

# Singapore turns hub of Contemporary Asian Art

## Two Bangladeshis vying for Prudential Eye Award

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With an eye to recognising the Best Emerging Contemporary Asian Artists, the third edition of the Prudential Eye Awards 2016 returns to Singapore on January 19 as part of Singapore Art Week. For the second successive year, Marina Bay Sands is the venue for the prestigious awards ceremony and a two and a half month public exhibition at its Art Science Museum — Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the inter-relationship between art, science, technology and culture.

The awards were launched in 2014 by the Global Eye Programme, a partnership between Prudential, Parallel Contemporary Art, and the Saatchi Gallery to honour the accomplishments of emerging artists in Asia and to launch a creative educational programme with the British Council.

The award is given in five categories: Digital/Video, Installation, Painting, Photography, and Sculpture. Fifteen artists, three in each category, are vying for the Best Emerging Artist title.

Internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi artists Shumon Ahmed and Promotesh Das are strongly vying for awards in two categories — Photography and Sculpture respectively.

The total prize money amounts to \$150,000, of which \$20,000 as well as a specially commissioned trophy will be awarded to the winner of each category. An overall winner will be chosen from the winners of the five categories and will be awarded the prize of 'Best Emerging Artist', winning a further 30,000 USD and a solo exhibition at START, Saatchi Gallery in London.



Works by Bangladeshi artists Promotesh Das (left) and Shumon Ahmed are in contention for the prizes.

In addition, there are four special awards: Best Asian Contemporary Art Institution, Best Exhibition of Asian Contemporary Art, Lifetime Achievement Award for Asian Contemporary Art, and an Award for Visual and Popular Culture. Two of these awards will be decided by public voting on [www.prudentialeyeawards.com](http://www.prudentialeyeawards.com).

The event is accompanied by a public exhibition at Art Science Museum which will run from January 16 to March 27, and a solo exhibition at Saatchi Gallery, London for the overall prize winner.

The judges for this award are Johnson Chang, Serenella Ciclitira (CEO & Founder of Parallel

Contemporary Art), Honor Harger (Executive Director, Art Science Museum, Marina Bay Sands), Nigel Hurst (CEO, Saatchi Gallery), Fumio Nanjo (Director, Mori Art Museum), Rosalyn D'Mello (Writer, Editor and Art Critic), and Gu Wenda (Celebrated contemporary artist and 2015 Prudential Eye Award Lifetime Achievement recipient). They reviewed the submissions of over 100 artists put forward by curators, critics and art experts from across Asia in order to produce shortlists of three artists in five categories for Best Emerging Artist.

Shumon Ahmed, a Dhaka-based artist, explores the fusion between video, photography and text, creating

stories that while seemingly contradictory, are private yet collective. Ahmed's work has been previously exhibited in some prestigious platforms including, the 2014 Kochi-Muziris Biennale, India; Dhaka Art Summit (2012, 2014); Whitechapel Gallery in London, and Fotomuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland (2010).

Promotesh Das Pulak's use of diverse material has played a pivotal role in his sculptural practice. He is interested in the duality that lies between the organic natural elements and the combat equipment, which suggests the betrayal of innocence and beauty. Das exhibited in the Bangladesh pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011.

# AMITABH plays football with CHILDREN in Kolkata

Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan on Tuesday took time off to play some football with the kids at the Mohammedan Sporting Ground, where he had gone for a film shoot.

Bachchan, who entered the famous stadium at 7.45 in the morning, spent the entire day in the club premises shooting some scenes of his upcoming film "Te3n". He was seen sitting in the gallery, the club tent and the ground.

The actor, who was dressed in a black striped T-shirt, muffler and black trousers, had some fun on the ground of the iconic club which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

Big B, who is left-handed, was seen kicking the ball high with his left foot.

The club felicitated Bachchan and gave him its honorary life membership. It also invited the legendary actor to be the chief guest of the club's 125th Anniversary gala to be held later this year.

Source: IANS



# ColoursFM celebrates second birthday



Members of the ColoursFM family.

Popular FM radio station ColoursFM 101.6 celebrated their second anniversary on January 10, in company of their advisors, colleagues, guests and listeners, according to a press release.

Tune Bangladesh Limited launched its radio station, ColoursFM 101.6 on the January 10, 2014. The station today offers a wide variety of programmes that can be related by diverse listeners, especially focusing to promote women's empowerment in every sector of the society. ColoursFM has seen great response from their well-wishers

and gathered healthy popularity from the listeners in the past two years.

Geetiara Safiya Choudhury, Chairman and Managing Director of Adcomm Ltd. cut the cake on the occasion as the chief guest. Nazim Farhan Choudhury, Chief Executive Officer of ColoursFM, was present at the ceremony.

ColoursFM also hosted an in-house party on the occasion of its second birthday, featuring special programmes with the participation of listeners, well-wishers, advisors and guest RJs.



Marking its 25th Anniversary, The Daily Star organised a Staff Day at its premises on January 14, where in-house musicians Elita Karim and Shamim Ashraf presented songs. The programme also included an award ceremony for high achievers, reminiscence by the seniors of The Daily Star Family, and a raffle draw.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: STAR

Children hold up their paintings drawn for a competition, at the Barisal Public Square premises. The Daily Star celebrated its 25th anniversary in Barisal through a festive rally, cake cutting and a children's drawing competition.

# "Friends" cast reuniting on TV!

The cast of the hit sitcom "Friends" are to reunite for a two-hour special, according to US broadcaster NBC. The actors behind Rachel, Monica, Phoebe, Joey, Chandler and Ross have all signed up for the special, a tribute to director James Burrows.

Burrows helmed numerous episodes of the programme, and just celebrated directing his 1,000th TV programme. But NBC entertainment chairman Robert Greenblatt suggested the six "Friends" may not appear together.

"I'm hoping all six will be in same room



at the same time," he told reporters. But he added: "I'm not sure we can logistically pull it off."

Fans of the show have been hoping for more than a decade to see Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer back on screen together, but previous attempts have fallen short.

The programme ended in 2004, 10 series and a decade after it premiered on US screens. It made international stars of its little-known cast, winning a slew of awards

and a huge audience in the process.

As well as "Friends", Burrows was behind the camera for several of America's much-loved sitcoms, including "Cheers", "Frasier", and "The Bob Newhart Show".

The two-hour show is expected to feature cameos, sketches and appearances connected to the various series the 75-year-old has worked on over the years.

The special is scheduled to be broadcast on February 21 on NBC.

Source: BBC