

WHAT'S ON

An Ode to the Moon & Menstrual Cycle
 Title: LAL
 Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
 Date: February 19 - 23
 Details:

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

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: The Brilliant Moon
 Artist: Iffat Ara Dewan
 Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, Lalmatia
 Date: Jan 15 - 28

Theatre
 Title: Hamlet
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: January 19
 Time: 6:30 pm

Bulbul Chowdhury Birth Centenary
 Organisers: BSA & BNSS
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Yearlong Celebration currently under

Comedy Show
 Title: Dhanmondi Open Mic - Sabroso
 Venue: Sabroso, Navana GH Heights, Satmasjid Road
 Date: January 19
 Time: 6 pm onwards



A still from the film 'Gor'.

Gazi Rakayet directs a film after six years

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The 2013 film *Mrittika Maya*, helmed by Gazi Rakayet, won national awards in 17 categories including best director, best music director, best supporting actor, best actor in a negative role, best story and best scriptwriter. Rakayet has recently wrapped up the shooting of *Gor*, his first directorial venture in six years. The film is scheduled to release in April in Bangla and English, with the aim to reach viewers internationally. The cast and crew shot the film in Dohar. It is set in the countryside of Bangladesh.

Rakayet, who has also written the script and screenplay of *Gor*, portrays the titular role in it. He previously scripted and starred in a tele-fiction of the same name on Bangladesh Television.

In addition, the film stars Dilara Zaman, Dipanwita, Moushumi Hamid, Sushoma Sarkar, and Shamima Tusty among others. SM Mohsin and Mamunur Rashid also make guest appearances in *Gor*.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Leesa Gazi's journey with 'Rising Silence'

APORAJITA MUSTAFA

British-Bangladeshi writer, director, actor and playwright, Leesa Gazi has dedicated her career to presenting powerful stories told from a woman's perspective, via theatre and film. Her documentary film, *Rising Silence*, memorialising accounts of Birangona women of the 1971 Liberation War, recently premiered at the Dhaka International Film Festival 2019. Produced by Komola Collective, Openvizor and Making Herstory, the film is scheduled to have a second screening today at 7 pm at the Public Library Auditorium in Shahbagh. To find out more about the journey braved by Leesa Gazi and her team in making *Rising Silence*, *The Daily Star* caught up with the writer-director of the highly anticipated documentary for a chat.

Tell us a little bit about your personal journey with filming *Rising Silence*.

I started working with and for Birangona women in 2010. I traveled back and forth between UK and Bangladesh, assembling the survivors' stories during the visits. After I returned to London post filming for *Rising Silence* for 37 days at a stretch in 2013, I could no longer relate to my surroundings. It took me a good couple of years to readjust to my own life because everything suddenly felt meaningless. Making this film fundamentally changed me as a person. I learnt to appreciate what is truly valuable in life. It showed me how unbelievably powerful and capable women can be. It showed me how ridiculously materialistic people across the globe have become.

What was your biggest takeaway from making *Rising Silence*?
 My biggest takeaway was realising the effect of our collective upbringing on our upcoming generations. We teach our children to be driven and competitive in life, but fail to instill the qualities of compassion, kindness and empathy in them, resulting in resentful, vicious and vengeful people. That is something all of us need to take responsibility for and direct ourselves towards raising more conscious human beings.

You mentioned that Mukwege Foundation has been a true support for *Rising Silence*. Tell us about them.

Mukwege Foundation was founded by Dr Denis Mukwege, a Congolese gynecologist who treated numerous sexual violence survivors in war-torn and conflict regions. Last year, Dr Mukwege along with Nadia Murad, an Iraqi Yazidi human rights activist, who is also a survivor, jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize for their active effort to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. Despite Article 27 of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention explicitly prohibiting wartime rape and enforced prostitution in international conflicts, the problem has persisted globally. Dr Mukwege and Nadia Murad's work forced people to pay attention and engage in conversation, which truly helped *Rising Silence* gain its momentum.

Bangladesh Photographers Award 2019, conferred



PHOTO: COURTESY

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Professional Photographers Affiliation Bangladesh (PPAB) organised Bangladesh Photographers Award 2019, which is a part of World Photographic Cup 2019 – an international photo competition. The competition took place from January 15-16 at Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi.

Renowned photographer, Matthew Tan, from Singapore, presented the awards to the winners. The winners were judged based on six categories titled - Commercial, Digital Art, Nature, Portrait, Reportage and Wedding.

Arif Raaj (1st), Abed (2nd) and Sifat Pathan (3rd) won in the Commercial category, whereas Nafiul Netol (1st), Himel Abir (2nd) and Nubayet Hasan Prottoy (3rd) won in the Nature category. Rezwana Sami and Md Khairul Islam bagged single awards in Digital Art and Reportage, respectively. The winners in Wedding were - Opu (1st), Shahriar Nobi Newaz (2nd) and Rajan K Dey (3rd). In Portrait, Md Nahid Aziz (1st) and Miad Masuz (2nd) won.

The winners will receive the opportunity to participate in World Photographic Cup 2019, under the guidance of Mahmud Hasan Shuvo, President, PPAB.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Disney to adapt 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' live-action musical

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Disney is in the early development stage of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* live-action movie, based on Disney's animated film and Victor Hugo's 1831 novel, *Notre-Dame de Paris*.

Playwright David Henry Hwang is set to write the script, with Mandeville Films and Josh Gad as producers. Alan Menken and Stephen

Schwartz will compose the music.

The story revolves around the bell-ringer at the Notre Dame Cathedral, and his friendship with the gypsy, Esmeralda. It has been adapted multiple times into features, most notably the 1939 Charles Laughton and 1996 Disney animated versions. The animated movie, directed by Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise, grossed \$325 million worldwide.



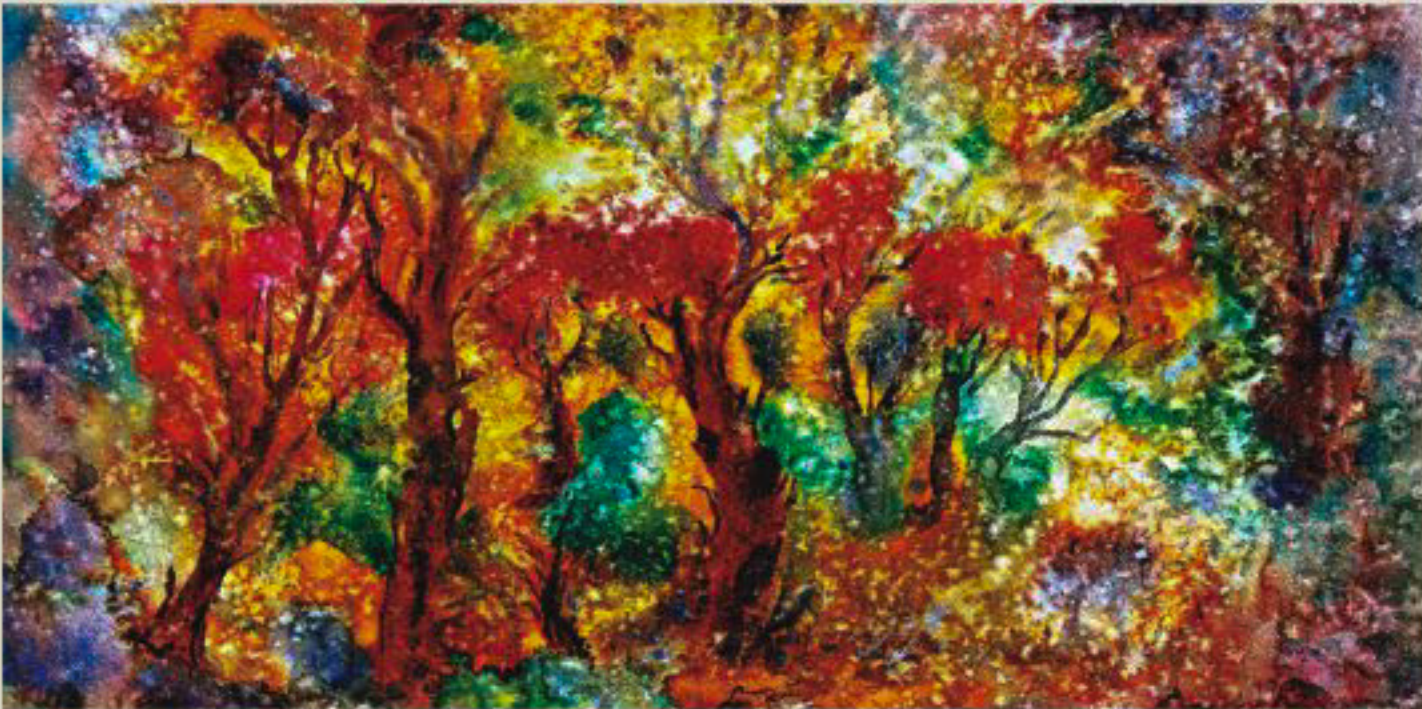
GURU-SHISHSHO: SHISHSHO-GURU begins today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The inaugural ceremony of the group art exhibition titled, *Guru-Shishsho: Shishsho- Guru* (Preceptor-Disciple: Disciple-Preceptor) is all set to commence today at 5:30 pm at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka. It is the first group exhibition by The Oriental Painting Studio Bangladesh.

Oriental artworks in mixed media, ranging from classical to contemporary, by artists Amit Nandi, Malay Bala, and Zahangir Alom will be on display. Their paintings will reflect the mythical sagas such as the vignettes of Shakuntala, the eternal love between Radha-Krishna, and the political aspects from the *Mahabharata* to the realistic, abstract, semi-abstract, symbolic, and modern presentations of the tranquil beauty of Bengal. Portraits of towering cultural personalities like Tagore, Nazrul, and the contemporary socio-political and cultural features can also be observed on the canvases.

Eminent artist Monirul Islam will grace the occasion as the chief guest. Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, art connoisseurs Abdullah Al Mahmud and Mikhail I Islam, will attend the inaugural ceremony as special guests. The exhibition will run from Monday to Thursday (3 pm to 9 pm), Friday and Saturday (9 am to 12 noon and 5 pm to 8 pm), and will remain closed on Sunday.



'Tagore in Creation' by Malay Bala (top); 'In the Woods of Melody' by Zahangir Alom (bottom).