

All aboard the 'Hyena Express'

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

As afternoon turned to evening in my chat with Shonar Bangla Circus, it was evident that they had put their heart and soul into their debut album, 'Hyena Express'. An amalgamation of nine spine-chilling tracks, including 'Mrittui Utpadon Karkhana', 'Ondho Deyal', 'Amar Naam Oshukh' and 'Kromosho', it tells the story of how the human race cornered itself into hopelessness. Even though the album is inherently musical, it reads like a postmodern book, across the tracks.



Shonar Bangla Circus.

PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

LINE-UP
VOCALS, GUITAR AND LYRIC: PROBAR RIPON
GUITAR: SETH PANDURANGA BLUMBERG
DRUMS: DEWAN ANAMUL HASAN RAJU
BASS: SHAKIL HAQUE
KEYBOARD: SAAD CHOWDHURY

"We have been jamming for the better part of the last 10 years," says Ripon, the vocalist and lyricist of Shonar Bangla Circus. A poet at his core, his pen bled tears of agony while giving life to the tracks. "I wrote them at different times in my life. For example, *Mrittui Utpadon Karkhana* was written about the Iraq war." The band had found steam when the Shakil, the bass player, and Saad, the keyboardist, joined the line-up. *Hyena Express* was recorded live, with some necessary overdubs and added layers. "We wanted a live recording because it captures the essence of the sound that we

wanted to produce," said Pandu. True to his words, the nimble human touches are what gives the album life. "Recording each layer separately, even though it is arguably more convenient, would take away from the soul of what we wanted to do." Even though the album tends to evoke a feeling of dread, the deep-rooted message is designed to inspire correction amongst the listeners. "You have to take it as art," said Raju, "We merely pointed out what we felt what we were doing wrong. It is up to us if we want to realise the fallacies, and correct our ways." The concept of *Hyena Express* draws parallel

to the rampant pace at which we are on board of a reckless train towards injustice, destruction and dehumanisation. The train is run by "Hyenas", symbolising the selfish and greedy authorities in power, taking every opportunity to create chaos and divide for their own profit. Shonar Bangla Circus, a bona fide group of veterans, have created an epic. The entire album is available to listeners on the band's YouTube channel. Shonar Bangla Circus is also planning to host in a unique interactive concert soon, where listeners can experience the tracks like never before.

WHAT'S ON

Group Painting Exhibition
 Title: Guru-Shishya Shishya-Guru
 Presented by: The Oriental Painting Studio Bangladesh
 Venue: Zainul Gallery - 1, DU
 Date: March 2 - March 8
 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)

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

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

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

Art Event
 Title: Bangladesh ArtWeek Women 2020 - Ora Egaro Jon
 Venue: Dhaka Gallery
 Date: March 7 - 14
 Time: 12 noon - 8 pm

BANGLADESH BANDS GEN NEXT

NONGOR

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladesh Bands Gen Next is a project aimed to promote young and upcoming bands by providing them with a unique platform to express their talents. The programme has selected 26 young bands from Chattogram for its first run.

Nongor, comprised of Nafeez, Kamrul, Polash, Rocky and Kanchan, was formed in 2008. The avant rock band will soon release their album, *Mohakaal*. They hope to win over music listeners of the country with their track, *Shohure*.

The programme is helmed by advertising agency Create, and produced by 49 Blue. The programme is sponsored by Marks Full Cream Milk Powder. *Shohure* is available on Marks' YouTube channel.



Artworks from the exhibition.

