

<p><b>WHAT'S ON</b></p> <p><b>Poetry and Music</b>                  Title: An Evening of Poetry and Music with The Versemongers and Friends                  Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani                  Date: April 20                  Time: 7 pm - 10 pm                  Tickets: At the venue for BDT 300 (BDT)</p>	<p><b>Art Exhibition</b>                  Title: The Work of Creation - Kazi Ghyasuddin                  Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi                  Date: April 5 - May 18                  Time: 12 pm - 8 pm</p>	<p><b>Musical Evening</b>                  Title: Star Melodies' Loko Gaaner Shurey Borshoboron                  Venue: The Daily Star Centre                  Date: April 20                  Time: 6 pm onwards</p>	<p><b>Theatre</b>                  Title: DraupadiPampara                  Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA                  Date: April 23                  Time: 7 pm</p>	<p><b>Workshop on Songwriting</b>                  Title: Artistic Arsenal                  Facilitator: Labik Kamal Gaurob                  Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi                  Date: April 20                  Time: 5 pm - 8 pm</p>
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PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

# GHARTERA EDITION 0: JUNKYARD

## underway at Dwip Gallery

**MADIHA ATHAR KHAN**

*Ghartera Edition 0: Junkyard* is a group art exhibition that comments on the way we think about art. It initiates dialogue, and challenges preconceived notions of the art world in a bid to bring us further away from the image of art being preserved in a glass box, accessible only to an elite few. In that regard, the organisers approached Dwip Gallery, a humble space in Lalmatia that is open to new and innovative ways of displaying art.

The exhibition shows that art can be more - it is not something to see and forget about, but something we can touch, feel and smell. It urges us to communicate directly with the artwork in a way that gives life to the concept that an artwork's meaning is only completed once the viewer engages with it and perceives it in their own way. It is well curated in thought and message.

The show's principles are loud and clear, especially among the powerful use of images. Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo, who is also the curator

of the event, exhibits photo-collages that feature bizarre juxtapositions and force the viewer's eyes to take note of the details that are generally ignored in plain images.

"I want to promote the practice of making art from a critical-political lens and create safe pockets for those artworks to be displayed in a way which is more accessible for people from all walks of life," says Apurbo.

A series of photographs by Navid Nooren, titled, *Decaying Nature*, are displayed on light-boxes that brought forward interesting technical hues, prompting us to view the image in quite literally, a new light. The series comments on the distortion of our environment in the name of development.

The displayed artworks also feature a series of traditional paintings on canvas, but the surprise element lay in the canvases being nailed to a panel on the wall, so that the paintings seem like window-doors, which we could turn and go through like a large picture book, except the paintings are real.

*Juxta-Reality*, an engrossing installation, is put together by Inan Anjum Sibun, accompanied by a poem written on the wall. The poem talks about failed expectations and mirrors, reflecting white drawings of many versions of women's faces and bodies on black carton-like boxes placed on two corner walls like puzzle pieces. The piece also includes broken shards of a mirror, an old head phone, a camera and a TV remote. We might interpret this as the many different layers of a female, which is most often not portrayed in the media.

Mushfiqur Rahman Jahan displays a series of photographs printed on film-like rolls. The photo rolls include handwritten text that explains the inspiration behind the series. According to a viewer, the images portray both sadness and joy, as they feature Shumi, a young domestic worker. In some photos she plays like the child she is, in others she is captured in more sombre tones doing chores such as cleaning, cooking and washing. The exhibition will run till April 25 from 3 pm to 9 pm.

# LRB stays!

**SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ**

*After much controversy that had taken place over the continuation of LRB after the passing of the legend, Ayub Bachchu, and the dispute over continuing the band as 'LRB' between the band members and the family, the air has finally cleared.*

LRB will stay as a band, with blessings from the family as well. Ahnaf Tazwar Ayub, the legend's son, wrote in a recent Facebook status that Ayub Bachchu is a national treasure, and his legacy should be continued no matter what. "We are thankful to the family for their consideration," says Shamim Ahmed, the sound engineer and band manager for LRB. "Boss's (AB) family are no less than a part of the band, and we always respected and considered their sentiments." The band members said that once Abdullah Al Masud, the guitarist for the band, returns from a trip outside Dhaka, further decisions about the future of the band will be made.



PHOTO: STAR

# After Ferdous, Gazi Abdun Noor in TMC campaign controversy



PHOTO: COURTESY

## Srishti Cultural Centre to celebrate Pohela Boishakh in UAE

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

Embassy of Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi, and Consulate General of Bangladesh, Dubai, has invited Srishti Cultural Centre to perform in Abu Dhabi on the occasion of Pohela Boishakh. Eight members of the organisation, led by Anisul Islam Hero, left for the UAE from Bangladesh recently.

