

WHAT'S ON 	Award Winners' Art Exhibition Organiser: FFA, DU Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU Date: Dec 23-29 Time: 11-8pm	Winter Festival Title: Him Utsab Venue: Jahangirnagar University Date: January 17-January 19 Time: 10 am	Group Art Exhibition Title: Winning With Art Venue: Bay's Galleria, Gulshan 1 Date: Dec 1 - Dec 31 Time: 10 am - 6 pm	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	Musical Evening Title: Cha Chakra in Poush Venue: Café Shanchayita, Banani Date: December 22 Time: 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm Contact: +880 1672-704823, +880 1824-850938
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PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Abul Khair Litu honoured in Kolkata

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladeshi industrialist and entrepreneur Abul Khair Litu, who is known for his involvement in the promotion of Bangladesh's culture, art, music, theatre and literature, was recently honoured with the award, 'Jibon Kriti Samman Shadok', during the Swara Samrat Festival 2018, organised at the Nazrul Mancha auditorium in the city of Kolkata.

He received the award from Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty and renowned painter Jogen Chowdhury. Litu's interest in the arts and culture of Bangladesh was sparked off by his uncle - Professor Abdur Razzaque, an eminent academic and social scientist. Professor Razzaque introduced Litu to some of Bangladesh's most well-known artists, including Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. Litu's interaction with the artists whom he met through his uncle soon inspired him to start his own art collection. As part of his endeavour to promote and showcase Bangladeshi art on a larger platform, Litu set up the Bengal Foundation in 1986, of which he is still the chairperson. Since its inception, the Bengal Foundation has promoted a variety of visual and performing arts and crafts, with regular local, regional and international events. One of the most popular events organised by the Bengal Foundation is the Bengal Classical Music Festival. Litu was recognised at the programme not just as a leading industrialist, but also for his lifelong commitment to promote Bangladeshi art and culture through different measures.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Hajaro Konthe Deshgaan' commemorates 47th Victory Day



PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

Chhayanaut Sangeet Bidyayatan, in association with University of Dhaka, organised a cultural programme titled, *Hajaro Konthe Deshgaan* to mark Bangladesh's 47th Victory Day at central playground, DU, where a thousand voices harmonised to the national anthem. The programme commenced at the exact hour when the Pakistani army had surrendered at the Racecourse Field in 1971.

The programme began with the national flag being hoisted. It was adorned with solo and group songs, group dances and recitations. Noted singer Dalia Nawshin performed Kazi Nazrul Islam's song, *Eki Oporup Rupe Ma Tomay* and young singer Shemonty Monjari sang Atul Prasad Sen's song, *Sabare Basre Bhalo*. Teachers and students of Chhayanaut performed an array of patriotic numbers which included songs by Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Sukanta Bhattacharya, Mira Deb Barman, Abdul Karim and Abdul Latif. The musical performances were accompanied by beautifully choreographed group dances. Recitation artiste Abdus Sobur Khan recited a poem by Tariq Sujat. The programme concluded exactly at 4:31 pm.

Café Mango and Gallery organises 'King Kortobbyo'



PHOTO: COURTESY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Café Mango and Gallery at Dhanmondi is hosting a month long group art exhibition titled, *King Kortobbyo*. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition was held on November 24.

The exhibition displays collective artworks by Azizee Fawmi Khan, Rakib Anwar, Khairul Alam, Al Nasir, Jawad Hossain, Pijush Talukder and Mehedi Hasan. The opening ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including eminent artists Monirul Islam, Abul Barq Alvi, Dr Rashid Amin, Assistant Professor, Department of Fine Arts & Graphics, Jagannath University, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Director at Bangladesh Brand Forum, Wakilur Rahman of Kala Kendra art gallery and Ashraf Kaiser, Managing Director of Benchmark Limited. Salauddin Ahmed, proprietor of Café Mango and Gallery expressed his intention of opening up the cafeteria space to host more exhibitions in the future, giving opportunities to young creative minds to showcase their works.

The idea behind *King Kortobbyo* is to use the cafeteria space to blend art into conversation, which is why the subjects of the works addresses human life, inner

thoughts and expressions, emotions and many contemporary issues of society. *King Kortobbyo* aims to satirise the absolutist ideas of being right or wrong, reasoning that even the absolute right will eventually feel like the absolute wrong by virtue of its self-absorbed authoritarian nature. The artworks present a juxtaposition of utopian and dystopian state of minds to acknowledging the coexistence of good and evil within everyone. The concept for the exhibition is unconventional in the sense that every member of the group had inputs in each other's works and the artworks on each wall are intended to be viewed collectively as one work. Most of the participants come from a professional background in advertising and media, with experience in art direction, visualisation, audio visual, cinematography and copywriting. The artworks show a heavy influence of commercial art as well as elements of pop art and shock art through the use of vibrant colours and texts.

King Kortobbyo intends to stick to its unconventional approach in exhibition and keep adding new artworks throughout its run. The exhibition will be open to all, from 12 noon to 10 pm every day until December 21 at Café Mango and Gallery.

Bangla Utshab in the offing in Kolkata

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

With the theme, *Dui Bangla: Seemana Bhule, Ek Sur-e*, a three-day (January 4-6, 2019) Bangla Utshab is in the offing. Bangladeshi and Kolkata-based renowned and promising singers together with popular bands will be performing at the festival.

Melody is the core of uniting Bengali people of the two countries - Bangladesh and India. From *Panchakobi'r Gaan* (songs of five great poets) to contemporary band Chirkutt or Chandrabindu - all are performing at the festival held at Nazrul Mancha in Kolkata, India. Bengal Foundation, Bandhan Bank, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) and Nothing Beyond Cinema are jointly organising the festival.

34 prominent and promising singers coupled with popular bands of the two countries will express their melodic excellence through Bangla music.

The organisers will honour Arati Mukherjee and Sabina Yasmin with Jibon Kriti Samman (Lifetime Achievement Awards) at the event.

Abul Khair, Chairman, Bengal Foundation; Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, former president, BCC&I and MD and CEO Bandhan Bank; Arindam Sheel, Chairman, Media, Music and Film Forum, BCC&I and Chairman and MD Nothing Beyond Cinema and Shubhadeep Ghosh, Director General, BCC&I are the persons behind organising the festival.

A press conference was held in this regard at the lounge of the BCC&I, Kolkata on December 12. Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, Pandit Bickram Ghosh, renowned singers -- Prabuddha Raha, Jayati Chakrabarty, Shubhamita Banerjee and Iman Chakrabarty



PHOTO: COURTESY

were present at the press meet. Director General of Bengal Foundation Luva Nahid Choudhury with the Director of the organisation Zeenat Chowdhury, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Arindam Sheel and Shubhadeep Ghosh were present among others on behalf of the organisers.

Both Bangladeshi and Indian artistes and bands will perform Pancho Kabi'r gaan, Raga-based classic, Taalbadya, Adhunik Bangla songs, folk songs, film songs, Bangla bands and dance at the festival. Bulbul Islam, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Lopamudra Mitra, Prabuddha Raha, Fahmida Nabi, Bappa Mazumder, Shubhamita Banerjee, Nachiketa Chakrabarty, Anupam Roy, Iffat Ara Dewan,

Khairul Anam Shakil, Indrani Sen, Aditi Mohsin, Jayati Chakrabarty, Chandana Majumdar, Gautam Das Baul, Chirkutt, Chandrabindu, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Shama Rahman, Durnibar Saha, Samina Chowdhury, Andrew Kishore, Iman Chakrabarty and Rupankar Bagchi will perform songs.

Sharmila Banerjee and Sampradaye and Rayebeshe Bratachari Sangha will showcase dances. Pandit Bickram Ghosh, Gopal Barman, Satyajit Mukherjee, Md Moniruzzaman, Dasharath Das will play Talbadya at the event. Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty will wrap up the festival with performing Raga-based Bangla songs.



The 14th iteration of 'Channel i Bijoy Mela' was arranged at the Channel i premises yesterday to commemorate Bangladesh's 47th victory day. The event began at 11:05 am, in the presence of renowned personalities including Faridur Reza Sagar, Mamunur Rashid, Ataur Rahman, Azad Rahman and others.

PHOTO: COURTESY

