

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

**Live Theatre**  
 Title: 12 Angry Men - 13th Show  
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Experimental Theatre Hall  
 Date: November 18  
 Time: 7:30 pm - 9 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 Thurs);

**Art and Craft Exhibition**  
 Title: Native Artistry  
 Venue: Six Seasons Hotel, Gulshan 2  
 Date: November 30  
 Time: 10 am - 10 pm

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

**Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Bhangra Ghor  
 Venue: Drik Gallery  
 Date: November 16-18  
 Time: 6 pm - 9 pm  
 Details: www.facebook.com/cosmoconceptbd

# Unmasking the art of mask

## Group exhibition at Shilpakala



Zahangir Alom

The history and usage of masks -- for both ceremonial and practical purposes -- dates back to several millennia. The flamboyant presence of masks in many traditional festivals and rituals has a prehistoric origin. Mask making continues to be popular in our country, as it hangs on walls in homes to augment their artistic splendour.

A group exhibition titled *Mystery in Mask* is now on at Gallery 6 of the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), where 20 female artists are showcasing a stunning array of ceramic masks. The display, which is categorised on four themes -- Green Man Mask, Dual Existence, Three Faces and Zentangle -- is an aesthetic triumph.

Trimatra, in association with BSA, has organised the exhibition. It is an outcome of a year-long workshop in three phases, according to Fatema Akhter, the convener of Trimatra and the curator of the show.

"The Zentangle art pattern is non-representational, unplanned and delightfully stunning. We incorporated it in masks to express the special feelings that continuously work in our mind," she says.

"Three Faces represents the state of a woman in all her three stages of life while dual existence denotes the good and bad qualities of someone."

She adds that European artists protested the waning of forests wearing 'Green Man' masks. We, too, face the same in our country. Through displaying these masks, the artists are urging everyone to go green.

Tanjila Sumaia Siddiqe's Zentangle mask is a unique one. She delicately designed the vivacious mask with superb facial expression. Husnaara Shely and Mukti Bhowmik have more works to display at the show.

Shely's works are easily distinguishable, as she has attached various crafts materials with it. Among the senior artists, Akhtar Jahan Ivy's mask is evocative of lyrical designs and pure terracotta colour. Raisa Manija has showcased a theme-based work titled *Japito Jibon*. The other participating artists include Farzana Islam Milky, Farhana Afroz Bappy, Saida Sultana Rana, Afia Noor and Sunzida Meherin Sonia.

Renowned sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan, who is also participating as a guest artist at the event, inaugurated the show on November 9. The exhibition is open from 11 am to 8 pm daily until November 15.

Ceramic artists in Bangladesh face immense pressure while making their artworks, since ceramic needs to be burned in order to be moulded. If BSA sets up a specialized studio including a stove to do the required moulding, all artistes would be benefitted greatly.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: COURTESY

## From Kathak to Odissi

### Alka Das Pranti's journey in dance

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

At Shadhona's solo dance festival, *Ranga Utsav*, a young dancer left the audience awestruck with her graceful Odissi movements on November 10. One would be hard-pressed to speculate anything other than the notion that she had been practicing this particular craft for years. However, the speculation is only partially true.

Alka Das Pranti's journey with dance started when she was only six years old, when she was enrolled in Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) in 2003. Primarily a Kathak dancer then, she was under the mentorship of renowned dance exponent Shibli Mohammad for more than a decade after she completed her course. However, the arts had another calling for Pranti. "When I left for India to study chemical engineering, I had no idea where my art would take me. However, I felt like I could not express myself enough through Kathak," she says. While in Kolkata, the young dancer continued her practice in Kathak with Guru Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya. However, she also explored her inner self through attending workshops on several dance forms. "I found my true calling in Odissi through my mentor,

Guru Smt. Sharmila Biswas. When I first got to know about Odissi Vision and Movement (OVM) last year, I contacted her immediately."

Odissi is one of the oldest surviving dance forms in the sub-continent based on archaeological evidence. Originating from the Indian state of Odisha, it is a form of illustrative anecdote of olden stories, poems, and religious scriptures. Alka Das Pranti effortlessly integrates the extremely complex rhythmic sequences of this form with her graceful expressions, giving her prowess a distinct kinetic style.

"I want to continue learning Odissi for the foreseeable future," says Pranti. "I have a long way to go, but since I have found my true calling in this dance form, I am determined." The young prodigy has also piqued an interest about researching on performance arts. A former assistant dance teacher at BAFA, Pranti wants to spread the love and knowledge of dance throughout her motherland, all while holding its flag high above her head. "My dream is to represent my country in front of a global audience." Blessed with an abundance of natural talent, she most likely will.

## MARVEL COMICS LEGEND

# STAN LEE

### passes away



PHOTO: REUTERS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Stan Lee, the charismatic Marvel Comics leader who helped usher in a new era of superhero storytelling -- and saw his creations become a giant influence in the movie business -- passed away at the age of 95.

The visionary behind Marvel Comics lived a life as incredible as the characters he created. Spider-Man debuted in the comic book universe in 1962, and became Lee's most successful creation. Years later in 2002, the first Spider-Man film was released and became a blockbuster hit. He also imagined the Hulk, Doctor Strange, the Fantastic Four, Daredevil, Black Panther, the X-Men, Ant-Man, Iron-Man and Thor -- who were flawed people with extraordinary powers.

Born as Stanley Martin Lieber, the native New Yorker had humble beginnings, but his love for comic books took him much further than he had ever dreamed. On his own and through his work with frequent artist-writer collaborators Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko and others, Lee catapulted Marvel from a small venture into the world's most well-known publisher of comic books and, later, a multimedia giant.

He also earned a star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame. As Lee's creations became larger than life on the silver screen, he also kept up an enthusiastic pace making appearances at events like Comic Con in San Diego. He also reportedly completed shooting for his cameo in the fourth Avengers film, which is set to release in May 2019.

Though his life seemed charmed, it was not without adversity. In his 80s, Lee was involved in various lawsuits against Marvel and Disney over the span of several years. In September 2012, he had a surgery for a pacemaker and joked that he was trying to become more like his Iron-Man character, Tony Stark.

The Stan Lee Foundation, a non-profit initiative that seeks to provide access to literacy, education and the arts throughout the USA, was also a passion project for Lee, who seemed to believe that with great power, comes great responsibility. He will be remembered as a legendary innovator with an uncanny ability to capture the imagination.

TV WATCH

## JEFFREY ARCHER

### on The Naveed Mahbub Show

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Politician turned best-selling author Jeffrey Archer will be a special guest on The Naveed Mahbub

Show. The episode will air in two parts on ATN Bangla. The first part will be aired in Bangladesh tonight at 11 pm while the second part will be televised on November 21 at 11 pm.



On the occasion of legendary writer Humayun Ahmed's 70th birthday, 'Humayun Mela' was hosted at the Channel i premises yesterday. The event was sponsored by Anwar Cement.

SOURCE: CHANNEL I