

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Excerpts - Solo Exhibition by Alia Kamal
 Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
 Date: November 11 - 24
 Time: 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Group Painting Exhibition
 Title: Joloj 4 (Aquatic 4) - Streets of Dhaka
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
 Date: November 9 - 24
 Time: 3 pm - 9 pm (Mon to Sat)

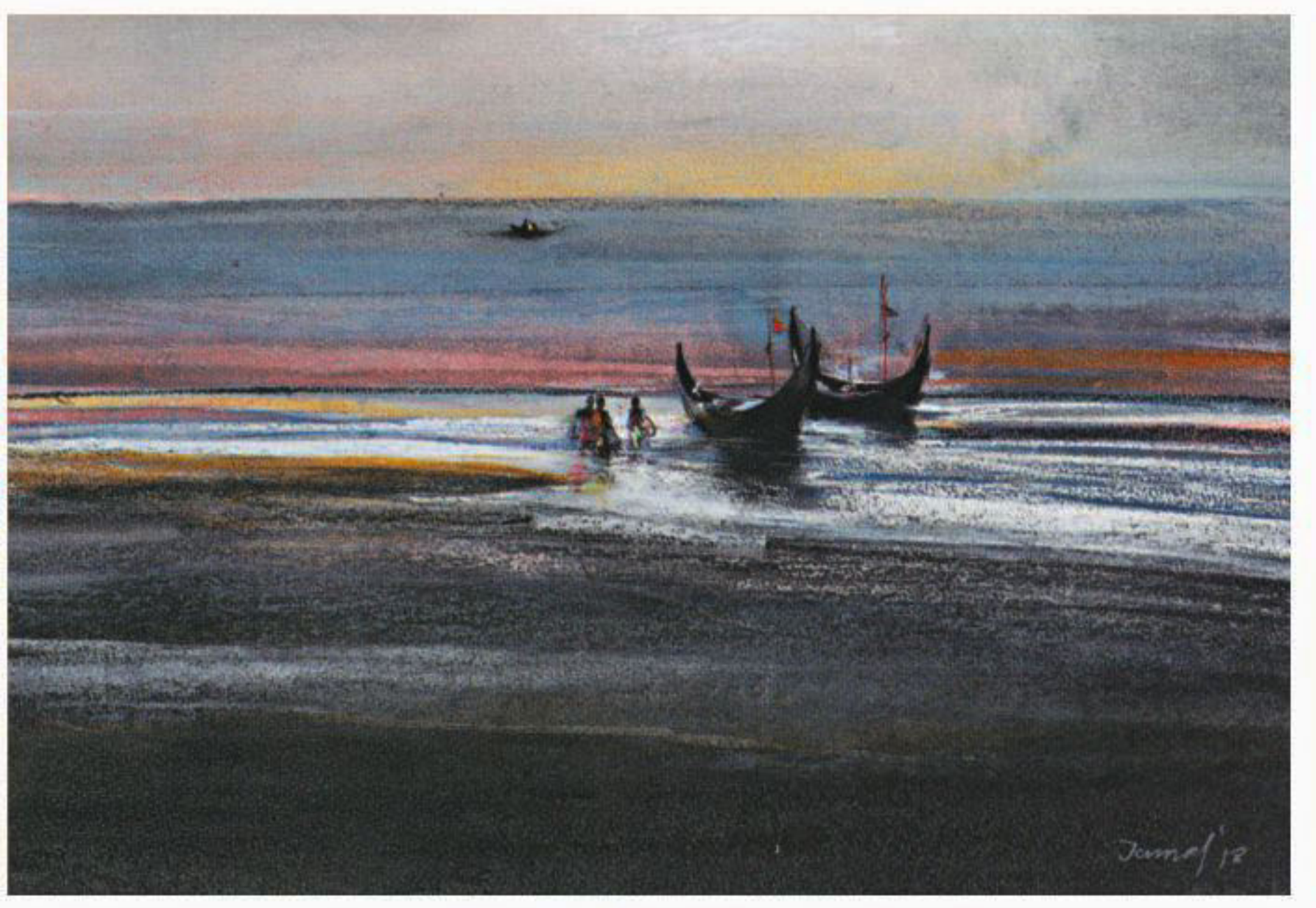
Theatre
 Play: Oh My Sweet Land
 Organisers: Goethe-Institut & BSA
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: Nov 12
 Time: 6pm

