

WHAT'S ON



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



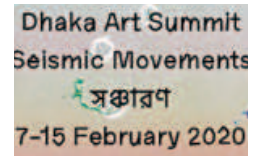
**Solo Exhibition**  
Title: Parables of the Womb  
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay,  
Dharmondi  
Date: February 4 – March 28  
Time: 2 pm – 8 pm (Except  
Sundays)



**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, Dharmondi  
Date: Dec 17 – Feb 15  
Time: 1 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)



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



Economist and freedom fighter Rahman Sobhan (L) at the exhibition. PHOTO: COURTESY



Artworks on exhibit at the event. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## DAS 2020: 'Roots' deeply embedded in the heart of Bangladeshi art

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The Dhaka Art Summit 2020 (DAS 2020), currently underway at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, boasts of exquisite exhibitions that truly highlight Bangladesh's art history and heritage. Organised by Sandani Art Foundation in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the special exhibition, *Roots*, is supported by Brihatta Art Foundation, with research assistance from artist educator Sumon Wahed.

The exhibition, 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 production in the country. It notes that institutions such as Zainul Abedin's Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka as well as Rashid Choudhury's the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Chittagong and informal art education outside of the capital with SM Sultan's Shishu Swarga, Narail and Charupith, Jashore, play a key role in the realm of art.

*Roots* explores the contribution by 61 art educators who have been critical in building Bangladesh's art history. Zainul Abedin, Safiuddin Ahmed, Quamrul Hassan and SM Sultan were pioneer artists and educators, who established the foundation and next generations of the 50's and 60's, moving art from East Pakistan into a newly Independent Bangladesh. After independence, artists from the 70's and 80's focused more on the relocation of their identities in the global context through their own



Bishwajit Goswami (5-L) with his team at 'Roots'. PHOTO: COURTESY

practices. Building on the foundations built by these four figures, the artists in this exhibition were crucial in creating the contemporary art ecology of Bangladesh today. Their art and thoughts go beyond the context of the art world, and have a stake in the wider Bangladeshi society.

Bishwajit Goswami, an Assistant Professor of the Department of Drawing and Painting, University of Dhaka, and founder and one of the trustees of Brihatta Art Foundation, elaborated on his historically significant and ambitious exhibition in a recent conversation with us.

"*Roots* connects everything like the bodies, branches and leaves of a tree, which gives us shadow, shelter and oxygen. Here the title, 'Roots' signifies the generations. The branches denote the collectiveness, while the leaves signify the individuality in the realm of Bangladeshi art," explains the curator.

"We aim to make new generations aware of our roots so that they can take pride in it. This is significant for creating social harmony."

Along with modern and contemporary art Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin equally emphasised on our folk art heritage and crafts, noted Bishwajit. "What Abedin sir established for our art education and movements was amazing and his noble deeds always inspire us to do the best for the country," he says. "I have tried to emphasise on how the master painters formed their individual art languages, along with creating platforms to make people aware in a rather uncongenial ambience in the then East Pakistan."

Bangladeshi art educators have a great role in shaping our art into a solid identity. From the Language Movement, the Liberation War to the present-day movements, artists played the role of activists. During the War of Liberation,

artists of Chittagong were not only depicting paintings, they were rather bringing about revolution in the region. "They thought how their paintings can contribute to the war. On 14 March, 1971, the folio by Rashid Choudhury, Devdas Chakraborty, Shah Mohammad Ansar Ali and Syed Abdullah Khalid created an important document," adds Bishwajit. "After Bangabandhu, they visually documented powerful words like 'Shadhinata', 'Joy Bangla' and 'Purba Bangla Shadhin Koro' in the folio. This was a challenging but gallant step to visually write the document and spread the folio among the people."

While Abedin, Choudhury and other pioneers were busy with academic practices, SM Sultan, with his unmatched and pro-people philosophy, created an alternative art movement in this part of the world. Sultan went to the roots and mingled his artistic soul with the soil. He established Shishu Swarga, made Bajra for the artists to have river cruises and broaden their perspectives, the same way that Abedin established Shishu Niketan. Bishwajit has tried to present the exhibition in a neutral way with a bird's eye view.

A famous and relevant quote by Abedin, alongside Quamrul Hassan and Shirshir Bhattacharjee's powerful artworks, among other things, are on exhibit at *Roots*. The exhibition truly reflects Bangladesh's art, for which the curator is thankful to eminent art collectors and organisations like Nilu Rowshan Murshed, Goutam Chakraborty, Enayetullah Khan, Bengal Foundation and the permanent art museum of the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka.

### EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

## Anisul Haque on 'Ekhan Themo Na'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Renowned author Anisul Haque's *Ekhan Themo Na*, the fifth book in a series, is out now at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020. Published by Prothoma Prokashon, it is based on Bangladesh's emergence from 1969 to March 25, 1971. Sabyasachi Hazra has designed the cover of the book.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"*Ekhan Themo Na* is a fictional story, based on historical facts. Bangabandhu is the central character of the narrative. The other key characters include Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, Tajuddin Ahmad and Maulana Bhashani," explains the author. "We launched the book in the first week of the fair and the response has been great so far." The fourth book in the series, *Ei Pothe Alo Jele*, was released at the Ekushey Boi Mela last year. Haque added that he plans to come up with two more volumes of the series and eventually release all the volumes together in one book.

Besides *Ekhan Themo Na*, the author has many other releases at the Ekushey Boi Mela this year. Anannya Prokashoni has published a collection of his poems and detective stories, while Shomoy Prokashon has published his novel, *Operation Muktagachha*. His short story collection, *Oddo Pori Goddo Cartoon*, is backed by Pearl Publications.

*Ekhan Themo Na* is available at pavilion 15, for BDT 520.



## Remembering HUMAYUN FARIDEE

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Humayun Faridee, one of the most powerful and versatile artistes of the country, passed away on this day in 2012. He predominantly acted on the stage, television, radio and silver screen. He was a part of many hit productions of Dhaka Theatre. He was also a master at recitations. Born in Narinda, Faridee spent his childhood in different places of Bangladesh because his father had a job of transferable nature. It gave him the opportunity to interact with different people. The post-liberation war period engulfed him with depression, as he dropped out of his education for five years after the twelfth grade. Later on, he studied Economics at Jahangirnagar University. Even though he had seen different parts of the world, the actor, known for his honesty and unparalleled aura, always held Bangladesh close to his heart.

From Kan Kata Romzan in BTV's *Shongshoptok* to various other memorable roles, Faridee dominated every sphere that he worked in. His skill of improvisation set him apart from other actors. Many remember him for the range of negative roles he brought to life, but Faridee essayed many positive characters as well. He was also a part of numerous commercial films. He played the protagonist in Sheikh Niamat Ali's 1985 film, *Dahan*.

He won the Bangladesh National Film Award for Best Actor for his lead role in film *Matritto* in 2004 and was awarded the Ekushey Padak posthumously in 2018.

## 'Kali O Kolom' dedicates a special edition to Bangabandhu

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the literary monthly magazine, *Kali O Kolom*, published a special edition, which was dedicated to the Father of the Nation. A programme was arranged to launch the edition at Bengal Boi, recently. The event was presided over by prolific author Selina Hossain. Professor Biswajit Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor, Rabindra University, poet and author Abul Momen and the editor of *Kali O Kolom*, Abul Hasnat,

spoke at the event.

The programme began with Hasan Arif reciting a poem by Syed Shamsul Haque.

The editor of *Kali O Kolom*, Abul Hasnat shared that the 31 articles and poems reflect the versatile political activities, the pursuit of Bengali culture and the dream of establishing the sense of communal harmony incepted by Bangabandhu. Professor Biswajit Ghosh requested the publishers to print this edition as a book.



The esteemed guests at the launching programme of Kali O Kolom's special edition. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BENGAL BOI



(From left) Sahila Sanzana, Assistant Brand Manager, Farnaz Karim, Marketing Manager, Zia Uddin, Head of Supply Services, Jannatul Ferdous Oishee, Vishal Gupta, Managing Director, Nusrat Jahan, Marketing Director, Sourav Mitra, Finance Director, Afreen Huda, HR Director at the signing ceremony. PHOTO: COURTESY

## JANNATUL FERDOUS OISHEE announced as the new brand ambassador of Veet

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Veet, a brand renowned for their hair removal products for women, has signed Miss World Bangladesh 2018 Jannatul Ferdous Oishee, as their new brand ambassador.

The signing ceremony took place at Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh's corporate office in the capital recently. Vishal Gupta, Managing Director, Nusrat

Jahan, Marketing Director, and other officials of Reckitt Benckiser were present, alongside Oishee during the ceremony. Nusrat Jahan, Marketing Director of Reckitt Benckiser, spoke at the programme.

"I am thrilled as this is my first ever brand endorsement with Veet. I have been using their products for a long time. The brand's efficacy and rigorous quality control makes their products the best," said Oishee.

## 'Jatiya Natya Utshab 2020' kicks off

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The national theatre festival, *Jatiya Natya Utshab 2020*, kicked off yesterday. With the theme 'Jongibaad- Obokkhoy-Dumiti, Manbey Na E Sangskiti' the 18-day festival will take place simultaneously in all 64 districts. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the festival through a video conference. Organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), the event is patronised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and supported by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). This year, more than 400 theatre troupes around the country are participating in the festival.

Just ahead of the festival, a press conference was held at the Seminar Hall of BSA in Segun Bagicha. BSA Director General and BGTF Chairman Liaquat Ali Lucky, BGTF Secretary General Kamal Bayezid and BSA Secretary Badrul Alam Bhuiyan, among others, were present at the conference.

However, as part of the festival's inaugural ceremony, different divisional cities such as Dhaka, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Rangpur and Chattogram will host an array of performances.

In the capital, a speech choreography titled 'Bangabandhu 7 Marcher Bhashon' by Chintok Theatre (Gaibandha) was staged at the National Theatre Auditorium of BSA in Segun Bagicha.

The festival brought two prominent plays to the stage on the opening day. Dhaka Theatre staged a show of its 47th production, *Putra*, yesterday evening at the National Theatre Hall, while Natyachakra brought their mono-drama, *Eka Ek Nari*, at the Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA.



BSA Director General and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Chairman Liaquat Ali Lucky (3-L) delivers a speech at the conference. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BSA