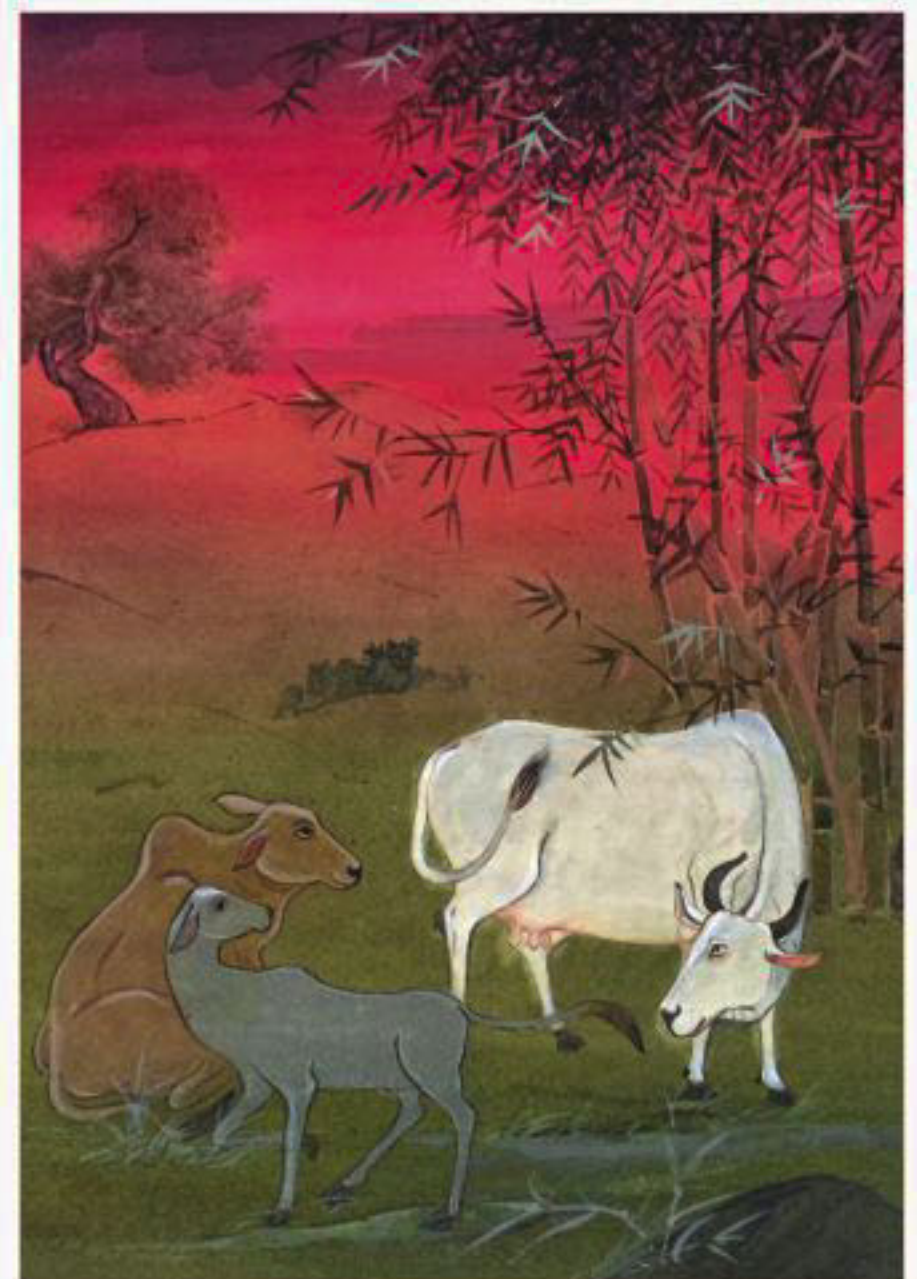
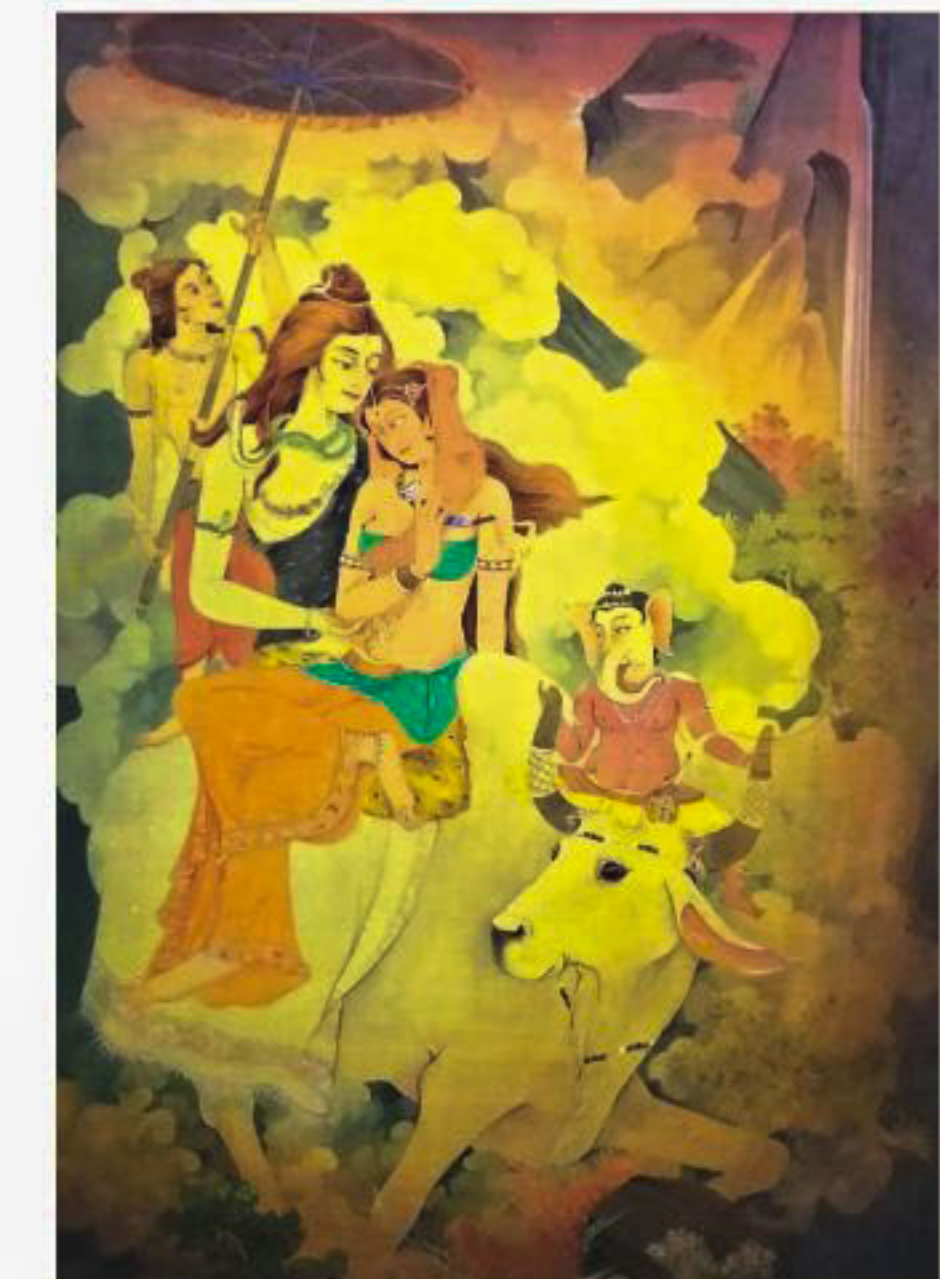


# International Art Exhibition opens tomorrow at Shilpakala Academy



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK  
Artopolitan, an art organisation promoting visual arts and artists of the world, together with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is jointly organising a fortnight-long (February 23 - March 09) international art exhibition titled Celebrating Mother Language in the Light of Art at the National Art Gallery (Gallery No 2, 3 and Sculpture Gallery) of BSA, marking the International Mother Language Day 2019. The exhibition is in association with The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Channel i.

Artwork by Swapan Das (India)

Artwork by Rina Roy (India)

Dedicated to the martyrs of 1952 Language Movement, the exhibition will feature diverse visual art by artists of 32 countries. The organisers will honour eminent Bangladeshi artist Murtaja Baseer, a Language Movement Veteran, with a Lifetime Achievement Award, including a cheque worth BDT one lakh, a crest and certificate for his lifelong contributions to art at the opening ceremony.

An open call for artists worldwide took place, where they submitted 2200 artworks. The artwork selection committee selected 212 artworks for display, from where the jury committee nominated five of the best artworks to be awarded. The organisers will also confer a grand award worth BDT 50,000 and four honourable mention awards (each worth BDT 25,000) along with crest and certificates to the awardees.

Gallery Auditorium of BSA tomorrow at 5 pm. Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star and Tamanna Tahmina Tanji, Director, Asrotex Group, will grace the occasion as special guests, while internationally renowned artist Monirul Islam, also the Chairman of the Jury Committee of the exhibition, will attend the exhibition as honourable guest. Tanjila Sumaia Siddiqe, visual artist, convener and creative director of Artopolitan will deliver welcome address. Renowned thespian Liaquat Ali Lucky, also the Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, will preside over the programme.

