) An installation on display at the summit. (R) The summit welcomes visitors from all over the world.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# The art extravaganza returns

5th edition of Dhaka Art Summit inaugurated at Shilpakala

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The city has become the epicenter of art, as Dhaka Art Summit 2020: Seismic Movements (DAS 2020) began yesterday at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

Visionary duo Rajeeb and Nadia Samdani, the co-founders of the Samdani Art Foundation (SAF), in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, have been organising the prestigious art event biennially since 2012, in order to provide art lovers with a rare opportunity to experience multifarious arts from all around the world under one roof.

The open-for-all event convenes a critical mass of artists and thinkers invoking its audience to reconsider histories, movements, borders and fault lines through the lenses of art. More than 500 artists, sculptors, curators, critics, collectors, architects and art professionals from different countries, including Bangladesh, are participating in this grand fiesta of modern and contemporary art. Live events, including provoking artistic performances, panel discussions and puppet shows, among other things, are simultaneously underway at the extravagant event.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid inaugurated the summit as the chief guest. DAS Organising Committee Chairman Farooq Sobhan greeted everyone warmly, while co-founder and president of the Samdani Art Foundation, and the director of



A performance, titled 'Let Me Get You a Nice Cup of Tea', featuring Yasmin Jahan Nupur (R).

Dhaka Art Summit, Nadia Samdani, delivered her welcome address. Director General of BSA Liaquat Ali Lucky presided over the programme.

"We are interested in what will happen through the movement of ideas from inside the BSA to outside in real life," said Diana Campbell Betancourt, Chief Curator of DAS

2020, "this is why the exhibition design of DAS 2020 keeps a porous barrier between the inside and the outside of the venue."

A special exhibition, titled *Lighting the Fire of Freedom: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman*, is also underway at DAS. It is an initiative of Centre for Research and Information (CRI), ICT Division, of



Visitors at Soma Surovi Jannat's 'Exploring the Santal's Story'.



Visitors at the special exhibition, 'Roots'.

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, in collaboration with BSA and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. It pays the richest tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman on his birth centenary. Organised simultaneously with DAS, the exhibition is curated by Ruxmini Reckvana Q Choudhury, Assistant Curator of SAF. It narrates the

journey of the Father of the Nation (1920 – 1975), chronologically, through a rich variety of archival and contemporary materials, including personal photographs, newspapers, videos and artworks. The exhibition treasures historic moments, dating back to the Bengal Presidency under the British Raj, to the East Pakistan regime, and finally, the formation of Bangladesh, a democratic independent nation.

*Roots*, curated by Dhaka-based artist and educator Bishwajit Goswami, examines the transfer of knowledge by art educators who have been critical in the building of Bangladesh's art history. The interesting educative programme focuses on the role of Bangladeshi artists in building the institutions that support artistic productions in the country. The programme has a key role in founding formal institutions, such as the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Chittagong, S M Sultan's Shishu Swarga and Charupith Jashore.

The Samdani Art Award has created an internationally recognised platform to showcase the works of young Bangladeshi artists to an audience, consisting of international art professionals. It aims to support, promote and highlight Bangladeshi contemporary art, and honour talented emerging Bangladeshi artists between the ages of 22 and 40.

The event, opening from 10 am to 8 pm daily, will run until February 15.

## EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

# Md Tajdin Hassan and Rafeed Chowdhury's motivational book on careers out now



PHOTO: COURTESY

Guiding young adults through their academic and professional journeys, Md Tajdin Hassan and Rafeed Chowdhury made their debuts as authors with *The Transition: How To Move From Fear Zone to Growth Zone*, published by The Daily Star Books, at the Ekushey Boi Mela, this year.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADAR

The first half of the book, written by Rafeed Elahi Chowdhury, a student of North South University, explains how you can excel at college and get over the fear of settling into university as a new student, by involving yourself in various on-campus activities, including joining various co-curricular clubs. "I want to share the lessons I have garnered from my early university life with other students so that they can make the best out of their comfort zones," shares Rafeed.

The second half of the book, written by Md Tajdin Hassan, Head of Marketing at *The Daily Star*, aims to help fresh graduates work through their fears while entering the corporate world. "The book is a reflection of fourteen years of my corporate journey. Young professionals have very little time to contribute towards self-grooming, which is why I wrote the book for them. It is more of a guide book that'll help aspiring young professionals to ace their work lives," says Tajdin, who believes that with a bit of guidance, students can excel in their academics and also choose the right careers for themselves. He has previously worked at British American Tobacco, Chevron, Robi Axiata and DHL Express.

Each chapter of the book ends with a certain exercise, marked through a point based system which helps readers find out if they are still in the fear zone or if they have made it to the growth zone. The exercises are followed by two cartoon characters, Excuse Monkey and Benefit Banana, who sum up the essentials of



the chapter. *The Transition: How To Move From Fear Zone to Growth Zone* is available from The Daily Star Books in stalls 491 and 492, at BDT 262 (under 25 percent discount).



PHOTOS: STAR

# 'Ekusher Alope Natya Pradarshani' in Sylhet Theatre in light of history

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, from Sylhet

A 17-day theatre festival, Ekusher Alope Natya Pradarshani, is underway at Kabi Nazrul Auditorium, Sylhet. The annual arrangement, organised by Sammilita Natya Parishad Sylhet, was inaugurated on February 1. The fest opened with the staging of *O Mon Pahia* by Manipuri Theatre.



The fest aims to revive the spirit of the International Language Movement (February 21, 1952) and the Liberation War of Bangladesh (1971) with the tagline, *Ekushe Michil Ekushe Hata, Ekushe Manena Pother Kanta*.

Sylhet Zilla Parishad and Sylhet City Corporation is hosting sixteen theatre troupes of the division, in association with the Cultural Affairs Ministry. *Bhumikanya* by Natya Niketan was staged on the third day of the festival.

On the fourth and fifth days, *The Old Man and the Sea* by Theatre Sylhet and *Pejgi* by Diganta Theatre were played respectively.

The other troupes performing in this festival are: Nagamat, Darpan Theatre, Natyalok Sylhet Surma, Theare Murari Chand, Natyamancha Sylhet, Nabisikha Natyadal, and Kathakali.

The festival will conclude on February 17 with the play *Bason* by Nandik Natyadal Sylhet.