

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

Soma Surovi Jannat on winning the Samdani Art Award 2020

Promising artist Soma Surovi Jannat won the Samdani Art Award at the Dhaka Art Summit 2020 (DAS 2020), this year. Curated by Philippe Pirotte, in partnership with Goethe Institut (Bangladesh) and Delfina Foundation (UK), the award was presented by Nasrul Hamid Bipu, State Minister for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, during a ceremony at the Crystal Ballroom and Gardens of the Intercontinental Hotel.

ZAHANGIR ALAM

It was followed by the grand opening of the DAS 2020, at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 7. The international jury for the programme was chaired by Aaron Cezar, Director, Delfina Foundation, with Adrián Villar Rojas (Artist), Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev (Director, Castello di Rivoli), Julie Mehretu (Artist), and Eungie Joo (Curator, SF MoMA). For the first time ever, the jury gave out a special mention to Promiti Hossain for her delicate depiction of gender-based violence against women and children, engaging survivors, in the making of her installation, *Personal and Social* (2019-2020).
“Soma Surovi Jannat was selected for the Samdani Art Award because of her highly inventive practice of drawing, installation and painting, which is self-generative and yet socially aware. Her command of space, expanding the notion of drawing beyond the confines of the canvas and often the studio, reflects a fresh and imaginative approach to storytelling,” said Aaron Cezar, on behalf of the jury. The Samdani Art Award was envisaged by art connoisseurs and collectors Rajeb and Nadia Samdani, the co-founders of Samdani Art Foundation (SAF).
Jannat’s award winning work, *Into the Yarn, Out in the One*, (2019-2020), raises the question, “How do we perceive human

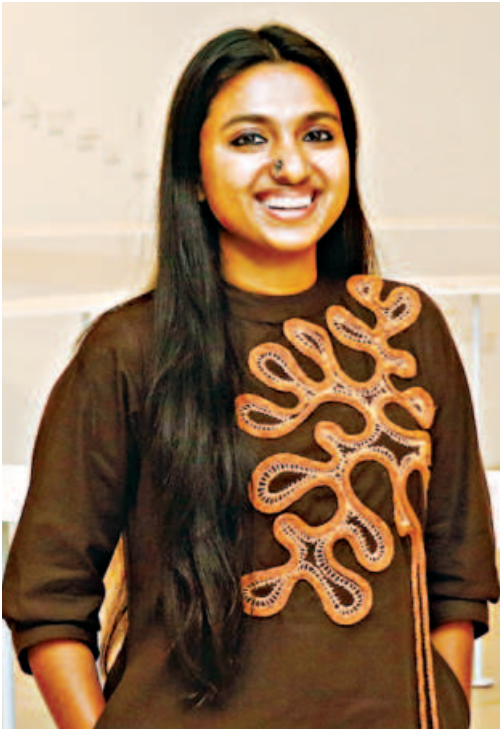


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

existence and history living in the disjoint landscape?” “The space that I have created into my work is inspired from the two-way spiral, signifying the golden section. The sacred cut is found in nature, ranging from

the milky way of the galaxy to the DNA of our body cell. Different layers and shapes of the display confer to ‘Seismic Movements’, the theme of the DAS 2020,” mentions Jannat. “The audience will find a kind of primitiveness in my work – one that is pure and tells stories of our own society. The smell of soil, various organic forms and simplicity are noticeable aspects of my work.” She received an all-expenses paid six-week residency at the Delfina Foundation in London, which is a career-defining opportunity for the artist to widen her networks.
“SAF truly gave the 12 shortlisted artists full freedom. As a result, it was easy for all of us to proceed with our projects,” explains Jannat. “When it comes to idea development and allowing artists to use space and equipment, SAF provides fantastic opportunities. The National Art Gallery building of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is spacious and beautifully designed. Artists can make the best use of this huge space during the summit.”
Jannat completed her Bachelor’s from the Department of Drawing and Painting at DU and her Master’s in the same discipline from Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan. “I am grateful to my teachers Shishir Bhattacharjee from DU and Sanchayan Ghosh and Soumik Nandi Majumdar from Visva-Bharati University for their support. The idyllic ambience and artistic freedom at Santiniketan also inspired me immensely,” she concludes.

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Niaz Mehedi reflects on societal norms in ‘Adda Deya Nishedh’

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

A bookworm at heart, Niaz Mehedi started writing for different platforms from a young age. In 2018, his thriller novel, *Aulad Miyar Bhaater Hotel*, published by Batighor and released at the Ekushey Boi Mela, attracted a significant number of readers. Niaz launched his second book, a short story collection, titled *Bishmoyee Raat*, in the following year. It was published by Mawla Brothers.
His second novel, *Adda Deya Nishedh*, also published by Mawla Brothers, explores a dystopian society where gatherings and discussions are prohibited. The book, released at the



PHOTO: COURTESY

Ekushey Boi Mela this year, narrates the story of a peaceful and prosperous society, where despite everything, suicide rates are high. A newcomer questions this lifestyle, and sets out to find the reason behind it. The book is available at pavilion 29, for BDT 150.
“The young generation is going through a tough time. They are depressed and some of them are heading towards darkness. I believe that they need to connect more to other people and not to objects like smart phones. To find the right way, one needs to read a lot as well,” expressed the author, who believes that people need to explore new genres and styles of writing to truly experience the beauty and diversity of literature today.
“The Ekushey Boi Mela needs to be less Dhaka centric and extend throughout all 64 districts of the country,” he said.
Former Sub-Editor for the Sports section of *Prothom Alo*, Niaz is currently working as the Assistant Police Super in Pabna. He plans to write an unconventional science-fiction novel and explore artificial intelligence in his writings, moving forward.



SHAKIB KHAN’S ‘BIR’ to release on VALENTINE’S DAY

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Acclaimed director Kazi Hayat’s 50th film, *Bir*, will release on Valentine’s Day.
Produced by SK Films and starring the pair of Shakib Khan and Bubly, it

will be a celebration of a wonderful career in films for the director. “A very high budget was allotted for the film,” says Shakib Khan, “and we were particular about releasing *Bir* on Valentines Day.” The actor is hopeful for the turnout of the film.



‘Saturday Afternoon’ goes to International Vesoul Film Festival

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Winner of two independent jury awards at Moscow International Film Festival, the Mostofa Sarwar Farooki directorial *Saturday Afternoon* (Shonibaar Bikel) has been selected in the competition round of the International Vesoul Film Festival. Tibetan maestro filmmaker Pema Tsenden will be the head of the jury board, according to a press release.
The screening of the film will take place on February 15 and 16 at the festival’s ‘Majestic-5’ hall. National Award winning actor Nusrat Imrose Tisha played an important role in the one-shot film, alongside noted actor Zahid Hasan and popular Indian artiste Parambrata Chatterjee. Farooki and Tisha will fly to Paris on February 14 to attend the screening. The award ceremony for the best film will take place on February 18.
Dissidence films, Paris, will host a special

screening of *Saturday Afternoon* on February 27.
Jaz Multimedia, Chhabal and Tandem Productions produced the film. It was showcased in many recognised international festivals – including the Munich, Moscow, Sydney and Busan Film Festivals, among others.
A total of nine films will be showcased with *Saturday Afternoon*, including Afghan film *Hava*, *Maryam*, *Ayesha* directed by Sahraa Karimi (Venice Film Festival-2019, Horizon Award category), Kazak movie *Mariam* directed by Sharipa Urazbayeva (Filmmakers of the Present Award at Locarno Film Festival 2019), Iranian director Mohammad Reza Keivanfa’s *Among the Hills*, (New Current Award category, Busan Film Festival 2019), independent film *Just Like That* directed by Kislav, Sri Lankan maestro filmmaker Prasanna Vithanage’s *Children of the Sun* (Gaadi), Philippine movie *John Denver Trending* and Korean film *A Bedsore*. These entries will fight in the Best Film Award category at the festival.

Street photography exhibition ‘Forever Dhaka’ concludes



SUMAIYA KABIR

Ashiqur Rahman Rean, iflix’s Country Head by day and passionate street photographer by night, hosted his first solo exhibition, *Forever Dhaka*, which concluded yesterday.
Rean has been capturing this beautiful city’s candid moments, despite his busy corporate schedule, for the last five years. Interestingly, to exhibit what he calls his ‘first chapter’, he did not choose any of the usual galleries of Dhaka. Rather, as a social experiment, he had his photographs displayed in an open floor of a building - the Atrium Zone between Chef’s Table and Unimart in Gulshan

2. Most people love paintings for their homes, and through this exhibition in a public space, the photographer wanted to observe how many people would opt out to look through and actually buy such photography.
Rean’s *Forever Dhaka* continued for four days, and his monochromatic shots were successful in captivating Dhaka’s clumsy story, showcasing everything from its people, its noise to all of its raw emotions. His subjects included people on moving trains, the hustle and bustle of Sadarghat and children, among other things.
Future chapters will include other talented street photographers and their work on Dhaka as well, according to Rean.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ASHIQUR RAHMAN REAN