

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 pm to 8 pm (Friday-Saturday)

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

Book Fair
 Title: Ekushey Boi Mela 2019
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy, Dhaka
 Date: February 1 - 28
 Time: 3 pm - 8:30 pm

Musical Evening
 Title: Star Melodies' Falgun-er Rangey Aanka Bhasha O Bhalobashar Gaan
 Venue: The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct at The Daily Star Centre
 Date: February 27
 Time: 6 pm



PHOTO: COURTESY

Eminent artist Hashem Khan inaugurates an art camp titled, 'Bangabandhu Shabdotti Amader' at the National Art Gallery Plaza of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to mark the golden jubilee of entitling Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Bangabandhu on February 23. Organised by Swadhinata Charushilpi Parishad, around 60 artists from Bangladesh and India participated in the art camp. The overall outcome of the event will be exhibited in Dhaka and other divisional cities during March, surrounding Bangabandhu's birthday.

PORTRAIT OF A COVER ARTIST
 Sarah Toufika

The Ekushey Grantha Mela plays an essential role in the life of cover artist and illustrator, Sarah Toufika. She believes that the books published in the fair every year, bring immense joy in readers' lives.

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Sarah illustrated the covers for five children's books at the fair this year. She had a keen interest in the field of art from a young age, and especially enjoys working on children's books. She mostly works with digital tools. "I always prioritise the central character of a story while designing a cover," says Sarah. "I carefully go through the scripts, taking my time. Sometimes, I even read it more than once."

Ekushey Boi Mela was well organised, but certain improvements need to be made for the future. "The management committee did a great job organising the fair. However, the quality of the books need to be taken into consideration," mentions Sarah.

She admires the work of artists Sabyasachi Mistry, Dhruva Esh, Biplob Chakrabarty, Shamim Ahmed and Arafat Karim, among others. Over the years, she designed children's books written by Dhruva Esh, Rizwanul Islam and others.



PHOTO: COURTESY



Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu honours Language Movement Martyrs

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal observed International Mother Language Day this month.

The programme began with the hoisting of the national flag at half mast at the Chancery by the Ambassador, Mashfee Binte Shams in the morning. This was followed by the probhatpheri and placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar, along with the observance of a one-minute silence in honour of the martyrs. A *doa mahfil* for the Language Martyrs, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family was also held. Messages from the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the country were also read out.

In the afternoon, the embassy organised a special cultural programme to commemorate the International Mother Language Day. It began with a speech by the



The Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal observed International Mother Language Day recently.

PHOTO: COURTESY

UNESCO representative in Kathmandu. The Bangladeshi band, Connected, led by vocalist Fahim Kamal Chowdhury, performed contemporary songs at the programme. Some Nepali poets also recited their native poems. Rock Siddhi, a fusion Nepali band, also performed various songs.

Ambassadors, diplomats, representatives of the SAARC Secretariat, officials of Nepal Government, Nepalese dignitaries and political leaders attended the programme, along with members of the civil society, the print and electronic media and the expatriate Bangladeshi community living in Kathmandu.



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Bhashajoyita: The Language Fighter' screened at Goethe Institut Bangladesh

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Many brave souls, both men and women, fought for our mother language Bangla during the 1952 Language Movement. However, the names of women language fighters hardly appear in written history.

With the help of oral history, director Shabnam Ferdousi, made a documentary film titled, *Bhashajoyita: The Language Fighter*, based on those women. The film was recently screened during the session, Through Her Eyes, an initiative by Goethe-Institut Bangladesh and International Film Initiative of Bangladesh (IFIB), which provides a space to watch and discuss films with women filmmakers of Bangladesh.



The poster of the film.

were in the streets to protest.

The film focused on the important women figures of the Language Movement, including the likes of Nurunnahar Kabir, Syeda Nazibunnesa, Zobeda Rahim Chowdhury, Shah Banu Chowdhury, Manjusree Sen and Rani Bhattacharya, among others.

The names of many women, like Momtaj Begum who was imprisoned for over a year, and the stories of their struggles may have lost impor-

ance in written documents. However, pictures from 1951 prove the participation of women language fighters.

The screening of the film ended with a discussion session with the director Shabnam Ferdousi. Another film *In Quest of Life*, by the same director, was also screened on the day. Through Her Eyes is an ongoing initiative, which takes place on the third Sunday of each month at Goethe-Institut Bangladesh.

BEST OF THE 2019 OSCARS



Alfonso Cuaron of Mexico poses backstage with his Best Director, Best Foreign Language Film and Best Cinematography awards for 'Roma.'



Olivia Colman with her Best Actress award for her role in 'The Favourite.'



Rami Malek accepts the Best Actor award for his role in 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'

The Oscars, or Academy Awards, the highest honours in the movie industry, were handed out at a ceremony held recently in Hollywood. Following is a list of winners in the key categories.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Best Picture Green Book Best Actor Rami Malek - <i>Bohemian Rhapsody</i> Best Actress Olivia Colman - <i>The Favourite</i> Best Director Alfonso Cuaron - <i>Roma</i></p> | <p>Best Supporting Actor Mahershala Ali - <i>Green Book</i> Best Supporting Actress Regina King - <i>If Beale Street Could Talk</i> Best Original Screenplay Green Book Best Adapted Screenplay <i>BlackKkKlansman</i></p> | <p>Best Animated Film <i>Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse</i> Best Documentary Film <i>Free Solo</i> Best Foreign Language Film <i>Roma</i> - Mexico Best Original Song <i>Shallow</i> - A Star Is Born</p> |
|---|---|---|

SOURCE: REUTERS