

Musical Event
Title: Neel Sarkar Live at Jatra Biroti
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Time: 7pm - 10pm
Date: September 7

Photography Exhibition
Title: Shutter Up Exhibition 2018
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: September 9-10
Time: 10am - 7pm
Facebook Page: Drik Gallery

Art Exhibition
Title: State of Mind
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
Date: September 7 - October 3
Time: 4:30pm - 8:30pm
Facebook Page: Kala Kendra

10th International Inter University Short Film Festival
Venue: TSC Auditorium
Date: September 2-4
Time: 11 am - 9 pm
For more information, log in

Musical Event
Title: Celebrate Friendship with Armeen Musa
Venue: The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Bangladesh
Date: September 9
Time: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm



The President of Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid with distinguished guests and the awardees of the 18th Asian Art Biennale, The President signing the opening of the event (Below).

The Voice of 'Narishokti'

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Ratna, a garment worker of Mohammadi Group, has been going to her workplace while battling harassment and eve teasing for the past five years. Another woman, Jarina, has also been subject to sexual and domestic violence living in Kamalapur Railway Station.

On Friday, these women enacted their stories of sexual harassment and inequality in the same place where these incidents happened to them. Peut-Porter, a London based collective design studio, and Para, a school of thought that focuses on enhancing spaces for communities in Bangladesh, jointly organised a theatrical parade in the streets of Dhaka titled *Narishokti*. They created the opportunity for these women to present their narratives.

Peut-Porter and Paraa collaborated with a group of women living in Kamalapur Railway Station, garment workers of Dhaka supported by NDBUS, theatre group Prachyanat and third and final year design students from BGMEA-BUFT to come up with ten stories that shows the everyday struggles of women both at the workplace and home, in front of the public. In order to engage the general public, this parade began at the crowded area of Narayanganj Platform at the Kamalapur Railway Station. Then, the team moved towards Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and T.S.C, University of Dhaka, before reaching its last point at Shahbag.

This parade acted as a space to speak up through dance, play and music for these performers. "Not only do I feel more confident after this, but I also believe that this will encourage other women who live in the station to talk about their rights. They're not alone, we all face it," says Ratna.

A healthier workplace for women will also ensure economic benefits for the country. "I think Bangladesh has a great reputation in regards to fashion. We thought the fashion industry could use some criticism in a positive way," says Alexa Pollmann, founder of Peut-Porter. "Bangladesh has everything ranging from resources to production at its threshold. Why aren't more female workers encouraged to be more financially independent?"

By empowering women who are not in the spotlight, much like these garment workers and women living in the stations, we can help the fashion industry to a great extent. The organisers also wanted to bring a diverse group together which is why students and workers both performed in the event.



PHOTO: NAYEM SHAAN

18TH ASIAN ART BIENNALE OPENS

Five Bangladeshi and four foreign artists awarded

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Dhaka has become the hub of contemporary art thanks to the rendezvous of a few hundred local and foreign artists, curators, connoisseurs, critics and enthusiasts marking the 18th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh (AABB).

Beginning yesterday and to run till September 30 at the National Art Gallery, the Asian Art Biennale will display 583 artworks by 266 foreign and 199 Bangladeshi artists. The biennale has been organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Bangladeshi artists Atia Islam and Salma Zakia Bristy together with Kandan G from India bagged grand awards. Wu jun (China), Monther Jawabreh (Palestine), Trirat Sriburin (Thailand) and three Bangladeshi artists --Kamruzzaman Shadhin, Fakrul Islam Mazumder and Najmun Nahar Keya received the Honourable



Mention Awards. Recipients of grand and Honourable mention awardees received Tk 5 lakh and Tk3 lakh respectively along with crests. President Abdul Hamid inaugurated the grand art event as chief guest while cultural affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended the event as special guest. Professor Emeritus Tetsuya Noda and Thai Vice-Minister of Culture, graced the occasion as honourable guests. Internationally renowned Bangladeshi artist Shahabuddin Ahmed, also the chairman of jury board of the biennale, declared the award winners of AABB 2018. Secretary to the Ministry of Cultural

Affairs Nasir Uddin Ahmed presided over the programme.

"Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, one of the oldest international art biennales in Asia, is a space for cultural convergence," said President Abdul Hamid. "It projects Bangladesh and its art to the global scene."

The biennale also displays 69 artworks by master painters, performance art shows, seminars, art camps and more.

A five-member international jury consisting of renowned Bangladeshi artists Shahbuddin Ahmed and Abul Monsur, Professor Françoise Monnin from France, Krishna Setty from India and Blanca De La Torre from Spain selected the winning artworks. In addition, four observers- Artist Jogen Chowdhury from India, Professor Tetsuya Noda from Japan, Dr. Marek Bartelik from Poland, and Deborah Dyer Frizzell from the USA are attending the Biennale.

TV WATCH



Tele-fiction 'Comedy 420' will be broadcast on Boishakhi TV at 9:20 PM. The popular series features Amirul Haque Chowdhury, Mir Sabbir, Ahona, Alvi, Monira Mithu among others.

GOLD to ornate Saudi Arabia



The story of India's first Gold medal victory for the first time in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Happy to share, #Gold is the first ever Bollywood movie to release in the Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia, in cinemas from today!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
The recent initiatives to modernise the much conservative Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has awed us in many ways since the new establishment came into power. Akshay Kumar starrer *Gold* recently made history by becoming the first ever Bollywood film to be released in Saudi Arabia, and it is the second Indian film overall after Rajnikanth's social drama, *Kaala*. Akshay was excited to share this revelation on Twitter on Friday. *Gold* is a dramatic re-telling of India's unlikely triumph at the 1948 London Olympics.

Dhaka DocLab empowering the art of nonfiction

AL HAQ

The inaugural ceremony of Dhaka DocLab was held at the auditorium of the Liberation War Museum on Friday, the second annual event since their inception. Dhaka DocLab is a documentary co-production project market for South Asia, organized by Dhaka Independent Film Network, which comprises of a collective of independent Bangladeshi filmmakers. It is a one of a kind platform which engages itself through organising workshops, master classes and seminars, to help in the process of pitching and mentoring of the talented documentary filmmakers. This year's participants include talents from Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

Minister of Cultural Affairs, Asaduzzaman Noor MP, embraced the occasion as the chief guest. Some members from Dhaka DocLab who were in attendance included Bangladesh National Film Award winner Nasiruddin Yousuff, director Tareq Ahmed, along with trustee of Liberation War Museum Mofidul Haque, Indian director, editor and cinematographer



Director Salome Jashi from Georgia addressing the audience during the ceremony. PHOTO: NAYEM SHAAN

Nilotpal Majumdar, and many other international guests. The inaugural ceremony was followed by a screening of the documentary film *Distant Barking of Dogs*, directed by Simon Lereng Wilmont. During an interview with *The Daily Star*, renowned director Paul Pauwels from the European Documentary Network who will be

mentoring the projects said, "Though the documentary film making scene here is relatively in its early stages, it seems to be gaining momentum with time. And with such initiatives grooming the film makers of today, it will not be long until we see the prominence of the talents here, illuminating the international arenas."

The promising 6-day event has been categorised in different segments that will include mentoring of the participants' projects, film screenings, one-on-one meetings, pitching of the projects and more. Various renowned names from the local and international documentary film circuit are scheduled to attend during the occasion.

Remembering J R R Tolkein: A trip down Middle Earth

SHABABA IQBAL

On this day in 1973, J R R Tolkein passed away at the age of 81. On this occasion, I look back at *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, one of his most memorable creations.

In the case of this trilogy, you come for the fantasy adventure, but you stay for the powerful world building, the deep moral development of the characters, and the connection to the frightening reality of an all powerful weapon that can destroy the world.

Tolkien created a world unlike anything other authors have managed. It is internally

consistent, filled with fascinating creatures and intricate cultures, and he tells a great story. He did it all, with finesse and artistry. He developed languages for his different races and spent time on every tiny detail of the back story of the previous ages of this world. The characters exist inside of their own realities, and they invite you to enter their Middle Earth and live with them. It's a remarkable series of books. Many people, myself included, were exposed to the book at a young age and as the films retain the essence, style and feel of the books, they resonate well with the readers.