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

After renowned Bangladeshi actor Ferdous was caught in the TMC (Trinamool Congress) campaign controversy, another Bangladeshi actor, Gazi Abdun Noor was also allegedly caught campaigning for TMC leader, MP Saugata Roy, on Tuesday. Gazi plays the role of Raja Rajchandra in the hit serial, 'Rani Rashmoni' on Channel Zee 5, popular amongst audience both in India and Bangladesh. He was seen campaigning alongside TMC leader Madan Mitra.

According to Anandabazar, a leading Indian daily, BJP submitted a video to the commission, where Gazi Abdun Noor was seen waving to the onlookers from a vehicle, which was part of a campaign road show by MP Saugata Roy.

BJP leader Rahul Sinha expressed serious concern over the matter saying Bangladeshi actors are coming to India and are campaigning for TMC which is wrong because no foreign citizen can influence voters, as reported by ZEE NEWS. He also



PHOTO: STAR & COLLECTED

**Gazi Abdun Noor**

added that these actors are coming to India on either tourist or business visa but are indulging in political activity.

West Bengal BJP leaders Jay Prakash Majumdar and Sisir Bajoria on Tuesday met Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ariz Aftab in Kolkata and demanded that Ferdous should be arrested.

"We understand that foreign nationals can't participate in electioneering process in India. When TMC is using Bangladeshi nationals for campaigning,



**Ferdous**

they are breaking the rules. He should be arrested for breach of visa rules," Majumdar said.

According to a source at the election commission, there are no clear laws about foreigners not being allowed to campaign for politician parties, reports Anandabazaar. "We have let the commission in Delhi know, and will wait for their decision."

Talking to Zee Media, TMC leader and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim tried

to downplay the matter saying BJP is deliberately raising this issue because they are sure of their defeat in the state.

The event was brought to light after Ferdous was first to be caught in the controversy. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of India, cancelled his business visa and he was made to leave the country. The MHA also told the Anandabazaar Potrika, that Ferdous was committing visa violations, as he was campaigning for TMC candidate Kanhaiyalal Agarwal. Kanhaiyalal later denied his involvement in hiring the actor in the Mamata Banerjee-led party's campaign. This came as a big shock for the entertainment industries, for both Bangladesh and Kolkata, where Ferdous is seen as a goodwill ambassador.

The event is now a huge topic for debate among the masses and between India's two major parties, BJP and Congress, as the leaders from the former party put forth allegations on Congress for 'condoning' visa violations for their campaign.



# Chirkutt sings for NUSRAT

**MINAM HAQ**

At a time when the festivity of Boishakh ushers in the exuberant colours of our culture, Chirkutt's latest music video juxtaposed with the usual practice. While many might have celebrated the Bangla New Year with joy and laughter, others were etched with the gloom of disgrace regarding the horrific tragedy that Nusrat Jahan Rafi succumbed to.

The 18-year-old Sonagazi madrasa student was set ablaze on April 6 and suffered 75 percent burns to her body. She passed

away on April 10. As a tribute to Nusrat, Chirkutt released a music video recently, titled, *Manush*.

"The song was composed earlier, but the new rendition of the music, was out of the band's desire to address the urgent issue in our own manner," explains Shumi, the lead vocalist, who also penned and tuned the song. The music video was shot overnight at Chirkutt's studio by Maruf Raihan under the banner of Corpovisuals.

The black and white imagery, paired with the minimalistic use of instruments and

adorned with the melodic vocals by Shumi, strike the chords of melancholy with bitter-sweet precision. "The message in *Manush* mirrors the fact that many a time, those who are oppressed, continue to fall victim to the heinous act, often until their demise," expresses Shumi. "We want everyone to be aware of such wrongdoings and help eradicate them."

Given the pace at which the song is garnering appreciation across social media, it seems that Chirkutt's promising efforts will stand as a testament in solidarity with the

# 'Alpha' to release on April 26

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

The much anticipated Nasiruddin Yousuff directorial *Alpha* is set to have a theatrical release on April 26. Abu Shahed Emon, Consultant (Film), Impress Telefilm Limited, confirmed the news.

"Since the release of *Guerrilla*, Nasiruddin Yousuff has not released any films on the big screen," says Abu Shahed Emon. "We hope audience will love *Alpha* as much as they loved *Guerrilla*."

*Alpha* stars Doyel, A T M Shamsuzzaman, Mostafizur Noor Imran, and Heera Chowdhury, among others. The film is pro-

duced by Faridur Reza Sagar and Esha Yousuff, under the banner of Impress Telefilm. It is edited by Catherine Masud.

It will also be screened at the 9th edition of the SAARC Film Festival in the Master Films category, this year, while *Fagun Haway* and *Komola Rocket*, have been selected from Bangladesh in the Feature Films category. On the other hand, *Quarter Mile Country* directed by Noman Robin and *See You* jointly directed by Chaitali Somaddar and Saiful Akbar Khan, will compete in the Short Film category. Organised by the SAARC Cultural Centre, the festival will be hosted in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from May 7 to 12.



A still from 'Alpha.'