

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: Shojonghati Rekha  
Venue: Kala Kendra  
Date: February 21 – March 17  
Time: 4:30 pm – 8:30 pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Ora Egoro Jon  
Organiser: Bangladesh Art Week  
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, Banani  
Date: March 7 – 14  
Time: 12 noon – 8 pm

# ‘Muktijoddha O Naisargik Bangladesh’ concludes today



PHOTOS: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

PRİYANKA CHOWDHURY

Artist Akhtar Mahmud Kajal, the son of a government employee, was a school student when he witnessed the Liberation War of Bangladesh and its aftermath.

He also had opportunities to travel and see the picturesque landscapes of the country. For over 40 years, he has been capturing the colours of nature and human living conditions of Bangladesh in artistic expressions on his canvas. 102 of his artworks are currently on display at his solo oil painting exhibition, *Muktijoddha O Naisargik Bangladesh* (Liberation War and Scenic Beauty of Bangladesh), at the National Art Plaza of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The beauty of Bangladesh is brilliantly displayed on his colourful paintings through mountains, rivers, birds and flowers, among other motifs. Dhaka locked in rain or an evening view of the Burigonga, all come to play in his expressions. Art is therapeutic for him.

Kajal sees his mother as his greatest source of inspiration. As a self-taught artist, he often felt the need to learn more. “I asked my aunt to send me video

cassettes of oil painting from the US,” the artist recalls. “She sent them to me and that’s when my journey with oil paintings took off. I have not used any other medium ever since.”

Majority of his artworks have been sold at different countries across the globe. A friend of the artist encouraged him to host a solo exhibition for public viewing. He planned and produced 102 oil paintings over the last four years. The exhibition concludes today at 8 pm.

## National Rabindra Sangeet Assembly concludes in Sirajganj

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPUL, from Pabna

A three-day festival, marking the 39th National Assembly for Rabindra Sangeet, concluded in Sirajganj recently, with discussions, cultural programmes and a rally. Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Shammilon Parishad (JRSSP) organised the event at the Sirajganj Government College.

Language veteran and freedom fighter Kamal Lohani inaugurated the assembly. A colourful procession comprised of artists and cultural activists was brought out from Sirajganj Government College. A discussion meeting was held at Mukti Sopan, Central Shaheed Minar of

the district. Executive President of JRSSP Dr Atiur Rahman chaired the concluding discussion while Secretary of JRSSP Bulbul Hossain, President of Sirajganj District Unit Jannat Ara Talukder Henry, Convener of the assembly organising committee T M Sohel, spoke at the event.

The speakers emphasised on the importance of learning the values of Rabindranath Tagore for building a secular society. Tagore was vocal against fundamentalism and societal injustices.

Artists from across the country performed Rabindra Sangeet, and entertained the audience with their musical performances, recitals and dances. A total of 84 units of the JRSSP in 64 districts joined the assembly this year.

Discussions and cultural programmes were arranged at the Sirajganj Government College field, Sheikh Kamal auditorium, Shahid M Monsur Ali auditorium and Shahzadpur Rabindra Kacharibari.

“To spread the messages of Tagore among people across the country, JRSSP organises the national assembly. For the first time, Sirajganj had the opportunity to host this event,” said Jannat Ara Talukder Henry.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEHD

## Gias Uddin Selim’s ‘Paap Punno’ to hit theatres in October

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

*Paap Punno*, starring prominent actors Chanchal Chowdhury, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Afsana Mimi, Farzana Chumki and Siam Ahmed among others, is set to release this October. The film, produced by Impress Telefilm and directed by Gias Uddin Selim, is based

on the lives of people who live in the rural areas of Bangladesh. The cast and crew recently wrapped up the dubbing and shooting of the film.

The director also mentioned that he will present something new to the audience, especially through the characters of Chanchal Chowdhury and Afsana Mimi in the film.

## MOTHER-DAUGHTER DUO WIN ‘SINGER FAMILY AND FUN SHOW’



PHOTO: COURTESY

Farsia Kawsar Chowdhury and Ferdousi Aktar, the mother-daughter duo from Dhaka, became the champions of ‘Singer Family and Fun Show’. The champion family received a Singer No-Frost Refrigerator, Singer Smart TV and Singer Full-Automatic Washing Machine. Anowarul Islam and Sahana Jiyasmin, a couple from Rajshahi secured the second position, while A K M Hosainujjaman and Tanjila Sultana, a couple family from Dhaka, secured the third position.



PHOTOS: MONON MUNTAKA

## Take Back the Streets: Celebrating women empowerment through art

TIASHA IDRAK

The Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of University of Dhaka (DU) was filled with vibrant scenes on International Women’s Day. The premises witnessed a novel celebration, as artists gathered together to create wall art. Titled *Graffiti: Take Back the Streets*, the event was organised by Cartoon People, in collaboration with Plan International Bangladesh and DU. Young artists projected their visions for an equal world through graffiti.

As the sun peeked through the grey clouds, prominent and promising artists worked together to create artworks on custom-made walls to celebrate the day. The works portrayed women of various backgrounds, ages and professions. Yet, they all had one feature in common: women empowerment and leadership.

“We have created these artworks to encourage women from all backgrounds to take back what is rightfully theirs,” said Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy, cartoonist and founder of Cartoon People. The main objective of this event was to uphold the demand of young people for the leadership of girls and young women to establish a world of equality, where everybody will enjoy equal rights.



One of the art pieces featured women of different professions coming together and forming an explosion that looked like a fist aiming towards the sky, as if to say, the sky’s the limit. Another striking piece was a tranquil portrait of a garment worker with her sewing machine. While the graffiti was done with traditional paint, the wings that grew from her back and the crown atop her head was sprayed with ink. “We wanted to portray the extraordinary facets of ordinary people. This woman comes from a humble background, but she is a leader and a queen, in her own right,”

said Mong Shonie, one of the artists of the piece. “We deliberately used spray paint on this piece to show that it is possible to combine two mediums. People often relate spray-paints with vandalism. In this piece, it enhances the beauty.” Other works featured female photographers, Begum Rokeya, young girls pursuing their dreams and so on.

“We wanted to do a campaign stunt, like a flash mob in a public sphere. A form of activism, where people can both observe and participate,” said Kashfia Feroz, Head of Influencing, Plan International Bangladesh. She added that the art installations will be sent to different universities of the country, one being placed at TSC. “We hope that the youth will be inspired by this movement,” she added.

Even though the sudden gust of wind and drizzle disrupted the event momentarily, it did not dampen the spirit of the artists. As the sun came back again, the brushes resumed to paint until the artworks were complete. “Painting is actually a therapeutic experience and we really enjoyed working with all these artists,” said Samira Hossain, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). She, along with many others, volunteered to participate in the event.