

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



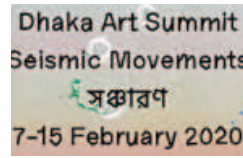
**Solo Exhibition**  
Title: Parables of the Womb  
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay,  
Dhanmondi  
Date: February 4 – March 28  
Time: 2 pm – 8 pm (Except  
Sundays)



**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)



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



'Roots' showcases 'An Alternative Thought; SM Sultan Pedagogy (L) and Dhali Al Mamoon's 'Laat Saheber Chair', a complex sculptural work made up of resin, spices, stone dust, fiber and textile, among other things (R) at DAS 2020.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Dhaka Art Summit 2020 concludes today

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The Dhaka Art Summit: Seismic Movements (DAS 2020), organised by Samdani Art Foundation (SAF) in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), concludes today at the National Art Gallery, BSA.

Envisioned by Rajeeb and Nadia Samdani, the co-founders of SAF, along with Diana Campbell Betancourt, the Chief Curator of DAS 2020, this year's summit provided art lovers with a rare opportunity to experience different forms of art from all around the world under one roof.

The open-for-all event convenes a critical mass of artists, curators, scholars 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 over 44 different countries participated in this grand fiesta of modern and contemporary art. Forged through alliances across Africa, Australia, South and Southeast Asia, and also extending into Europe and the US, the extravagant event also featured thought-proving performance arts, videos, panel discussions, symposia, puppet shows and more.

"It has been incredible to witness how DAS and its collaborators have grown over the past years," asserts Nadia Samdani, the Director of DAS. "Our strive to empower artists and collectives from Bangladesh and South Asia, and being able to represent them internationally, is more of a privilege for us all."



(From left) Bishwajit Goswami, Diana Campbell Betancourt and Ruxmini Reckvana Q Choudhury at the summit.

PHOTO: COURTESY

An immersive installation by Adrián Villar Rojas, shedding light on geology through the millennia and made of 400-million-year-old ammonite and orthoceras fossils, welcomed art lovers at the event. Featuring these ancient fossils of extinct species from the super-ocean Panthalassa, this exquisite installation narrates a tale that goes beyond all timelines.

"Inspired by the geological reading of the word 'summit' as the top of a mountain, DAS 2020 considers the various ruptures that have realigned and continue to shift the face of our moving planet. Seismic movements do not adhere to statist or nationalist

frameworks. They join and split apart tectonics of multiple scales and layers," shares Diana Campbell Betancourt, Chief Curator of DAS 2020. "We are interested in what will happen through the movement of ideas from inside the BSA to outside in real life, and this is why the exhibition design of DAS 2020 keeps a porous barrier between the inside and the outside of the venue."

32 independent international and local curators from MOMA, Center Pompidou and Parasite, under the expert supervision of DAS's chief curator Diana Campbell Betancourt, presented a many thematic shows, alongside the unique exhibition, *Lighting The Fire of Freedom*:

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, organised as a tribute to the Father of the Nation, marking his birth centenary. The marvelous exhibition, curated by Ruxmini Reckvana Q Choudhury, Assistant Curator of SAF, is enlightening.

*The Collective Body*, an exhibition co-curated by Diana Campbell Betancourt and Kathryn Weir, crystallises concerns pertinent to collaborative practice in Bangladesh, drawing parallels and creating unprecedented exchange with other collective movements emerging across Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and Oceania.

*On Muzharul Islam: Surfacing Intention*, a group exhibition of primarily commissioned works by seventeen artists responding to the built and unbuilt legacy of the groundbreaking Bangladeshi architect Muzharul Islam (1923-2012), is co-curated by Diana Campbell Betancourt with Sean Anderson, Associate Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art, and Nurur Khan, Director, Muzharul Islam Archive, showed the interplay and occasional confrontation inherent among architectural spaces within an emergent nation-state.

*Roots*, curated by Dhaka based artist and educator Bishwajit Goswami, examined the transfer of knowledge by art educators who have played a significant role in building Bangladesh's art history. The Bangladeshi curators, in particular, did a commendable job in curating their brilliant exhibitions at the summit.

## EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

# 'Apotti Shotteyo' — Mohammad Al-Masum Molla's collection of poetry layered with political satire

SHARMIN JOYA

The poetry collection, *Apotti Shotteyo* (In spite of objection), came out in the first week of the Ekushey Boi Mela. Published by Agamee Prakashani, it is a collection of poems, based on political satire, by Mohammad Al-Masum Molla, Senior Staff Reporter, *The Daily Star*.

The book consists of 20 poems and rhymes focusing on different prevalent issues. "As journalists, we have many limitations while reporting, and there is very little scope of going out of that," says Masum. "In this book, I tried to bring all of the major issues that we faced last year, in a different angle."

Masum believes that different thoughts can be articulated through poems in a few words. The issues that the book highlights include incidents like the market syndicate, people getting provoked by rumours, various student movements, road accidents, and the role of neighbouring countries on the Rohingya issue, among others.



At a time when talking about political matters is a sensitive issue, it is brave of the writer to highlight the suffocation of people living in the age of global fascism, and political and social constructs. "I have published the book this year, keeping the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in mind. My poems are about contemporary issues," affirms Masum. "My work will provide some food for thought to the readers, regarding the incidents of the past decade."

One of Masum's poem, *Manush*, was appreciated and recited by prominent Indian actor Sabyasachi Chakraborty, during his recent visit to Bangladesh for his film, *Gondi*. Another one of his poems was recited by renowned elocutionist Hasan Arif.

The preface of *Apotti Shotteyo* is written by celebrated critic Syed Manzoorul Islam. The first edition of the book is close to being sold out. It can be collected at BDT 250 from pavilion 1 at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020.



# Poster of 'Neel Mukut' unveiled

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The poster of Kamar Ahmad Simon's forthcoming film, *Neel Mukut*, was released recently. The poster, against a blue background, features a close-up shot of a woman looking far beyond with her eager eyes. *Neel Mukut* has received an uncut censor clearance from the Bangladesh Film Censor Board and will be released in the country soon. Batighor is the promotional partner while Quote On Set Production is the distribution partner of the film.

Kamar's first film, *Shunte Ki Pao!* (*Are You Listening!*) was well received at different festival across the globe and won several awards, including the Golden Conch at Mumbai International Film Festival and the Grand Prix at Cinema Du Reel in Paris. The film went on to win the National Film Award as well. It was screened in around forty international film events and venues, including the German Film Museum in Frankfurt, a few months back. Kamar conceived the idea for *Neel Mukut* after he saw someone crying on a plane.

The director completed the film in between his Water Trilogy's second episode 'Anyadin...' (*Day After...*), and *Shikolbaha* (*The Iron Steam*), the winner of the WCF, and the Best Project and Arte International prizes in Locarno Open Doors.

The poster of *Shunte Ki Pao!*, followed the vibrant classic movie poster style, gave birth to traditional rickshaw paintings. It was widely appreciated by the audience as well. The posters of both *Shunte Ki Pao!* and *Neel Mukut* are available at Batighor outlets in Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet.

# 'Hridoye Mati O Manush' to feature an episode on tulip cultivation in Bangladesh

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

*Hridoye Mati O Manush*, directed and hosted by Shykh Seraj, will feature a special episode on commercial tulip cultivation, in Bangladesh. The episode will focus on Delowar and Sheli, a couple from Keowa village in Gazipur, who have started tulip cultivation on a large scale. A development worker

from Belgium made a failed attempt to cultivate tulip in Bangladesh. However, after three decades, the duo made it possible. They are cultivating the flowers in shade net, currently. Delowar believes, the northern areas of Bangladesh are more suitable for commercial tulip cultivation because of their climate. The episode will be aired today on Channel i at 9:45 pm.

PHOTO: COURTESY



# Star Melodies to present songs about romance and spring today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Star Melodies, an initiative of *The Daily Star* to promote Bangla music, will host a musical evening titled, *Bhalobashar Akhore Lekha Boshonter Gaan*, serenading the audience with songs about romance and spring.

Sponsored by Dhaka Bank Limited, the event will be held today, at The Daily Star Centre, at 6:00 pm.

One of the leading Rabindra Sangeet artistes, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, talented playback singer Anupoma Mukti, along with promising singers Sabuj, Dr Alif Laila and Smoron will perform at the event. Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief of Culture Initiatives, *The Daily Star*, will host and coordinate the programme. The event is open for all. However, seats are limited, and available on a first-come first-serve basis.



## JATIYO BOSHONTO UTSHAB 1426

Garnered vividly with yellow, pink, orange and red flowers, the nation rejoiced— singing and dancing to the vibrant tunes of traditional folk music, heralding the arrival of spring on 'Pohela Falgun'. Jatiyo Boshonto Utshab Udjapon Parishad (JBUUP) once again welcomed 'Boshonto' through various cultural programmes at Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. The city dwellers, also celebrating the day of love, were seen enjoying the occasion with their loved ones, in the heart of 'Bakultola', yesterday.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED