

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Us Women II
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: March 5 - 14
 Time: 9:30 am - 8 pm

Dance show
 Title: Nohi Debi Nohi ShamannyaNari
 Venue: Chhayanaut Cultural Centre
 Date: March 19
 Time: 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Photography festival
 Title: Bioscope 3 Children's Photography Fest 2019
 Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: March 15 - March 17

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

Musical Event
 Title: Manusi - Love for womanhood by Ghaashphoring Choir
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: March 14
 Time: 7 pm - 10 pm



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Chobi Mela X concludes on a high note

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Chobi Mela, one of the premiere international festivals of photography since its inception in 2000, concluded yesterday. It was organised by Drik Picture Library Limited and Pathshala South Asian Media Institute. This year, the arrangement took place at several venues, including the Drik-Pathshala under-construction Building, Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi, Alliance Française de Dhaka, Goethe Institut, Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Bidyapeeth, Britto Art Space, Chhayanaut and EMK Center in Dhaka. It featured exhibitions, workshops, art talks, film screenings, awards and more.

Several bold exhibitions, overseen by independent curators from Bangladesh and the world, befittingly augmented the prestige of the photo fiesta. Curated by Munem Wasif, the impressive exhibition titled *Rashid Talukder (1939-2011): A Life's Work* was one of the significant ones. Rashid Talukder, a founding father of modern Bangladeshi photography, is also a pioneering visual documentarian of country's glorious struggles spanning from the Language Movement of 1952, to the Liberation War in 1971.

American documentary photographer Susan Meiselas' solo project, titled *Nicaragua in Time*, was another important show that shed light on her capturing of the Nicaraguan revolution of the late 1970s. Nicaragua is a contemporary classic—a seminal contribution to the literature of concerned photojournalism. Susan's solo project forms an extraordinary narrative of a nation in turmoil. Starting with a powerful and chilling evocation of the Somoza regime during its decline in the late 1970s, the images trace the evolution of the popular resistance that led to the insurrection, culminating with the triumph of the Sandinista revolution in 1979. The aforesaid exhibitions were held at the Drik galleries in Dhanmondi.

Drik-Pathshala Under-Construction Building offered several exhibitions overseen by both Bangladeshi and foreign curators. Renowned Bangladeshi artist, critic and curator Mustafa Zaman curated the show titled *Near-tragic Farsightedness* that could be otherwise mentioned as *How to be Oblivious to Human Sufferings*. It is about an understanding of the tragic time when all positioning seems futile. Therefore, the project is about the wait for a better time, a moment for truth to arrive.

Applying contemporary ways of presentation, talented artist Zihan Karim, an audiovisual artist known to work with moving image, installation, sound and painting, curated a contemporary art show that explored the subtleties of time, space, and vital societal facts.

Borders and Freedoms/Borders of Freedom was a sound-based installation intended to be an interrogation of the relation of various ideas of freedom with the physicality and abstraction of borders, mainly in the context of the broken land of Bengal. This project was based on field recordings and field notes from Bengal and it comes out of the collaboration of Moushumi Bhowmik and Sukanta Majumdar, who work diversely with sound and listening. This piece was based on several literary and cultural texts from Bengal, making an attempt to 'sound' them.



Family members of The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, were present during Joy Bangla Concert 2019, held recently at the Bangladesh Army Stadium. Sheikh Rehana (centre), Radwan Mujib Siddiq (left from centre) and Saima Wazed (bottom-left), among others, graced the event filled with youthful zest, charged by Bangabandhu's historic 7th March speech.



Dhaka Rangapith perform at the 'Bangladesh Potho Natok Utshob 2019'. The festival took place from 1-7 March where 49 theatre troupes from all over the country performed in the Central Shaheed Minar.

Restoration of cultural heritage with art

Tasmina Khan Majles, a visual artist based in Melbourne, recently showcased her work in a solo exhibition titled Remnants of the Past. The exhibition, displaying relics from 13th century Mughal and Colonial-inspired architectures of Bangladesh, took place in Whitehorse City Council, Australia. In an interview with The Daily Star, the artist talks about her projects and more.



PHOTO: COURTESY

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

Tell us about 'Remnants of the Past'. How long have you been researching on this particular subject?

In 2014, I moved to Dhaka for two years. During that period of time, I was surprised to see how old heritage buildings were being replaced by more modern structures. What disturbed me was the fact that the buildings were not documented properly, due to the lack of resources and government initiative. This led me to contemplate more on the subject. Coincidentally, my friend and photographer, Usayed K Mahmood, currently based in USA, was in town, and we shared our views. Hence, this project is a collaboration with him.

I also did my own research by visiting the sites old Dhaka and Panam City, Sonargaon. I realised most heritage buildings were ruined because of structural failure, rising damp, biological insect damage and some man-made destruction. Overwhelmed by the situation, I started to paint and document, as I thought this was a great way to confront the situation.

Is there any special piece from the exhibition that you want to highlight?

Every artwork is a piece of history. I have tried to represent the present condition of the structures as truthfully as possible. However, the pieces *Eulogy - on illustrious façade*, showcasing the abandoned ornamental relics from past, and *Bequest - woven in cast iron*, where a padlock is used as a metaphor to the constrained mindset of the society, are worth highlighting.

What medium do you work with?

I mostly work with charcoal, oil pastel and acrylic on canvas. I resort to a lot of realism, and my recent work was done with acrylic on canvas.

What are the inspirations behind your artworks?

My paintings reflect my lifelong passion, which is fixated on restoration of cultural heritage and nature. I believe that both nature and heritage are important parts of human existence. One gives me a sense of belonging, and another reminds me of my roots.

Tell us about your future projects.

I have documented the locality of Farashganj near Buriganga River, in my recent visit to Dhaka. I wish to work more on this genre of painting in the future, and would like to document these important heritage sites in the form of art.

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Shammelan starts with grandeur



PHOTO: COURTESY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Organised by the Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Parishad, the 38th Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Shammelan was held at the premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. More than 700 artistes from all over the country are participating in the 3-day festival, which began yesterday. The chief guest of the programme on the concluding day will be Language Movement Veteran and Tagore researcher Ahmed Rafique.

CAPTAIN MARVEL QUIZ CONTEST

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Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email.

Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email

QUIZ - 02

What happened on earth in this movie?

WINNERS LIST OF QUIZ - 01

1. Sohana Shobnam, Green Super Market
2. Khan Farihan Farid, B-Baria
3. Shafiqul Islam, Hatiripul
4. Hasin Arman Prokirti, Uttara
5. Nafur Rahman, Banani
6. Imrozozha Chowdhury, Eskaton Garden
7. Md Sadique Uddin Molla, Niketan
8. Wajid Hasan Shah, Gulshan-1
9. Rashedul Imam, Tejgaon
10. Zafir Hasan, Baridhara DOHS