

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Musicality in Wood
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos-Villa de Anjuman, New DOHS Mohakhali
 Date: February 22 - March 5
 Time: 5 pm - 8 pm

International Art Exhibition
 Title: Celebrating Mother Language in the Light of Art
 Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
 Date: Feb 23 - Mar 9
 Time: 11 am to 8 pm (Sunday-Thursday); 3

Unplugged live session
 Title: ARNOB Unplugged 2019
 Venue: Krishibid Institution of Bangladesh - KIB
 Date: March 1
 Register: www.xirconium.com

Book Fair
 Title: Ekushey Bô Mela 2019
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy, Dhaka
 Date: February 1 - 28

Musical Evening
 Title: Shakti - Live in Dhaka
 Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka
 Date: February 28
 Time: 7 pm - 9 pm

"Music is like oxygen to me"

- SHUSMITA ANIS



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

As an artiste, Shusmita Anis personifies discipline and drive. Hailing from the same family as legendary singers Kamal Dasgupta and Firoza Begum, the multi-talented singer has created her own identity with her excellence in Nazrul Sangeet and modern Bangla songs. Acting as the managing director of one of the country's leading pharmaceutical companies, the accomplished artiste talks to *The Daily Star* about her latest releases, musical philosophy, and more.

Your latest release, *Megher Chithi*, has been praised for its lyrics and presentation. Tell us about how the project was conceived.
 It is always an honour to work with a great composer like Bappa Mazumder. When we talked about a duet song a few months ago, I wanted something with a lot of depth in the lyrics and composition. Shahan Kabondho wrote the lyrics, and the tune made by Bappa amazed me. I took a lot of time to internalise the song. We put honest effort into the song and the music video, the latter of which I am particularly happy about since Bappa could manage the date for shooting. I would also like to thank Amzad Hosen Bappy, who did a fantastic job with the mixing and mastering of the track.
 How do you manage the time between your music and professional work so seamlessly?
 I will attribute this to the environment that I grew up in. Music was not just an extra-curricular activity for me, but a way of life. Whatever I did in life, be it in school, college, graphics design or managing a company, music was always parallel. Today, I maintain a strict schedule in practice, office and other miscellaneous work accordingly. Music is like oxygen to me, and good time

management is my mantra. Which projects are you looking forward to this year?
 I am scheduled to sing four songs for a renowned composer in Kolkata this year, the name of whom I will not disclose as of now. The project is highly ambitious, and I have a lot of expectations from it. A Nazrul Sangeet project with Bappa Mazumder is also in the works. I'd like to share that I am working on archiving the songs of my aunt, Firoza Begum, as I feel that it is my responsibility to do so.
 You learned music from the very best, the legendary Firoza Begum. How was she as a mentor?
 She had very high standards as a teacher, and I was a very serious student of hers. She had incomparable knowledge of Ghazal, Thumri, Lalon Geeti, and many other genres of music, which I picked up on. I am also indebted to my uncle, Mohammad Asafuddowlah. He is a great poet, singer and composer, and my current musical mentor.
 Do you have any message for our readers?
 I have always maintained that a curious mind is required to truly understand and enjoy music. I would request everyone to listen to all kinds of music and support good music, as it nourishes the soul.



An offering of songs of language and love in spring

Star Melodies' musical programme on February 27

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As part of our regular musical programmes, *Star Melodies*, an initiative of *The Daily Star* to promote Bangla music, will host a special musical evening titled, *Falgun-er Ronzey Aanka Bhaasha O Bhalobashar Gaan* (Songs of language and love portrayed through the colours of spring). The programme, which was to take place on February 23, has been rescheduled to February 27 at 6 pm at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct at The Daily Star Centre.
 Noted artistes Khairul Anam Shakil, Aniruddha Sengupta, Champa Banik and Afsana Runa will sing at the event. In addition, students of IUBAT will also perform. Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, *The Daily Star*, will host the programme.
 Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.

CHARU PINTU

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Having graduated from University of Development Alternative, Charu Pintu has been designing book covers for the Ekushey Grantha Mela since 2004. Currently a freelance artist by profession, he works on book covers all year long, keeping the busiest during the months of December and January, prior to the fair. This year, he has designed around 1200 books only for the occasion. *Diyashlai* by Shatabdi Vobo and *Shaluk Fuler Moton* by Nadia Jannat are two of the many books that Pintu has worked on.
 Pintu mostly works with oil paint and acrylic. However, his process of designing books also depends on the story and synopsis that he receives

from the writer. "I use drawing or typography if the story demands it," says Pintu. "In some cases, I do free-hand artwork, applying water colour or mixed media. Later, I scan it and use software for touch ups." The artist also contributed to around 100 books for the recently held Kolkata Book Fair and did covers for the Agartala Book Fair, which is currently underway. He was also a part of the group art exhibition titled, *Country Without Borders*, a joint initiative of Bangladesh and India.
 He appreciates the work of artists Qayyum Chowdhury and Sabyasachi Hazra among many others. Apart from art, he has been an active member of the theatre troupe Palakar since 2005.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHANGMA



Renowned sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan (C) inaugurated the exhibition.

PHOTO: ORCHID CHANGMA

Ferdousi Priyabhashini's legacy of artistic garden at Shilpangan

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Contemporary art gallery Shilpangan is hosting an art exhibition titled, *The Gardener's Gift*, on the occasion of the eminent sculptor and freedom fighter Ferdousi Priyabhashini's 72nd birth anniversary (February 19) at its premises in Lalmatia, Dhaka.
 The exhibition is showcasing four artworks by Priyabhashini along with 13 artworks by her daughter Fuleshwari Priyanandini and 28 paintings by her son Karu Titas.
Sajano Bagan (The adorned garden) is the title of Ferdousi Priyabhashini's artworks on

display. She was a spirited soul and a real progressive personality. Her works are attuned to the needs of a new time. She often refrained from giving any polish to her works of wood and bamboo in order to let it go with its natural colour and texture. Priyabhashini created an unparalleled artistic world and identity unmatched with others.
 Under the theme, *Beauty Boarding*, focusing on her childhood school and memories, Fuleshwari Priyanandini's artworks uncannily seem to get inspired by her mother. Besides, she also completed three unfinished works by her mother, titled, *Matrichhaya* (The Shadow of Mother)

Ananta Jibon or the endless/eternal life is the title of Karu Titas' watercolour series, in which he portrays the endless life struggle of the simple rank and file, mingled with the artistically appealing and exquisite landscapes of Bangladesh. He has also focused on his childhood memories in several of his artworks.
 Renowned sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan inaugurated the exhibition while eminent writer-researcher Mafidul Haque read out an essay on the life and works of Ferdousi Priyabhashini.
 The exhibition, opening from 3pm to 8pm, will conclude on March 7.



Moshiur Rahman (R), Redowan Ahmed (C) and Shoma Deb (L) - the winners of Meizan Palm Oil Shera Rondhonshilpi 2018 with their crests.

PHOTO: COURTESY