Title: Chronicles in Charcoal
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
 Date: November 11 - 24
 Time: 11 am - 7:30 pm

Art Exhibition
 Title: Inktober Bangladesh 2018
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: November 2-17
 Time: 3:00 pm - 8:30 pm



Waiting-2



Dawn



In search of freedom

TAPAN MAHMUD'S golden jubilee in the music industry

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL
 Tapan Mahmud, the very first Rabindra Sangeet artiste at Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his storied music career.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Incidentally, the auspicious day is also his birthday. He was born on this day in 1951 in Barishal. Tapan Mahmud has been a devoted artiste for 50 years and in this long journey, he also served his as a teacher at BAFA from 2009-2012. He is also the Founding President of Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (RSSS). He has a multitude of achievements throughout his lifetime. Some of them are - Rabindra Padak in 2016 and Channel i's Lifetime Achievement Award in the same year. "I have spent so many years singing, but even after 50 years, I don't feel overwhelmed," says Tapan Mahmud. "In fact, I feel blessed that I am still able to sing for the people." The singer has a commemorative live show on Channel i today at 7:45 am.

Portraits with live models is rather artistic

Jamal Ahmed on his solo show at Galleri Kaya

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 Every true artist is a great teacher, but every teacher is not a great artist. However, renowned artist Jamal Ahmed is an exception to that notion. Even after being a Professor at the Faculty of Fine Art of the University of Dhaka, Jamal Ahmed's artistic self is prominently alive and visible. The artist regards human beings as the most important aspect of nature. He enthusiastically depicts human figures, especially the female ones. "I paint whatever I find interesting to my eyes. Once I went to the USA and was struggling to figure out what to portray. Suddenly, a lonely and panicked pigeon sat beside my balcony, and I started painting it. After that, pigeons have become one of my favourite subjects," said Jamal Ahmed. The artist celebrated his 62nd birthday by having his 58th solo exhibition titled *Chronicles in Charcoal* at Galleri Kaya in Dhaka. The exhibition was inaugurated on November 10 and will run until November 24. Boat and rivers, pigeon with women, mother and child, portraits of Tagore and Nazrul, half-nude feminine grace, Bauls, white horse and white horse with denuded female are some of the striking visual beauty on display at the gallery. "I depicted



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

the displayed artworks following my own techniques. Painting is like poetry; innovative techniques appear when an artist is constantly at work," said the artist. "When I was still a student, I portrayed old Dhaka with oil. Suddenly, one of my friends called me to join an adda, and I went hastily with him, keeping the unfinished work leaned against an outer wall," said Jamal Ahmed. When he came back, he couldn't recognize the painting as it was drenched by heavy rain. At that point, the artist had found a technique of natural drench, from the one that left a soft feeling on his unfinished painting. Though charcoal is black in colour, Jamal Ahmed uses it in unique ways. He uses soft pastel colours along with thin acrylic dust layers as the background of his paintings. The acrylic and charcoal dust create amazing textures coupled with mystique aura on the surface of the canvas.

He compares expressing himself as an artist to a singer who sings from the heart. "Our hearts soften and a euphoric feeling sweeps across our body when we listen to a melodious song. People become emotional while listening to the beautiful melody by the mystic bards," he said, "There are also some other singers who cannot create any impression or appeal as they only sing with their voice, but not their hearts. The same is true for art. You can never create art as long as you don't entirely engage your soul to freely play with your feelings, imagination and colours." Jamal Ahmed also draws inspiration from the words of his mentor, Mohammad Kibria. "Kibria sir once told me that making portraits with models is much more artistic than depicting them with photograph. A craftsman's work is not regarded as fine art as they are devoid of artistic feelings," he said. As a person, Jamal Ahmed is witty and humorous. He often makes impromptu paintings with female models, and emphasizes the need for spontaneity as an important aspect of art. He exhibited his artworks both home and abroad, and received many awards. Currently, he is the President of Bangladesh Charushilpi Sangsad.



