


## WHAT'S ON



**Art Exhibition**  
Shohorname  
Venue: Daily Star Bengal Arts  
Precinct  
& Gyantapas Abdur Razzak  
Bidyapeeth  
Date: Mar 2-16; Time: 11am-7pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
The Red Thread of Bangladesh  
Artist: Tarshito  
Venue: Bay's Park Heights,  
Kalabagan  
Date: Feb 23-Mar 9  
Time: 10am-8pm





**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Imminence  
Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts,  
AJ Heights, Bir Uttam Rafiqul Islam  
Avenue  
Date: Feb 24-Mar 10  
Time: 10am-8pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Sararattir  
Troupe: Teerondaz Repertory  
Venue: Kagozitola Lane, Sutrapur  
Date: Mar 9; Time: 6:30pm



**Theatre**  
Bhongobongo  
Troupe: Aranyak  
Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium  
Date: Mar 9  
Time: 7pm



**Theatre**  
Pahjore Chandrabhan  
Troupe: Dept. Of Theatre, DU  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall,  
BSA  
Date: Mar 9; Time: 7pm





**Group Art Exhibition**  
Us Women  
Organiser: EMK Center  
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi  
Date: Mar 8-22  
Time: 9:30am-8pm

## NEWS bytes

## MICHAEL BAY sets next two films

Michael Bay looks to have found not one, but his next two films to work on, as sources tell Variety he has lined up “6 Underground” and “Robopocalypse” as his next two projects.

The action film “6 Underground” is written by “Deadpool” and “Deadpool 2” scribes Paul Wernick and Rhett Reese, who will also serve as executive producers. Plot details are currently being kept under wraps. It is slated to go into production this summer for a summer 2019 release.

Following “6 Underground”, Bay is also in talks to reunite with Steven Spielberg, who hand-picked him to direct “Transformers”, to bring “Robopocalypse” to life. Based on the science fiction novel by Daniel H Wilson, the film is set after a robot uprising.

At one point, Spielberg intended to helm “Robopocalypse”, but scheduling conflicts forced him to continue to push it off. The iconic director says he has always been fascinated by the film but has not been able to find time to direct it himself.

Source: **Variety**



Band Lalon gave a power-packed performance at the concert; (below) the audience's energy created an electric atmosphere at the stadium.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

# An upsurge of youthful effervescence

## Joy Bangla Concert draws tens of thousands

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's raised index finger at the Racecourse Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan) on a scorching Sunday noon of March 7, 1971 woke a nation up to fight back again injustice and oppression, in what eventually culminated into a nine-month war fueled by millions of lives and uncountable tales of valor for a land of our own. To commemorate the occasion, Young Bangla, a wing of the research organisation Centre for Research and Information, has been organising the Joy Bangla Concert at the capital's Army Stadium since 2015, an event that has become one of the most-anticipated music events of the year. This year was no different, with easily an excess of 50,000 people jam-packing the venue and dancing, jumping and singing along to their favourite bands stretching from the early afternoon heat of 3pm to nearly midnight.

The inspirational, patriotic songs of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra (SBBK) are a central element of the Joy Bangla concert, and the afternoon began with a young ensemble of musicians taking the big stage to set the concert off with “Purbo Digonte Surjo Uttheche”. They were followed by Powersurge, the country's premier thrash metal act. They opened with their interpretation “Ma Go Bhabna Keno” from SBBK, before going into their ballistic original “Ognisnan”, the crowd-pleasing medley of James’ “Sultana Bibiyana/Jatra Pala”, and finishing with “Mithter Agrashon”. Although the crowd was only growing when they performed, the response showed that heavy metal is still very much alive in the youth of the country.

Arbovirus, arguably the most electrifying stage acts in the country, was next up, and also opened with their obligatory SBBK number, “Amra Korbo Joy”, before breaking out into the explosive “Jwalo Agun Jwalo”. The band mixed up their set-list with mellow and energetic numbers, singing “Shohor”, “Bhenge Felo”, “Hariye Jao”, “Ishkool” and “Omanush”. From shirtless guitarists to stage-dives, the band pulled out all the stops to give the fans full rock gig experience.

After them was Shunno's slot, whose soft

pop-rock sound has been a hit with the general audience for the better part of a decade now. Their repertoire included hits “Godhuli'r Opare”, “Shoto Asha”, “Bedona”, “Jhoriye Dao”, “Mon Tore” and “Shono Mohajon”, with a somewhat peppy version of “Joy Bangla Bangla'r Joy” sandwiched in the middle.

In between the performances, Young Bangla kept audience busy with visuals of a promo for graphic novel “Mujib”, based on the life of the Father of the Nation, clips from the Road to 7th March traveling concert (which took place in Khulna and Sylhet this year prior to the main event), and highlights of the UNESCO ceremony where



Bangabandhu's speech was inducted as one of the “Memory of the World Register” last year in November.

Nemesis took the stage next, with their brand of crispy and crunchy rock music, launching straight away into the title track from their third album, “Conojowar”, and smoothly transitioned into “Bir”. They followed it up with one of their earliest hits, “Obocheton” from the mixed album era of Bangladesh's underground music scene. Their SBBK song was a repeat of their previous year's performance “Rokto Diye Naam Likhchei”, which got a modernized - if a little desensitized - makeover. But the redemption came in the form of “Janala”, “Joyodhwoni”

and “Kobe” that followed, before the band closed out with “Ghuri”.

Cryptic Fate followed Nemesis to the stage, and was probably the best act of the night, both in terms of their set-list and performance. The band opened with “Bhorer Opekkha”, a song that actually opens with a sample of Bangabandhu's speech, and is about the call to liberate the country after the genocide of March 25, 1971. The band followed it up with “Onadorer Sontan”, and a commendable adaptation of “Teer Hara Ei Dheu Er Sagar”. The band then threw it back to their old days with a true Bangla rock classic, “Bhoboghure”, before pulling it back with the mellow “Protibad” as cell-phone

tations Lalon songs – “Parey Loye Jao Amaye” and “Somoy Gele Sadhon Hobe Na”. The band then sang “Bhogoban”, before getting the crowd worked up with their closing number, “Pagol Chhara Duniya Chole Na”.

Lalon left Chirkutt a tough act to follow, but the fusion band with plenty of big stage experience (the likes of SXSU) lived up to it banking on their popular film soundtracks that are at the tip of their fans' tongues. Starting with “Dhono Dhanye Pushpe Bhora”, the band belted out “Prothom Preme More Jawar Golpo”, “Jadur Shohor”, “Ahare Jibon”, “Khajna”, “Kanamachi” and “Duniya”, with guitarist Emon providing the pyrotechnics with his stringed instruments – be it the sitar, mandolin, acoustic or electric guitars. As enjoyable as the songs were, most of their songs felt a little stretched out.

The final band of the night was Artcell, the poster boys of Bangladeshi rock music of the 2000s and a band marred in controversy in recent times regarding their lineup and internal conflicts. Despite the fans thundering chants of their name to welcome the band on stage, it was not the best of nights for the band that has been performing live with only one-fourth of its original lineup. The band opened with the iconic “Onnoshomoy”, before diving into what many consider their magnum opus, “Oniket Prantor”. There were issues with the sound and Lincoln's voice felt worn out, but the band surprised some of their hardcore fans, bringing out deep cuts like “Rahur Grash” and the instrumental “Chhayar Ninad”, before ending with their signature cover of Nazrul's “Kandari Hushiar”.

The event management was largely faultless, and the sound, lights and logistics held up well especially for such a jam-packed concert. The audiovisuals were nice, amenities were not scarce and the event ended without any major trouble. The only things left to be wished were that all the bands did their Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra songs with a little more care, and the security personnel at the entrances could confiscate the copious amounts of marijuana that slipped through into the stadium, making it hard to avoid the stench almost at any part of the grounds.

## Rathindra Nath Roy on Ganer Manush

A CORRESPONDENT

One of most prominent performers of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, Rathindra Nath Roy will perform his hit numbers on Ganer Manush, ATN Bangla at 8pm tonight. Son of noted folk singer Haralal Roy, he has also done his bit to promote folk songs, especially Bhawaiya that are popular in the Rangpur area. A recipient of several prestigious awards like BACHSHASH, Award, the Ekushey Padak and more he has a large fan following in different genres of music. His hit numbers include “Ok! kajol bhromora re”, Baukumta batash jemon”, Tumi arekbar ashiya” and several more. Roy will be guest on ATN's music programme “Ganer Manush”, poduced by Mokaddem Babu and hosted by singer Hasan Chowdhury.

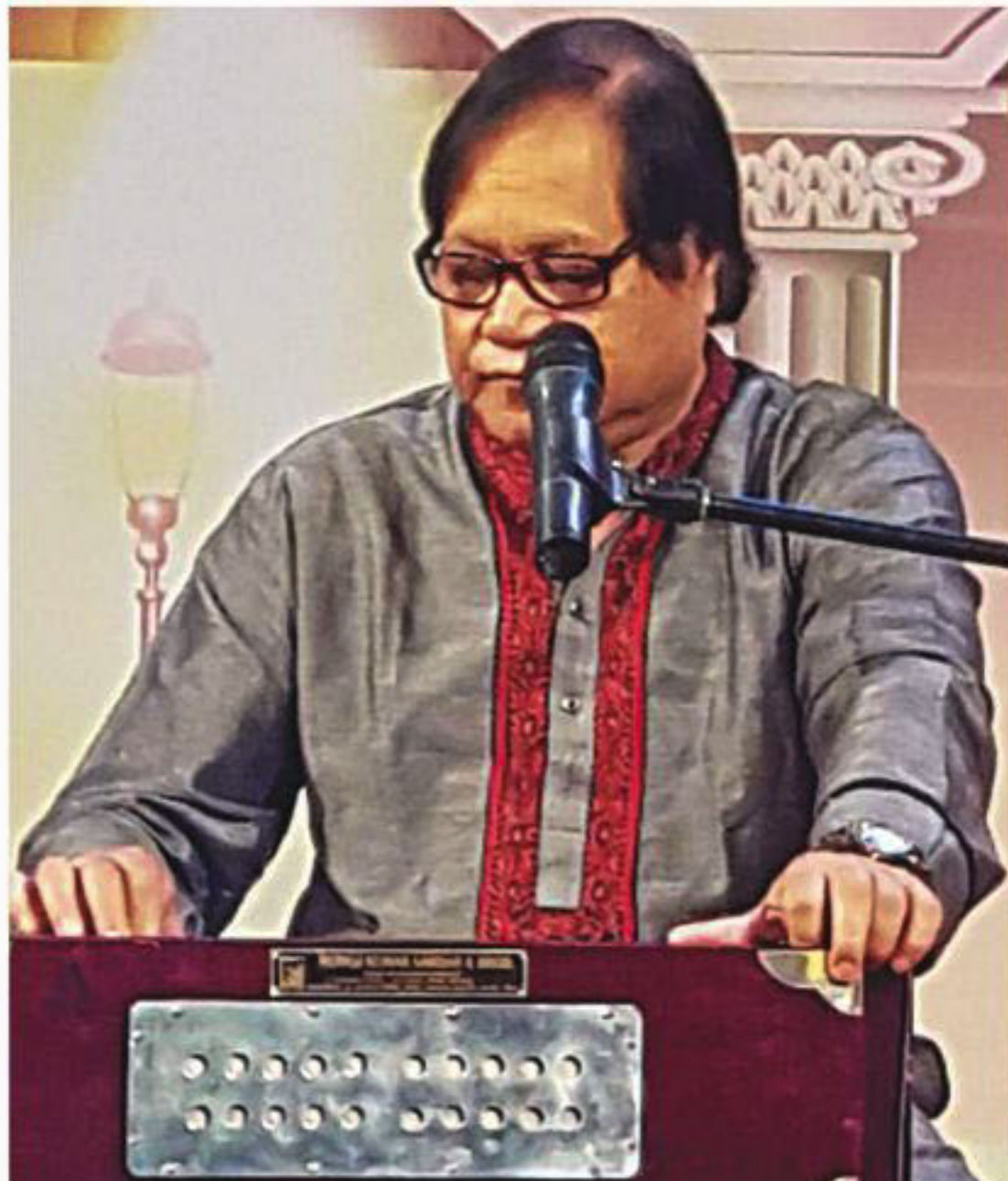


PHOTO: STAR

## Nilphamari ready to celebrate Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

All-out preparations have been taken in the little northern district town Nilphamari as three-day Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan is due to commence from today amid enthusiasm.

On this occasion, the entire town wears a festive look as colourful banners, festoons and flags are hung all around, roadside walls are also painted colourfully by local children and a group of students from Faculty of Fine Arts.

A huge 2,400 sq. ft canopy has been erected at Nilphamari high school ground to accommodate a 5,000-strong audience.

Ahsan Rahim Manzil, joint convener of the festival management committee said, “The festival's first session will commence on Friday afternoon at 4.30pm through the inaugural song followed by a welcome speech by Bulbul Islam, general secretary of Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad (JRSSP), as the organisation president and renowned Tagore exponent Sanjida Khatun will preside over at the event.”

A conference will be held at local tourist spot Nil Sagor at Dhoba Danga village, 12kms away from the town on Saturday, which is scheduled to be steered by Sanjida Khatun.

In the afternoon, a seminar entitled “Manobik Samaj Gothon” (creating a humanitarian society) will be held where Dr. Atiur Rahman, former governor of Bangladesh Bank will present the keynote paper, to be followed by a cultural programme.

The festival organisers will place floral wreathes at the altar of district Shaheed Minar at 9pm of Sunday, the final day of the festival.

The concluding session will be held at 4pm where vice chancellor of Rabindra Vishva-bidyalaya, Biswajit Ghosh will be present as chief guest and hand over Rabindra Padak to the recipients followed by cultural programmes.