



A contemporary art piece from Dhaka Art Summit 2016.

STAR FILE PHOTO

DHAKA ART SUMMIT '18 programmes announced

A CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Art Summit (DAS), Bangladesh's premier biennial art event, on Friday announced the dates and detail programmes of its upcoming edition in February 2018.

The fourth edition of the summit will be held from February 2-10, 2018 at its traditional venue, the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Produced by the Samdani Art Foundation and its network, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and partnerships with the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, National Museum and National Art Gallery of Bangladesh, the next edition of DAS will be much bigger in duration (nine days, compared to the three-day schedule in its past three editions) and will also widen its focus to include connections to Southeast Asia. Samdani Art Foundation's Artistic Director Diana Campbell Betancourt will return as the Chief Curator of DAS 2018, for the third time.

Over the last five years, the DAS has brought together art and arts professionals from across South Asia, including

Bangladesh (65% of the artists exhibited are Bangladeshi), Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Maldives, Myanmar, and India, and has made a name for itself as a major event of South Asian Art in the world.

For the first time, DAS 2018 will feature both an Opening Celebration Weekend (February 2-4) and a closing Scholars' Weekend (February 8-10), with several tiers of new programming slated for both.

The closing weekend will feature two concentrated symposiums, the first devoted to the work and legacy of Colombo-born art historian Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy; the second, titled "Displays of Internationalism: Asia Interfacing With The World Through Exhibitions, 1947-1989", will analyse the history of Asian art exhibitions. A closing panel, held in collaboration with The

Exhibitionist, will bring together critics from across South Asia to consider and chronicle the last five years of biennales and other recurring exhibitions within the region.

A new Artist-Led Initiatives Forum will be introduced within the Summit, featuring curated presentations from eleven artist-led Bangladeshi initiatives, as well as contributions from visiting artist-led initiatives from Nepal, Northeast India, and other neighbours to Bangladesh.

DAS 2018's new Education Pavilion will transform DAS into a free art school for the creative community of Bangladesh, complementing the exhibitions programs and re-imagining the traditional tool boxes used when considering art-making and artistic practices.

Further details of the programmes are available on the Dhaka Art Summit website.

PHOTO: STAR



REZWANA CHOWDHURY BANNYA

to receive
Bangabhusan honour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

Government of Paschimbanga, India is conferring Bangabhusan honour on eminent Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will hand over the second highest state honour to the artiste at Nazrul Mancha, South Kolkata on May 20. The Department of Information and Culture of Paschimbanga state has ascertained the news.

"All work that any artiste, any creative person does, is for recognition. And when that recognition comes from beyond the boundaries of the country, there is an extra bit of happiness and satisfaction to that. My guru Kanika Bandopadhyay was from Paschimbanga, and I miss her dearly on this happy occasion. She would have been very proud of this achievement of mine," Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya told The Daily Star.

The formal letter of Bangabhusan Honour reached Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya on May 11. Later, she also talked to the concerned minister and assured of her receiving the honour in person.

Eminent Nazrul Sangeet artiste Feroza Begum was the only person from Bangladesh who received Bangabibhusan, the highest state honour, posthumously in 2015.

The present government of Paschimbanga started recognising artistes and actors after assuming power in 2011. Following the trend, Bangabibhusan and Bangabhusan are being treated as the highest and second highest honours since 2012.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



RUPCHANDA-THE DAILY STAR SUPER CHEF

... And then there were three

M H HAIDER

The latest episode of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef which aired yesterday on ntv, was a fateful one: it determined the top three contestants of this year's culinary competition. Jointly organised by Rupchanda and The Daily Star, the competition seeks to find out the best cooks, 'Super Chefs', from all corners of the country. From the winners of the regional rounds to the top 20 and finally to the top 3, the nationwide search for this year's gastronomic talents is almost at the end.