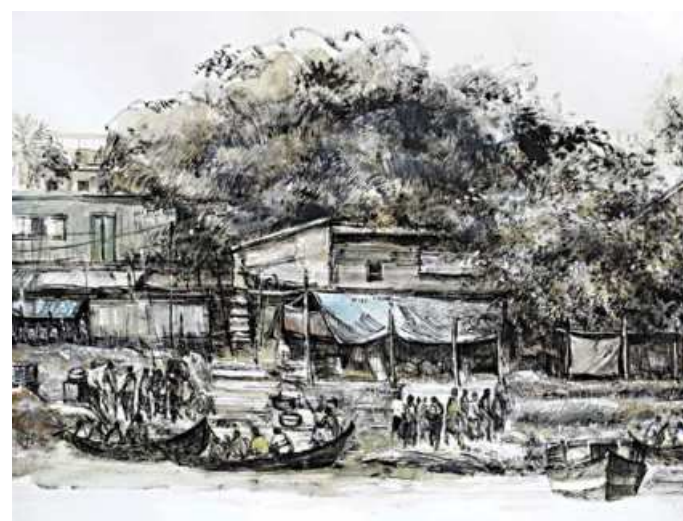


PHOTO: COURTESY

Tarek Amin's 'Time & Reality' opens at Galleri Kaya today

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Promising artist Ruhul Amin Tarek's first solo exhibition, *Time & Reality*, opens at Galleri Kaya in Uttara, today. Atiqul Islam, Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation, will inaugurate the show. Eminent artist Professor Jamal Ahmed will grace the inaugural ceremony as the special guest. The exhibition will showcase a selection of 62 recent works done in woodcut print, lithograph, etching, aquatint, dry point, ink pen, pencil and mixed media on paper. Tarek has been practicing different forms of printmaking for several years. He soulfully uses and experiments with his physique and inner spirit for his realistic artworks, which focus on his self-realisation, thought processes and desire to mingle with the ultimate. Some of his woodcuts feature aphrodisiac women, while a number of his prints demonstrate bucolic beauty.

Most of Tarek's woodcuts are engrossed with a single figure, through which he portrays himself in various movements. His works are suggestive of the human body, with an emphasis on the inner struggles and torment of humans.



Tarek Amin

Tarek's forte includes intimate relationships, internal perceptions and thinking processes to scrutinise one's inner pain, struggles and longing. He also keeps his eyes on the country's serene landscapes, simple life and the reflection of socio-economic aspects. Tarek's creative process is spontaneous, touching and meticulous. His themes and approaches explore the physical, and often illusive emotional realms closely.

The background of most of his compositions is occupied with delightful hues and compassionate tones. Light and shade interplay into his works and he cautiously keeps a balance between the figure and overall composition.

Though Tarek began his career as a realist printmaker, he has refined himself over time. Consequently, he has brought in new-fangled compositions and different types of objects into his works. Recurring figures and the relationship between inner and external movements, are important elements in his approach. The works that will be on display at his exhibition focus on the inherent strength and power of humans.

Born in Sunamganj, Tarek, who is a singer as well, is deeply motivated by Baul songs of Bangladesh. His musical and philosophical exchanges with London-based renowned Sylheti Baul Qwari Amiruddin has influenced his artistic vision immensely. He has received several prestigious awards and participated in many group art exhibitions, both at home and abroad. *Time & Reality* will remain open every day from 11 am to 7:30 pm till March 17.

Films to catch this month

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

For many of us, movies act as a perfect escape from a tightly packed schedule throughout the week. Bearing that in mind, let us look at a couple of Bangla films that are releasing in March.

Holud Bani, a Bangladesh-India joint venture directed by Mokul Roy Chowdhury (India) and Taher Shipon (Bangladesh), is set to release at Star Cineplex and Blockbuster Cinemas today. Produced by Paul Projects Pvt Ltd, in association with Jharkhand Film Development Corporation, the film is based on a story by Sukanta Gangopadhyaya. Bangladesh's Impress Telefilm Ltd is also a co-producer of the film. Starring celebrated actors Parambrata Chatterjee, Paoli Dam and Nusrat Imrose Tisha, *Holud Bani* focuses on a love triangle and is set in the backdrop of a picturesque countryside.

On the other hand, Debasish Biswas' *Shoshurbari Zindabad 2*, starring popular actors Apu Biswas and Bappi Chowdhury will hit



theatres nationwide on March 20. The film, which went on the floors quite a while back, is produced by Bengal Multimedia Productions.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The grand finale of the reality game show, *Singer Family and Fun* organised by Singer Bangladesh, will be held on March 07. The finale will air on NTV at 8:55 pm.

The show started on December 7, last year. Till then, 13 episodes of the show aired regularly. Each episode featured 2 members of 7 families. Among the winner families of each episode, 7 high scorer families have been selected for the final episode.

There were several rounds of quiz games, cooking competitions and other fun activities in each episode. Popular culinary artist Nahid Osman was present as the judge of the cooking competitions. The champion family will receive a grand prize.



PHOTO: COURTESY