

WHAT'S ON

**Film Festival**  
Title: Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival 2019  
Venue: University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh  
Date: February 15

**Live Art Show**  
Title: Dhaka Live Art Biennale  
Venue: University of Dhaka  
Date: January 21 – February 14

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

**Book Fair**  
Title: Ekushey Boi Mela 2019  
Venue: Suhrawardi Uddan and Bangla Academy, Dhaka  
Date: February 1 – 28

**Photography Exhibition and More**  
Title: Counter Foto's 6th Anniversary  
Venue: Bishwo Shahitto Kendro  
Date: February 10 – 15



The Album of the Year award went to country artiste Kacey Musgraves's 'Golden Hour'. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Best of the Grammys 2019

'This is America', Childish Gambino's searing indictment of police brutality and racism, scored a breakthrough for rap at the 61st Annual Grammy Awards, where the album of the year award went to country artiste Kacey Musgraves's 'Golden Hour'.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

This is America won both Record of the Year and Song of the Year, becoming the first hip hop track to win either of the top Grammy categories in 61 years. It also bagged Grammys for Best Music Video and Best Rap Performance. Popular rapper Cardi B, who wore a black and silver mesh body suit to perform her song Money, won her first Grammy for Best Rap Album for Invasion of Privacy. Lady Gaga won three trophies, including Best Pop Performance for Joanne and Best Pop Duet for Shallow, from the Oscar-nominated film A Star Is Born. Holding back tears, the star thanked Bradley Cooper, her co-star and director, who missed the Grammys to attend the BAFTAs in London. She also used her speech to highlight the film's mental health message, telling the audience: "If you see someone that's hurting, don't look away." British pop singer Dua Lipa was named Best New Artist. Canadian rapper Drake received the Grammy for Best Rap Song for God's Plan.

The show sprang a surprise by bringing on former US First Lady Michelle Obama for an opening segment in which she joined Lady Gaga, Keys, Lopez and actor Jada Pinkett Smith to talk about the power of music.

"From the Motown Records I wore out on the (Chicago) Southside to the Who Run the World song that fueled me through this last decade, music has always helped me tell my story," Obama told the

cheering audience. Legendary vocalists Diana Ross and Aretha Franklin were honoured during the event, with performances by Ross herself and other artistes who paid tribute to the long-reigning Queen of Soul who passed away last year.

Hosted by Alicia Keys, the show featured spectacular performances by Lady Gaga, Cardi B, Jennifer Lopez, Camila Cabello, Dolly Parton, Miley Cyrus, Janelle Monae and Katy Perry among others.



Former US First Lady Michelle Obama joined Lady Gaga, Alicia Keys, Jennifer Lopez and actor Jada Pinkett Smith to talk about the power of music.



PHOTO: STAR

# ARUNA BISWAS in a new commercial

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular film and television actor Aruna Biswas recently acted in an upcoming commercial directed by Akash Amin. Apart from acting in films and tele-fictions, Aruna has

also directed a number of television shows, but this is her first commercial after a long hiatus from advertisements. The TVC for a detergent, filmed at Mondira Shooting House in Uttara, is set to air soon.

"It is easier to reach out to the audience through commercials and this medium is a great asset for artistes," said the actor. Aruna, a member of censor board, also recently worked on the film, Mayaboti.

## PORTRAIT OF A COVER ARTIST

# Shohag Parvez

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Primarily a seasoned painter, Shohag Parvez is also a well-known cover artist, who has done close to a hundred illustrations this year for the Ekushey Boi Mela. The artist, whose subjects comprise of nature and human beings, claims that the book fair is the perfect medium to reach the masses with illustrative art. "I do cover art as a hobby, but there is no denying the sheer quantity of people that the Ekushey Book Fair brings in. It is great exposure for us artists."

Shohag, who has done the cover art for more than 3000 books in his career, is greatly inspired by the likes of Hashem Khan and Rafiqun Nabi. "When I was in the 6th grade, my teacher, Mir Zahid, encouraged me to try my hand in art," says the artist, "I am also greatly indebted to Hashem Khan for being my mentor for more than a decade." Shohag went on to complete his Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) and Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) from the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. The covers Shohag has designed for this year's book fair include Ek Raater Raajkumar by Sufia Begum, Operation Rescue by Nasir Ahmed Kabul and Rasona O Motupatnur Chora by Asim Saha.

Even though the artist has been busy with cover art work for the book fair since as early as August, he hopes to limit the amount of work he does each year. "In international markets, there are completely separate industries for illustrators, cover artists and painters. That is not the case in Bangladesh," he says. "Since I do this out of hobby, I would like to concentrate more on my art in the coming years."



PHOTO: COURTESY



# Runa Laila's grandchildren featured in a song

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I love my Bangladesh, a song by Adworks production, featured legendary singer Runa Laila's two grandchildren, Zain (Left) and Aaron (Right). The song, arranged by Raja Kaasheff, was uploaded on Bangladesh ICT Division's YouTube channel, and garnered praise for the children's earnest and beautiful singing.



In what is a dream moment, renowned Bangladeshi composers Tahsan and Habib stumbled across one of the greatest music directors of all time, A R Rahman at the 61st Grammy Awards. Both Bangladeshi singers were excited to meet the legendary musician, as they posted selfies with him on their Facebook profiles.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



A signing ceremony was arranged yesterday between Star Cineplex and Sony Cinema for the development of a new multiplex cinema hall at Mirpur. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEH