

WHAT'S ON

Group Exhibition
 Title: Parampara
 Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi
 Date: February 15 – 29
 Time: 10 am – 8 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

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

Cartoon Exhibition
 Title: Shojonghathi Rekha
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: February 21 - March 17
 Time: 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm



Artist Pervaj Hasan Rigan (Extreme Right) with esteemed guests at the exhibition.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF AFD

Solo exhibition 'Red Dwarf' underway at AFD

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Red Dwarf, a solo art exhibition by Pervaj Hasan Rigan, has begun at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD). Born in Barisal in 1988, Rigan completed his BFA and MFA from the Department of Drawing and Painting, University of Dhaka. The artist likes to work with oil paint, acrylic, videos, sounds and charcoal.

For Rigan, painting is the key for understanding the universe. He believes there is a strong relationship between mankind and the rest of the cosmos, and this strength pushes him to his work every day. Human

portraits and figures play a significant role in Rigan's canvas because he likes their anatomy, gesture, light and shade. When he work with human feelings and thoughts, it is vital for him to pick up those forms for his paintings. He also loves plain air painting. Subsequently, nature is an important part of his artworks. Rigan uses quite a few processes to complete a painting. He starts with a simple thought on his sketchbook. Then, he has discussion and a photo shoot with the model, before getting to the charcoal drawing and finally, the original painting. Sometime he uses Photoshop to make his structures and compositions more precise. He believes every

person has their own unique mind, which he tries to capture and reflect in his works, while also representing his style. Beauty and darkness are prominent themes of his figurative artworks. As an artist Rigan's goal is to capture the mystery and spirituality in particular experiences of the human mind. He is immensely inspired by contemporary painter Roberto Ferri.

The exhibition will be open to all till March 2. The visiting hours of the event are Monday to Thursday from 3 pm to 9 pm, Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 pm to 8 pm.

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Once More into the Past: Essays, Personal, Public, and Literary

Dr Fakrul Alam looks back

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Academic, writer, and translator Dr Fakrul Alam's new book, *Once More into the Past: Essays, Personal, Public, and Literary*, was published at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020, recently.

Published by The Daily Star Books, the volume is a curated essay collection written by Dr Alam on various occasions for *The Daily Star*, back from 1999, when he started writing for the newspaper as a contributor. He further went on to serve as a Consulting Editor for the Star Literature page and Daily Star Books from July 2017 to February 2018. "Most of the essays and reviews from *The Daily Star* I have assembled in this book have thus been triggered by my remembrances of things in the past," he says.

The personal section includes musings on Dr Alam's *Nana Bari*, his introduction to Rabindra Sangeet at a young age,



PHOTO: STAR

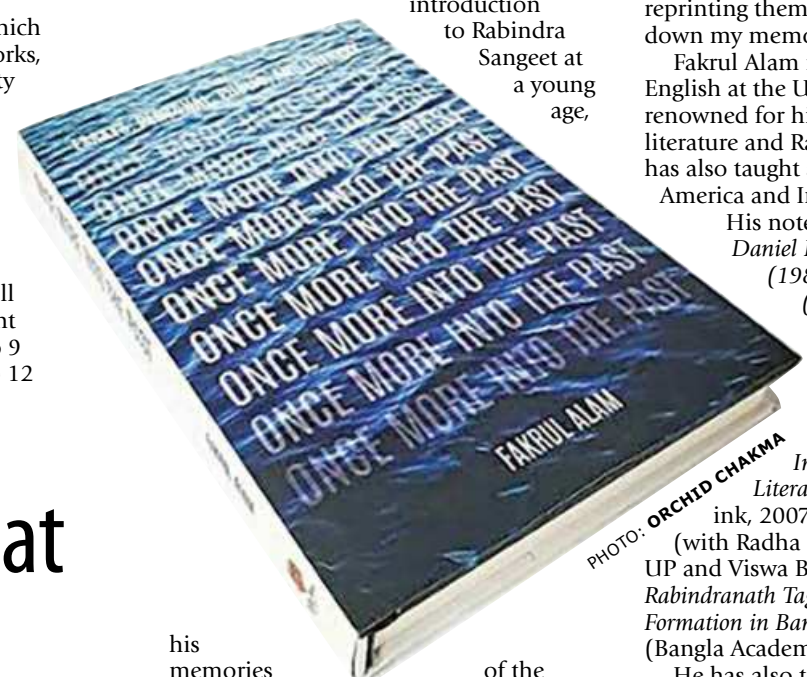
Alam's personal favourites—Edward Said, Jibanananda Das, Razia Khan Amin, Kaiser Haq, and Syed Manzoorul Islam, along with other literary giants—Tagore, Melville, R K Narayan, Gunter Grass, and many others. "All I hope now is that readers of this book will find them enjoyable and confirm my belief that reprinting them were worth these trips down my memory's lanes," he smiles.

Fakrul Alam is UGC Professor of English at the University of Dhaka renowned for his work on postcolonial literature and Rabindranath Tagore. He has also taught at universities in North America and India.

His noteworthy works include *Daniel Defoe: Colonial Propagandist* (1989), *Bharati Mukherjee*, (Twayne USA, 1995),

Jibanananda Das: Selected Poems (University Press Limited, 1999), *South Asian Writers in English* (Thomson Gale, 2006), *Imperial Entanglements and Literature in English* (Writers.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA



his memories of Liberation War and teaching at DU through moments of peace and political upheaval, and much more. "Just read my essays, *Ah Nana Bari!* and *Growing Up with Rabindra Sangeet*, reprinted in this book, and you will understand not only how E B White inspired me but also the extent of his influence on me, and why I have titled my book thus," he adds.

In the public section, Dr Alam comments on the early days of the British Council in Bangladesh, the history of Dhaka through Partition, the Language Movement and Liberation, Karl Marx's writings on India, and the life and legacy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Literary section explores Dr

ink, 2007), *The Essential Tagore* (with Radha Chakravarti; Harvard UP and Viswa Bharati, 2011), and *Rabindranath Tagore and National Identity Formation in Bangladesh: Essays and Reviews* (Bangla Academy, 2013).

He has also translated Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's *Unfinished Memoirs* (UPL Bangladesh, Penguin Books India, OUP Pakistan, 2012) and *Prison Diaries* (Bangla Academy, 2016), along with Mir Mosharraf Hossain's 1885 epic *Bishad-Sindhu*, published as *Ocean of Sorrow* by the Bangla Academy in 2016. Professor Alam was awarded the SAARC Literary Award in 2012 and the Bangla Academy Literary Award for translation in 2013.

Once More into the Past: Essays, Personal, Public, and Literary, with its cover designed by Kazi Akib Bin Asad and a foreword by Mahfuz Anam, Editor & Publisher, *The Daily Star*, is available at The Daily Star Books stall (491-492) for BDT 390 (under 25 percent discount), at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020.

Bangla Nattyadal to stage 'Megh' in Joypurhat India-Bangladesh Drama Fest

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Theatre troupe Bangla Nattyadal is set to attend the four day drama festival in Joypurhat, today. The event is hosted by Panchbibi Theatre. They have also arranged a book fair, which was opened on International Mother Language Day (21 February). The fair concludes tomorrow. Bangla Nattyadal will stage their popular production, Utpal Dutt's *Megh*, on the final day of the festival.

Kolkata theatre troupe Brittanto will stage their popular production tomorrow. Ahor Bangla and Panchbibi Theatre will stage their acclaimed production on different days. H M Sohriduzzaman, Secretary and Director, Bangla Nattyadal, attended the event. The stage was designed by Abid Ahmed, while lights and music were designed by Nasir Ahmed Durjoy. The cast of the play includes Abid Ahmed, H M Shohiduzzaman, Subarna Mir, Afsana Akter Juthi, Selim Bohurupi, Liton Khan, Nasir Ahmed Durjoy and Syed Golam Mortaza.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The One With The Reunion

Why we should look forward to the 'Friends' special



PHOTO: AFP

SHABARA IQBAL

Thanks to reruns and streaming platforms like Netflix, *Friends* has found a loyal audience with a generation that does not remember when the show originally aired. Some of them don't even remember the days when we had to actually wait to watch shows at a specific time and could only watch it on television. Yet, millions of people have become ardent fans of a show that hasn't aired for 15 years. Recently, WarnerMedia recognised that there was value in bringing all 236 episodes of the hit sitcom to their new HBO MAX service, set to launch this May.

Ever since *Friends* ended in 2004, seeing Rachel (Jennifer Aniston), Monica (Courteney Cox), Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow), Joey (Matt LeBlanc), Chandler (Matthew Perry) and Ross (David Schwimmer) together one more time has been on top of the wish-lists of many fans across the world. Now, the whole cast will be returning in an unscripted reunion special on HBO MAX, for

a celebration of the beloved show.

In an increasingly crowded streaming market, it takes a lot to stand out. The reunion special is a genius creative move by WarnerMedia because it will drive attention to HBO MAX, and give the show's loyal fans enough motivation to become its customers.

The six characters of *Friends* are iconic and will be featured in pop culture for eternity. We love seeing the actors interact with one another all these years later – even more so now, as they are all following each other on Instagram and keep posting pictures of their hangouts together. We would love to hear from the cast regarding where they think their characters would be today – What would Rachel be doing after getting off the plane to Paris? Did Mike and Phoebe move to the suburbs or stay in the city? How are Monica, Chandler and the twins doing? Is Joey living with Monica and Chandler? It will be exciting to find out the answers to all these queries and more in the reunion special!

'Gouache Painting Workshop and Seminar' at DU

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The weeklong (February 22-28) 'Gouache Painting Workshop and Seminar 2020' has been arranged at the Library Building, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU). Eminent artist Professor Nikhil Ranjan Pal of the Department of Painting, Faculty of Visual Art, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, is conducting the workshop. Oriental Painting Study Group (OPSG) and FFA, DU, are jointly organising the event.

Professor Nikhil Ranjan Pal inaugurated the workshop yesterday through a live demonstration and elaboration on the art media, which has a considerable history dating back to 600 years. Gouache is a type of water media painting consisting of natural pigment, water, a binding agent and sometimes, additional inert material. It is designed to be used with opaque methods of painting. Four teachers along with several students from the four departments of FFA, DU are participating in the workshop. Renowned artist Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, FFA, DU, attended the inaugural



PHOTO: COURTESY

ceremony as the chief guest while noted artist Professor Sheikh Afzal Hossain of the Department of Drawing and Painting, FFA, DU and oriental art connoisseur Mikhail I Islam were present as special guests. Coordinator of the workshop Dr Malay Bala, also an Associate Professor at the Department of Oriental Art, FFA, DU, hosted

the programme. Professor Nikhil Ranjan Pal will give a lecture on Gouache painting, along with visual presentation at 11am on January 24, while Oriental Painting Studio Bangladesh will host a musical programme, along with an artists' get together at their space in Elephant Road in the evening on the same day.



In observance of the International Mother Language Day (21 February), a daylong programme was arranged by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), at the Central Shaheed Minar and the BSA premises. A group dance performance, presented by BFA on Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam's songs, along with many other performances of Bangladeshi folk dance and music, were also presented at the event. Many artistes from Malaysia, Russia, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Italy, and Sri Lanka also performed at the programme.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BSA