

<p>Photography Exhibition Title: Unsettled: A solo exhibition by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani Date: March 28 - April 10 Time: 7 pm - 10 pm</p>	<p>Film Screening Title: Nibash - The Residence Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani Date: March 30 Time: 7 pm - 9 pm</p>	<p>Dance Drama Title: Dance Drama MEERA Venue: National Theater, BSA Date: April 13 Time: 6 pm - 9 pm</p>	<p>Art Exhibition Title: Still-Life: an art exhibition by Moon Rahman Venue: Dwpj Gallery, Lalmatia Date: March 23 - April 7 Time: 3 pm - 9 pm</p>	<p>Musical Ensemble Title: Shahed and Gaatch Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani Date: March 29 Time: 7 pm Tickets: At the door for BDT 300 (BDT 200 with a valid student ID)</p>
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AK AZAD on the rise

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Born into a middle-income family, actor and model AK Azad came under the limelight after becoming the champion of Channel i's hit reality show, *Emami Fair & Handsome - The Ultimate Man* in 2014. Harboursing dreams of becoming an actor from a young age, Azad took part in several theatre productions at his school and came to Dhaka in 2012. But his path to progressing as an actor was not one without struggles.

"I lived with my maternal uncle when I came to Dhaka. I studied Hotel Management and my theory classes were held at The Westin," says Azad. He also briefly worked as a builder on a part-time basis. "I was asked to sell bricks to some dealers," he explains. "I went to Shyamoli from Kawran Bazaar on foot. That was a difficult period in my life."

Azad later went on to work as a security guard at The Westin and was well-liked by his colleagues. He was spotted dancing at one of the events at the hotel. Seeing his potential, the people at the hotel encouraged him to participate in the reality show, which started off his professional journey in the showbiz world.

He ventured into the field of television with a role on Channel i's tele-fiction, *Ai Bari Amader*, directed by Arun Chowdhury. He went onto carve a space for himself in the industry with his praiseworthy work in a number of television ventures and in over thirty television commercials.

"I feel privileged to be a part of the entertainment industry. I am humbled to see that my work is liked by the audience," he adds.

After starring in Shawkat Nasir's web series, *Trapped*, Azad started receiving film offers. He is set to star in the films, *Rajkonnya* and *Ferrari Prem*, directed by Raju Chowdhury and Raisul Rony respectively. The shooting of the latter kicked off in Pubail recently.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy celebrates INDEPENDENCE DAY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Marking the memorable day of our nation's independence, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranged a day-long programme at two different venues on March 26.

The first part of the celebration was held at the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar, where artistes of

Police Nari Kalyan and Satyen Sen Shilpi Gosthi performed group dances and chorus songs. In addition, artistes of Dibya Sangskritik Sanghatand, led by Deepa Khandakar, presented a group dance on the song *Bosonto Batase Soigo*.

Singers Luipa and Shafi Mondol also performed solo numbers.

The second half of the programme

was held in Segun Bagicha, featuring a discussion and cultural performances.

In the cultural segment, artistes of BSA presented group dances with the songs *Dhana Dhanya Puspe Bhora*, *Jole Utho Bangladesh* and *Gorje Utho Bangladesh* led by Anik Bose, *Purba Digante Surjo Uthechhe*, *Cholo Egiye Jabo*, led by Likhon Ray, *Guerilla*

Guerilla and *Rokter Pratishodh Roktei Nebo* led by Laila Hasan. Awami Shilpi Gosthi performed chorus songs, while Syed Hasan Imam and Dahlia Ahmed recited poems.

