

WHAT'S ON

**Group Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Us Women II  
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi  
 Date: March 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 Shangkriti 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



Shunno



Band Lalon



Arbivirus

# JOY BANGLA CONCERT 2019 RESONATES ACROSS DHAKA

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

In remembrance of the historic March 7 speech by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Joy Bangla Concert 2019 set off amidst spectacular enthusiasm at the Bangladesh Army Stadium yesterday. Under the Supervision of Centre for Research and Information (CRI), Young Bangla, one of the leading youth networks of Bangladesh, hosts the mega event annually, to revive the Liberation War spirit among youth. Leading musical bands recreate and perform songs from the Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, along with their own tracks, at the concert.

Vignettes of, the March 7 speech, *Mujib*, a graphic novel on the Father of the Nation, and various theme songs, played on multiple projectors to attract and enlighten the youth attending the concert. Some of the most popular bands in the country shared the stage in what was the most anticipated and emotional concerts in the recent past.

Bay of Bengal, a stellar rising band from Chattogram took the stage first, and performed to the crowd's delight. Shunno, a staple of the Joy Bangla Concert for almost a decade, lifted up spirits with their ever-popular originals, alongside a heartfelt and upbeat rendition of *Joy Bangla Banglar Joy*. The crowd went electric for each of their tracks, with surprise appear-



The crowd enjoying at Joy Bangla Concert 2019.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ances mid performance by musicians Sayon Mangsang and Prithwi Raj.

Band Lalon brought the funk to Joy Bangla, as the sun slowly set on the edge of Bangladesh Army Stadium. Arbivirus, one of the most energetic bands in Bangladeshi rock, did an astonishing number, as they did a unique cover of the patriotic song, *O Amar Desher Mati*. Shades of Wacken Open Air showed in

Dhaka, as fireworks went off to Arbivirus's *Roder Kinaray*, which resulted in a truly breathtaking display of grandeur. Cryptic Fate, one of the pioneers of metal music in Bangladesh, surprised the audience by introducing a traditional *dhhol* player in their act. Their rendition of *Teerhara ei Dheuer Shagor* brought in new energy to the concert, as did their surprise single, *Cholo Bangladesh*, as expected, riled up the crowd in patriotic spirits.

Nemesis started their act with a brand new rendition of their song, *Joyoddhoni*. No time limit was enough for the youth icons, as they blazed through their set with supreme zeal. Bangladesh's beloved band, Chirkutt brought many surprises, including the presentation of a hybrid santoor, which the guitarist, Emon Chowdhury, played with passion. Their enigmatic rendition of the national anthem moved every soul in the stadium.

However, the most anticipated act of the night was arguably the mighty Artcell, who came back after ages with what is closest to their original lineup. Kazi Faisal Ahmed, a new addition to the band, did justice to each and every song Artcell played, while Cezanne, Shaju and Lincoln brought back the old magic, leaving the stadium in a state of ecstasy and fulfilment. As the last performers of the night, the progressive legends announced their new single, *Shongshoy*.



Gerhard Steidl addresses the audience at the lecture.



A still from 'How to Make A Book With Steidl' of Gerhard Steidl in his office. PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

## Chobi Mela X A peek into the world of Gerhard Steidl

SHABABA IQBAL

Gerhard Steidl, among the world's most respected printers and publishers, and the founder of the German publishing company, Steidl, spoke about the beauty of analogue books in the digital era and explored his inspiration and process as a bookmaker at an event this week.

The talk, entitled, 'Steidl Book Culture - Why Analogue Matters', took place at Goethe- Institut Bangladesh in Dhanmondi as a part of Chobi Mela X. Considered as one of the most significant photography events in Asia and the first of a regular biennale, Chobi Mela - International Festival of Photography, is organised by Drik Picture Library Ltd and Pathshala South Asian Media Institute. 21 countries, including Australia, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Nepal, USA and others, are participating this year.

During the talk, Steidl shared his thoughts on the potential and limitations of both the analogue and the digital world. Although digital publishing is more practical and accessible, for Steidl, the text on the internet cannot serve the function of a printed book. Not surprisingly, it was evident that a man who spends his life producing physical objects has a strong preference for analogue as opposed to digital.

Among others, book lovers, art enthusiasts and members of the local photographic community attended the lecture, which followed the screening of the documentary film, *How to Make a Book With Steidl* by Jörg Adolf and Gereon Wetzell. Steidl is a publisher in a small town; however, the company is recognised as the producer of the most beautiful photographic books in the world and is loved by celebrities such as Nobel Prize winner Günter Grass, photogra-

pher Robert Frank and Chanel's head designer, Karl Lagerfeld. *How to Make a Book With Steidl* addresses Steidl's enthusiasm, philosophy, and attitude toward publishing as well as how the most beautiful books are created. It offers an insight into Steidl's process of working with artists and colleagues to produce books at the publishing company he founded in 1972. He actively collaborates with the artists or the photographers whose work sparks his interest and curiosity. Every Steidl book distinguishes itself through individual design and production values. Known for his passion for paper, Steidl personally selects the paper and binding materials for each title and oversees all aspects of the production process – each Steidl book really passes through his hands. By the end of the talk, the audience was left with nothing but admiration for Steidl's creative energy and untiring dedication.

## Stars reflect on INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

On the occasion of International Women's Day, The Daily Star talked to some women who have made valuable contributions to the film and television industry.

### POPPY

I believe all women should be self-sufficient. They are capable of doing everything a man can. On International Women's Day, I would like to say that if women have the freedom to work and grow, it will only benefit the society.



### PURNIMA

I look forward to this day every year. As a woman, I hope the best for all the women out there. Everyone should celebrate the day regardless of gender.

### DEEPA KHANDAKAR

I believe education is extremely important for women. On this day, I request all women to give importance to their education. This will open many opportunities for them in the long run.



### SUMAIYA SHIMU

I feel great having a day dedicated to us women only. I hope this day makes women more aware of their rights. We will progress if women are included in the economy, culture and politics of the country.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED