

**WHAT'S ON**

**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Us Women II  
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhammondi  
 Date: Mar 5 - 14  
 Time: 9:30 am - 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)

**Festival of Photography**  
 Title: Chobi Mela X  
 Venues: Drik - Pathshala under construction building, Goethe Institut, Britto Arts Trust, Alliance Française de Dhaka, Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, Drik Gallery, Chayanaut Shangskriti-Bhavan  
 Date: Feb 28 - March 9; Time: 11 am - 8 pm  
 Details: <http://www.chobimela.org/>

**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Soaked in Paper  
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara  
 Date: March 1 - 12  
 Time: 11 am - 7:30 pm

**Film Festival**  
 Title: 12th International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh  
 Venue: Central Public Library  
 Date: March 2 - 8  
 Time: 4 pm onwards



# An array of roles for Nadia Ahmed

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

*In a short span of time, prominent actor Nadia Ahmed has won the hearts of millions with her versatile roles on television. She is currently seen in a number of television serials across different channels, and is also gearing up for Eid ventures. We caught up with the actor to find out more about her upcoming projects.*

**Have you started shooting for any of your Eid ventures?**  
 Yes, I have. I will be seen in an Eid special seven-episode serial, directed by Morsalin, opposite Mosharraf Karim. The cast and crew are working really hard on it. I will also be starring in another serial for Eid, directed by Adibaashi Mizan. Mir Sabbir is my co-star in that.  
**With Eid just around the corner, it certainly is a busy time for actors but what other projects are you working on?**

I have received a number of offers for Eid tele-fictions, which I am looking forward to start from next month in full swing. Alongside those, I am mostly working on television serials.

**Tell us a little about the television serials that you are currently busy with.**  
 In the upcoming serial, *Bhaangi Television*, directed by Kochi Khondokar, I play the role of a dancer, which is exciting for me. I am also a part of the serial, *Chatamghor*, co-starring Mosharraf Karim. I am also working on Don opposite Zahid Hasan. The serial, *Chatamoghgor*, a story of the countryside, is garnering a lot of attention these days. How do you feel about its success?  
 I believe that *Chatamoghgor* has struck a chord with the audience, because it not only has a fantastic script, but also a great cast and crew. We have received a lot of praise for our work, and we are humbled and happy.

PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# NAEEM MOHAIEMEN talks history, visual art and film at Chobi Mela X

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Academic and artist Naeem Mohaiemen, who was nominated last year for the UK's prestigious Turner Prize (the Prize eventually went to Scotland's Charlotte Prodger), is one of the most informed people of our time. Working obsessively on the history of Bangladesh, the artist is sensitive to social changes, as well as the political climate of the world, which is often reflected through his works. Recently at a talk during Chobi Mela X, Naeem Mohaiemen exhibited clips from three of his films titled *United Red Army*, *Two Meetings and a Funeral* and *Tripoli Cancelled* at the Goethe-Institut Bangladesh.

A short clip from *United Red Army* (2011), which was about a plane hijack by the Japanese Red Army in 1977, was shown at the beginning of the session. The now defunct Japanese Red Army were allies with many forces, including the Palestinian cause in the 1970s. The Red Army took up plane hijacking as their form of militant actions. The reason that they were particularly successful at hijacking, as depicted in the film, is because Arab passengers were more likely suspects, as opposed to Japanese tourists, for the security cordon. The plane was hijacked from India and landed in Bangladesh

until the peaceful resolution.

The clip shown in the session, was mostly in darkness, and included a conversation between the hijacker and air force negotiator. In the conversation, the part where the hijacker mistakenly asks for alcohol, among many things, provoked much laughter in the audience. The artist went on to talk about the response that the film received from different parts of the world. "The laughter here in Dhaka is of a different register. That request means something different when the film is shown elsewhere," said Mohaiemen.

Another featured film of the session, *Two Meetings and a Funeral* (2017) was about two meetings - the non-aligned movement meeting in Algiers, Algeria in 1973, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation meeting in Lahore, Pakistan in 1974. The film was shot in New York, Algeria and Bangladesh. A short excerpt of the film was exhibited that focused on the Bangabandhu International Conference Center, previously known as Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center, and before that the "NAM Shammelan Center". It was built for a non-aligned movement meeting in Dhaka, that never took place. Even though NAM did not happen, the name came into common use. A trade fair was going on during the time the

film was shot, which creates a crowded intensity on screen.

The film is usually installed in museums and displayed on three separate screens using three projectors. Structural opportunities of video encouraged the artist to go past the usual arrangements. "When we were filming in Algeria, everything we looked at was so vast, suggested that it can only be shown in panorama," explained Mohaiemen, "Hence, we decided to utilise the larger span, and use juxtaposition of screens." He then ended the session, displaying a clip from his fiction film *Tripoli Cancelled* (2017), about a man who lives in an airport for ten years.

As he showed these clips, he also talked about his philosophy of producing art. He believes that artists should not explain too much of their work. "For everything I do in Bangladesh, or anyone else does, we should acknowledge that we are a part of a community. It's important to continuously acknowledge the people with whom our work is in conversation. Nobody makes work alone, it's always in dialogue with many," added the artist.

Naeem Mohaiemen's projects can be seen during Chobi Mela at Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth, House 60, Road 7A, Dhanmondi.

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# Lakshyapar's 10th Annual Classical Music Conference

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Lakshyapar's 10th Annual Classical Music Conference was held recently with great enthusiasm and festivity. It was dedicated to Sudhin Das, described as the "sincerest soul of Bangladesh music." The conference was designed to make the celebration memorable and significant. The objective was to reach out to the future generations who are expected to take the musical wand upright.

The inaugural session was arranged at the Narayanganj High School and College campus. It was titled 'Surer Beej Buni' meaning sowing the seeds of melody. About five hundred students enjoyed a five men tabla lahara by the disciples of Swarup Hossain from Chhayanaut. The violin-flute-tabla trio of Ahmed brothers fascinated the young boys and girls present. The session concluded with a kathak dance by



PHOTO: COURTESY

Moumita Roy Jaya.

The classical caravan, as said by coordinator Asit Kumar, moved to the Narayanganj Ideal School ground for the second day's repertoire. This time, there was an hour long performance by the students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay. Nurat E Jahan Khusbu's tabla solo was followed with rapt attention by other students. Sohini Majumder took the stage with her sitar. Sohini's rendition of Raga Behag was received with amazement. The chairman Kashem Jamal, who happens to be the chief advisor of Lakshyapar, said that he will give incentives to students who want to learn classical music. The closing performance, a beautiful composition based on Raga Basant on esraaj, was designed by Debashish Halder.

# JOY BANGLA CONCERT to rock the youth today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

In remembrance of the historic 7th March speech by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the annual Joy Bangla Concert will take place at Bangladesh Army Stadium today. Under the Supervision of Centre for Research and Information (CRI), Young Bangla, one of the leading youth networks of Bangladesh, every year hosts the mega event to revive Liberation War spirit among youths as leading musical bands recreate and perform one song each from the Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra at the concert. Artcell, Chirkutt, Lalon, Arbovirus, Shunno, Nemesis, Cryptic Fate and Bay of Bengal will perform at the concert, which is free to enter through registration.

# Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho election on April 19



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Preparations are underway with the biennial elections approaching for the Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho. A new committee will be elected, who will take the responsibilities from the current committee, recently hosted the annual general meeting. The nomination forms will be up for sale to the members of the organisation from March 20 - 25. The deadline for the submission of the forms is set for April 2, while the list of the selected candidates will be published two days after the submissions. April 19 has been appointed as the day for the election, which is to be held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, where polling is set to begin at 9 am and will continue till 5 pm. The results will be available on April 23.

Shahidul Alam Sachchu, the current president of Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho, is preparing to run for the term once again and seems rather hopeful. Apart from him, other candidates who participated two years earlier will also contend in the upcoming election.

PHOTO: STAR