A befitting closing ceremony, showcasing an array of performing arts including music, dance, poetry recitation, mime and more, will take place at the National Art Gallery Auditorium, BSA at 5:30 pm on March 9.

architect and artist Mustapha Khalid Palash will attend the event as special guest. Liaquat Ali Lucky will preside over the programme.

After the inaugural ceremony, the exhibition will remain open to all from 11 am to 8 pm (Sunday - Thursday) and from 3 pm to 8 pm (Friday - Saturday) till March 9.

Eminent Cultural Personality Asaduzzaman Noor, MP is the chief adviser, while internationally famous artist Shahabuddin Ahmed and this year's Ekushey Padak winning artist Jamaluddin Ahmed, and thespian Liaquat Ali Lucky are the advisers of the exhibition organising committee. The other members of the award jury committee and artworks display committee included renowned artist Professor Mohammad Eunus, architect-artist Mustapha Khalid Palash, multi-award winning artist Harun Ar Rashid Tutul and renowned artist-curator Dr Malay Bala. Zahangir Alom, visual artist, journalist and chief curator of Artopolitan, will curate the exhibition.

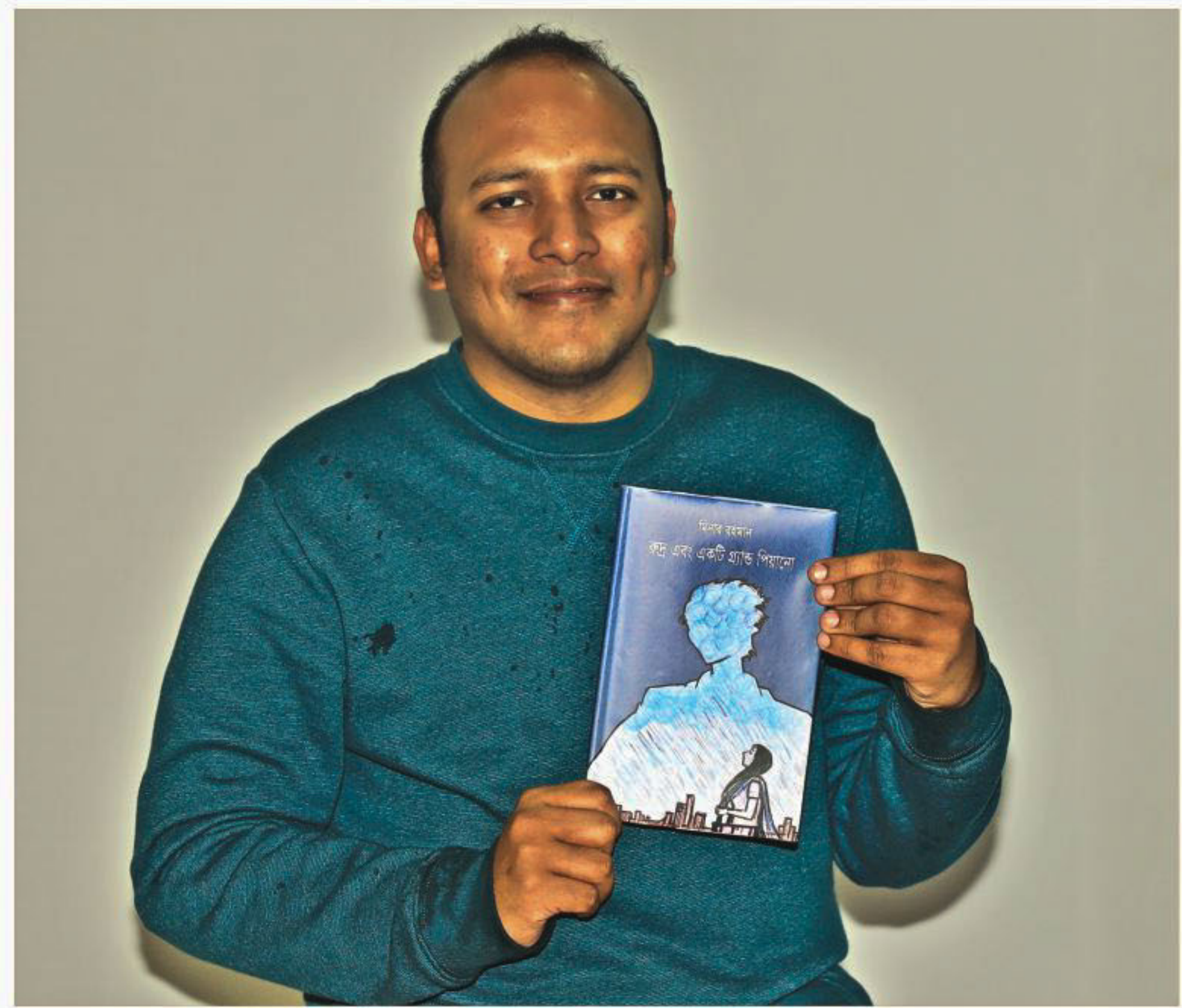


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Minar talks about his first book

