

<p>Award Winners' Art Exhibition Organiser: FFA, DU Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU Date: December 23 - 29 Time: 11 am - 8 pm</p>	<p>Winter Festival Title: Him Utshab Venue: Jahangirnagar University Date: January 17 - 19 Time: 10 am</p>	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Winning With Art Venue: Bay's Galleria, Gulshan 1 Date: December 1 - 31 Time: 10 am - 6 pm</p>	<p>Reunion Title: 70 years of Charukala and Zainul Mela Venue: Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka Date: December 25 - 29 Time: 9 am - 8 pm</p>	<p>Bulbul Chowdhury Birth Centenary Organisers: BSA & BNS Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Yearlong Celebration opens in Jan</p>
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Pori Moni



Bubly



Jaya Ahsan



Shakib Khan



Siam Ahmed

2018 HIGHLIGHT REEL

The best in this year's silver screen

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

There was a time when hundreds of films were released in a year, and going to cinema halls to watch films was a tradition in urban and even rural areas. As times changed and people had easier access to entertainment from the comfort of their own homes, the trend started to fall off. However, that does not take away from the fact that cinema is still one of the most powerful mediums of art today. As the film industry continues gaining back its former glory, let us have a look at some of the most notable films and actors of 2018.

This year, 56 films were released, as

opposed to last year's 63. Despite the decrease in numbers, many films made their way into the hearts of the audience.

Poram 2 brought forth the now popular pair of Siam Ahmed and Puja Cherry. This was the dawn of a new era, in the form of two future superstars of the industry. Siam Ahmed also tied the knot with his long-time lover, Abantee this year.

Debi was arguably the most talked about films of the year, and it solidified the industry's queen, Jaya Ahsan, as a legitimate producer. The marketing team of *Debi* left no stone unturned while advertising the movie, which gave us some memorable and innovative plugs. The film itself was subject to widespread critical acclaim, and is a stellar adapta-

tion of Humayun Ahmed's novel of the same name. The film, directed by Anam Biswas included a stellar cast of Jaya Ahsan, Chanchal Chowdhury, Animesh Aich, Sabnam Faria and Iresh Zaker.

Even though Ghias Uddin Selim's *Swapnajaal* failed to live up to the hype, Pori Moni's performance was outstanding in the film.

Dohon, directed by Raihan Rafi, put an end to all discussions about Siam Ahmed's skills as an actor. The film still has a strong presence in theatres today.

Shakib Khan, the King of Dhaliwood, made his presence felt with films including *Captain Khan*, *Super Hero*, *Chittainga Pola*, *Noakhaila Maiya* and many others. Bubly has also done pretty well opposite Shakib Khan.

Zakia Bari Mamo's shift from television to cinema was very well received by fans, as both her endeavours, *Alta Banu* and *Dohon* were critically acclaimed.

Three joint ventures were released: *Swapnajaal*, *Noorjahan* and *Tui Shudhu Amar*.

Even though Tauquir Ahmed's *Haldaa* was released last year, it made it into the fold this year as it received a multitude of international awards. At the SAARC film festival alone, it bagged four awards. Meanwhile, anthology film *Iti, Tomari Dhaka* was displayed at the Busan Film Festival in Korea.

The rise of VOD platforms and web series was accentuated by the fact that stars such as Pori Moni and Poppy used the medium to deliver some unconventional work.

2018 was also a year of returns. Minister of Cultural Affairs Asaduzzaman Noor marked his comeback to cinema after 11 years with his upcoming film, *Gangchil*. Heartthrob Purnima also made her return after 5 years with the same film, and another upcoming project named *Jam*. Aupee Karim returned after 13 years with the joint venture film *Debris of Desire*. Anju Ghosh, well known for her role in *Beder Meye Jochona*, came back to the country after 20 years for shooting *Madhur Canteen*, directed by Saidur Rahman Said.

One of the biggest losses for the film industry this year was the demise of iconic director Amjad Hossain. Two stalwarts of the industry, Farooque and Soheli Rana are contesting at the General Elections this year.



Birthday felicitations to SHILPACHARYA ZAINUL ABEDIN

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Today marks the 104th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, the founding father of Bangladeshi art and art education.

Born in Mymensingh, Abedin grew up in the serene landscape by the river Brahmaputra. In 1933, he enrolled at Calcutta Government Art School, and later taught at the institute. He was an influential member of the Calcutta Group of progressive artists.

Abedin was involved in the Liberation War movement. He was in the forefront of the cultural movement to re-establish the Bengali identity. In 1975, he set up a folk museum at Sonargaon, and a permanent gallery in Mymensingh known as the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala.

A celebrated figure for his leadership qualities in organising artists and art movements, Abedin, who passed away in 1976 in Dhaka, was the founding principal of the Government Institute of Arts and Crafts (now Faculty of Fine Art) in 1948 at University of Dhaka (DU). This institute trained and nurtured an entire generation of artists whose works reflected the changing times. Patua Qamrul Hassan, Shilpaguru Safiuddin Ahmed, Shafiqul Amin, Anwarul Haq were contemporaries of Zainul Abedin. This was the generation that depicted the changing social reality in their art.

Abedin, who became well-known through his Famine Series Paintings of 1943, made his own ink by burning charcoal, using it on cheap ordinary packing paper, he depicted the starving people. In his sketches, the great famine of Bengal

showed its sinister face through the skeletal figures of people. Abedin depicted this inhuman story with human emotions. These sketches helped him find his way in a realistic approach that focused on human sufferings, struggles and protests. *The Rebel Crow* marks a high point of that style.

"Abedin Sir's contribution to art and education through establishing Dhaka Art College are immense. I have many fond



Zainul Abedin's painting, '1971'.

memories with him. Once, he went to my home district in Chandpur where we painted together on a boat around the confluence of the rivers -- Meghna, Padma and Dakatia," recalls internationally acclaimed artist Monirul Islam, who with Susan Collins (UK) is set to receive Zainul Sammanona this morning, conferred by Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), DU. The DU Vice Chancellor Professor Md

Akhtaruzzaman will hand over awards to the recipients.

This year, FFA's 70th anniversary programme has been merged with the annual arrangement of Zainul Utshab that FFA has been organising since 2009. An exhibition featuring award-winning works at the annual exhibitions by the students of all the departments of FFA ends today. The best student will also receive Zainul Gold Medal at the programme.

"We must go down memory lane to have a close look at our respective artistic efforts and contributions to judge what Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin did single-handedly for fine art, art education, and overall culture of this part of the world," said Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean of FFA, DU. "We have to think of art education and culture with a sacrificing mind beyond mere personal interests and pursuits."

Hazoorilal
BY SANDEEP NARANG
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