

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2016
 Organiser: Bangla Academy
 Venue: Bangla Academy premises & Suhrawardi Udyan
 Date: February 1-29
 Time: 3-8pm & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)

Dhaka Art Summit
 Organiser: Samdani Art Foundation & BSA
 Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: February 5-8
 Time: 10am-9pm, Daily

Solo Watercolour Exhibition
 Title: Koto Ojanare
 Artist: Saeeda Kamal
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: Feb 6-18; Time: 9am-8pm

Duet Art Exhibition
 Title: Fragments of the Anthropocene
 Artists: Zihan Karim & Shimul Saha
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan-1
 Date: Jan 30-Feb 27; Time: 12-8pm

Songs and Poetry
 Being in Love with King of the World
 Artists: Armeen Musa
 Venue: Red Shift, Gulshan
 Date: Feb 12; Time 7-9pm

"If you want to know about South Asian Art, this is the place to be"

In conversation with **Rajeeb Samdani**



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The third Dhaka Art Summit is in full swing at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, and will continue till 9pm tomorrow. The Daily Star caught up with the mastermind of this massive international event, the founder of the Samdani Art Foundation.

What's the focus of Dhaka Art Summit, in general?

Rajeeb: Dhaka Art Summit is, at its core, a research platform, and it's the single largest research-based event of South Asian art. What we do is we conduct our researches on art of eight South Asian countries, and our curators put all that together into the exhibition.

What's new at the Summit this year?

Rajeeb: Apart from the usual exhibitions, we are adding two new highlights: one is "Archite-

cture in Bangladesh" - curated by the architecture curator of France's Centre Pompidou, with works of 17 Bangladeshi architects. The other is an exhibit of Modern Masters - called "Rewind". Three Bangladeshi masters are featuring in it: SM Sultan, Rashid Choudhury and Safiuddin Ahmed. Also this year, six curators from world-renowned museums, including the likes of Tate, Ruben, Guggenheim and Metropolitan Museum - have been working for two years for this year's summit. It's a rare instance in the world of art to have six such big name curators work on one festival.

What is the demographic of the artists and participants of this year's Summit?

Rajeeb: We have over 300 artists and scholars participating, and 65% of the artists are Bangladeshi. Apart from that, 72 speakers are taking part in various panel talks. The artists are either from the eight South Asian coun-

tries, or artists who have a strong connection to this region.

What are your expectations in terms of participation at this year's DAS?

Rajeeb: Last year, 70,000 people turned up in three days, which was beyond expectations. This year, we have extended it by a day, and two hours every day (10am-9pm), so locally we hope double the number of people will visit. Apart from that, over 500 foreign visitors are here for the summit alone, including curators and directors of 71 museums and institutions. I don't know if any other event in Bangladesh draws this much international attention (smiles). Universities like Harvard and Yale have partnered with us; they have recognized that this is a true research platform for South Asian art. If you want to know about South Asian art, this is the place to be.

RITWIK GHATAK

Retrospective from Feb 12

Chalacchitram and BNM to celebrate film legend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chalacchitram Film Society and Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) will jointly observe legendary filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak's 90th birth anniversary and 40th death anniversary.

On the occasion, a five-day programme titled "Ritwik Ghatak Retrospective" will be held from February 12-17 at the main auditorium of BNM.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will inaugurate the ceremony as chief guest on February 12 evening. Ritwik Ghatak's daughter Sambhita Ghatak, and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla will attend the ceremony as special guests. Professor Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay from Jadavpur University's Film Studies Department will attend the ceremony as a guest speaker.

The programme was announced yesterday at a press conference at Poet Sufia

Kamal Auditorium of the National Museum. BNM director general Faizul Latif Chowdhury, Chalacchitram Film Society's executive president Morshedul Islam, and general secretary Munira Morshed Munni were present at the press meet.

The event will include screening of Ritwik Ghatak's films, lectures, seminar and workshop for graduate students.

Every day, two films will be screened at 4pm and 6:30pm respectively. Ritwik's films "Nagorik", "Ustad Alauddin Khan", "Bari Theke Paliye", "Fear", "Meghe Dhaka Tara", "Komol Gandhar", "Amar Lenin", "Subornorekha", "Titas Ekti Nodir Naam", "Durbar Goti Padma", "Jukti, Tokko ar Goppo" will be screened from February 13-16.

In addition, three films made on the iconic filmmaker will also be screened at the festival on February 17.

The film screening is open for all



Randeep Hooda undergoes insane transformation for Sarabjit

Randeep Hooda's films may not always set the box office on fire, but he sure knows how to get the eyeballs. In one of Bollywood's most stunning transformations ever for a role, Hooda surprised his fans on Friday morning when the first look of his forthcoming film, "Sarabjit", was released. He reportedly lost 18 kg in 28 days to play Sarabjit, an Indian national languishing in a Pakistani jail on charges of spying.

