

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Three Worlds
Venue: Shilpangan 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, Dhanmondi
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, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 17 – Feb 15
Time: 1 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)

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



PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Looking into Mohammad Shafiqul Islam's INNER STATE
A poetic insight on social predicaments

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Poet-academic-translator Mohammad Shafiqul Islam's third book, *Inner State*, explores the current issues plaguing the world-- poverty, class inequality, climate crisis, warfare and terrorism, and the effects they leave on the environment and human lives.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam is a professor of English at SUST and poetry editor of the literary journal, *Reckoning*. His first poetry collection, *Wings of Winds*, was published in 2015 under the banner of Adorn Publication. His other translation works include *Humayun Ahmed: Selected Short Stories*, published by Anyaprakasha in 2016, and *Aphorisms of Humayun Azad* -- a translation of *Prabachanguchha*, published by Agamee Prakashani in 2017.

Besides books, the writer has also published essays in *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *International English Language Quarterly*, *Bengal Lights*, and *Arts & Letters*, among others. "*Inner State* is my second collection of poetry in which I have presented the intensity of reality, along with chaos in order, especially of the inner world," shares the writer. "It is also about silence, beauty and empathy."

Paired with mirroring photographs that accentuate the shifts within the poems, the poetry collection also looks into themes of anxiety, conflicted identity, and the struggle to express through poetry feelings of love and concern for the world. "We started out trying to make cyanotypes, then moved on to water colour pieces and prints which we tried to manipulate digitally," says artist and photojournalist Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo, who has designed and prepared the visuals of the book. "Eventually, through discussions among the team and with the author, we decided upon five photographs that best represented the themes and tones of the poems—one image for the cover, four more to accompany the poems inside." The cover typography and formatting was designed by Kazi Akib Bin Asad, Sub Editor at *SHOUT, The Daily Star*.

Inner State is available at The Daily Star Books in stalls 491-492, at BDT 165 (under 25 percent discount), at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020.



Turning trash into treasure

Bidyanondo's eye-catching stall at Ekushey Boi Mela

The flipside of recent election posters were turned into notebooks, the plastic laminates were reused for packing clothes, strings were made into binding food packets, whilst school bags were made with the banners. These innovative activities have been lauded by everyone on social media. The initiative was taken by Bidyanono Foundation, a youth led non-profit organisation that aims to provide a better life to the underprivileged children.



SHARMIN JOYA

The organisation is currently present in the Ekushey Boi Mela at Bangla Academy field's stall number 77, under the banner of their own publication house, Bidyanondo Publications. "All of the decorations in the stall are made from waste products," says Kishor Kumar Das, Founder, Bidyanondo Foundation. "Our aim is to raise awareness about waste material -- they can be recycled and they turned into useful products."

Most of the visitors are still unaware of the fact that the stall offers their

books in exchange of used products. "Having lived in Europe for a long time, I have witnessed many similar activities," shares the founder, who currently resides in Peru. "Thus, we have opened up this platform so that people can exchange mobile, laptops, clothes, medicines, or any other products which they do not use anymore." According to the stall representatives, the response is growing with every passing day.

The books available at their stall are all published by Bidyanondo Publications. "We took this step with the idea that even if a product is no



longer in use, it can be an asset for someone who cannot afford one," asserts Kishor. Another interesting product that can be found in the stalls are calendars in eight different language of Bangladesh. "We have made calendars using the different local languages that are often overlooked, but they are part of our culture. For instance, the Chakma and Marma languages have their own alphabets as well."

Bidyanondo Foundation is currently taking care of the basic needs of over four hundred children, and providing shelter to them.



'Freedom Music Fest' concludes

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Liberation War Museum organised a three-day musical event, *Freedom Music Fest*, starting from February 6. The festival aimed to raise funds for the museum.

Around 20 bands, including Maqsood O' Dhaka, Bangla Five Band, Nemesis, Nova, Meghdol, Sacramento, Chitkar, Gaatch, Obscure, Renaissance, Shovvota, Sorol, Baul Express, Mati, Sahajia, Avash, and Warfaze, performed at the event, which concluded yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Natyam Repertory's 'Dear Liar' held yesterday

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Natyam Repertory's 6th production, *Dear Liar* was held yesterday at Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Dear Liar is a play based on George Bernard Shaw and Lady Patrick

Campbell's love letters. The play, directed by Dr Irin Parveen Lopa, has been translated and adapted by Abdus Selim, from English playwright Jerome Kilty's original version.

Monchosharothi Ataur Rahman and Aupee Karim were seen in the lead roles.



PHOTOS: COURTESY



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Oikko Channel i Music Awards 2019' honours BANGLADESHI MUSICIANS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 14th edition of *Oikko Channel i Music Awards*, powered by Saif Power Tec Limited, was held at The Palace Luxury Resort in Sylhet, recently.

The event was planned and moderated by Izaz Khan Swapan. Dr Mohammad Murad Hasan, State Minister for Information, was present as chief guest at the event.



Awards in 13 categories were given this year-- Best Tagore song, Best Nazrul songs, Best Folk songs, Best Modern songs, Best Classical (voice and instrument), Best Film Music, Best Band, Best Lyrics, Best Newcomer (male/female), Best Sound Engineering, Best Album Cover Design, Best Music Direction and Best Music Video.

Noted musicians Rafiqul Alam and Fakir Alamgir were honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award for their contributions in modern music and *gonosangeet*, respectively. Renowned artistes Shimu Dey, Yasmin Mushtari, Konal, Prince Mahmud, Ankhi Alamgir and band Shironamhin received awards, among others.