

Spring looms over Dhaka



PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN
To celebrate the end of the winter days and to gear up for spring with festivities, Dhaka saw two weekend fairs taking place in different corners of the city. Many people flocked to Dhanmondi's Drik Gallery to attend 'Pousher Pala', while in Niketon, 'Go Deshi', an initiative to support and promote locally produced crafts and goods attracted large crowds. Pousher Pala was organised by

Shorodindo, a youth-centric clothing boutique. The founder and designer is a BFA graduate in Graphic Design from the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. She got together some of her contemporaries in the creative field such as Rongmistri, a business specialising in hand-painted crafts and clothes. Other than that, most of the participating vendors and boutiques were also youth initiatives with many of them having their first show in the

physical sphere. Nivanna, a photography agency showcased some of their works featuring brides on their wedding day, family groups and portraits which were framed and hung all around the gallery. The organisers also mentioned that their purpose was not only to sell products but also to create a culturally stimulated space. Live baul music was performed by Nur Alam Siddiki, and live portrait sketching and caricature

drawing sessions were also done by art students. There were some food stalls that sold homemade items from the Adibashi cuisine. At Niketon, Go Deshi offered homemade pickles made from a variety of fruits and vegetables, organic soaps and pure spices with their natural oils preserved such as turmeric and chilli. New mothers shopped for their children from Nerdy Smarty which had popular Bangla phrases, such as *Aha Ki*

Anondo and *Fagun Haway Haway* printed on their rompers. Overall, Dhakaites had more than a few events to spend their leisure time in an atmosphere of festivity on the weekends. Fairs such as Pousher Pala and Go Deshi bring people together in a family friendly atmosphere and remind them to cherish the local traditions. It is also refreshing to see the youth of the country dedicate efforts to retain the heritage of Bangladesh.

WHAT'S ON

Film Festival
Title: Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival 2019
Venue: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh
Date: February 15
Time: 11 am - 5 pm

Live Art Show
Title: Dhaka Live Art Biennale
Venue: University of Dhaka
Date: Jan 21 - Feb 14
Time: 10 am - 8 pm

Book Fair
Title: Ekushey Bô Mela 2019
Venue: Bangla Academy, Dhaka
Date: Feb 1 - 28
Time: 3 pm - 8:30 pm

Theatre Festival
Title: Jatiyo Patho Natya Utshab 2019
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: Jan 31 - Feb 7
Time: 4 pm onwards

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

Exhibition
Title: LAL - An Ode to the Moon & Menstrual Cycle
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Date: February 19 - 23
Details: www.facebook.com/jatrabirotiworld



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Razz surfs through challenges

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Shariful Razz garnered immense success as a model on the ramp before stepping into the world of cinema with 'Ice Cream', a 2016 coming-of-age drama film written and directed by Redoan Rony. He acted in many television commercials as well. As of now, he is busy with his upcoming film about surfing. Razz opens up about the challenges he took up for the role, his thoughts about working in films and more.
What brought you to the profession of modeling and acting?
I came to Dhaka from Sylhet for my education. During those years, I received several offers for modeling in fashion shows and booked many jobs in television commercials. But the turning point of my career came when I was offered the film, *Ice Cream*.
What are you currently busy with?
I am working on a film that revolves around surfing. Tanim Rahman Angshu is directing it. We are all working really hard on this project and I am hopeful about it.
Can you reveal a little about the character that you will be playing in your upcoming film?
I am playing the role of an ambitious young man from Cox's Bazar in this film. I had to learn surfing and the dialect of Chattogram for the role. It is quite a challenging and exciting job.
When will the film be released?
We have filmed most of the sequences of the movie and we are hoping to release it sometime this year. However, before a nationwide theatrical release, this film will be featured in several renowned international film festivals.
What are your career aspirations, in terms of working in movies?
I only want to work in films. I believe that our filmmakers have a lot of potential and I want to be a part of movies that are entertaining and well-crafted.

PATHO NATYA UTSHAB 2019

'Dhonshostup' was performed by theatre troupe Shongshoptok from Narayanganj yesterday, at the Jatiya Patho Natya Utshab. Originally written by Sanaullah Haque, the drama was directed by Bipul Sardar.

PHOTO: STAR



Turongomi turns 5

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
Turongomi Repertory Dance Theatre celebrated their 5th year anniversary recently. The troupe commemorated the day with the members of the organisation at its studio, by arranging a get-together. Turongomi, along with its artistic director Pooja Sengupta have been one of the most revered young names in Bangladeshi dance since its inception.



Regular drama 'Nil Ronga Mon' will be broadcast on NTV at 9:45 pm today. Directed by Chayanika Chowdhury, it stars F S Nayeem, Sadia Jahan Prova, Sonia Hossain, Jovan and others.

PHOTO: COURTESY