For Shampa Rahman, the previous episode was quite a comfortable ride - even though a lot was at stake and despite the fact that the episode was to determine the top three by eliminating one of the four contestants. "The challenge involved making barbeque dishes of various meats," she shared. "I often make barbeque at my home. I have a lot of experience with this kind of cooking; it was a com-

fort zone for me."

After she completed cooking, she herself was quite satisfied with the output. And she excelled. Not only did she secure her position among the top three contestants, she also won the badge for the best dish - from actor Misha Shawdagar, who was the guest judge of the episode.

Not everyone was as lucky as her, though. At the opposite side of good fortune sat Asma Rupa. In one of the previous episodes, she had accidentally cut her hand. And yet she continued, after treating the wound.

The cut had not healed completely, and last night, Asma Rupa tried her best to forget all about it and focus on the challenge: chicken barbeque... grilled veggies on the side... naan roti... sauces... liver and so on. A lot was going on in the minds of the participants. Coming this far, the contestants had already made a lot of emotional investment, and nobody wanted to get eliminated.

And so it was a heartbreaking moment when

the final hour came. Asma had to go. Last night, her journey came to a halt. "The judges walked me to the door," she remembers.

Now, after that last episode, only three names remain: Maymuna Akter, Aysha Siddiky (Pinky), and Shampa Rahman. All three are winners: they have learned a lot, they have raced to the top, and they are going to receive cash prizes.

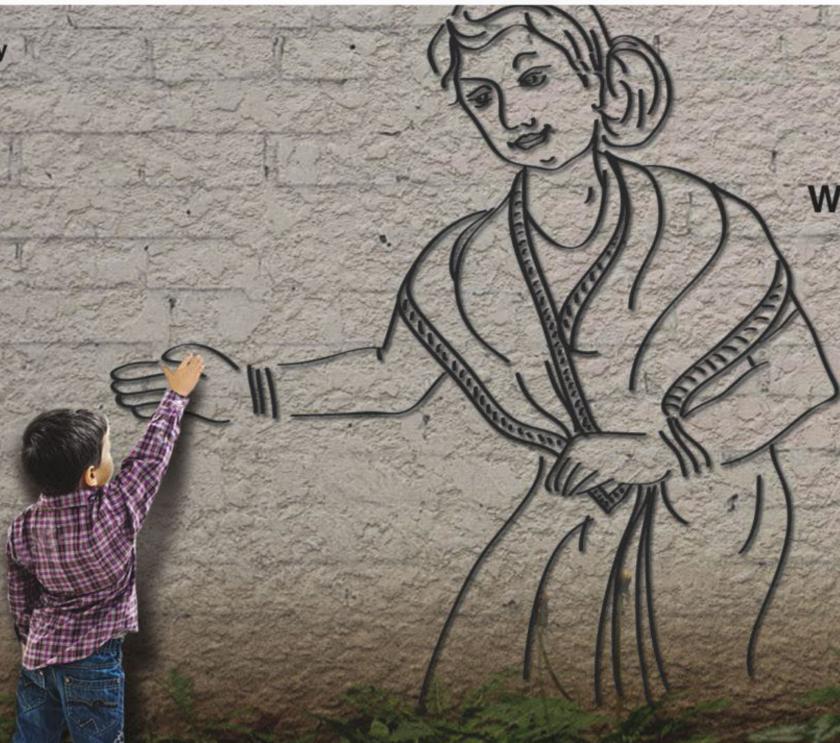
But the competition is not over yet. Tonight, the best will fight with each other to be the best among the best. And yet again, one contestant will be eliminated.

The guest judge is going to be Afsana Mimi. She is not new to the Super Kitchen: she had taken an intensive grooming class for the participants, and she also already had played the role of a judge in this year's competition. And she will once again show up tonight.

Tune into ntv at 9pm, every Saturday and Sunday to find out what happens next in Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2017.



International Mother's Day



We should love and take care of our mothers before they become only memories.



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