

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 Shilpalay, Dhamondi
 Date: February 4 - March 28
 Time: 2 pm - 8 pm (Except Sundays)

Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Joy Bangabandhu
 Artist: Nasir Ali Mamun
 Date: March 6 - March 24 (Closed on March 13 and 14)
 Time: 3 pm to 9 pm (Mon - Thurs); 9 am to 12 noon and 5 pm to 8 pm (Fri-Sat)

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

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

"We need to raise awareness of women's rights at grassroots levels"

- Dilara Zaman

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Dilara Zaman began her journey in acting over forty years ago. She has earned the esteemed Ekushey Padak and the National Film Award during her illustrious career. Aside from acting in countless plays, telefilms and films, she is also an educator. However, such accomplishments have not slowed her down, as the artiste continues to be a regular favourite on screen. On International Women's Day, she gets candid with *The Daily Star* about the challenges that women face, the changes in the industry, her upcoming ventures and more.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is 'I am Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights'. What, according to you, is the significance of this day and theme?

It is important to have a day to raise awareness about the struggles of women the world over and honour their achievements. However, we need to go beyond the city life of Bangladesh, when it comes to forging equality for women. We need to raise awareness of women's rights at grassroots levels. Those who work to engage the hearts and minds of the community to help drive women's equality, should reach out to the remote and rural areas, for affecting real change.

Women from all walks of life face different levels of discrimination and harassment on a regular basis, even today. How do you think we can overcome such hurdles?

We owe an enormous amount to the women in our lives - be it our mothers, sisters or wives. We need to support them to overcome their struggles. We can combat the harassment, discrimination and negativity if we educate people on first and foremost, respecting and valuing women as human beings, on all accounts.

As a female artiste, what were some of the biggest challenges that you faced when you



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

started out in the industry?

You see, I come from a very conservative family. When I was a university student, the great novelist Munir Chowdhury sent a letter to my father for his permission to let me act. Many of my relatives said that if I become an actor and work in the media, I will not be able to find a good husband. So, there were different pressures from a familial, and from a societal level at large. Women often take a few steps back or leave the workforce entirely once they get married. Fortunately, in my case, I had a life partner who supported me through thick and thin.

What are your thoughts on the opportunities for women in the media today?

I think women and girls are making a mark not just in the media, but in other challenging fields as well. Today, we have capable women working as law enforcers, engineers, social change makers and what not. But these opportunities were not built

in a day - we had to walk a path layered with different struggles to get here.

Moving on to lighter matters, you will be playing Sayera Khatun in Shyam Benegal's film on Bangabandhu. Can you tell us a little about the role?

I feel honoured and privileged to be playing the role of Bangabandhu's mother, Sayera Khatun, in a Shyam Benegal film. I never thought that I would get such a great opportunity as an artiste. I will start shooting for the film from March 24, and I am really looking forward to it.

You have been working for over four decades now. How do you look back on your journey so far?

I would say it has been an incredible journey, filled with joyous moments. I have always been passionate about everything that I do - be it acting or teaching. I think I would not have been able to come this far, without the passion and dedication.

'Egiye Jaowa Nari' releases today

SHARMIN JOYA

Celebrating women and their success in musical fashion this International Women's Day, *Egiye Jaowa Nari*, by Shusmita Anis, has released today. The melodious piece is composed and arranged by Foad Nasser Babu. Prominent singers Shusmita Anis, Elita Karim, Kona and Priyanka Gope have lent their voices in this song, which is penned by Mahmud Khurshid. "In the song, I focused on gender equality, which I have admittedly wanted to do for a long time," says Shusmita, who is also the chairperson for the women empowerment committee.

M Anis Ud Dowla, Chairman of ACI Limited, has translated the lyrics of

Egiye Jaowa Nari into English. Shusmita also wants to initiate opportunities for women in terms of education, and initiate many other activities for them through Bangladesh work federation. "The music video of *Egiye Jaowa Nari* showcases women from all sectors, and ages," shares Shusmita. "It highlights the struggles and joyous moment of victory at the same time." The artistes in the song are been selected to reflect the diversity and compassion of women.

Under the banner of New Music Paradigm Company, the track, alongside music video, is made by Twala Media's Kolkata team. The song is available on all digital platforms, including Shusmita Anis's YouTube channel.



WAHIDUL HAQUE SMARONIK MILONOTSOP HELD

The two-day long 'Wahidul Haque Smaronik Milonotsob' was arranged by Konthoshilon at Central Public Library recently. To celebrate the legendary Tagore exponent's upcoming birth anniversary, musical, dance and recitation performances were arranged. Monchosharathi Aatur Rahman received Wahidul Haque Smaronik Milonotsob Sommanona this year.

PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA



PHOTO: COURTESY

Laughing Out Loud - 10 Years and Counting

Naveed Mahbub, an Engineer turned Comedian set up Naveed's Comedy Club (NCC) - Bangladesh's first ever Stand Up Comedy Club on March 6, 2010 in a small basement in Baridhara. The club instantly became a magnetic pull for Dhakaites who wanted a temporary respite from their mechanical everyday life.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Through ups and downs, shut downs and new beginnings, with more than 50 comedians NCC continues strong in its mission to bring laughter to Bangladesh. Yesterday NCC celebrated its 10th year with a full house at Chef's Table Unimart and prolific humorists like Akhlak Siddiqi, Anika Azam, puppeteer Asghar, Ahmed Ashik,

Amin Hannan, Ahnaf, Ananda Mazumdar, Antu, Atiq Sohail, Eftekar Alam, Farhan Nahid, Foiz Bin Akram, Fazlul Karim, Hasnat Mohi, Hedayetul Turki, Mosharrif Yafi, Naveed Mahbub, Parvez Sumon, RJ Bipro, Sami Doha, Solaiman Shukhon, Tahjib Abdullah Rivoo, Tahsin M Khan and Yamin Khan. NCC holds regular shows at the Chef's Table, Unimart, GULshan 2 on Thursdays at 8 pm.

PHOTO: SHAMS ASIF



Gems of Nazrul's tribute to Bangabandhu on his birth centenary

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Gems of Nazrul will release their 11th musical production, *Aatta Aniruddho*, on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary (March 17). Established as an initiative to promote the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's musical genius to audiences at home and abroad, Gems of Nazrul has been regularly marking important occasions in the Bangladesh calendar with their renditions of the poet's work. Performed by senior and upcoming artistes, the spirited performances of their most recent production will go on air on

Channel i at the stroke of midnight on March 17, and will be available for public viewing on YouTube. It is supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, with Mutual Trust Bank as the main sponsor.

"One hundred artistes, including fifty singers and fifty dancers, will be featured in this video, which is our tribute to the Father of the Nation," says Nazrul exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, *The Daily Star*, who conceptualised and directed the production. Eminent and emerging Nazrul singers, including Shaheen Samad, Dalia Nausheen, Sadya Afreen Mallick, Fatema Tuz Zohra, Khairul Anam Shakil,

Sumon Chowdhury, Yasmin Mushtari, Joseph Rodriguez, Karim Hassan, Shelu Barua and many others have contributed to *Atta Aniruddho*.

The production includes a prayer song, titled *Jago Amrito Priyoshi* and an inspirational song, titled *JoyHok, Shatter Joy*. Noted composer Mohammed Ibrar Hossain Tipu is the music director of the project, while prominent dancer duo Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Muhammad are the choreographers. The production was shot at historic locations, like the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka.