

<p>WHAT'S ON</p>	<p>Theatre Title: An Inspector Calls Venue: Mohila Samity Auditorium, Baily Road Date: December 11 – 15 Time: 3 pm (December 14 & 15); 7 pm (December 11 – 15)</p>	<p>BRILLIANT The 4th New Crafts International Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Academic Seminar Organisers: FFA, DU, Tsinghua University, Shanghai Art & Design Academy, BSA & Bengal Foundation Venue: National Art Gallery # 2 & 3, BSA Date: Dec 8-15; Time: 10 am – 8 pm</p>	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Winning With Art Venue: Bay's Galleria, Gulshan 1 Date: Dec 1 – Dec 31 Time: 10 am – 6 pm</p>	<p>Photography Exhibition Title: American Landscape - A Photography Exhibition by Shibly Shiraj Venue: EMK Center Date: December 8 – December 20 Time: 9:30 am – 8 pm</p>	<p>Dance Performance Title: Dohon Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi Date: December 13 Time: 7 pm</p>
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Prominent artistes from Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra perform at the event.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Star Melodies showcases spirited songs of freedom

ZAHANGIR ALOM

During the Liberation War of 1971, the *konthojodda*, who were the artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, a clandestine radio station during the resistance, kept up the morale of the freedom fighters with their spirited performance of patriotic songs, poems and satirical plays. The members of Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha, a cultural troupe, used to travel to refugee camps and different areas in Mukta Anchal to perform patriotic songs, arrange puppet shows and stage dramas to inspire the freedom fighters and people with the spirit of war.

This is how the artistes fought for the country, lending their voices to powerful lyrics and timeless compositions while turning their performance into lethal weapons of freedom. These legendary songs have remained in the hearts of generations of Bangladeshis since their creation in 1971, and will continue to inspire the generations to come.

To revisit the glorious treasure-trove of music, Star Melodies, an initiative of *The Daily Star* promoting Bangla music, hosted a special musical programme yesterday to pay tribute to these patriots – lyricists, composers, musicians, artistes and technicians who stirred the masses with their ephemeral music ahead of our 47th Victory Day celebrations.

The event, held at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct of The Daily Star Centre, featured solo performances of songs by renowned singers Rafiqul Alam, Dalia Nausheen and Timir Nandi. Md Monowar Hossain Khan, Md Abu Nawsher, Sheela Bhadra, Shukti Chowdhury and Manjushree Niyogee performed choral songs including *Bijoy Nishan Urchhey Oi*, *Nongor Tolo Tolo* and *Purba Digantey Surja Uthechhe*.

Timir Nandi began the musical evening, presenting the songs *Rokto Diye Naam Likhechhi*, *Shono Ekti Mujiborer Theke*, *Shadhin Shadhin Dike Dike* and more. Rafiqul Alam's repertoire included *Jaye Jodi Jaak Pran*, *Jaago Jaago Pradip Nibhaye* and *Salam Salam Hajar Salam* while

Dalia Nausheen performed *Tara E Desh-er Sabuj Dhaner*, *Tora Shob Joyoddhoni Kor*, *Haire Kishan* and more.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of *The Daily Star*, thanked everyone for attending the programme and remembered the contributions of artistes in the Liberation War. "As a freedom fighter myself, I was one of the fortunate ones at the time of our Liberation War who experienced the sheer moving power of music. The patriotic songs at the time awakened a very powerful national conscience, which played a direct role in uniting the nation," he said.

The artistes shared their wartime stories, and their memories of participating in the Liberation War movement amidst their performances. Prominent lyricist Ferdous Hasan Bhuiya also spoke at the event.

Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, *The Daily Star*, hosted the programme elaborating on the relevance of holding the programme in the month of victory.

JONMOBHUMI THE BIRTH LAND

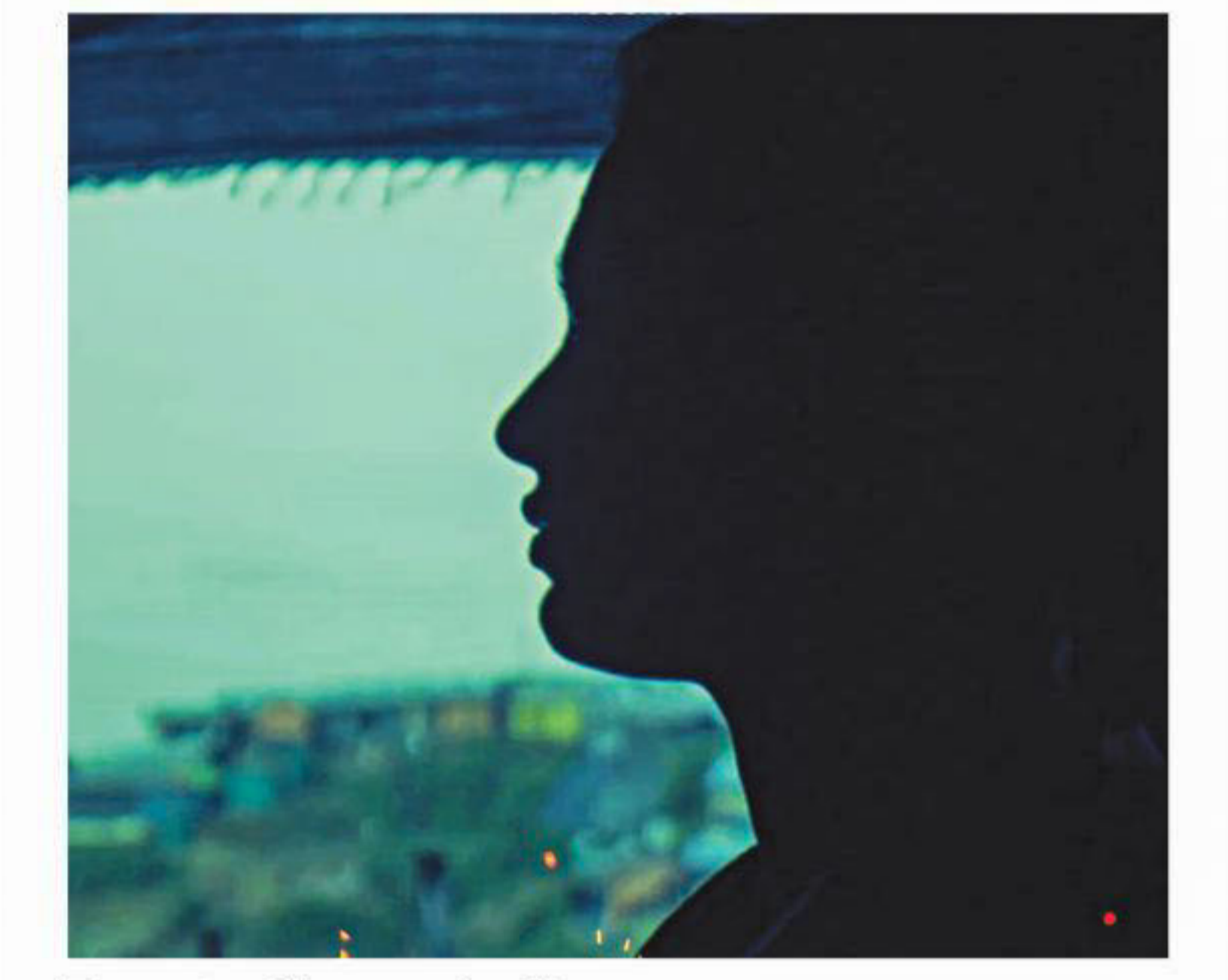
to be released on December 14

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Writer and filmmaker Proshoon Rahman is set to release his new film, *Jonmobhumi - The Birth Land*, on December 14, two days before the victory day of Bangladesh. The film will primarily be released only at multiplex theaters in the capital.

Since August 25, 2017, over 8 lakh Rohingya refugees took shelter in Bangladesh. Over 65 thousand of them were pregnant women. The film encompasses the struggles of these people, their identity crisis, the conflict in the camps and their desire to return to their birth land. The central character of the story is a pregnant Rohingya woman, portrayed by debutant Sayra Akhter Jahan, opposite popular actor Rawnak Hasan.

"While Sophia, the robot, receives citizenship from various coun-



The poster of the upcoming film.

tries, thousands of unidentified Sophias live a life of uncertainty in the refugee camps," says Proshoon Rahman. "I wanted to portray a humane story for the masses. The unborn child is used as a metaphor for the future of the ill-fated people in the film. A film has the power to document history, and I urge the audience to be a part of it."

A special screening of the film was held at Bengal Studio on September 24 in the presence of the Minister of Information of Bangladesh, Hasanul Haq Inu and many foreign diplomats. Another special screening will be held on December 15. The film has already received invitations for participation in various international film festivals including the Dhaka International Film Festival. It is the second feature by Proshoon Rahman. *Jonmobhumi - The Birth Land* is produced by Bengal Multimedia.

Patrick Brown's 'EXODUS' at AFD

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Internationally acclaimed photographer Patrick Brown's solo photography exhibition titled, *EXODUS*, began at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) on December 10. UNICEF Bangladesh and AFD are jointly organising the exhibition.

UNICEF Bangladesh Goodwill

Rohingya people.

More than a year ago, a startled international community watched a dramatic humanitarian crisis unfold on the north-eastern edge of the Bay of Bengal. In a matter of weeks, hundreds of thousands of desperate and terrorised people — 60 percent of whom were children — poured across the border from Myanmar into



PHOTO: COURTESY

Ambassador and cricket icon, Shakib Al Hasan, UNICEF Bangladesh representative, Edouard Beigbeder and French Ambassador to Bangladesh, Marie-Annick Bourdin jointly inaugurated the exhibition.

Edouard Beigbeder said, "This exhibition not only portrays the hopelessness and despair of a people in peril, but it also captures their unmatched ability to bounce back in life with little support to ensure fulfillment of their basic needs."

Shakib Al Hasan added, "We should come forward to solve the problem soon."

The exhibition has a collection of photographs snapped by Patrick Brown during the last one year, portraying the initial influx, the resilience of the Rohingyas, the host community, emergency mitigation measures and international support to the

Bangladesh, bringing with them accounts of the unspeakable violence and brutality that had forced them to flee. UNICEF has been on the ground in southern Bangladesh since the onset of the crisis as part of a coalition of national and international agencies.

Patrick Brown is the recipient of numerous international awards including the 3P Photographer Award, World Press Photo Award, Picture of The Year Award and New York Photographic Book Award, to name a few. His works have graced the pages of prestigious publications such as *The New Yorker*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *Vanity Fair*, *National Geographic* and *International Herald Tribune*.

The exhibition, open from Mondays to Thursdays from 3pm to 9pm, and on Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 12 noon and 5pm to 8pm, will conclude on December 22.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Human Rights Short Film Festival 2018

Dhaka University Film Society (DUFS), in association with The United Nations in Bangladesh, organised a two-day long Human Rights Short Film Festival that concluded recently. The event was organised, with support from the Office of the

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the German government, at Bangladesh Shishu Academy.

Internationally acclaimed filmmaker, Mostafa Sarwar Farooki, representative of

Bangladesh Human Rights Forum, Sanjeeb Drong, filmmaker Aung Rakhine and lifetime member of DUFS, Rashedul Hafiz, were present at the closing ceremony.

Source: **Dhaka University Film Society**

Renaissance teams up with Duronto for new music video



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Having started their journey in 1985, Renaissance is one of the most popular acts in Bangladesh. The pioneering band has recently teamed up with Duronto Television to present an all-new music video of their classic song, *Aj Ei Shishu*. Talented and adorable child artistes have worked alongside Renaissance in the video, which will air on December 16.

PHOTO: COURTESY