

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, Dhamondi
 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: Dwp 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 Aurbro
 Venue: Studio 6/6 (Mohammadpur)
 Date: February 22
 Time: 11 am to 6 pm



Abul Khair (3-R) hands over the award to Vijay Kichlu (2-R) in the presence of Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar (2-L) and Ustad Zakir Hussain (Extreme Right).

PHOTO: COURTESY

Shilper Shadhak Abul Khair Litu presents Vijay Kichlu with the SSF Lifetime Achievement Award in Kolkata

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Dedicated to Swara Samrat Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, the Swara Samrat Festival (SSF) is a four-day annual event of Indian classical music and dance. It takes place in Kolkata, usually between the months of December and February. The event, organised under the banner of Shree Ranjini Foundation Trust, is an initiative of sarod maestro Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar.

This year, the stage of SSF was graced by the performances of Indian classical music and dance legends such as Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, Pandit Birju Maharaj, Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia and Pandit Jasraj along with Ustad Zakir Hussain, Vidushi Girija Devi, Begum Parveen Sultana, Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, Guru Karaikudi Mani, Ustad Rashid Khan, Shankar Mahadevan,

Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar, Pandit Venkatesh Kumar, Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar, Pandit Kushal Das and Kaushiki Chakraborty, among others.

At the festival, Abul Khair, Chair, Bengal Foundation, Bangladesh, presented the SSF Lifetime Achievement Award to Vijay Kichlu, the Founder and Head of ITC Sangeet Research Academy, for his contributions toward the propagation of Indian classical music. Present on the stage were tabla maestros Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri and Ustad Zakir Hussain, along with Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar and Manasi Majumdar. The award ceremony was followed by a three hour *jugalbandhi* of Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar on the sarod, and Ustad Zakir

Hussain on the tabla.

Khair himself received the 2018 SSF Lifetime Achievement Award for his role in the propagation, promotion and facilitation of proper training of Indian classical music and dance as well as other artistic fields across Bangladesh. It was presented to him by renowned painter Jogen Chowdhury. The title of *Shilper Shadhak* was also conferred upon Khair, along with a beautiful sculpted memento.

Swara Samrat Ustad Ali Akbar Khan (14 April 1922 - 18 June 2009) was a sarod maestro of the Maihar gharana. He was born in the village of Shibpur in Brahmanbaria, Cumilla, to renowned musician and teacher, Baba Allauddin Khan and Madina Begum. Young Ali Akbar had the privilege of learning to play the sarod and receive training in classical music from

his father Baba Allauddin Khan, who is considered to be one of the most notable teachers of Indian classical music of the 20th century. Other than playing the sarod, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan had also composed numerous classical ragas and film scores. He is reputed for popularising Indian classical music in the West, both as a performer and as a teacher. He first visited the United States in 1955 upon the invitation of violinist Yehudi Menuhin and later, taught and settled in California.

Ustad Ali Akbar Khan was honoured with India's second highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, in 1989. A recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship and the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, he was also nominated five times at the Grammy Awards.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Group exhibition 'Impression of Nature' underway at Zainul Gallery

ZAHANGIR ALOM

A group exhibition, titled *Impression of Nature*, is underway at Zainul Gallery, University of Dhaka (DU). Outdoor Community has organised the exhibition, featuring 21 painters, who, in protest of global warming, have portrayed different facets of nature. The six-day event, which runs every day from 10 am to 8 pm, will conclude on February 22. Deneb Zeenat Latif, Managing Director of Magnum Management Consulting Limited, inaugurated the show on February 17.

Taslina Yasmin, an Assistant Professor of the Department of Law, DU and Doctoral Researcher at Brunel University, UK, and Ahsan Rony, Founder, Green Savers, attended the inaugural ceremony as guests. Painter Sajja Rahman Sondha hosted the inaugural ceremony.

"We are destroying nature in different ways," said Deneb Zeenat Latif. "But this nature is our real canvas. The intensity of environmental

pollution has increased so much that nature is not in balance. I believe the exhibition will play a significant role in countering environmental pollution."

On behalf of the Outdoor Community, Tanjima Tabassum Easha, a freelance artist, said, "We are bringing destruction upon ourselves. Nature is losing its colour, form and variety. Everyone needs to think about how they are contributing to the protection of the natural environment. We have organised this show to raise awareness about environmental issues."

Azmal Hossain, Dipro Bonik, Helal Shah and Khadiza Tun Numani are exhibiting their works at the event, alongside Khing Shai Marma, Liza Sharifa, Madhubanti Raya, Maneek Bonik, Marzan Kabir, Mohosin Kabir Himalay, Mrinal Banik, Nusrat Jahan Titly, Pritom Mozumder, Pradip Saha, Rajib Mahabub, Shakimohito Subir, Seema Mandal, Sajja Rahman Sondha, Shakti Nomaan, Tanjima Tabassum Easha and Tariqul Islam Herok.

'Saturday Afternoon' wins two awards at Vesoul Film Festival

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki directorial *Saturday Afternoon (Shomibar Bikel)* has won two jury awards at the 2020 Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema in France. The film was bestowed the NETPACK award and the High School Jury award on its concluding day on February 18. The film had been on display in the festival in February 15 and 16, to much adoration from the audience and critics. *Saturday Afternoon* had previously been displayed in the Sydney, Busan and Moscow Film Festivals, the latter of which also honoured the film with two jury awards. It will have a special screening in Paris's Espace Saint-Michel on February 27, organised by Dissidence Films.



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EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Exploring robotics with Abrar and Pushpita's 'Robotics Masterplan'

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

Building onto the recent trends in robotics, especially among the Bangladeshi students, Abrar Shahriar Swopnil and Subha Nawar Pushpita's debut book, Robotics Masterplan, was released at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020, recently. Most of the available books and articles on Robotics is mainly in English, which can be a barrier in basic robotics learning. The urge to creating more such books in Bangla is what inspired the brother-sister duo to write this book.

The book aims to strengthen the fundamental ideas of robotics, electronics and programming, by solving projects practically in the book after reading each chapter.

The basic understanding of robotics comes from three main subjects—programming, electronics and mechanics. "There are many books in our country based on programming and only a few on robotics," asserts Abrar who graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in Mechanical Engineering recently and

is currently working there as a research assistant. "That is why we decided to go ahead with this book."

Abrar developed a passion for mechatronics back in his first year of undergrad studies. Inspired by her brother, Pushpita, an undergrad student at MIT, also joined her brother in this initiative. "I want to see a country where people will grow up with love for STEM and humanity," expresses Pushpita, who also works as an undergraduate researcher at MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and MIT Media Lab. I think humanity and kindness are two big qualities we badly need now and reading has a big role to play in this aspect."

Pushpita and Abrar is planning a second part to *Robotics Masterplan*. "We designed the first part to suit



PHOTO: COURTESY

beginners," shares Abrar. "The second instalment will be related with image processing and pneumatics, advancing from the first one."

The book, published by Adarsha Publications, is now available in stalls 421 to 424 at the Ekushey Boi Mela, for BDT 240 (under discount).