



Artworks on exhibit at the event.

## Group exhibition 'Bangladesh' marking birth centenary of Bangabandhu

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Contemporary art gallery Shilpangan has arranged a group painting exhibition, titled 'Bangladesh', marking the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The exhibition showcases watercolour paintings by four promising artists who have rendered the bucolic beauty of Bangladesh into canvas.

The four participating artists – Al Akhir Sarker, Kamruzzoha, Masud Ahmed and Palash Datta – have produced beautiful works going for

outdoor works across the country. Aesthetic composition, balanced use of colours, keeping white space on paper and an illusion of graceful wash are the predominant features of the displayed works.

From the lush green vegetation to the blossoming mustard field, to the unique beauty of the deer and dense mangrove forest of the Sundarbans, to the serpentine beauty of the hilly rivers of the Chattogram Hill Tracts – are being showcased at the gallery. It is a great tribute to Bangladesh and Bangabandhu, while displaying the diverse natural and cultural strength of our beloved motherland.

Al Akhir Sarker's *Banglar Bondhu* delineates a fisherman fishing on the river with net and basket, a common sight of riverine Bangladesh. It simultaneously represents the greenery of the country. *Jibon Sriti* by Akhir depicts two men fishing on a pond with hooks, against the backdrop of a paddy field.

*Poddo Pukur* by Kamruzzoha is one of the most aesthetically soothing paintings at the exhibition. The piece portrays a beautiful red lotus in a pond of Sylhet. A peaceful shade

of blue, together with the illusion of wash technique and precise white space, enhances the mystique quality of the painting.

*Puthiar Rajbari* by Masud Ahmed offers a beautiful game of light and shade, in his painting. The artist's colour pallet soulfully depicts the epic of both architectural and archaeological heritage of Bangladesh. Clouds, trees, and the Rajbari remind the art lovers of the glorious past of this part of the world.

*Gitimoy Sritimoy* by Palash Datta showcases a silhouette human figure riding his bi-cycle, against the backdrop of the soft glow of the twilight. The grave silence of the setting sun together with the bold black shadow, makes the art piece an outstanding one.

State Minister for Information Dr Md Murad Hassan inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest on March 12. Renowned artist Afrozaa Jamil Konka and noted journalist Munni Saha attended the opening ceremony as special guests. The exhibition, dedicating to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is open for all daily until April 1.

## Bidya Sinha Mim's quarantine times

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Award-winning actor Bidya Sinha Mim started her career with Lux Channel i Superstar. *Amar Ache Jol*, directed by Humayun Ahmed was her debut film. The actor was busy with modeling and films. In a candid chat with *The Daily Star*, she speaks about her works and current situation in the country.

**What were the last projects you worked on?**

I worked on an advertisement for Lux recently. I last worked on the movie, *Ittefaq*. Currently, all the projects are postponed due to the Coronavirus spread.

**How are you spending your time now?**

As all the shootings are closed for now, I am staying home. I work out in the morning, and then I read the newspaper for some time. I read books, watch movies and listen to music most of the time. I took up gardening, and

enjoy taking care of my own garden a lot. I am also spending time with my parents.

**What are the books you are reading?**

I bought the Himu collection from the Boi Mela this year. Humayun Ahmed is my favourite author, and I have read several of his books. Though I read a few Himu books before, I never got a chance to read the whole collection. As I am staying home and quarantining myself, I am spending time with my books as well.

**Do you have anything to say to readers in these troubling times?**

The most important thing is to be careful. I would request everyone to not go out unless it's an emergency. Stay away from crowded places, stop going for gatherings, hangouts. Maintaining proper hygiene when you're staying home is also very important. Everyone should be careful and aware other people of the situation as well.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Salman Khan



Shah Rukh Khan

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

## Indian artistes in self-quarantine

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, from New Delhi

Superstar Prabhas of *Bahubali* fame has announced that he is in self-quarantine, upon his return from abroad, in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a short statement posted on Twitter today, the actor said he recently returned from Georgia after completing a film's shoot and therefore, decided to keep himself in isolation.

The actor is currently working on filmmaker Radha Krishna Kumar's untitled film, which also features Pooja Hedge.

A number of Indian celebrities are under self-quarantine after their return from abroad, including Anupam Kher and Shabana Azmi.

The coronavirus cases in India rose to 324 recently, in various parts of the country and six deaths have been reported so far.

Superstar Salman Khan appealed to his fans to take the risks of coronavirus seriously and follow the government's instructions for observing social distancing.

He asked the people to not treat the lockdown as a public holiday and stay indoors.

In a video posted on Instagram, the actor started by lauding all those who are fighting the battle against COVID-19.

"I want to appeal to everyone that the government is



Prabhas

asking something, so please take it seriously and don't spread rumours," Salman said. "It is a problem with everyone for a long time that they believe it will not happen to them. Anyone can get infected with the coronavirus, be it in bus, train or in market place. So why do you want to take that risk?"

Shah Rukh Khan, Karan Johar, Akshay Kumar, Ayushmann Khurrana and Hrithik Roshan among others have applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a 'Janata Curfew' to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

## A cultural workshop for indigenous children held at Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

A five-day cultural workshop for indigenous children, held at Indigenous Cultural Academy auditorium in Haluaghat, Mymensingh, concluded recently.

It is the first of its kind, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy under the management of Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy. The workshop included musical and classical dance both in Bengali and Garo language and rhythmic instruments, dama and tabla.

Around 200 children from

indigenous community in Haluaghat took part in the workshop.

On the concluding day, the participants took part in their stage performance at the academy premises. The trainers were-Tilottoma Kubi Benu, Md Hatem Ali, Baduli Dalboth and Shimul Rangsa.

Md Rezaul Karim, upazila nirbahi officer of Haluaghat attended the programme as chief guest. President of Tribal Welfare Association in Haluaghat Bhadra Mrong, secretary of the organisation, Jemes Jorhesh Chiran and school teacher Josef Sangma were present, among others. Mymensingh District Cultural

Officer Arzu Parves delivered the welcome speech while Sarwar Jahan hosted the event.

The speakers highlighted on that the traditional indigenous culture is disappearing as the younger people of this community do not pay attention to it. There are around eight indigenous groups in Haluaghat and only the Garo community is active while the rest others are at extinction.

The spontaneous performance of the children at the workshop raised hope amongst the trainers. According to the speakers at the event, this kind of workshops will help to revive indigenous culture.



PHOTO: STAR