

WHAT'S ON



**Musical Evening**  
Title: Bhalobashar Akhore Lekha  
Boshonter Gaan  
Organiser: Star Melodies  
Venue: The Daily Star Centre,  
Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave  
Date: February 15  
Time: 6 pm



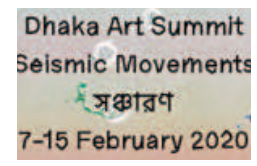
**Solo Exhibition**  
Title: Parables of the Womb  
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay,  
Dhammondi  
Date: February 4 – March 28  
Time: 2 pm – 8 pm (Except  
Sundays)



**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  
Organiser: Subir Choudhury Exhibition  
Hall, Bengal Shilpalay, Dhammondi  
Date: Dec 17 - Feb 15  
Time: 1 pm - 8 pm (Except Sundays)



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



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

## Farida Ahmed Niku delves into lives of the young generation in 'Chilekothaay Shongshaar'

SHABABA IQBAL

Farida Ahmed Niku developed a keen interest in writing since she was a school student. Many of her writings have been published in different magazines across the country. Currently, she is the Senior HR Business Partner at Duncan Brothers Bangladesh Ltd.

Farida started writing novels in 2017. Her books, *Opekha Ojut Bochhor* and *Khomio Khoma*, released at the Ekushey Boi Mela in 2017 and 2018 respectively, attracted a significant number of readers. "We released *Opekha Ojut Bochhor* in the last week of the Ekushey Boi Mela 2017. Even though the book was at the fair for a limited time, it sold out very quickly. Needless to say, we were immensely happy with the response," asserts Farida. *Opekha Ojut Bochhor* is a Nandita Prokash publication, while *Khomio Khoma* is backed by Raowa Publications.

Her third novel, *Chilekothaay Shongshaar*, a Ratri Prokashoni publication, is out now at the Ekushey Boi Mela. "I wanted to explore the experiences and the challenges that the youth of today goes through in their everyday lives. The novel is about their viewpoints, romantic dilemmas, accomplishments and hesitations, among other things," says the author.

Farida aims to convey an important message through the novel. "These days, many people complain against the young generation for not conforming to certain expectations - such complaints and criticisms, resulting from a generation gap, are actually a form of injustice," she explains. "I believe that the youth of today are immensely straightforward and confident and I hope that people see them in a new light after reading the book."

An avid reader herself, Farida added that the organising committee of the Ekushey Boi Mela has done a commendable job this year. "It is good to see books of so many different genres and themes at the fair - I think that events such as the fair should be organised more than once a year - to develop people's reading habits," she says. *Chilekothaay Shongshaar* is available from Ratri Prokashoni in stalls 464 and 465, for BDT 150.



PHOTO: COURTESY

## 'Lighting the Fire of Freedom' in DAS 2020

The richest tribute to Bangabandhu, marking his birth centenary

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The Dhaka Art Summit 2020: Seismic Movements (DAS 2020) features many richly curated research-based exhibitions. Initiated by Samdani Art Foundation (SAF), with support from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the grand art event, held biennially, is now underway at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), and will run until February 15.

*Lighting the Fire of Freedom: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman*, an initiative of Centre for Research and Information (CRI), ICT Division of the Ministry of Information and



the leader, with bold and magnanimous works on Bangabandhu (1920 - 1975). It narrates the journey of the Father of the Nation chronologically, through a rich variety of archival and contemporary materials, including artworks, personal photographs, newspapers, videos, a visual projection of his historic 7th March speech and digital books. The exhibition treasures historic moments, dating back to the Bengal Presidency under the British Raj, the East Pakistan regime, and finally Bangladesh, a democratic independent nation, where Bangabandhu's legacy remains alive.

Grandson of Bangabandhu, Radwan Mujib Siddiq visited the summit. He was particularly impressed by the exhibition, titled *Roots*, curated by Bishwajit Goswami, who summarises his thinking by integrating the history of the art and movement of Bangladesh with the works of fine art teachers and renowned artists. Radwan believes that these works will have a positive impact on today's youth.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, throughout

his political career, worked to decolonise the nation of Bengalis away from imperial British rule, towards democracy and socialism. The people of Bangladesh lovingly gave him the title 'Bangabandhu' (Friend of Bengal), recognising his love for the country and its people. From addressing the challenges of the partition of 1947, fighting in the 1952 Language Movement to battling for the country's independence in 1971, Bangabandhu strove to lead the resilient people of Bangladesh into an empowered nation. He played a vital role in many glorious political movements, especially the 1966 six-point movement, the landslide victory in the 1970 democratic general election and the 1971 Liberation War.

On the night of March 25, 1971, the Pakistani Army heinously attacked and killed tens of thousands of peaceful, unarmed and sleeping people. The incident led Bangabandhu to declare our independence through a broadcast via EPR wireless, before he was arrested. From students to rural farmers to

people from all walks of life, inspired by Bangabandhu's speech, marched forward to fight against the Pakistani army. Bangladesh achieved Independence on December 16 through a nine-month war in 1971.

The post-liberation period was the most important time for Bangabandhu. Although freedom was achieved, his dream of 'Sonar Bangla' was still far from being realised. He strengthened foreign policy to garner international support and recognition for the new nation.

After independence, the people of Bangladesh hoped that peace would prevail in the suffering lands. Unfortunately, corruption and internal political infighting got in the way of that dream. Bangabandhu was fearless and uncompromising in his ideals to the point that those seeking power were threatened by his leadership. He tried to introduce a series of amendments to the constitution in his three and a half years of power. His socialist ideals became a threat to the military, pro-Pakistanis and corrupt businessmen. On 15 August 1975, through a military coup, Bangabandhu and members of his family were brutally murdered. His two daughters, Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, who were residing in Belgium at that time, were spared the gruesome killings.

Bangabandhu's leadership and personality remain alive in the hearts of Bangladeshis today. Although over one-fourth of his 55-year life was spent behind bars, his legacy was one of freedom. The exhibition, too, symbolically represents his life behind bars.



**Radwan Mujib Siddiq (R) at the summit.**

Communication Technology, in partnership with BSA and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, pays the richest tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, marking his birth centenary.

Organised simultaneously with DAS 2020, the exhibition, curated by Ruxmini Reckvana Q Choudhury, Assistant Curator of SAF, offers intimate and lesser known details about the illustrious life of

## Imphal Talkies and The Howlers to rock Sylhet tomorrow

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, from Sylhet

Imphal Talkies and The Howlers, a folk-rock band from Manipur, India, will perform in three consecutive shows from February 13 to 15, in Sylhet, Habiganj and Moulvibazar.

The band, also known as simply Imphal Talkies, was formed in 2008, has earned fame for making protest songs about politics, insurgency, human rights, and racial attacks in Manipur and across the Northeast states of India. Consequently, they have become the voice of the North-Eastern states of India.

To promote their latest album *Ema Gi Wari*, their tour will kick off with a show at Lamabazar Mandap in Sylhet on the first day, followed by a performance at Khunou Leikai Mandap of Bishgaon, Habiganj on February 14. It will wrap



PHOTO: STAR

up on February 15, with performances at Manipuri Cultural Complex of Bhanugach in Moulvibazar.

Organised by Lamabazar Naharol Lup, Bishgaon Manipuri Club and Bhanugach Naharol Apunba Lup, each of the shows

will have interactive sessions with the audience.

Akhu Chingbam, the lead vocalist of Imphal Talkies visited Assam and Bangladesh on 2018, where he met and talked with Manipuri writers, poets and people from all walks of life. *Ema Gi Wari*, released in March 2019, represents the stories he heard about the lives, struggles and experiences of these people. The album is supported by India Foundation for the Arts (IFA).

During Akhu's last visit to Bangladesh, he performed four shows at Jatra Biroti in Dhaka, Errante in Chittagong, Manipuri Cultural Complex in Bhanugach and Lamabazar Mandap in Sylhet.

Imphal Talkies and The Howlers was also selected as one of the 33 bands from 33 countries for the compilation project, *Album of the Revolution* released in UK by Un-convention In Place of War Project.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Amar Bhashar Cholochitro 1426: Showcasing the best of cinema

TIASHA IDRAK

From *Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah*, *Mukh o Mukhosh*, *Moina Moti*, and *Angar*, to *Iti, Tomari Dhaka* - film posters, both vintage and recent, welcomed the visitors as they stepped into the premises of the Teacher's Student Centre (TSC), University of Dhaka (DU) for the five-day film festival, *Amar Bhashar Cholochitro 1426*. Organised by Dhaka University Film Society (DUFS), this initiative is arranged annually as a tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement and honour different languages around the world.

The 19th edition of the festival was inaugurated in the presence of Murad Hasan, State Minister of Information, Professor Dr



**Professor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique addresses the audience.**

AAMS Arefin Siddique from the Department of Communication and Journalism, Lailun Nahar Shemi, Chairman of Federation of



**Posters of different films on exhibit at the event.**

PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

Film Societies Bangladesh, and the moderator of DUFS, recently.

The festival features the screening of 19 full length feature films and three short-films alongside interactive sessions with film crews of *No Dorai*, *Kathbirali*, and *Iti, Tomari Dhaka*. Eminent film maker Anjan Dutt will be present in a discussion on his latest work *Finally Bhalobasha*, tomorrow. Like previous years, a film released in the previous year will be awarded the Hiralal Sen Award, named after the first filmmaker of the subcontinent.

The entry at the festival is available for an ticket of BDT 30. "We are planning to donate

a significant portion of the money from the tickets for the treatment of Abul Hashem, one of the freedom fighters from our language movement," mentions Ferdous Khan Nirjhor, President of DUFS. The TSC premises is decorated with life-size posters of iconic Bengali films throughout history, provided by Bangladesh Film Archive. The sound and projectors are supported by Jaaz Multimedia.

The festival will conclude tomorrow. The closing ceremony will be attended by Muhammad Hasan Mahmud, Minister of Information and Dr Muhammad Akhtaruzzaman, Vice Chancellor, DU.

## Siam-Pori to star in Adventure of Sundarban

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Based on Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's novel, *Ratuler Raat*, *Ratuler Din*, the film *Adventure of Sundarban*, will begin shooting from March 13. The announcement was made in a press conference held at Bishwo Sahitto Kendro, recently. The Abu Raihan Jewel directorial is a government grant-winning film, featuring the busiest actor of recent times, Siam Ahmed, and the glamorous Pori Moni in the lead roles.

BongoBD will be the associate producer of *Adventure of Sundarban*. The film is scripted by Jakaria Showkhin, while the videography of the film will be done by Sumon Sarkar. Samuraj Maruf will act as the art director. The film will also feature Shahidul Alam Sachchu, Azad Abul Kalam, Munira Mithu, Kochi Khandakar, Ashish Khandakar, alongside many child artists.

Dr Mohammad Zafar Iqbal will also write the songs for *Adventure of Sundarban*.