

**WHAT'S ON**

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

**Solo Exhibition**  
Title: Parables of the Womb  
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly  
Venue: Bengal Shipalay, 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)

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

# Professor Razia Sultana Khan's 'Of Woman Born' underway at Zainul Gallery

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Professor Razia Sultana Khan's solo painting exhibition, *Of Woman Born*, is underway at Zainul Gallery-2, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka (DU). Mojibur Rahman, President, Dhaka University Sculpture Alumni Association, inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest on February 24. Dr Niaz Zaman, former Professor of DU, and Alamgir Kabir, Convener, Different Strokes, were present as special guests.

Professor Razia is an English Literature teacher by profession, and an artist by passion. She enjoyed drawing and painting from a young age. As her father's job demanded a lot of travelling growing up, she had many opportunities to explore various cultures and art forms in different parts of the world. Professor



Esteemed guests and visitors at the exhibition.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Razia has met many artists from across the world and visited many renowned art museums, including Louvre, MoMA, Prado and Hermitage.

Most of the paintings on exhibit at the event, completed over the past few years, shed light on the lives and emotions of Bangladeshi women. "I did not want to focus on gender inequality or the oppression women and girls face. Rather, I intended to portray strong and independent women," shares Professor Razia. Vibrant colours, together with the use of geometric shapes and forms, alongside graceful lines, are dominant

features of her artworks.

Even though she was a non-academic artist, she was self-motivated to learn from different artists and art organisations, including Syed Hasan Mahmud of Jhapi School of Art, Rezaun Nabi, and Alamgir Kabir, the Convener of Different Strokes. "I have not only become more expansive in my explorations of forms and colours, but I have also ensured that I invest a fair amount of time practicing my art," mentions the artist. "My mother, who is also artistic, encouraged me throughout all my endeavours. My children,

too, have always supported me. I am sincerely thankful to them."

Besides teaching and painting, Professor Razia is passionate about fiction-writing. "Works of fiction use words to paint moving pictures, whereas, paintings tell stories," she asserts. "A well-written story has textures, colours, a unified theme and the ability to emotionally connect with people, much in the same way that an interesting painting does."

*Of Woman Born*, opening from 11 am to 8 pm, will conclude on February 29.



(From left) Alamgir Kabir, Professor Razia Sultana Khan, Mojibur Rahman and Dr Niaz Zaman at he opening ceremony.

## EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

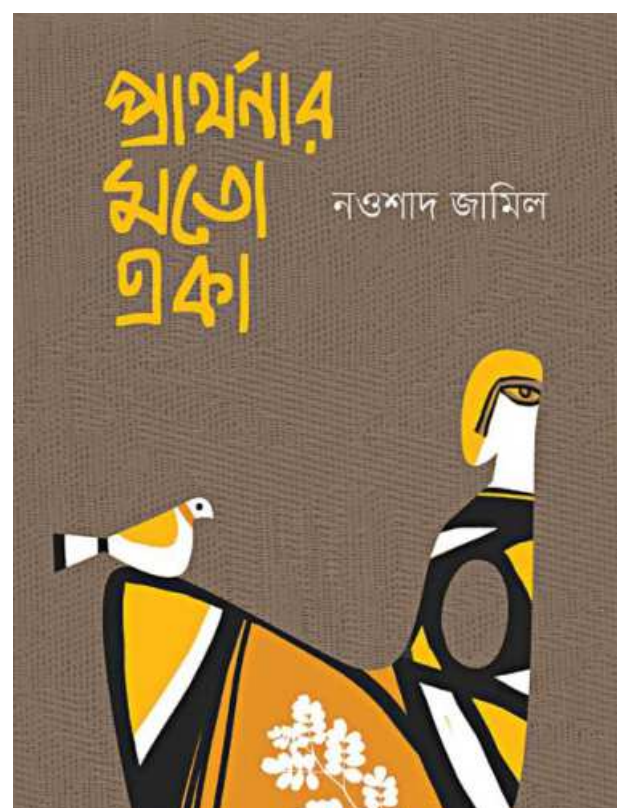
### Naushad Jamil explores romanticism in 'Prarthonar Moto Eka'

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Renowned writer and journalist Naushad Jamil's latest book, *Prarthonar Moto Eka*, was recently released at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020. The poetry collection, published by Anyaprokash Publications, features poems on two themes – love and prayer. "I believe that one poetic line can convey numerous messages," says the writer. "Alongside love for nature and life, my poems highlight contemporary issues very prominently." Razib Datta has designed the cover of the book.



PHOTO: COURTESY



*Prarthonar Moto Eka* narrates many unpleasant incidents of recent times, in poetic verses. "My poem, *Nusrat*, reflects upon the barbaric execution of the Madrasa student Nusrat in Feni," says the author. "*Abrar*, another poem from the book, sheds light on the recent tragic death of the BUET student Abrar."

Naushad Jamil, who started his career with *Prothom Alo*, is currently working as a senior reporter in *Kaler Kantho*. "Although journalism is my profession, my passion lies in literature," he shares. His poetry collections include — *Teerthatol* (2011), *Kofine Kathgolap* (2014) and *Dheuyier Bhetor Dabanol* (2016). Alongside these, his travelogue *Lankapurir Dimratri*, was published at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2017. He was also the joint editor of the book, *Kohon Kotha: Salim Al Deen's selected interview and the magazine, Rudro Tomar Darun Deepti*.

Naushad Jamil has received numerous awards and recognition for his works of literature besides journalism, including the Kali O Kolom Young Poets and Writers Award, Bishal Bangla Sahitya Award and Adam Recognition Award (Kolkata).

*Prarthonar Moto Eka* is available at Anyaprokash Publications (pavilion no 21), for a discounted price of BDT 113 at the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020.

## A LESSON IN THRASH

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

In the 1980's as the disdain for the establishment became ever more apparent among the youth, musicians started fusing double bass drumming, complex shredding and the aggression of hardcore punk. As the very niche scene rapidly grew in numbers, thrash metal was solidified by the likes of Metallica, Anthrax, Megadeth and Slayer – widely considered the big four of the genre.

Even though it took time for the genre to spill over to Bangladesh, musicians Sameer Azmi, Sumit Gaurab, Mujtaba Hamim and Asif Mahmood formed Thrash in 2011, widely regarded as the best thrash metal band in Bangladesh. "At that time, we started jamming together out of our shared passion for this kind of music," says Sameer, "we did not even have a name for the band. In the end, we named it after the genre itself!"

In the recent Wacken Metal Battle 2020, Thrash emerged victorious among a slew of talented bands fighting for the chance to perform at the biggest metal concert in the world – Wacken Open Air (WOA). "It was unreal," says Sumit. "The chance to perform at Wacken is a dream for any musician." To be able to do so,



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Thrash must beat bands from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal in the upcoming Bangalore Open Air, which begins on March 21. "We are ready to compete, and will give it our best at the festival," asserts the guitarist.

The Metal Battle was organised by Valor, in association with Wacken

Open Air, Wacken Metal Battle -Indian Subcontinent, Bangalore Open Air and Infinite Dreams Entertainment. Trainwreck were the trailblazers of the event last year, representing Bangladesh at the WOA.

Thrash made waves in 2012 when they released their EP, *A Lesson in Thrash* –

the first thrash metal EP in the country. The band promises a full-length album this year. "We are working really hard to produce our long-overdue album," says Sameer, who sees their win in the competition to be a perfect stepping-stone to greater things. "Regardless of what happens in Bangalore, we will continue to produce music for our fans, and you can count on us for that," he says.

Since its inception, the genre of thrash has pointed at the harsh realities of life – fascism, pollution, corruption, warfare, deforestation. "It is very easy to overlook these issues, but we speak and make music about the truth," says an assertive Sumit, who requested the fans of the niche genre to keep supporting them. "Your support means everything, and we would like everyone to extend their hands to the dawn of a new era for Thrash."

### LINE-UP

Sameer Azmi: Vocals and Bass guitar

Sumit Gaurab: Guitar

Muktadir Anzan: Drums



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Shirin Akter Shela to be felicitated in the USA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Shirin Akter Shela opened a new pathway for Bangladeshi women, by participating in the globally recognised beauty pageant Miss Universe contest, in December. Miss Universe Bangladesh was officially launched for the first time in 2019, where former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen crowned Shirin, on October 24.

Although she was not able to win the crown at the main global event, she won the hearts of millions of audiences. To recognise her talent and celebrate her outstanding achievement, Bangladesh Association of Florida invited her to participate in the Asian Trade Fair and Cultural Show in Florida, USA, on March 14-15.



Each band performs one song from the Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra at the concert. Fuad and Friends (FNF), Arbovirus, Cryptic Fate, Shunno, Nemesis, Vikings, AvoidRafa, Chirkutt, Minar, Lalon, and F Minor will perform at the grand event this year, which is open to all upon registration.

## 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' screened at ULAB

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Presenting history in a way that captures the imagination of the youth, a screening of the documentary film, *Hasina: A Daughter's Tale*, took place at the auditorium of University of Liberal Arts (ULAB), recently. The film, directed by Piplu Khan, focuses on untold stories of the Prime Minister's life.

Referring to other projects such as the *Mujib* graphic novel and Joy Bangla Concert, which

bring history closer to young audiences in an engaging manner, Radwan Mujib Siddiq, grandson of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, addressed the importance of understanding and interacting with the youth. He is one of the trustees of Centre for Research & Information (CRI), and also the co-producer of the film.

200 students and officials of ULAB attended the screening. At the end of the event, Radwan Mujib Siddiq and Piplu Khan answered questions from the audience.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CRI

## Tahmima Anam's trilogy out now in a special jacket edition

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

Tahmima Anam's *A Golden Age*, *The Good Muslim* and *The Bones of Grace* make up a trilogy, which chronicles three generations of the Haque family, from the Liberation War of Bangladesh to the present day. Daily Star Books had previously published *A Golden Age* in English and Bangla, and *The Bones of Grace* in English in a hardback edition. This time, for the Ekushey Boi Mela, they have launched all three novels in a special jacket edition.

"Tahmima Anam's two novels—the first and third of the trilogy—are among the most popular titles published by Daily Star Books. We're grateful to Prothoma Publications, who originally published *The Good*

*Muslim* in Bangladesh, to grant us with the permission to print the book for this collection," says Sarah Anjum Bari, In-Charge, Daily Star Books.

Residing in London, Tahmima Anam is an acclaimed writer. Her debut novel, *A Golden Age*, was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best

First Book. It was followed in 2011 by *The Good Muslim*. The third and the final novel, *The Bones of Grace* was published in 2016.

The three books are available in a box set from Daily Star Books in stalls 491 and 492 at the Ekushey Boi Mela, for a discounted price of BDT 1,350.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAILY STAR BOOKS