

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)

Photography Exhibition
 Title: 10 Years In The Making by Nadeem A Salam
 Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
 Date: April 3 & 4
 Time: 10 am - 10 pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Serenading Soul
 Artist: Zahangir Alom
 Venue: Dhaka Gallery, Banani
 Date: March 18 - 25
 Time: 12 noon - 8 pm



PHOTO: STAR

Cinema halls closing down due to coronavirus concerns

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Due to concerns regarding coronavirus, film shootings and release dates are being delayed worldwide.

Bangladesh Chalachitra Prodorshok Samiti announced today that all single-screen halls in the country will be closed from March 18 to April 2.

However, multiplexes will remain

open. "Due to concerns over public health, alongside the general lack of spectators, we finalised this decision," expresses Mia Alauddin, advisor of Bangladesh Chalachitra Prodorshok Samiti.

"I personally agree with the decision," says Khorshed Alam Khosru, the President of the Film Producer Distributor Association, "It is better not to put everyone at risk, since mass gatherings of people might help spread

the virus."

However, Ifthekaruddin Nawshad, the owner of Madhumita Hall, says that the hall will remain open.

"We haven't gotten any letter from the government as of yet," he says, "we will take action if that happens."

Several film releases in Bangladesh have already been delayed due to the rapidly spreading coronavirus.

BSA suspends all events until March 31

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Three halls of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), the National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall have decided to suspend their shows till March 31, due to concerns over the coronavirus outbreak in the country. Bangladesh Mahila Samity has also taken the same decision, which will be implemented from today. According to Kamal Bayezid, Secretary General of the Group Theater Federation, the decision will stay till the situation goes into a favourable position. "Nothing is more important than public health. Thus, we have come to this conclusion to suspend the shows. Once the situation gets normal, we will continue our

regular work like before." The groups were informed already about the decision, and it is applicable to all kinds of seminars, plays and any other programmes.

Noted thespian, director and playwright Mamunur Rashid also showed his concerns and appreciated this decision. Honorary president of International Theatre Institute, thespian and cultural personality, Ramendu Majumdar, also appreciated the initiative.

"I approached this plan to close down all the current activities in BSA, few days ago in a meeting," he said. "As these programmes and events promote public gatherings, they can increase the risks. We can wait till the crisis is over."



PHOTO: COLLECTED



PHOTO: COURTESY

Gaan Bangla celebrates Bangabandhu's birth centenary

100 artistes pay tribute to the Father of the Nation

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To commemorate Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary, Gaan Bangla, the only music channel in the country, paid tribute to the Father of the Nation with a medley of three popular songs, *Shono Ekti Mujiborer Konthe, Takdum Takdum Baje* and *Joy Bangla Banglar Joy*.

Gaan Bangla started the celebrations of Mujib Borsho with the ambitious project, sung by 100 artistes yesterday. The music video was released on the channel, as well as on social media.

Shot in the Amphitheatre of

Hatirjheel, the song is directed by Farzana Munni and Kaushik Hossain Taposh, under the banner of TM Production.

Fuad Almuqtadir, Balam and Pavel Areen were the musical directors of the production, while Adit, Hridoy Khan and Arefin Rumi assisted the music direction. The harmonies of the song were designed by Tashfee, Shamim and Niloy.

Kumar Bishwajit, Fahmida Nabi, Elita Karim, Naquib Khan, Hamin Ahmed, Jon Kabir, Oishee, Armeen Musa, Alif Alauddin, Sumon, Milon Mahmud and Hyder Hossain, among others, lent their voices to the songs.

British actor Idris Elba tests positive for coronavirus

British actor Idris Elba is the latest celebrity to test positive for coronavirus. In a video posted on Twitter, he said that he had no symptoms, but was still quarantining. The actor got tested because he realised he'd had exposure from someone who also tested positive.

"Listen, I'm doing okay," Elba said, before telling fans "this is serious."

