

WHAT'S ON

Musical Ensemble
 Title: Mala
 Venue: Jatra Biroti
 Date: January 4
 Time: 7 pm
 Details: facebook.com/jatrabirotiworld

Winter Festival
 Title: Him Utshab
 Venue: Jahangirnagar University
 Date: January 17-19
 Time: 10 am

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Winning With Art
 Venue: Bay's Galleria, Gulshan 1
 Date: December 1-31
 Time: 10 am - 6 pm

Artist Talk
 Title: Leelaprab-1 Kathapokathan
 Venue: Dwip Gallery, Lalmitia
 Date: January 5
 Time: 6 pm - 9 pm

Bulbul Chowdhury Birth Centenary
 Organisers: BSA & BNSS
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Yearlong Celebration opens in



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Artist SYED JAHANGIR passes away

Renowned artist Syed Jahangir passed away yesterday at 11 am at his residence in Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur in Dhaka. He was 83 years old at that time. His body was taken to the Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU) for paying last respects. The deceased's Namaz-e-Janaza was held yesterday after Asr prayers at the central mosque of DU, and he was buried in Satkhira where he was born in 1935.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The Ekushey Padak winner was involved in fine art since the 1950s. In 1958, he received a Ford Foundation Fellowship and travelled to the USA, where he became familiar with various American artists. During the Pakistan era, Jahangir worked as a television news presenter. He was stuck in Pakistan when the Liberation War broke out, and was removed from television. He returned to Bangladesh in 1973. Slowly, his paintings took a more realistic turn from abstraction. The colours of rural Bangladesh became the highlight in his paintings. He began working at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) in 1977 and served as the director there for 16 years. He took on various initiatives to advance the fine art industry in Bangladesh. It was under his tenure that the BSA launched the Department of Fine Arts. He had a notable contribution in the inception of the Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh.

The inspiration for Jahangir's paintings was an in-depth observation of rural Bangladesh, its people and the economic hardships they endure. His popular paintings include - *Attmar Ujjibon*, *Ullas*, *Dhoni* and *Ojana-Oneshya*. *Osoni-Sangket*, one of his paintings, was based on the socio-political issues in Bangladesh. Dynamic and dedicated, this master of painting also brought about aspects of impressionism and symbolism in some of his works concentrating on nature. Jahangir combined his studies under the Bangladeshi masters -- Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan, Safiuddin Ahmed and Anwarul Haq -- along with lessons from western impressionists and contemporary painters. Jahangir would meditate over his work, before he touched his brush and canvas, and took his inspiration from sketches and photographs for his numerous landscapes, still lifes, and portraits, often set against the horizon with its scintillating colours of blue, gold, brown and red.

A candid chat with MUNMUN AHMED

Renowned Kathak exponent and television personality Munmun Ahmed has many prestigious awards to her credit, including the National Award by Shishu Academy for Kathak Dance (1980), UNESCO Cultural Award (2000) and NHK Japan Award (2000). An avid performer, teacher and choreographer, she learned Kathak under the tutelage of the legendary Pandit Birju Maharaj in Delhi Kathak Kendra. She also founded Rewaz Performers' School, a pioneering dance company in Bangladesh. The artiste, who recently celebrated her birthday, will also be performing with her students in Kolkata, in honour of Pandit Birju Maharaj's 80th birth anniversary in January. The Daily Star catches up with her for an exclusive interview.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SHABABA IQBAL

We wish you a belated happy birthday. How did you celebrate the day? I cut a cake with some of my students and family members at midnight. I had to record *Ayna Ghor*, a dance show that I host, for Bangladesh Television, on my birthday. We also had dinner and cake with my family at my restaurant, Munmun's Kitchen, afterwards. You recently arranged a Kathak workshop at Rewaz Performers' School, which was conducted by acclaimed dancer and choreographer from India, Madhumita Roy. How was the experience of teaming up with her for the workshop? Madhumita and I were students of Pandit Birju Maharaj and I have known her quite

closely over the years. We are seldom exposed to the new content being composed and taught by Maharaj ji in his classes in India, and so, we wanted to provide our students with updated knowledge on the evolving standards of Kathak. On that front, teaming up with Madhumita was an excellent experience and I am proud to say that the workshop was hugely successful. Tell us about some of the recent shows that you took part in. I recently went to a Kathak marathon in Siliguri, India, where more than a hundred dancers came under one roof, including many young artistes. Some dancers at the marathon even expressed their interest in learning Kathak from me, which was a great honour. How would you describe your teaching

philosophy for dance? I believe that dance is not just rooted in physical movements - it is also about teamwork and spreading joy. Furthermore, an artiste's honesty and sincerity should also come across in their performances. I always tell my students that as dancers, our true validation, first and foremost, comes through the acceptance of the audience that we perform for. What advice would you like to give to young and aspiring dancers? I think the young dancers today are full of talent and passion. It is heartening to see that they are determined to make their mark in the profession. I would advise them to not try too many things at once, but instead, choose one dance form and focus on excelling at it.



The Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU), conferred the prestigious Zainul Sammanona to internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi artist Monirul Islam and artist-professor Dr Susan Collins of Slade School of Fine Art, University College London, UK, yesterday at Bakultala, FFA, DU. DU Vice Chancellor Professor Akhtaruzzaman presented the awards to the recipients as chief guest.

PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU



Asaduzzaman Noor



Farooque



Momotaz



Sohel Rana

PHOTO: STAR

Celebrity contestants at the General Elections-Who will win?

With the 11th parliamentary elections upon us, many artistes of the showbiz industry are set to partake this year, while others have used their platforms to encourage people to vote today.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Aside from starring credits in many super hit films and winning National Film Awards, veteran actor Farooque's career has shaped an important legacy. He has been passionate about politics ever since he was a student. This year, Farooque, who is also a freedom fighter, will compete from the Dhaka - 17 constituency for Awami League (AL). On the other hand, Jatiya Party (JP) Presidium Member Sohel Rana, another stalwart of the industry, will compete for the Barisal-2 seat. Meanwhile, for the first time, renowned singer Rumana Morshed Kanak Chapa will compete in the 11th parliamentary elections for Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). She got the nomination to vie from the Sirajganj-1 constituency.

Moreover, Momotaz, best known as the Folk Queen of Bangladesh, will contest for the Manikganj-2 constituency representing AL, as she aspires to become a Member of Parliament for the third time. Likewise, the current Minister of Cultural Affairs, Asaduzzaman Noor, will contest for the Nilphamari-2 constituency from AL. A seasoned actor, Asaduzzaman Noor cemented his reputation as one of the finest artistes of our time before stepping in to serve the nation as a minister. Beyond simply taking to social media, a number of actors such as Riaz, Poppy and Ferdous among others, participated in various initiatives designed to increase turnout at the polls, sharing resources and information - and urging people to vote - so that people can make their voices heard today.



Rumana Morshed Kanak Chapa