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ  
Singer/songwriter and cartoonist Minar Rahman looked visibly excited when he entered The Daily Star premises on the day his first book, 'Rudraebong tar grand piano' launched at the Ekushey Boi Mela, from Barshadapur. Here is what the debutant writer has to say about his latest creation.

wanted to do for a long time. Slowly but steadily, I moved forward with the story whenever I could manage the time to do so. Also, it wasn't an unfamiliar territory as I had written short stories, and even the script for a tele-fiction earlier. And of course, I write most of my music and lyrics myself.

**Who inspires you as a writer?**  
When I was little, I read almost all the books by Humayun Ahmed. Satyajit Ray's books were also very dear to me, and Professor Shonku was a personal favourite of mine since it took me to a completely different world. Feluda, Harry Potter, Tintin, and other works of fantasy/fiction inspired me greatly to create my own.

**Do you have any message for your fans?**  
I want to request everyone to read and judge my book by its own merit, and not because they might like me as a musician. I am confident that readers will be able to relate to Rudraebong tar grand piano, as it is a book for everyone. I also intend to write at least one book every year for the Ekushey Boi Mela.

**Tell us about your book. How does it feel to be a part of the Ekushey Boi Mela as a writer?**  
Rudraebong tar grand piano revolves around themes of sentiments and hopes present in the middle class - of love, sacrifice and more. I not only wrote the book, but also did the cover art and all the illustrations inside. The book is published by Barshadapur, and I am proud of the fact that I could release my first book at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

**How did you manage the time to write a book, despite your busy schedule?**  
To be honest, this is something that I had

**How did you manage the time to write a book, despite your busy schedule?**  
To be honest, this is something that I had



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Shah Alam Shazu's 'Monphoring' hops on as a youth favourite

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK  
Veteran writer Shah Alam Shazu, who has a noteworthy career of 20 years, has published 6 books this year including Jochomaghor, Esho Brishtite Bhihi and Bhoynokor Pahare Obhijan. However, the most successful of his efforts has

been Monphoring, a romantic novel published by Pearl Publications. "Honestly, I did not expect Monphoring to do this well," says the writer, "thanks to everyone's blessings, the first edition of the book has been sold out." Shazu, who is also a reporter at The Daily Star, has a total of 40 books to his name.

## Lal - an ode to the moon and menstrual cycle

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL  
To celebrate the menstrual cycle through music, dance, and art, Jatra Bangladesh Limited has organised a five-day long festival titled Lal. The festival, providing a platform for women to talk about menstruation openly, started on the night of full moon on February 19.



Lal features artworks and photographs, projecting various stigmas regarding menstruation, by artists such as Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Saria Saguro, Shehzad Chowdhury and Nuzart, among others. On the opening day, the event started with a dance performance by Arthy Ahmed, Imran, Biswapratim from India, a performance art by Raka Tabassum, followed by a discussion session moderated by Anusheh Anadil, the founder of Jatra Bangladesh Limited. Participating musicians, artists, poets, dancers, photographers, and organisations were part of the discussion, that aimed to normalise this natural process by talking about it.

The festival also includes poetry reading session, a speech by Krishnokoli, performance art by Nazia Andaleeb, music

**Artwork by Venessa Kaiser**  
by Sovvota, Nadia Dora, Vee, Baul Shofi Mondol, Anusheh Anadil, Ghassphoring Choir, and more.

Different organisations, such as Asstha Foundation, Kotha, Project Konna, Pori Period App and Naripokkho, have also organised workshops. Project Konna arranged a workshop only for couples, in order to examine how much a male partner knows about menstruation. Organic cups and reusable period pads, eco-friendly alternatives for sanitary napkins, are also available at Lal for sale. The festival will continue till February 23.

## Remembering composer Ali Akbar Rupu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK  
Today marks the first death anniversary of the renowned music composer Ali Akbar Rupu. He made numerous contributions to the Bangladeshi music industry with songs like Poddô Patar Pani Noy, Jare Ghor Dila Shongshar Dila Rey, and Tomake Dekhle Mounota Bhule Jai, and many more, voiced by the stalwarts of the industry. Ali Akbar Rupu also garnered immense popularity for composing many of the songs for the popular TV programme Ityadi for many years. Apart from working as a music director for films like Rastar Chhele and Dui Biyai Er Kirti, the talented musician also played the keyboard and guitar with Azam Khan's band Uchcharon.



PHOTO: COLLECTED



Arthy Ahmed during her performance.

PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZI