

WHAT'S ON



**Art Camp**  
Title: 4th Annual Art for Autism 2020  
Venue: Charukola, University of Dhaka  
Date: February 22  
Time: 8:30 am – 3pm



**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



**Art Exhibition**  
Title: In/Out of the stones of our mind  
Venue: Dwip Gallery  
Date: February 19- 29  
Time: 3pm to 9 pm (February 19 from 6pm to 9pm)



**Art Workshop**  
Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop  
by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo  
Venue: Studio 6/6 (Mohammadpur)  
Date: February 22  
Time: 11 am to 6 pm

## A WALK DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

# Shahiduzzaman Selim reminisces his roots

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award winning actor-director Shahiduzzaman Selim is a prominent artiste in the theatre, television and films. Since 1983, Selim has been a part of Dhaka Theatre. The actor, along with some of his peers, formed Jahangirnagar Theatre, which is active to this day. In an interview with *The Daily Star*, the multi-talented personality shared the memories of his early days in the industry.

After getting admission in Jahangirnagar University (JU) in 1983, Selim and his friends went on a rehearsal for a stage show, which was led by Humayun Faridi. Faridi was the secretary of drama in the Chhatro Sangsad of JU at that time. "As he was rehearsing for *Abar Baul Aibo Fira*, when I entered in the room," shares Selim, "He kept telling me to read a dialogue, without even looking at me! Interestingly, he did not know who I was. However, when I read the line, he instantly cast me as the protagonist for that play," says a nostalgic Selim. His journey in acting started at that point.

Shahiduzzaman Selim was the first among his peers to get the opportunity to act in Dhaka Theatre. "I would come to TSC (Teacher-Student Centre) every day from JU for rehearsals. Those days were very exciting," he recalls.

After completing his studies, Selim came back to Dhaka and started a day job. Due to the job, he had to keep himself away from acting for some time. "A few days before *Keramot Mongol* was about to be staged, the protagonist fell sick," he shares. "However, I was called to be the proxy, and this is how I came back to acting." The actor amazed everyone with his performance, and kept working with the group.

The actor-director attributes 1987 as one of the most significant years of his life. "This was the year when I started to be cast as the protagonist, instead of just a backup," he states.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

While working on the play *Haat Hodai* (Seven types of groceries), by Dhaka Theatre, Selim was called for the auditions arranged by Bangladesh Television (BTV), where he was selected. "Besides theatre, I worked in the mega serial *Jonaki Jole*, telecasted on BTV, which brought me a lot of popularity at that time,"

recalls the artiste.

Shahiduzzaman Selim, in his life, let many opportunities go, for his passion in acting. The diligent actor told *The Daily Star* that wants to keep working in this field for the rest of his life, with the appreciation and support from his fans and well-wishers.

## EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

## ‘Chokhey Tar Shishirer Ghran’ portrays 22 fragments of our bittersweet lives

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

*"In our lives, we go through many hardships. However, a fleeting moment of joy is able to trump all of them, and make you happy," said Taposh Barua, a former student of journalism, who had his first book release at the Ekushey Boi Mela.*

*Chokhey Tar Shishirer Ghran* is a result of the writer's keen interest in portraying the bittersweet moments in our lives, even amidst the mountain of struggles that we have to overcome. "None of the stories I wrote span more than 1500 words," said Taposh, who is heavily inspired by Banaphul and Zahir Raihan. "These are fragments of the society that we live in." *Chokhey Tar Shishirer Ghran* is comprised of stories



PHOTO: COURTESY

like *Service Charge*, *Nimontion*, *Tobu Shey Dekhilo Kon Bhoot* and *Purono Ami*. Published by Jayoti Prokashoni, it is available at their stall (458-459) at Sohrawardi Udyan in the Ekushey Boi Mela for BDT 200.



## Indonesian artist collective Ruangrupa to curate ‘Documenta 15’ in 2022

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

This year, the Dhaka Art Summit collaborated with around 30 artist collectives from home and abroad. One of them was Ruangrupa, a group of artists and creators from Jakarta, showcasing numerous interesting concepts. The collective has been appointed as the curators and artistic directors of the exhibition, *Documenta 15*, in Germany in 2022. Farid Rakun (Ruangrupa), MG Pringgotono (Serrum) and JJ Adibrata (Serrum) took out some time from their busy schedule to discuss their collective art practices with *The Daily Star*.

Two years after the fall of the repressive Soeharto regime (1998), the collective made maximum use of their newly found freedom. "The fall of the regime was one of the causes, but it was also MTV that inspired us to form the collective," explains Rakun. "Some of us were

board member of Serrum, the ecosystem offers 11 courses for the students. "We do not follow the top-down method. Rather, we initiate dialogues on socio-political and urban issues with an educational and artistic approach," explains Adibrata. Such initiatives often face challenges when it comes to sustainability. "If the concepts are owned by the community, then it will have better chances to grow," suggests Pringgotono.

The trio explained that there is no formula to form a collective. "There are defined opportunities for artist collectives in recent times, but I do not think artists should fall for those. It is not the definition but the context that matters," adds Adibrata.

Appointed unanimously by the board, Ruangrupa is set to curate the 15th edition of the renowned international exhibition of contemporary art, *Documenta*, which began in 1955. This marks the first



PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

really interested to learn how to make videos. We actually got together quite coincidentally."

With an objective to make art to serve their community, Ruangrupa, together with Serrum and Grafis Huru Hara, initiated GUDSKUL: Contemporary Art Collective and Ecosystem Studies in 2018. It is a public learning space that promotes the importance of critical and experimental dialogues through sharing and experience-based learning.

MG Pringgotono, the director of GUDSKUL, described the venture as a responsible one. "We believe in collective ideas. While some institutions want students to work individually, we believe that working together can bring better results. That is why we call it an ecosystem," says the director.

According to JJ Adibrata, an artistic

time that an artist collective has been selected to curate *Documenta*, and the first time that its curatorial leadership has come from Asia. Ruangrupa is expected to highlight inclusion and diversity in their approach. Each individual in the collective comes from different backgrounds and disciplines. "Learning should not be a parasitic concept but a mutual one, where everyone can learn from each other. We see *Documenta* as an opportunity to connect, learn and share with others," explains Rakun.

During the Dhaka Art Summit this year, Jog Art Space, Ruangrupa and Gudskul made a collaborative project from the collective body, Gerobak Cinema or Cinema Cart. The project was reimagined with a Bangladeshi rickshaw and a two-hour video was projected on a screen at Ramna Bridge for public viewing.



Rafiqun Nabi (R) with his siblings at the exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

## ‘Parampara’ celebrates art and family history

SUMAIYA KABIR

*Parampara*, a slightly different exhibition, opened at Gallery Chitrak on February 15. While it is still a regular display of photographs and paintings, what makes it unique is the tribute it pays, as well as the lives of the two generations of artists it celebrates.

*Parampara* is an ode to artist Rashidun Nabi (1914-1995). Besides his own art practices, throughout his life, he also ensured that his children are just as inspired to pursue art. In order to pay respect to such a fact, *Parampara* exhibits a collection of his most powerful artworks, alongside that of his sons, the distinguished artists Rafiqun Nabi and Rezaun Nabi, renowned photographer Tauhidun Nabi as well as his daughter-in-law,

Sohana Shahreen.

The exhibition was opened by eminent artist Mustafa Monwar, chaired by Professor Bulbul Osman, with painter Hashem Khan as the special guest. The artists began the ceremony by talking about their late father and the life he'd lived. Despite his love for art, Rashidun Nabi unfortunately never had a proper exhibition or received recognition for the talented artist he truly was. As it so often happens, life takes you places the hard way and art falls behind. *Parampara* fulfills such a long gone wish, and also greatly celebrates his successors, who say they are nothing without their father's contribution to their creativity.

Rashidun Nabi gifted many of his paintings to his close ones. Subsequently, collecting all of his best works were difficult.

Nevertheless, around 70 paintings are on exhibit at the event. Most of his paintings portray a raw and rural Bangladesh – from its villages to its boats, rivers, birds, animals as well as its ever changing seasons and its women – through ink or watercolour on paper. Some of Rashidun Nabi's clay works are also on display.

Other art pieces displayed include Rafiqun Nabi's pencil sketches, woodcuts, charcoal drawings on paper, Tauhidun Nabi's photographic captures from his travels to India, Egypt, Bhutan, Singapore and Paris, as well as Rezaun Nabi and Sohana Shahreen's acrylic and watercolor paintings on canvas.

*Parampara* will remain open for all until February 29 at Gallery Chitrak from 10 am to 8 pm every day.



## Music video for Kamal Ahmed and Priyanka Biswas's ‘Shudhu Bhalobasha’ released

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The music video for Kamal Ahmed and Priyanka Biswas's duet, *Shudhu Bhalobasha*, was published by Laser Vision in their official YouTube channel, recently. The song, featured in the audio album *Neel Shamudro*, is written by Munshi Wadud and composed by Fuad Naseer. The music video has been directed by Zamiur Rahman Lemon.