

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Us Women 2020
Venue: EMK Center,
Dhanmondi
Date: March 8 - 19
Time: 9:30 am - 7:30 pm

Solo Exhibition
Title: Parables of the Womb
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay,
Dhanmondi
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: Shjonghathi 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 Egro Jon
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, Banani.
Date: March 7 - 14
Time: 12 noon - 8 pm

Ekattor: Operation Blitz

What the 'Hoichoi' is about

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

This month is an important one for Bangladesh's history, as the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman lies ahead. Moreover, March is also the month of independence, making it imperative that television channels and other entertainment mediums render their best narratives of our struggles of independence on screen.

March 26 will witness the release of *Ekattor: Operation Blitz* on Hoichoi, an on-demand streaming platform. It stars Mostofa Monwar, Iresh Zaker, Rafiath Rashid Mithila, Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Mustafizur Noor

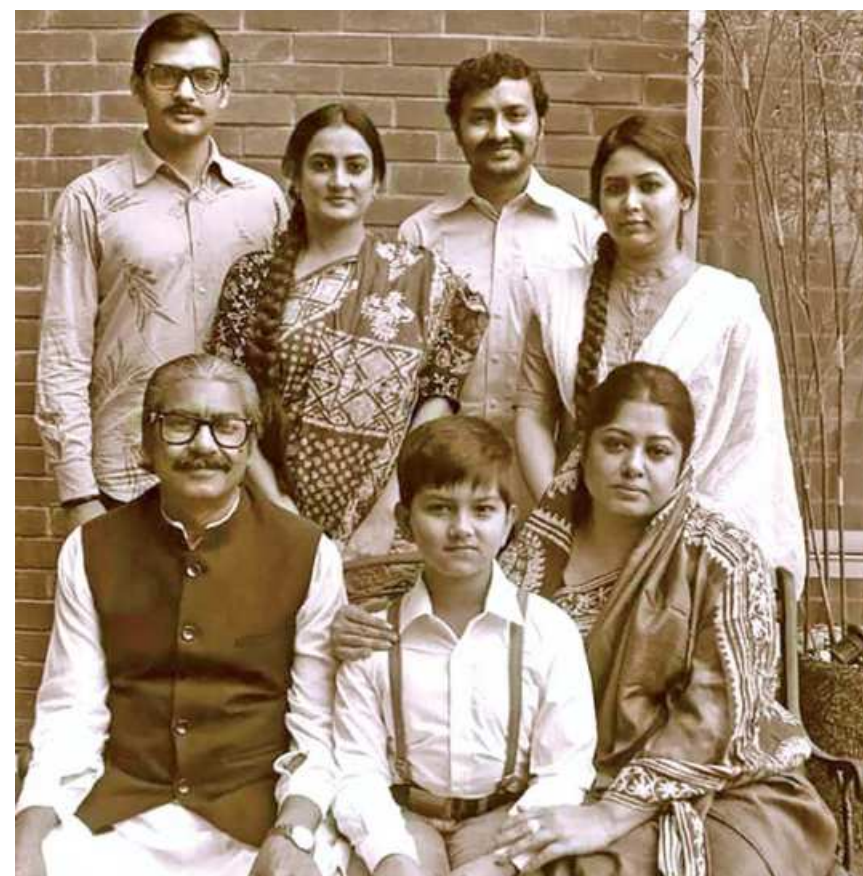
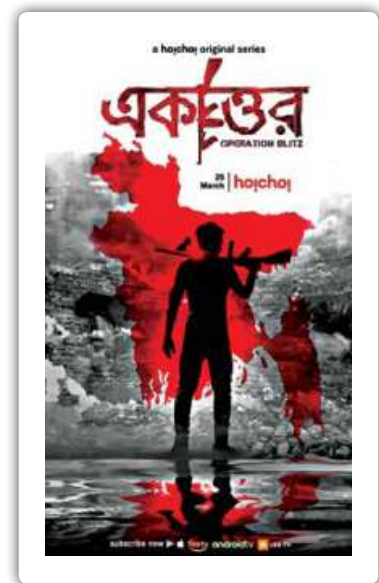
Imran and Tariq Anam Khan. Directed by Tanim Noor, the trailer highlights the story of Salim, an Old Dhaka goon, who has a gang of his own. "The character is initially that of a carefree goon," says Monwar, who played the role. "However, he goes through a drastic transformation, after a member of his gang is killed by armed forces of West Pakistan." Nusrat Imrose Tisha plays Joyita, Salim's love interest, who is pivotal in turning his heart to the right cause.

On the other end of the spectrum, Iresh Zaker plays major Wasim, an unhinged army officer known for his cruelty. He is transferred to East Pakistan for

Operation Blitz, in order to play a key role in it. Even though the actor is excellent in his villainous portrayals, this character was a different challenge altogether. "I have very little understanding of Urdu, so I had to work hard to inhabit a character from a completely different culture," he says. Parallel to his character is his wife Ruhi Butt, a Pakistani journalist who comes to East Pakistan to expose the devious plan of Operation Blitz to the media. "Portraying the ideological conflict that Ruhi goes through was important. The war not only between Bangladesh and Pakistan, but also within households in cases like this," says Mithila, who

played Ruhi Butt. "You see, not all Pakistanis were in support of the unjust killings by their army," says Tanim Noor. "We tried to weave a narrative that depicts characters, who are willing to go to extremes for their cause. Shuvabrata Barman wrote the script for this, and I must say that he deserves applause for his humane views."

As we pace rapidly towards the future, more and more artists are inclined to make content for online platforms like Hoichoi. *Ekattor: Operation Blitz* promises to tell the stories of ordinary people becoming extraordinary, mirroring our freedom fighters and their great sacrifices.



'Sheikh Russel Artonad', directed by Salman Haider is an upcoming film, based on Sheikh Russel's life. The cast includes Moushumi as Sheikh Fazilatunnesa, Oruk Munshi as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Aparna Ghose as Sheikh Hasina, Bhabna as Sheikh Rehana and Rohan as Sheikh Russel, among others.

Freedom Sanitary Napkin- Outstanding Women Awards 2020 conferred

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As one of the pioneer Bangladeshi brands for women empowerment, Freedom celebrates International Women's Day each year, paying tribute and upholding the contributions of women in the society. Recently, a grand event named Freedom Sanitary Napkin Outstanding Women Awards 2020 was held at ACI Center.

To inspire the women of the country through the recognition of the ones who have shown promising and outstanding performances in their respective fields, eight inspiring women were awarded for the remarkable

contributions in their professions.

Dr Rubana Huq, President of BGMEA was present at the ceremony as the chief guest. Syed Alamgir, Managing Director of ACI Consumer Brands, delivered his valuable speech at the ceremony, emphasizing the contributions of women in the society and economy. Business Director of ACI Consumer Brands, Md Quamrul Hassan and Marketing Manager, Khandaker Ishtiaq Ahmed were also present in the event.

More than 500 female professionals from different sectors participated in the award show. A cultural program was held followed by conferring the awards.



Natnandan stages 'Krishna Sarothi' at EMK Center

TIASHA IDRAK

On the eve of international Women's Day, the tale of Draupadi was brought to life at EMK Center, Dhanmondi. Titled *Krishna Sarothi*, the play, written and directed by Asma Akhter Liza, was staged by the troupe Natnandan. It delineates a partial story of Mahabharata, the infamous humiliation of Draupadi by the Duryodhana, which eventually led to the epic battle Kurukshetra. The play was staged, in commemoration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month 2020.

The underlying objective of the performance is to draw a comparison of the treatment of women by the abominable sections of society, as it were thousands of years ago and as it is today. It portrayed how little things



PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

have changed through the course of time.

According to the director, the play is a summary of Vyasa's epic of *Mahabharata*. It depicts Draupadi's dishonour, her rage at the injustice she faces, the war of Kurukshetra, the strategic warfare between Mama Shakuni

and Bhashudev. The play also featured the irony of the injustice on women inflicted upon by their families, when Duryodhana asks Draupadi why she hated him for winning her in a wager, but not despising her husbands for placing a bet on her in the first place. The play also addressed the silence of

the people in the face of injustice and the defeat of Duryodhana.

"Draupadi symbolises the women around the world. Despite the tale being written thousands of years ago, it is still relevant today. In every war throughout history, women pay the price through their blood, tears and humiliation. They have nothing to do with this war for power and pedigree, yet, their bodies are etched with the concordats of war," said Liza, the director and writer, who also played the role of Draupadi in the production. "We have tried to connect the tale of Draupadi with the incidents of the present."

Other cast members of the play included Hemanta Sadeeq Farjana Haque Jolly, Surovi Roy, Adnan Hossain, Ahsan Shoron, Mijanur Rahman, Partha, Ahsan Shoron and Hemanta Sadeeq.



Paintings on exhibit at the event.



Bangladesh Art Week celebrates womanhood

Group exhibition 'Ora Egro Jon' underway at Dhaka Gallery

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Bangladesh Art Week (BAW) is celebrating womanhood through a unique exhibition, titled 'Ora Egro Jon', which is underway at Dhaka Gallery, Banani. Featuring a female-led group art exhibition, BAW Women 2020, is open for all till March 14.

The exhibition is a revolutionary foray in the field of creativity, for which, Bangladesh Art Week's Founder Niharika Momtaz and Co-founder Mohammed Mohsin supported all the activities on

their organisation's behalf.

Ambassador of Norway to Bangladesh Sidsel Bleken inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest on March 7. Selima Ahmed, the Vice Chairperson of Nitol-Niloy Group and the Founder and President of Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with Niharika Momtaz and Mohammed Mohsin spoke among others at the opening ceremony.

"Bangladesh has a rich heritage. Women have great contributions to the excellence of the country's culture," said Sidsel Bleken. "The women are no longer lagged behind men in any regards. The exhibition is a proof of that. The artworks at this event are incredible."

Prominent and promising artists, including Farida Zaman, Ivy Zaman, Dilara Begum Jolly, Rokeya Sultana, Kanak Champa Chakma, Preema Nazia Andaleeb, Ayesha Sultana, Tasneem Tariq, Salma Abedin Prithi, Farzana Haque and Rumana Rahman, are

showcasing their artworks, ranging from paintings to prints, architecture and sculptures to videos and performance art.

Dilara Begum Jolly is an eminent sociopolitical artist. She creates serious and sensitising works, delving herself into past events. Jolly portrays the silent tortures of women during the Liberation War of Bangladesh. "The battle for women's rights is still on in our society. The resilience of oppressed or tortured women is magnanimous. They sacrifice a lot," said Jolly. "If our society becomes female-friendly, we will make significant progress in all regards. We need to raise our voices unanimously to bring unvoiced matters to the forefront."

Renowned artist Rokeya Sultana asserted, "I think womanhood should be celebrated every day. I still don't see the proportionate presence of women in any programme. She is showcasing her work, titled *Homage to Michelangelo*, where she portrayed three hands of God, Adam

and Eve. The feminine presence in her painting beckons a call for equality.

The purpose of BAW is to create an assorted artistic environment as well as to promote Bangladeshi art worldwide. It aims to uplift the local art industry through interaction, guidance and exposure.

"BAW is a platform of artistic genius, a gathering of multifaceted expression of the inner workings of the human psyche, a manifestation of innate thoughts through pen, pencil, colour and paper," said Niharika Momtaz.

Ora Egro Jon has been graced by the artworks of eminent and emerging female artists of our country, who have supported BAW's endeavour by strengthening its diversity. In addition, BAW has introduced a platform for emerging artists across the spectrum of visual arts, performing arts, sculptural installations, architectural installations and photography. These artists have been selected through a juried process.

'Saqi Unplugged' postponed

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Daily Star was to host a scintillating live performance by Saqi, the lead vocalist of Kolkata's staple rock band, Cactus. The bilingual musician, who is also the frontman for Sixthveda, was scheduled to perform alongside his amazing ensemble, composed of musicians from Bangladesh. The troupe, one of the first bands formed between the two Bengals, was scheduled to perform at The Daily Star Centre today.

Due to safety issues and concerns over the recent Coronavirus, the show is postponed for the time being. The rescheduled date and time will be announced soon.



CORPORATE BOOKING
Water Kingdom will be reserved on 10th March (Tuesday), 2020 for Corporate Booking.
From 11th March (Wednesday), 2020 Water Kingdom will remain open for all.
Contact: 01933324570, 01404083822

WATER KINGDOM
CONCORD