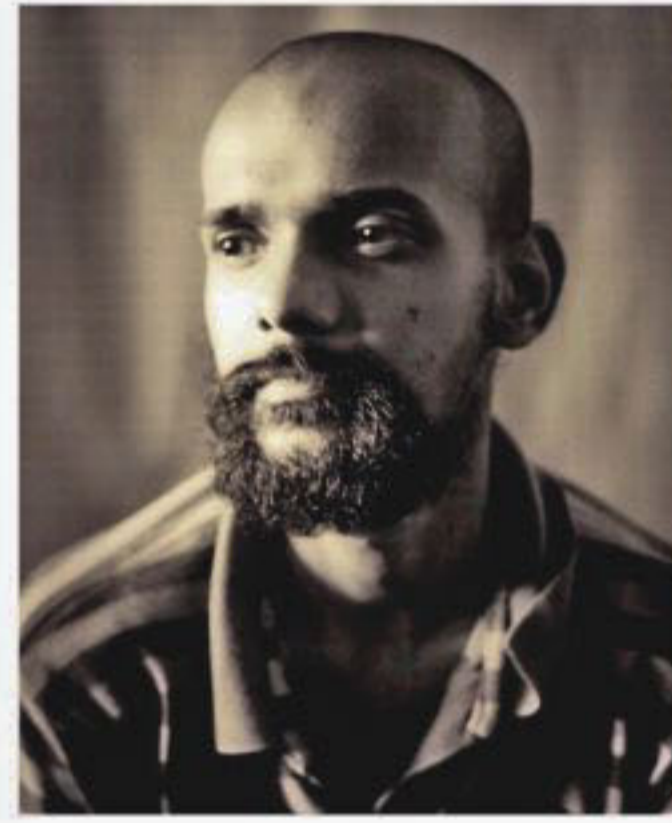
The biopic traces the struggles of Dalbir Kaur (to be played by Aishwarya Rai Bachchan) who runs from pillar to post to get her younger brother out of the Pakistani jail.

The 39-year-old Randeep looks shockingly malnourished, battered and destitute in the image shared by director Omung Kumar. The filmmaker shared Randeep's picture on Twitter and thanked the actor for his efforts. "@RandeepHooda Shocking transformation 18kgs in 28 days... #Sarbjit releasing 19th may," he wrote.

Talking about Randeep, Omung said, "When I approached Randeep for this role, I was very clear that I need someone who is open about going through a rigorous weight loss, as the role demanded lot of different looks. Randeep took that as a challenge and agreed upon giving 100% dedication not to prove that he can do it as an actor but to do justice to the character and the film. The role needed Randeep to look very fragile with his bones being visible. He shed around 18 kgs of weight in 28 days, went through a strict diet and in fact in the last few days he was living completely on water," the "Mary Kom" director added.

Sarabjit also features Darshan Kumar as Awais Sheik - a Pakistani lawyer who left no stone unturned to get justice for Sarabjit. Richa Chadha will also be seen in the film. The film is slated to hit theatres on May 20.

Source: Hindustan Times



Rasel Chowdhury bags Samdani Art Award 2016

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Rasel Chowdhury, an alumnus of Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, has won the prestigious Samdani Art Award 2016. Vying with 12 shortlisted artists, Rasel won the award for his work on "Railway Longings" where he highlighted his train journey and photographed the experience filled with nostalgia. The artist showcased the transformation of landscapes and rail structures ranging from villages to towns.

Diana Campbell Bentancourt, the artistic director and curator of Dhaka Art Summit announced the award on the opening day of the four-day summit at the VIP Lounge of the Summit at Le Meridien hotel.

"I think the judges considered both my physical and mental journey through portraying the works. I travelled on foot, covering all the railway stations from Kamalapur, Dhaka to my hometown Jamalpur and photographed the changing landscapes including greenery, barrenness, structural changes and what I watched in my journey," said Rasel Chowdhury.

Rasel Chowdhury, who is represented as a

contractual photographer for New York Times and Getty Images, will receive a scholarship opportunity of Three-Month residency at Delfina Foundation in London in order to work on his art.

"The Residency will help me to further flourish my journey with a renewed artistic vision and inspiration. I would like to work on photography based other media," added Rasel.

The other shortlisted artists for Samdani Art Award 2016 were Ashit Mitra, Atish Saha, Farzana Ahmed Urmi, Gazi Nafis Ahmed, Palash Battacharjee, Rafiqul Shuvo, Rupam Roy, Salma Abedin Prithi, Samsul Alam Helal, Shimul Saha, Shumon Ahmed and Zihan Karim.

Rasel Chowdhury previously exhibited his work in Singapore Photo Festival in Singapore, 2014, Eyes on Bangladesh in New York, 2014 PIX photo Exhibition in Delhi, 2014 Dhaka Art Summit in Bangladesh. He has received many awards and grants. Among them are Syngenta Award 2014, Getty Images Emerging Talent Award 2012 and Ian Parry Scholarship Award 2011.

QUOTES

"As they say, the grass is always greener. Because you are here, you don't know what's happening there. So the kind of controversies that happen here, sometimes the controversies there are more than that. And this year too, at the Oscars, there have been big controversies; certain sections feel that they have not been fair, that it's not been that diverse in their choice of nominations."

- Anil Kapoor, weighing in on the award show controversies in Bollywood.



TV WATCH

National Cricketers on "Amrai Pari" finale

Bangladesh cricket stars Mashrafe, Soumya, Jahanara and Salma will appear in the season finale of BBC Media Action's TV programme "Amrai Pari", tonight on ATN Bangla. The special episode will see them join a community in Satkhira whose homes are waterlogged for nine months of the year. The stars took time out of

training to visit the village of Tala upozila and work with people living there. "Amrai Pari" celebrates the power of disaster affected communities in Bangladesh to come together to overcome challenges in their lives.

The episode will air at 8pm, and will have a repeat broadcast on Wednesday at 9:30am.



Artistes perform at Chhayanaut's annual folk music programme at its auditorium on February 5 evening. The programme was dedicated to Fakir Kalu Shah. Artistes presented songs of Fakir Kalu Shah, Kanailal Shil, Harlal Roy, SM Bakh Shah Chishti and Abdul Latif at the programme, which was enjoyed by a packed audience.

Quiz Contest

10 Winners Everyday! 2 Premium Tickets For Each Winner

The Daily Star | STAR Cineplex

Email your answer to starquiz.therevenant@gmail.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winner of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email

QUIZ - 01

1. Which film category THE REVENANT falls in?
2. Who is the director of THE REVENANT?

BLOOD LOST. LIFE FOUND.
THE REVENANT
 INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS

