

International Art Fest 2020 Nilphamari underway



The festival features artists from Bangladesh, India, USA, Nepal and Myanmar.

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Nilsagor, Nilphamari

The International Art Fest 2020 Nilphamari, an event which celebrates different artistic expressions, opened yesterday. The grand festival, held this year at Nilsagor, Nilphamari, features artists representing five different generations of Bangladesh, India, USA, Nepal and Myanmar. Organised by the Art Festival 2020 Nilphamari Organising Committee, with active support from Vision 2021 Nilphamari and Art Bangla, the event, under the tagline, 'Nature is life, Art for brighter life' has been arranged in the northern district of Bangladesh to decentralise the heritage of Bangladeshi art and culture. Nilsagor has welcomed participants to work on their artistic projects in a beautiful and natural environment

throughout the festival. Promising artists from all around Bangladesh have paired with local school students to work on different forms of art. Several contemporary artists, along with five art organisations are also participating in the event.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid attended the inaugural ceremony of the festival as the chief guest. Eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi and Bengal Foundation Chairman Shilper Sadhak Abul Khair jointly inaugurated the event. Nilphamari DC and SP and Upazila Chairman were present as special guests. Former Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, also the chief adviser of the festival organising committee, presided over the programme.

Director General of Bengal



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Foundation, Luva Nahid Choudhury, Engineer Mainul Abedin and art critic Moinuddin Khaled have attended the event. Renowned artist Professor Mohammad Eunos is the convener, while Harun-ar-Rashid Tutul, an Assistant Professor of the Department of Graphic Design, FFA, DU, is the curator of the festival. Md Wadood Rahman is the member-secretary of the festival organising committee.

Renowned artists, including Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam, Abul Barq Alvi, Nisar Hossain, Mohammad Eunos, Afzal Hossain, Jamal Ahmed, Rokeya Sultana, Shameem Subrana, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Sheikh Afzal Hossain, Mustapha Khalid Palash, Muniruzzaman, Mohammad Iqbal, Ranjit Das, Reza Asad-Al Huda Anupam, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Bishwajit

Goswami and Sourav Chowdhury are participating in the festival. They are creating artworks that represent Bangladesh's natural, artistic and cultural heritage. Furthermore, foreign artists are working with local artists on different creative themes.

The festival includes an international art camp, two international exhibitions (one to be held at Nilsagor on February 29, and another at Zainul Gallery in Dhaka next April), a folk art and craft fair, seminars, cultural programmes, camp fire and sightseeing. Various cultural performances, including *Baul Gaan*, *Bhandi Khela*, *Bier Geet*, *Horikirtton*, *Lathi Khela* are being hosted at the Dighee Stage, Matia Stage and Mela Stage across several venues at the festival, which concludes on February 29.

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Don't judge a book by its cover

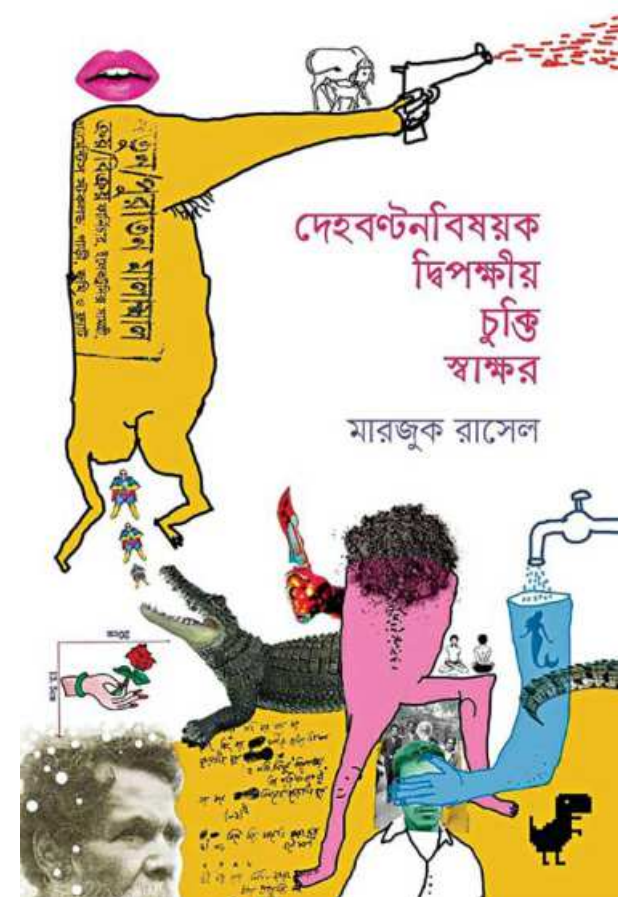
SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

