

WHAT'S ON

Amor Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan & Bangla Academy Premises
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3-9pm (Sun-Thurs), 11am-9pm (Fri-Sat)



Solo Art Exhibition
By Artist Rashid Chowdhury
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 28- Feb 10
Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Jahangirnagar Theatre
Venue: Muktamarcha, JU
Date: Feb 2-11
Time: 6pm



Dhaka Art Summit 2018
Organiser: Samdani Art Foundation
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 2-10
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Fragmented Unity by artist Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
Venue: La Galerie, AFD
Date: Feb 1-13
Time: 3-9pm



NEWS bytes

ZENDAYA'S Disney Channel era ends

Zendaya is saying goodbye to her Disney Channel days, announcing on Friday (February 2) that tonight's episode of her hit television show, "K.C. Undercover", would be the last one.

The actress has acted for Disney since starring in "Shake It Up" with Bella Thorne from 2010 to 2013. "K.C. Undercover" premiered in 2015 and ran for 3 seasons. The



finale will end with Zendaya's character, K.C., graduating high school.

Her career, however, has not slowed down one bit. She's taken a more cinematic route, having major roles in the past year's biggest films, including "Spider-man: Homecoming" and "The Greatest Showman". She's even taking a seat in the producer's chair alongside Reese Witherspoon and Lauren Neustadter for 2019's historical thriller "A White Lie". She'll also be starring in the film.

Source: **Billboard**



(From left) Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury with his award-winning work; the winning architectural design used as a venue for interactive talk session and Samdani Architecture Award winner Maksudul Karim.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

DHAKA ART SUMMIT Bangladesh art and architecture go global

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Dhaka Art Summit 2018 (DAS) entered centre stage in the art world once more with a call to embrace the plurality and heterogeneity of artistic expressions. The world's largest platform for South Asian Art, organised by Samdani Art Foundation (SAF), has caught the attention of art lovers far and wide. A number of world renowned curators, artists, architects, academics, connoisseurs, critics, collectors and aficionados have flocked together at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to enjoy an array of thought-provoking artistic expressions -- be it research-based curated exhibitions, interactive talks and of course the multitude phrases and languages of contemporary South, Southeast Asian and global arts.

SAF awards the annual Samdani Art and Architecture Awards at the DAS to promising Bangladeshi contemporary artists working on

new media and architectural designs from various Bangladeshi institutes. This year is no exception. Commissioned and produced by SAF for DAS 2018, the selected arts and architectures are on display at the venue.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury received the Samdani Art Award 2018 for his complex work "The Soul Who Fails to Fly into the Space". Mizan, an alumnus of the Department of Printmaking, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, has used mixed media, video installation, moving sculpture, plastic chairs, one channel video, grass cutting machine, motor, plastic fan, golden ribbons, magazines and more to project his artistic contemplation. The collective representation of works signifies Mizan's efforts of making the spiritual entity (The Soul) to seek the eternity (The Space).

The Samdani Art Award is Bangladesh's premier art award, and aims to support, promote and highlight Bangladeshi contemporary art. The award, partnering with The Delfina

Foundation since 2013, offers the winner a three-month residency at the Delfina Foundation in London. A residency at the Delfina Foundation can be a career-defining moment for an artist to develop their ideas, sharpen their practice, and widen their networks.

The finalists were drawn from a larger pool of semi-finalists and were selected by the Swiss Institute director Simon Castets, who curated the show with eleven finalists in the DAS 2018. The winner has been selected by a board chaired by Delfina Foundation director Aaron Cezar and consisted of artists -- Sheela Gowda, Runa Islam, Subodh Gupta and Mona Hatoum.

The other finalists are Ahmed Rasel, Aprita Singh Lopa, Asfika Rahman, Debasish Shom, Marzia Farhana, Opper Zaman, Palash Bhattacharjee, Rakib Ahmed, Reetu A. Sattar and Sabbir Alam.

Maksudul Karim, a 6th semester student of Architecture, Premier University, Chittagong,

received the Samdani Architecture Award 2018. SAF called for a competition for designing an education pavilion that is displayed at the heart of Chief curator Diana Campbell Betancourt's curated show "Bearing Points".

"From the very beginning of the design, I have kept the culture, tradition and the heritage of my country in mind to implement it in the designing process and tried to make the design accordingly. I tried to significantly shed light on rural culture that opens a gateway to work with the rural material in a modern way. Our traditional boat called shampans really attracts and inspires me and I named my project 'Chhayatori'. The practice will definitely inspire the new generations to be more concerned about the traditional and to create environment-friendly architectures. I am thankful to SAF for arranging such a wonderful platform for art and architecture," said Maksudul Karim.

"The Widowed Witch" wins top prize at 47th IFFR Double honors for "The Guilty", "The Reports on Sarah & Saleem"

FAHMIM FERDOUS, writes from Rotterdam

The 47th edition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam awarded Chinese director Cai Chengjie's "The Widowed Witch" its top prize, the Hivos Tiger Award, in a gala award ceremony on Friday evening.

"The Reports on Sarah and Saleem", a gutsy Palestinian film by Muayad Alayan took back two awards, as did Gustav Möller's "The Guilty".

"The Reports on Sarah and Saleem" won a special jury award for its screenwriter Rami Alayan, as well as the Hubert Bals Fund audience award, an audience-voled award for films supported by the festival's Hubert Bals Fund. "The Guilty" was crowned the most popular film of the festival as it won the IFFR Audience Award, as well as the IFFR Youth Jury Award, an initiative of IFFR to engage and involve children and youth into the festival.

The Bright Future Award went to Tiago Melo from Brazil for "Azougue Nazare", while the VPRO Big Screen Award went to "Nina" by Olga Chajdas, ensuring its Dutch TV and theatrical distribution.

Two new awards introduced this year -- the Found Footage Award and the Voices Short Audience Award -- went to "Newsreel 63 -- The Train of Shadows" by Nika Autor and "Joy in People" by Oscar Hudson respectively.

In congratulating all winners, Festival Director Bero Beyer said: "We're very happy that the strong winners represent the bold spirit of the festival's entire pro-



gramming. They are filmmakers, both emerging and established, who use their talent to deliver a new view on our world. As diverse as they are, there seems to be a common thread: the beautiful and human thread of cinema!"

Two awards from critics' organisations were presented at the ceremony. The FIPRESCI Award (which this writer was a jury member of) went to "Balekempa" by emerging Indian director Ere Gowda, while

the KNF Award, given by the Circle of Dutch Film Journalists, was won by "Zama" by Lucrecia Martel. "Nervous Translation" by Shireen Seno won the NETPAC Award for best Asian film.

IFFR -- one of the largest cultural events in the Netherlands, and one of the biggest audience-oriented film festivals in the world -- came to a close yesterday after 12 days of cinematic celebrations - featuring a fantastic line-up of fiction and documen-

tary features, short films, exhibitions, performances, masterclasses and talk shows, along with industry activities including CineMart, BoostNL and Propellor initiatives, Hubert Bals Fund and Rotterdam Lab.

The Daily Star's Fahmim Ferdous is covering this year's International Film Festival Rotterdam as a participant of its Young Film Critics Programme.

Ferdous hits the set

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a mahurat two days ago, a new film starring National Film Award winning actor Ferdous is already in the works. The popular film hero hit the sets of "Jodi Ektu Shomoy Petam" today at FDC, where shooting is scheduled to take place for the next two days, after which the filming crew will begin working outdoors.

Directed by GM Faruq, the film will feature Swiss American actress Celine Beran for the first time. Ferdous shared that the film focuses on the dilemma of a budding romance between a man and a young woman who are separated after a short time of getting to know each other.

"I am very excited for this film because it's unlike any venture I've done before," he added, "the audience will definitely see me in a new light here."

The film marks Ferdous' first project this year.



Drew Barrymore to play dual roles in rom-com

Drew Barrymore will play dual roles in the romantic comedy "The Stand-In," as well as produce through her production company, Flower Films.

Jamie Babbit, executive producer of HBO's "Silicon Valley" and director of "But I'm a Cheerleader," will helm the comedy from a script by Sam Bain.

In addition to Barrymore, producers are Ember Truesdell, Chris Miller, and Nancy Juvonen-Fallon for Flower Films. Tom McNulty will be producing for the Exchange. UTA and CAA are handling domestic sales.

"The Stand-In" is the story of a disaffected comedy actress and her ambitious stand-in trading places. A washed-

up movie star, busted for a tax evasion, hires her unemployed, adoring stand-in to do community service in her place. A weird co-dependent relationship ensues as the actress begins to use the stand-in in all parts of her life to escape from the stressful demands of fame. Eventually, the stand-in starts to take the actress's identity, career and boyfriend, and finally kicks her out of her own house.

The title will be introduced to buyers at the 2018 European Film Market, which starts February 14 in conjunction with the Berlin Film Festival.

Source: **Variety**