"Now's the time to really think about social distancing, washing your hands," he continued. "There are people out there who aren't showing symptoms and that can easily spread it."

Elba encouraged anyone who felt

ill to hunker down and get a test if possible, while also voicing solidarity with others who have the virus that's left at least 175,530 people infected, with 7,007 deaths worldwide.

The Wire star also extended condolences to those who've lost close ones or who have lost their economic livelihoods, as businesses across the globe shut down.

"We live in a divided world right now, we can all feel it," Elba said. "But now's the time for solidarity."

Now's the time for thinking about each other."

SOURCE: AFP



Celebrating the labour of love and care

Collaborative exhibition 'Golpo Kantha' underway at Jatra Biroti



PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

Golpo Kantha, a re-imagination of the *kantha* with stories of care and community, is a collaborative art exhibition by Maliha Mohsin and Humayra Kabir. They came together to document stories of women who are exceptional for their feminine and emotional labour, but are often ignored by the society. The name of this project brings together the Bangla words *Golpo*, meaning 'stories', and *Kantha*, a traditional quilt crafted by women, femmes, and caregivers all over Bangladesh for their families. The *kantha* is usually used to embroider stories and art. Embroidery, as a craft, has been traditionally gendered as feminine and considered unimportant, but essentials such as the *kantha* are some of the most visible products of such feminine work.

The women featured in this exhibition are all people that Maliha came across in her life in Dhaka. Humayra, a graduate from the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, made all the paintings of the women, which in turn were converted into *kanthas* by women from Maliha's family's neighbourhood, who make *kanthas* for a living. Maliha's mother, Shahin Akhter, is the co-ordinator of the project, which was built through a British Council grant. The organisers intend to take the show to more accessible spaces for the public to engage with.

Golpo Kantha, which will run till March 21

at Jatra Biroti, also features an interactive art space, where viewers are encouraged to pin answers to questions such as, "What does care mean for you?" and "What do you care for?" These questions prompt people to take a step back and question their roles in caring for the community that they want to see improve. The five stories featured in the exhibition are on Farida Begum, Rubaiya Ahmed, Anannya Banik, Shabana Naved and female tea workers.

Farida Begum is a female cricket coach who had an unfulfilled dream of playing cricket for the National Women's Team and yet, did not let that stop her. She not only coached young aspiring cricketers - aged between eight and twenty, but also took care of them, brought them into her home, fed them and saw to their needs. Owing to the lack of resources and attention given to women's cricket, Farida Begum took it upon herself to provide as much support as the girls needed. Nine of the girls under her guidance went on to play for the National Women's Cricket Team.

Rubaiya Ahmed is an animal rights activist and founder of Obhoyaronno, an animal welfare organisation. She was behind the passing of the recent Animal Welfare Bill 2019. Advocacy takes a huge strain on people's mental health, as dealing with bureaucracy in Dhaka is a challenge of its own. Subsequently, Rubaiya feels that there is an important need for activists to often take a step back, to reevaluate the

needs of the community.

Anannya Banik is a transgender (*hijra*) feminist social worker. Having grown up in a family who would not accept her, she left her home and found a community, which nurtured her. Her community voted for a new name for her and she began a new life. Now, she owns three beauty salons in Savar and promotes employment opportunities in the community.

Shabana Naved is a member of the Urdu speaking community. Maliha remembers her as the woman who never allowed her to be left hungry. It was always part of Shabana's culture for generations to see women coming together in times of crisis. Whether it is in the aftermath of a death in the community or the uncertainties a country faces during political unrest, groups of women would come together, grind spices, prepare food all night long, feed everyone the next day and finally eat together, before heading home.

Golpo Kantha also highlights how the majority of our tea workers are women who continue to successfully resist occupation, alongside striving for better health care, wages, maternity leave and other matters.

"The intention of our exhibition is to expose that the labour of love and care is just as impactful as working for survival, and in a way, challenge the social norm of overlooking the importance of these moments of kindness and passion," concludes Humayra.