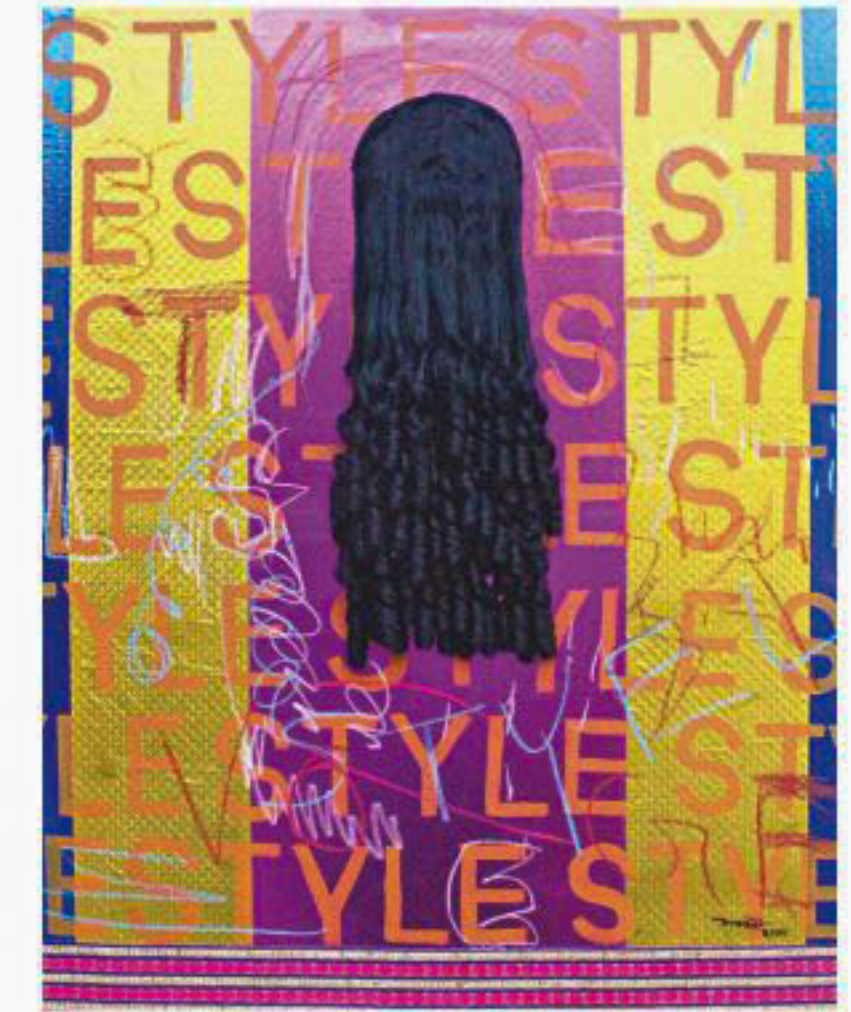
Apart from the aforementioned ensemble, singers Rafiqul Alam, Airin Parvin Onna, Al Amin, Nazia Sultana Bristy and others also performed solo songs at the event.

All-women art exhibition 'Life 2019' organised at Gallery Cosmos

FARJANA AHMED ANNAN

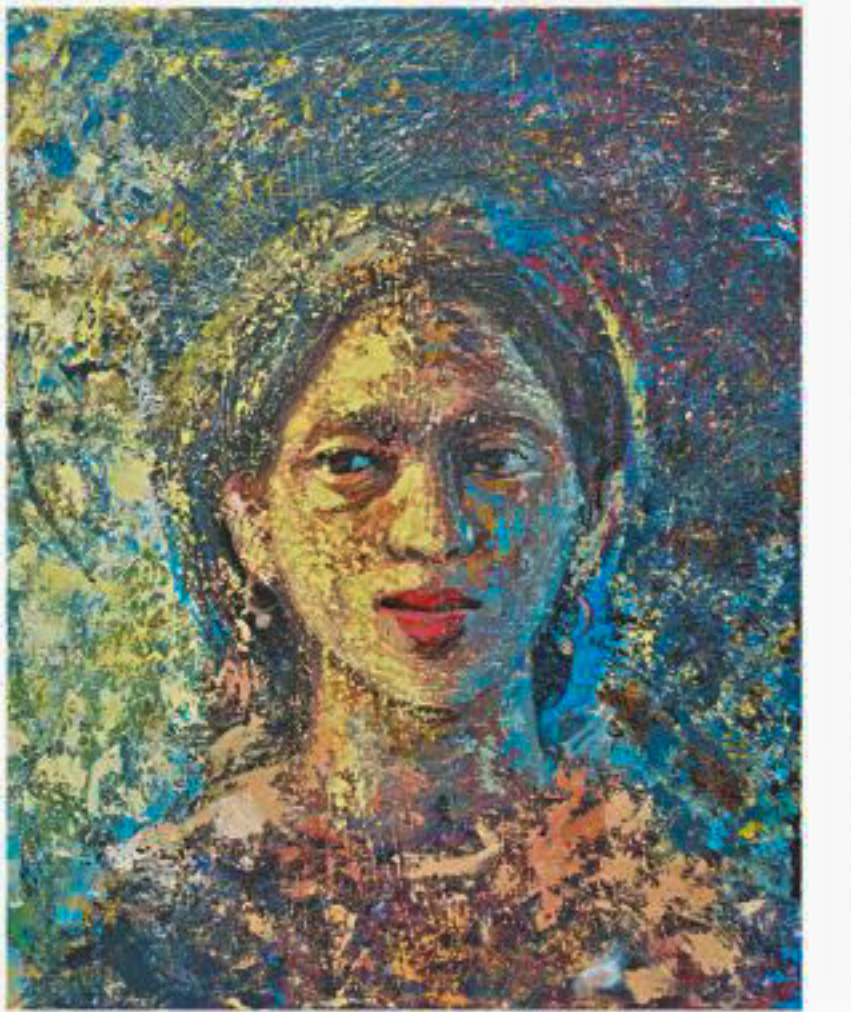
Life 2019 is a group art exhibition featuring paintings by 39 female artists. It was inaugurated at Gallery Cosmos on Bangladesh's Independence Day, by the chief guest, Australian High Commissioner HE Julia Niblett. She stated that it is a matter of regret that female artists face gender discrimination often in Bangladesh and that as a community, we need to battle against it. Speaking on the occasion as the special guest, Cornelia Gautschi Holenstein expressed the hope that women artists will continue to overcome barriers that stand in their way.

The paintings at the exhibition uphold the doubts, struggles, pleasures, achievements and realities of women. Most of the works at the exhibition are created with acrylic colours, acrylic embroidery, oil



A painting by Fahmida Enam Kakoli

paints, Belgian Linen and other techniques. The participating artists are Afrozaa Jamil Konka, Antara Mehrukh Azad, Asma Akber, Atia



A painting by Mini Karim

Islam Anne, Bipasha Hayat, Dilara Begum Jolly, Dilruba Latif, Elham Huq (Khuku), Fahmida Enam Kakoli, Fahmida Khatun, Fareha Zeba, Farida

Zaman, Farzana Rahman Bobby, Ferdowsi Priobhashini, Halide Salam, Hazvineyi Bridget Mutasa, Ivy Zaman, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Kuhu Plamandan, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Mini Karim, Nargis Poly, Nasima Haque Quenee, Nasreen Begum, Preema Nazia Andaleeb, Rahima Afroz, Rebeka Sultana, Rokeya Sultana, Rubina Akhter, Samina Nafies, Shantwana Shahrin, Shameem Subrana, Sharbari Roy Choudhury, Shulekha Chaudhury, Sohana Shahreen, Soma Surovi Jannat, Shruti Gupta Kasana, Surovi Akhter and Vinita Karim.

Life 2019 demonstrates solidarity with the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements that call for the abolishment of gender discrimination and aim to make the world recognise the potential in women. The exhibition will run till April 9, daily from 11am to 8 pm.

Art competition for children held in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, From Mymensingh

Marking the Independence Day celebrations, Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala organised a painting competition for children at their premises. The little ones painted pictures highlighting the struggles for freedom during 1971.

A total of 169 children from different educational institutions took part in the competition. A discussion programme was also held where Md Mehdi Zaman, District Children Affairs Officer and Badal Chakraborty, trainer of Zainul Shishu Charupith addressed the audience. Later at the event, prizes and certificates were presented to the winners.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: COURTESY

10th Rong Tulite Muktijuddho held

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To observe the 49th Independence Day of the nation, Channel i, in association with IFIC Bank, organised the programme titled, '10th IFIC Bank-Channel i Rong Tulite Muktijuddho' at the premises of Channel i, featuring an art camp on the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

A number of artists illustrated different scenes of the Liberation War on their canvases. In addition, dance and musical performances were also arranged at the programme.

Prominent cartoonist Rafiqun Nabi received a special award at the event. The editor of *Kali O Kalam*, Abul Hasnat, handed over the crest to Rafiqun Nabi while the managing director of Channel i, Faridur Reza Sagar, conferred a cheque to him.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, former Dhaka University VC AAMS Arefin Siddique, Channel i directors Jahir Uddin Mahmud, Mukit Mazumder, Abul Barakat Alvi, Biren Shome, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, columnist Kamal Lohani, Hasnat Abdul Hye,



Mamunur Rashid among others, were present during the occasion.

Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya and Shurer Dhara further charmed the audience with their rendition of *O Amar Desher Mati*.

A recitation programme was also held, where Shimul Mustafa, Laila Tara Noor and Syed Salahuddin Zaki took part.

The programme was directed by Amirul Islam and hosted by Afzal Hossain.