

WHAT'S ON

Amar 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 Chitrag, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 28- Feb 10
Time: 10am-8pm

Cultural event
Boshonto Utshob
Venue: Under the Banyan tree, Kala Bhaban, Dhaka University
Date: February 14
Time: 10:30am-1pm

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



Fortifying artistic bonds between Canada and Bangladesh

Charles Pachter's retrospective exhibition at BNM

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Artists can think beyond borders, with a flair for both reflecting on their own distinctive identities and intermingling with other cultures. Such is the spirit of an exhibition that is now on at Bangladesh National Museum (BNM). BNM in association with the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka, the Canadian Community Arts initiatives (CCAI) and ARTcon organised a retrospective exhibition titled "Quintessential Canadian" of internationally renowned Canadian multidimensional artist Charles Pachter at Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, BNM, in the capital.

Eminent art connoisseur and Chairman of Bengal Foundation Abul Khair inaugurated the 14-day exhibition as chief guest at a ceremony held at BNM's Kabi Sufia Kamal Auditorium on February 5. Barry Bristman, First Secretary to the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka attended the exhibition as guest of honour. Faizul Latif Chowdhury, DG, BNM, delivered a welcome address while the curator

of the show, Asma Mahmood, who is also an internationally acclaimed visual artist and curator of CCAI, spoke on the occasion.

"The excellence of Pachter's artistry can be assumed through his artworks found throughout Canada, at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, and many other places of the world," said Abul Khair.

"Charles Pachter's works on flag, the Queen, Maple Leaf, and Moose have become a hallmark of Canadian Art. He is a person of multifarious dimensions, given his identity as an artist, author and more," said Faizul Latif Chowdhury.

"It was an honour for the Canadian High Commission in Dhaka to jointly organise an exhibition of such stature with BNM," said Barry Bristman, expressing optimism that such collaborations between the Canadian and Bangladeshi art communities will be more frequent in the days ahead.

Asma Mahmood explained that the exhibition has been set up in a way in which an element of storytelling is evident, as if there are



clusters of conversations going on between two or three paintings.

Barry Bristman and Nain Amy, director of CCAI, distributed Certificates of Appreciation to Faizul Latif Chowdhury and renowned art collector Durjoy Rahman Joy for making the exhibition a reality.

A delighted Charles Pachter expressed his gratitude to the organisers for holding his exhibition in Bangladesh and went on to praise the hospitality he received from the Bangladeshis. Among others, the Bangladeshi Advisor of CCAI and Director of Gallery Cosmos Tehmina Enayet was also present.

One of Canada's leading con-

temporary artists, Charles Pachter is a painter, printmaker, sculptor, designer, historian, and lecturer. Born in Toronto, he studied Art History at the University of Toronto, French Literature at the Sorbonne, and Painting and Graphics at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. His work has been exhibited at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the McMichael Gallery. He is represented in public and private collections throughout Canada, and internationally.

Merging the flags of Canada and Bangladesh, the artist has depicted a special work (Giclée-Inkjet on archival paper) for this exhibition. His early works explore collages, found objects, poetry, and experimental forms of expression. Over the years he has honed his creative skills, creating commemorative and iconic imagery, for example the Queen Elizabeth II on the moose.

The exhibition is open from 10:30am to 7:30pm from Saturday to Wednesday and from 2:30pm to 8:30pm on Fridays till February 18.

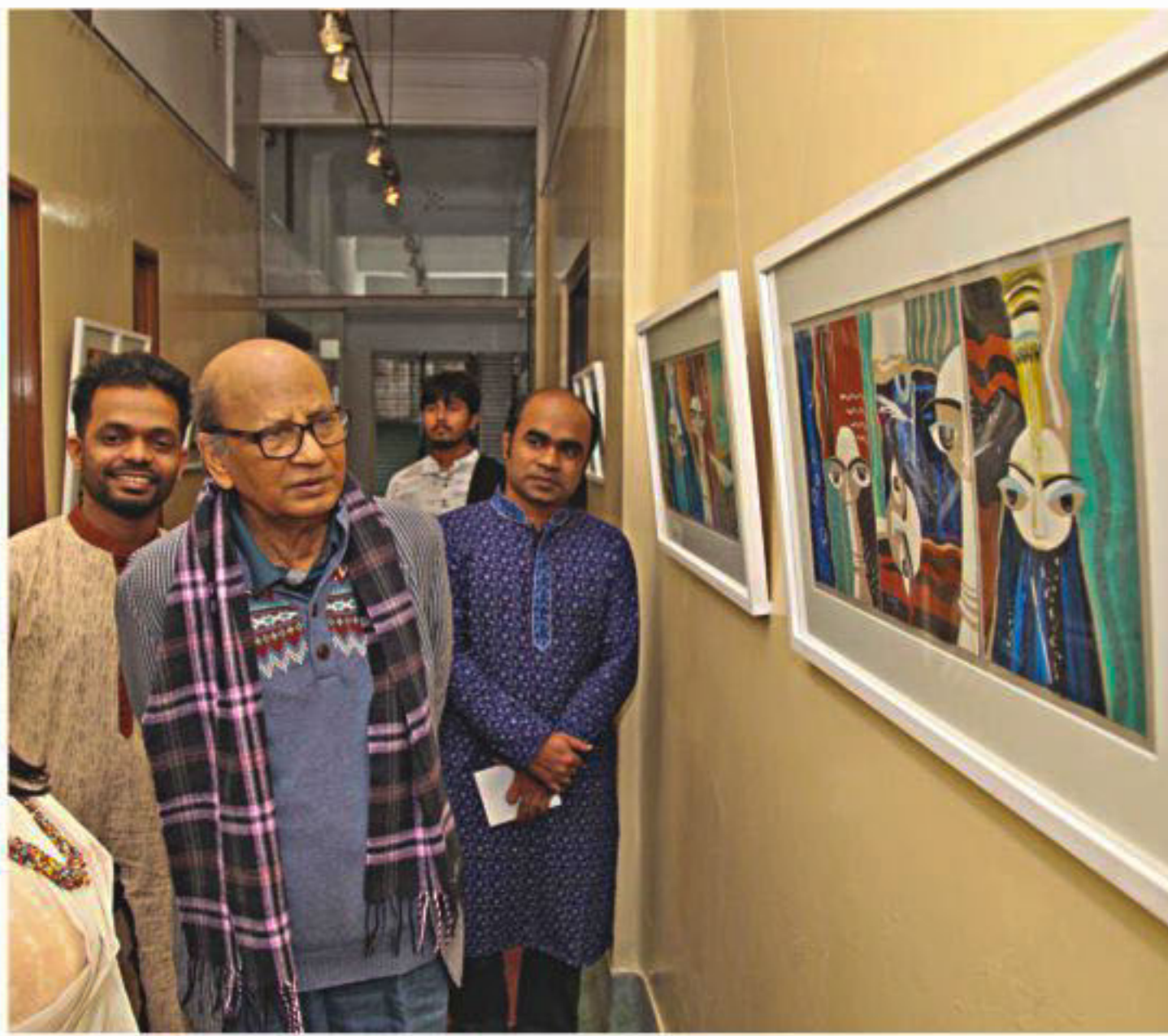
"Extending": Group exhibition begins at AFD

A group painting exhibition titled "Extending" was inaugurated on February 6 at Galerie Zoom, Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD), says a press release. Eminent artist Samarjit Roy Chowdhury graced the occasion as the chief guest, while director of AFD Bruno Plasse presided over the opening ceremony.

The exhibition follows a workshop titled "Painting Progressive" held by students from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Development Alternative, during September 2017. The artists focused on the natural beauty of rural landscapes and its many textures. The themes portrayed in their work reflect nature and their childhood memories.

"Extending" is an endeavour by artists S M Ehsan, Kuntal Barai, Dilruba Sharmin Rumky, Nayan Tripura, Mahmuda Ahmed, Bappy Linkon Roy, Suman Biswas, Rajin Mustafa Dipraw, Madhabi Sultana and Sajia Rahman Sondha. The artists used acrylic and water colours, ink, collage and mixed media as the medium of their artworks.

The exhibition is open to all till February 20. Visiting hours on Monday through Thursday are from 3pm-9pm, while doors to the exhibition will open from 9am-12noon and 5pm-8pm on Friday and Saturday. It will remain closed on Sunday.



Renowned artist Samarjit Roy Chowdhury (C) at the exhibition opening.



Salman Khan to return in "Kick" sequel

Salman Khan fans have every reason to cheer as the superstar will soon be back as the "Devil" in Sajid Nadiadwala's "Kick 2". Wednesday was off to an exciting start when the makers released an announcement stating that Salman will be back for the sequel that will release on Christmas Day, 2019.

This confirmation comes almost four years after the first installment of the "Kick" franchise, co-starring Jacqueline Fernandez, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Randeep Hooda created waves at the box-office in 2014. While it is still not clear if the original star cast will return for the sequel, reports claim that an international action star might feature in the film.

It had been reported that Nadiadwala has been working on the script of the sequel for quite some time now and had sounded Salman about it, which the actor reportedly "loves".

Work on the film is expected to begin shortly. Meanwhile, Salman has his hands full with a great lineup of films that include, "Race 3", "Dabangg 3" and "Bharat".

BRACU holds "Bangla Gaaner Bhabna O Pothhchola"

BRAC University (BRACU) held its fourth edition of "Bangla Gaaner Bhabna O Pothhchola" at its main auditorium in the Mohakhali campus yesterday (February 7), according to a press release. Organised every semester, this semester's event focused on the theme titled "Bangaliana: Deshprem O Prokritite", where students performed patriotic songs blending with nature.

Associate Professor Sharmin Neelotpol of the Department of Pharmacy coordinated the programme, which opened with the observance of a one-minute silence in memory of the late Professor AA Ziauddin Ahmad, the former chairper-

son of the Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences who passed away on January 18.

The first four lines of the Bangladesh national anthem was played on an esraj before "Dhono Dhanne Pushpe Bhora", "Eki Oporup Rupe Ma Tomay", "Jonmo Amar Dhonno Mago", "Ami Banglay Gaan Gai", "Abar Jombe Mela" and other songs were performed.

Ekushey Padak winning artiste Rathindranath Roy performed some of his popular songs as a guest singer. He shared the stories behind the creation of some of the songs sung at Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the 1971 Liberation War.



BRACU Vice Chancellor Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb addresses the programme at the university auditorium.



Selena Gomez joins "The Voyage of Doctor Dolittle" cast

Selena Gomez will voice a role in Universal's "The Voyage of Doctor Dolittle."

The project stars Robert Downey Jr., while Tom Holland, Emma Thompson, and Ralph Fiennes round out the voice cast and Antonio Banderas and Michael Sheen will portray live-action characters.

Universal acquired the project last year, which will be directed by Stephen Gaghan from a screenplay he wrote with an earlier draft by Tom Sheppard. It's based on the character from the 1920's series of children's books by Hugh

Lofting, in which a Victorian-era physician opts to treat animals instead of humans because he's able to speak with them.

Lofting's character was portrayed by Rex Harrison in the 1967 musical "Doctor Dolittle," which won Oscars for best original song and visual effects. Eddie Murphy starred in the 1998 film "Doctor Dolittle" and its 2001 sequel, which cumulatively grossed more than \$470 million at the worldwide box office.

Gomez currently executive produces Netflix's "13 Reasons Why" and can be

heard in the upcoming third installment of the "Hotel Transylvania" franchise.

Jon Mone and Lexi Barta will oversee production for Universal, which is set to begin later this month in London. The film is slated for a April 12, 2019 release.

Joe Roth and Jeff Kirschenbaum will produce for their Roth/Kirschenbaum Films alongside Susan Downey for Team Downey. Gomez is represented by WME, Lighthouse Management & Media and Ziffren Brittenham LLP.

Source: Variety