PHOTO: PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Discussion on the literary merit of screenplay at DLF

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY
 Dhaka Lit Fest's star-studded panel discussion titled *The Stage, The Screen and The Feature Film* at the lawn of Bangla Academy on Friday morning shed light on the literary value of a screenplay. Filmmaker Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, writer Mahubub Aziz, writer-journalist Altaf Shahnewaz and playwright Saymon Zakaria were the members of the panel, which was moderated by actor Bonna Mirza. Commenting on the screenplay for audio visuals platform, Amitabh Reza commented that since the experience of audiovisual has changed drastically, the screenplay and the entire form of production would have to be moulded accordingly. Screenplay for television or film, according to him, is not a literary piece, but an image-making blueprint. He also pointed out the economic crisis that leads the writer to take scripting as a profession. According to him, it halts the development of their skills.

To decipher why the screenplay for stage plays often hold literary value, Altaf Shahnewaz went back in history for the answer. "Since Rabindranath Tagore, DL Roy or Dinabandhu wrote screenplays for stage; it inevitably had influence from their literature almost as a byproduct of them." He emphasized on the artistic value of screenplay more than its literary value. Saymon Zakaria, in his argument, said that he finds literary value in screenplay. Giving examples of the impact of dialogues in a film, he said, "It really depends upon who is looking at it. As a playwright, I wrote scripts keeping its literary merit in mind." Mahubub Aziz differed by saying that it is not only the dialogues, but the story inside creates the image and consequent impact. If as an individual entity could have literary value then it would have sold like novels." The discussion did not end in a concrete thought, but it spurred enough food for thought for the audience to take away.

Alia Kamal's 'Excerpts' under way at Jatra Biroti

SHABABA IQBAL
 Painting is one field that has become a popular calling to many. While Charukola is throbbing with young students from different walks of life, some aspiring painters are taking private classes, while others are teaching themselves. Alia Kamal is one such painter who recognised her passion early on in life and has been working on improving ever since. Organised at Jatra Biroti, *Excerpts*, Alia's first solo exhibition, is a brilliant showcase of her oil paintings. Her works portray fragments of entire lives - intimate moments, perhaps in the mundane or perhaps in silent crises. "I try and paint from my distinct gaze of being a Bangladeshi woman struggling to find her identity in the chaos of Dhaka," says Alia. "My artistic philosophy aligns with the thoughts of artist Hannah Wilke who said that women should "universalise" the "personal" and make it the subject of their art." Alia dedicated herself to art while working at the BRAC Institute of Educational Development in 2012. Soon, she left her job to be a full-time artist. For Alia, it was a gamble that worked out. She recently spent about five months in Nepal teaching and practicing art, where she felt that her art-making became really organic. Before the trip, she felt that her hands were very restricted and she neither felt fully confident about her technique nor was she collected about her vision of her work. "My



PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZI

time in Nepal was very restorative and gave me some much-needed practice and perspective," she explains. "By the end of it, I was itching to get back into the studio and tackle some new challenges. Once I started working and the paintings grew, I felt finally ready to gather the courage and try for my solo exhibition." Although at first it was terrifying, Alia's friends and family really supported her and she has not looked back since.

Her works were previously featured at the Dhaka Arts Center, TedxDhaka, Longitude Latitude 6, Mad Koffee 2.0 and the Milkshake Collective. In the near future, Alia hopes to seek more training in drawing and painting in an atelier art studio. The opening reception of *Excerpts* was held on November 10, with a classical music performance of flute by Musarrat Jabeen Rahman. The exhibition will continue till November 24.

Kolkata International Film Festival takes off



SUBRATA ACHARYA, from Kolkata
 The 24th Kolkata International Film Festival was inaugurated on November 10 through a grand celebration at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indoor Stadium in Kolkata. Amongst an audience of nearly 26,000 people, the opening ceremony was graced by the presence of the Honourable Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee along with nearly a hundred of the biggest names in Bollywood and Tollywood including Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Kajol, Parineeti Chopra, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Dev, Soham, and international guests from 70 countries. Attending as special guest, Amitabh Bachchan gave a speech at the ceremony during which he recited a few lines from Rabindranath Tagore's poem *Amar Sonar Bangla Ami Tomay Bhalobashi*.