

<p><b>WHAT'S ON</b></p>	<p><b>Award Winners' Art Exhibition</b> Organiser: FFA, DU Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU Date: Dec 23-29 Time: 11 am - 8 pm</p>	<p><b>Winter Festival</b> Title: Him Utsab Venue: Jahangirnagar University Date: January 17 - January 19 Time: 10 am</p>	<p><b>Group Art Exhibition</b> Title: Winning With Art Venue: Bay's Galleria, Gulshan 1 Date: Dec 1 - Dec 31 Time: 10 am - 6 pm</p>	<p><b>Photography Exhibition</b> Title: American Landscape - A Photography Exhibition by Shibly Shiraj Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi Date: December 8 - December 20 Time: 10 am - 8 pm</p>	<p><b>Musical Evening</b> Title: Cha Chakra in Poush Venue: Cafe Shanchayita, Banani Date: December 22 Time: 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm Contact: +880 1672-704823, +880 1824-850938</p>
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# "I started directing only after being an active actor for many years"

— Mahfuz Ahmed

PHOTO: STAR

Seasoned actor Mahfuz Ahmed first came into prominence with his versatile roles in television as well as cinema. He further went on to try his hand at direction and win the National Film Award. Mahfuz discusses his years of working as an active actor, his career choices and more.

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
You have featured in the tele-fiction *Shaare Tin Khaana Chithi*. How was the experience?  
Working on *Shaare Tin Khaana Chithi* was creatively satisfying. We had a great time during the making of the tele-fiction. I was privileged to have Shomi Kaiser as my co-actor in this project. I am still receiving phone calls from people about my work in *Shaare Tin Khaana Chithi*. I am delighted to see that it was well received by the viewers.

Between acting and directing, which one are you more confident about?  
I started directing only after being an active actor for many years. I did not step into the field of directing hastily. I wanted to be trained as a director. It is hard to choose between acting and directing. I believe that the people who have seen my work should be the judge of what I do best.  
Many stars are now showing an interest in politics. Would you like to comment on that?  
Recently, Shomi Kaiser and I visited Tungipara, and we came across the election

campaigns there. I am not really into politics, but I have an immense amount of respect for our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Her involvement in the promotion of the arts and culture of Bangladesh is admirable.  
What are your future hopes, with regards to your career?  
I am always thinking of new ways to entertain my audience, whether it be through acting or directing. I have set up my own production house too, and we are planning some exciting releases starting from next year.

# 'BIJOY UTSHAB 2018' concludes at Liberation War Museum

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

To celebrate our victory day, a festival titled, *Bijoy Utshab 2018*, was organised at the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka from December 10 to 16. The event aimed to bridge the gap between humanity and the history of liberation, and thus, conveyed the motto "From Human Rights Day to Victory Day."  
The closing day of the festival started with the hoisting of the national flag at 10 am, followed by the national anthem. Soon after, the main event began at the auditorium. The Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children gave a nice start to the cultural session with their group dance and left the stage after a poetry recitation and a chorus song.  
Next, Moitree Sishu Dol entertained the audience with their poem recitation under the direction of Tamanna Sarwar Nipa. After the recitation, Boddhobhumir Shontaan

Dol, the third generation family members of liberation martyrs, took over and reincarnated the spirit of patriotism with melodies such as *Amader Potaka Amader Maan* and *O Amar Desh, O Amar Bangladesh*.  
Subsequently, Kolpo Rekha enlightened the spectators with Kazi Dinar Sultana Binte's poem, *Shadhinotar Golpo*, performed under the direction and guidance of Mir Barkat and Tamanna Tithi.  
The Khelaghor group then engrossed the audience with the song, *Shoto Shohid Er Rokto Diye*, along with a poem recitation.  
Finally, the cultural programme came to an end with performances from Nriyita Jon and Badda Alatanunisa School and College. The programme co-coordinator Rafiqul Islam concluded the session with a vote of thanks for all the performers. A *jatra pala* session titled, *Ganga Theke Birigonga*, was also organised as a part of the festival.



PHOTO: FARZANA AKHTAR



PHOTO: STAR

# AREFIN SHUVOO to star in 'Mission Extreme'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Director Sunny Sanwar is set to make the action thriller titled, *Mission Extreme*, under the banner of Cop Creation. The film will star Arefin Shuvoo in the role of a brave cop.  
The film is inspired by the stories of a few real missions, led by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police. After *Dhaka Attack*, this is the second time a movie about the special police force is being made in the country. Sunny Sanwar was the director of *Dhaka Attack* as well.  
He is a senior member of the special police force. So, he has based the script on his personal experiences and real-life situations. *Mission Extreme* is produced by Faisal Ahmed, who was the main Assistant Director of *Dhaka Attack*. The shooting of the film is scheduled to start in March 2019.

# Raising a voice against sexual harassment through dance



AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

The many incidents of sexual harassment and discrimination were depicted through a dance performance titled, *Dohon - Burning*, at EMK Center recently. Choreographed by Tahnun Ahmedy, the performance featured five young dancers, Anandita Khan, Bristi Bepari, Hritisha Akta, Tasmia Tabassum Protity and Suraiya Islam Ria.  
A rope-like white cloth with blood stains surrounded the dancers in the beginning of the performance, indicating how women are shackled by the chains of patriarchy in their everyday lives. With a mixture of dance forms including Kathak, Bharatanatyam, folk and contemporary, the girls told their own stories.  
The platform gave these women an opportunity to take a stand against harassment, discrimination and patriarchy, with their voices played along with the music in the background, which allowed for an emotional atmosphere.  
"The dancers were very expressive on stage," said Ahmedy. "I am very happy with their performance. They only rehearsed for nine days. They pulled it off within a very short time."

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Shibly Shiraj's 'American Landscape' at EMK Center

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A solo photography exhibition of Shibly Shiraj titled, *American Landscape*, hosted by Edward M Kennedy (EMK) Center for Public Service and the Arts, kicked off in the capital on December 8.  
Chairman of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) Amanullah Khan inaugurated the exhibition, where eminent academician and former University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Professor Nazrul Islam Khan was present as the chief guest.  
Shibly Shiraj captured a wide range of images on natural terrains of the United States of America which include glimpses of mountains, stretching fields, vast prairies, windswept valleys, canyons, lakes, barren deserts and more. Shibly, primarily an avid traveller, sees photography as one of his many hobbies. He hopes that youngsters who are planning to visit the USA, will gain from the exhibition a preview of what they will experience when they arrive in the country.  
Starting his career as an entrepreneur, Shibly lived in the USA for 25 years where he developed a passion for photography while he travelled to places and started taking photos depict-



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ing panoramic landscapes, along with people, culture and abstracts.  
Moving back to Bangladesh recently, he has opened a studio at the city's Banani to pursue his talent in professional photography. He is a member of Northern Virginia Professional Photographers Association (NVPPA) and has attained the prestigious 'Master Photographer' award multiple times.  
The exhibition which features 43 mesmerising photographs will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm every day till December 20.