

WHAT'S ON

Exhibition
 Title: Parables of the Womb
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya
 Date: February 4 to March 28
 Time: 2pm to 8 pm except Sundays

Solo Exhibition
 Title: Parables of the Womb
 Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhamondi
 Date: February 4 – March 28
 Time: 2 pm – 8 pm (Except Sundays)

Concert
 Title: Joy Bangla Concert 2020
 Venue: Bangladesh Army Stadium
 Date: March 7
 Time: 12 pm to 10pm
 Tickets available at <https://ticket.youngbangla.org/>

Theatre Performance
 Title: Krishna Sarothi
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhamondi
 Date: March 7
 Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

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

Int'l Art Fest 2020 Nilphamari concludes on a high note

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Nilsagor, Nilphamari

The third International Art Festival 2020 Nilphamari concluded on a high note. Artists from five countries created a cornucopia of artwork in a four-day art camp, the outcome of which were on display yesterday at the idyllic ambience of Nilsagor, the festival venue.

State Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, graced the occasion as the chief guest, while former Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor presided over the programme. Convener of the festival, renowned artist Mohammad Eunos, spoke at the event, while the curator of festival Md Harun-ar-Rashid Tutul elaborated the details of the arrangement.

Nupur Khanam Duli hosted the concluding programme, where Zunaid Ahmed Palak sang *Cholo Bodley Jai*, originally recorded by the legendary Ayub Bachchu. Palak expressed his sincere desire to hold this iconic festival at Chalan Beel, a vast waterbody adjacent to Natore, the minister's hometown. He also declared the plans for an animation studio at the Department of Graphic Design, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, and the BDT 100-core project of Nilphamari ICT Park' in the district.

Asaduzzaman Noor thanked the management for successfully hosting the festival in his home town. His majestic recitation of excerpts from Syed Shamsul Haq's famous poetic drama, *Nuruddin* er



State Minister for ICT, Zunaid Ahmed Palak and Former Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor (C) rejoice with the organisers of the festival.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Sharajibon, astounded the audience. The guests handed over certificates and crests to the participating artists.

In an abrupt announcement, when the host invited me on stage to say something, I sang the Kabir Suman song, *Banglar Dhonuker Chhilaay Chhilaay Joto Taan*, as I went on to share my beautiful experiences of the festival.

Five generations of artists spontaneously participated in the grand

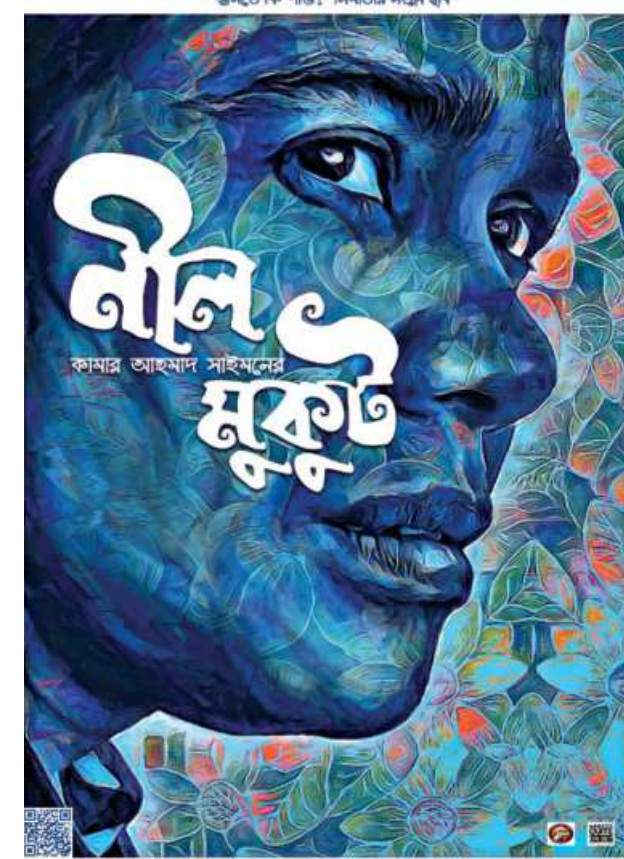
festival, where they created a number of artworks on Bangabandhu, alongside the beautiful cultural heritage of the place. The emerging artists worked tirelessly to create commendable pieces. Contemporary, foreign, and the country's renowned artists worked together, and participated in various art and cultural activities. Their positive vibes kept the venue vibrant during the festival. It is safe to say

that the organisers' commitment to re-construct a beautiful Bangladesh through innovative art practice, has been fruitful.

The Art Festival 2020 Nilphamari Organising Committee, Vision 2021, Nilphamari, and Art Bangla, Dhaka, deserve accolades for this ambitious undertaking, the festival was one of the most memorable celebrations of art in recent memory.



Neel Mukut to release on March 27



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Director Kamar Ahmad Simon's upcoming film, *Neel Mukut*, is set to release on March 27. The poster of the film was highly appreciated, after being unveiled on social media last week. The poster is available for sale in Baatighar. The film recently received an uncut censorship.

Kamar, who is the winner of the Golden Conch from Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) and Grand Prix from Cinema Du Reel Paris for his first film *Shunte Ki Pao!* (Are You Listening!), describes *Neel Mukut* as an 'unplanned' film.

French DW and Norway's Barentsfilm produced *Anyadin*, the second of Kamar's Water Trilogy. Produced by Germany's Wiedmann Bros, Kamar's *Shikolbaha* has been awarded with Bangladesh National Film Grant and Berlinale's prestigious World Cinema Fund (WCF).

Shonar Bangla Circus releases Hyena Express

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Shonar Bangla Circus released their debut album, *Hyena Express*, yesterday. It is a conceptual album, that expresses human emotions and conditions through different emotional phases of the journey of mankind. There are a total of nine tracks in *Hyena Express*, available on most online global streaming platforms.

Shonar Bangla Circus, formed in May 2018, is comprised of singer-songwriter Probar Ripon, guitarist Seth Panduranga Blumberg, Dewan Anamul Hasan Raju as the drummer and sound-mixer, Shakil Haque as the bassist, and Saad Chowdhury in on the keys.

The inaugural ceremony of the album took place in Jatra Biroti, Banani yesterday, alongside a face-to-face session with the press.



Bharatanatyam dancer Dr NARTHAKI Nataraj receives honorary award

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Noted Bharatanatyam dancer Dr NARTHAKI Nataraj is the first Indian transwoman ever to receive the prestigious Padma Shri award in 2019, for her exceptional achievements in cultural activities.

Dr Nataraj recently visited Bangladesh to receive an honorary award from Bandhu Social Welfare Society. The organisation works for the rights and social acceptance of the transgender community. The award ceremony, held at Bangladesh National Museum, is to pay a tribute to the artiste, and to encourage all the transgenders in Bangladesh at the same time.

Sudipto Mukherjee, UNDP Country Director, handed over the crest of honour to Dr Nataraj. Anisul Islam Hero, Bandhu Social Welfare Society Chairperson, and Saleh Ahmed, Executive Director, also attended the event. Dr Nataraj also blessed the programme with a scintillating performance.

PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA



Sheikh Afzal Hossain's 'Swajanghati Rekha' underway at Kala Kendra

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Under the title of *Swajanghati Rekha*, an exclusive solo art exhibition is underway at Kala Kendra, Iqbal Road, Dhaka. Eminent artists Professor Rafiqun Nabi and Professor Shishir Bhattacharjee inaugurated the exhibition on February 21.

Artists are brilliant at generating creative ideas. The way they talk, interact, create, recreate and make fun of each other, even amongst themselves -- are diverse in expressions, and delightful to experience. To relish in the other aspects of his fellows, renowned artist Sheikh Afzal Hossain has created a number of caricatures over the years. The exhibition is a great treat to the art lovers, who now have the opportunity to comprehend the lighter side of the renowned artists.

Sheikh Afzal Hossain is a Professor at the Department of Drawing and Painting, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka. He is a cheerful person, who avidly portrays cartoons and caricatures of his colleagues.

When he was a final year student at FFA, Sheikh Afzal started a newspaper called



Byango. Besides, he used to draw cartoons for many daily and weekly newspapers. "When I joined the Institute of Fine Arts, DU, as a teacher, I would draw cartoons of my colleagues to provoke them," said Sheikh Afzal Hossain. "I also took the challenge

of drawing cartoons of renowned artists Mohammad Eunos and Rafiqun Nabi at that time."

"To provoke diverse senses of *rasa*, Sheikh Afzal Hossain has taken the media to depict hilarious and even brain-teasing cartoons,

shedding light on the humorous aspects of his colleagues, friends and fellow artists," shared the curator of the show, Wakilur Rahman.

The exhibition captures various unexpectedly funny moments and joyous

experiences of Afzal Hossain, with artists Rafiqun Nabi, Shahid Kabir, Shishir Bhattacharjee, Nisar Hossain, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Mostafizul Haque, Jamal Ahmed and Mohammad Iqbal, among others.

Opening daily from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm, the show will run until March 17.



PHOTO: COURTESY