It is quite possible that one way or the other, you know Marzuk Russell. After the poet and lyricist shot to fame in the 90s, he went on to make a name for himself as an actor and television personality. He made you laugh as the humorous Marjuk in the film *Bachelor*, made you sing along to lyrics such as *Ami To Prem e Porini* and *Didha*, or ponder about life with *Chader Burir Boyosh Jokhon Sholo*, the latter of which has been re-published at this year's Ekushey Boi Mela.



Marzuk Russell

Rather than restricting his poetry to the elite class's privity, Marzuk brought his work closer to the common audience, who encapsulated it in their hearts. The multi-talented personality's 15-year absence from the book fair did not disrupt his popularity as a writer. *Dehobonton Bishoyok Dipokkhio Chukti Shakhho* has been one of the fastest selling books at the fair. "It is a selection of my poems that were published from 2002-2005", says the writer, who moves between psychedelic and post-



modern realms.

On a glance of the cover, it is apparent that the approach to it would be divisive, to say the least. Done by Rajib Datta, it features a plethora of abstract images that tell a story in unison. When asked if he thought that it could offend some, the poet replied, "It is, at the end of the day, art. An open mind is essential while interpreting it."

However, criticism is no stranger to Marzuk Russell. "To quote Jean-Michel Basquiat, I don't know anyone who needs a critic to find out what art is," he says, referring to the increasing amount of faux social media critics, some of whom aren't even familiar with Marzuk's work. It is probable that one does not comprehend the fact that his on-screen persona and poetic existence are dissociated.

Dehobonton Bishoyok Dipokkhio Chukti, published by Bayanno, is available at their stall (363) in the Ekushey Boi Mela at a discounted price of BDT 150. *Chader Burir Boyosh Jokhon Sholo* is available at Howleder Publication's stall (593-595) for the same price. Both of the books can be ordered from all online stores after the fair.

'Theatre Cycle' introduced at DU

BORNALY DEBNATH

Recently, 'Theatre Cycle: Arts, Action, Change' officially inaugurated their group and staged the play, 'Roots and Wings', originally written by Terry Roueche. The adaptation was directed by Md Abdur Razzak and Shongkar Kumar Biswas. The cast of the play included Roni Das and Shongkar Kumar Biswas. The event, including two more conceptual performances, was held at University of Dhaka (DU).

The special guests of the event were Prof Syed Jamil Ahmed, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Dhaka (DU), Prof Dr Israfeel Shaheen, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, Prof Dr Zebun Nasteen Ahmed, Department of Architecture, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET),

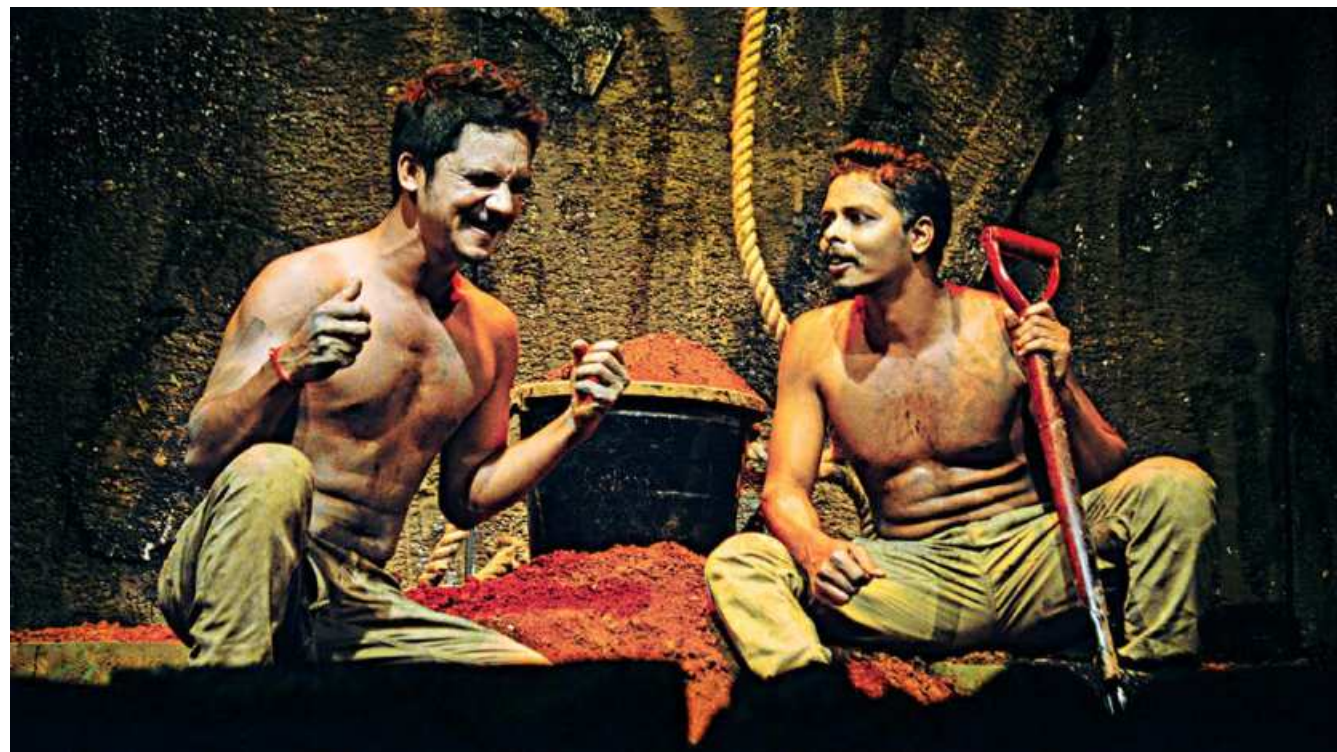


PHOTO: PIYAS BISWAS

Assistant Prof Shaman Moishan, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Dhaka (DU) and Fr Patrick Daniel Gaffney, CSC, Vice Chancellor of Notre Dame University Bangladesh (NDUB). Fr Adam S Pereira, CSC, Faculty and Register of Notre Dame University Bangladesh (NDUB)

and assistant Prof Nafisa Sultana, department of English, Notre Dame University Bangladesh (NDUB) were also present.

The event also featured an installation performance of Logotherapy, which was originally developed by neurologist and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, and a

conceptual performance of Applied Logotherapy.

Shaman Moishan, Dr Zebun Nasteen Ahmed, Prof Dr Israfeel Shaheen, Dr Jamil Ahmed and Fr Patrick Daniel Gaffney, CSC spoke at the programme. The team of Theatre Cycle presented creasts to the distinguished guests after the inauguration.



'Swapno Biliye Jai', dedicated to Prithwi Raj, airs today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Swapno Biliye Jai, a telefilm, dedicated to popular musician Prithwi Raj will air on Maasranga Television at 9 pm today. The telefilm features Manoj Pramanik, Azmeri Asha, Majnun Mizan and Mushfiq Farhan, among others. Directed by Towfique Elahi, it is a love story.

The telefilm features *Eki Ghor*, a song composed and sung by Prithwi Raj. "Prithwi composed this song and also composed the music in my short film. I am truly saddened by his early departure, I dedicate this telefilm to him," shares the director.



Mosharraf Karim and Nusrat Jahan to star in Bratya Basu's 'Dictionary'

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

Popular actor Mosharraf Karim is set to play the role of the protagonist opposite actor and Trinamool Congress lawmaker Nusrat Jahan in the Kolkata-based film, *Dictionary*. West Bengal Science and Technology Minister Bratya Basu is the director of the film.

According to Basu, *Dictionary* explores human relationships that are created

by distance. The film, which also features Abir Chatterjee and Parambrata Chatterjee in prominent roles, is an adaptation of *Baba Howa (Becoming a Father)* and *Swami Howa (Becoming a Husband)*, two short stories written by Buddhadeb Guha. Although Basu regards theatre as his passion, he has taken some time off from the stage to direct the film.

"Directing this film is challenging

from a technical point of view, since I am making it on digital media, instead of celluloid stock," said Basu, who helmed the 2010 film, *Tara*, before becoming a minister.

Jahan, who joined electoral politics last year, wanted to work with Basu for a long time. "I am happy to have him as my director for this project," she shared.

Apart from Kolkata, the film will be shot in Bolpur and Purulia.