

WHAT'S ON	<b>Musical Event</b> Title: Fête de la musique 2019 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka Date: Today Time: 2 pm – 10 pm	<b>Solo Print Exhibition</b> Title: Grits and Grains Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka Date: June 14 – 29 Time: 3 pm – 9 pm (Monday-Thursday); 9 am – 12 noon (Friday and Saturday)	<b>Exhibition</b> Title: Mukhosher Aaraley Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi Date: July 12 – 14 Time: 3 pm – 8 pm	<b>Music Festival</b> Title: Rabindra- Nazrul Jonmojayanti Venue: Bangladesh School of Harmony, Indira Road Date: Today Time: 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm	<b>Photo Exhibition</b> Title: Brattyajan: The Lower Depths Venue: Drik Gallery Date: June 19 – 21 Time: 3 pm onwards
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PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# 'Brattyajan – The Lower Depths' running at DRIK

**ZAHANGIR ALOM**  
 A weeklong (June 19-25) photography exhibition titled, 'Brattyajan - The Lower Depths' is underway at DRIK Gallery in Dhanmondi. Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD), Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) and Gram Bikash Kendra (GBK) have jointly organised the exhibition.



The exhibition brings to light indigenous communities including Bede (gypsy community), sex workers, Kaiputra (pig rearing community), Rishi (cobbler), Harijan (dalit), Jaladas and Bihari. These communities constitute a significant part of the social outcasts and marginalised people of Bangladesh. They have difficulties in treading the same path of development as equal citizens of the nation. Images showing the objective realities of their life struggles are on exhibit at the event.

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, eminent economist, graced the inaugural event as the chief guest on June 19. The guests of honour at the ceremony included DRIK founder and internationally renowned photographer Shahidul Alam, architect and filmmaker Masihuddin Saker, and Professor Adnan Zillur Morshed, the executive director of Centre for Inclusive Architect and Urbanism, BRAC University. Renowned writer Dr Harishankar Jaladas, senior journalist Chitta Ghosh and Bede leader Soud Khan were also present. Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman, PPRC, chaired the event.

Director of SHED, Philip Gain, the leading photographer of the exhibition, delivered the welcome address discussing the background and aspects of the exhibition that is open for all from 3 pm to 8 pm every day. Moazzem Hossain, chief

executive of Gram Bikash Kendra, delivered the vote of thanks at the programme.

There are groups of people and communities that have become victims of discrimination, exploitation, and exclusion from the mainstream population for hundreds of generations. The factors that underlie include beliefs and disbeliefs in fictional realities, ethnic identities, slavery, occupations, caste systems, cultures, migration, hatred, and geographical locations, among others.

Philip Gain, has spent three decades in research and writing on *adivasi* (indigenous) people. In recent years, he has come in close contact with the Bede, sex workers, Kaiputra, Jaladas, Rishi, Harijan and Biharis primarily for research and writing on them.

These marginalised people can be called 'Brattyajan'. Their capability deprivation is deep-rooted and is possibly the biggest modern-day challenge for Bangladesh, South Asia and many other countries of the world. Despite having their own language, culture, skills and strength, these people are treated as 'untouchables' to this day. As a result, they are increasingly falling behind compared to the mainstream citizens of Bangladesh.

**Google Doodle celebrates Sufia Kamal's birth anniversary**



**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**  
 World-leading search engine Google commemorated renowned Bangladeshi poet and political activist Sufia Kamal's 108th birth anniversary with a doodle on their homepage yesterday.

Born to a Nawab family in Shayestabad of Barishal district in 1911, Sufia Kamal played a pivotal role in establishing women's rights in Bangladesh. She was the founding president of the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and the first female editor in the nation's publication history. She also played a crucial role in overcoming a number of socio-political crises that plagued the Bangladeshi economy from 1947 onwards, till her very last days. Sufia Kamal passed away in Dhaka on November 20, 1999 and was the first woman in Bangladesh to receive a state funeral.

## Berger Anniversary TVC recreates 25 year old magic

**SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ**  
 When the Afzal Khan directorial advertisement for Berger Robbialac featuring Monir Khan Shimul and Lamia Tabassum Chaity aired 25 years ago, the duo became an instant hit on television. In a beautiful sequel to the ad film, directed by Adnan Al Rajeev, the actors were re-cast to recreate the same charm on screen. In the previous ad, a newlywed couple (Shimul-Chaity) are decorating their home with various colours of paint. In the sequel, the couple is coming home to their children and family.

"The initial advertisement was filmed a long time ago,"

says Monir Khan Shimul, "and I had a lot of expectations from this one as well. I even lost a lot of weight for it." The actor, who is also a businessman, says that even though he barely finds time to feature in many projects, he looks forward to more work if the scripts intrigue him. "Back in our time, instant gratification through the internet did not exist," says Chaity, "and I am frankly overwhelmed by the response that we received. It made me nostalgic and emotional."

The ad also features a slew of young actors, including the recent Miss World Bangladesh, Jannatul Ferdous Oishee.

Adnan Al Rajeev, the director, admitted to being nervous when he was handed the project. "I was a little tense, but it all went away when I met Chaity *apa* for the first time," he said. "Her beauty and demeanour is quite traditional, and her chemistry with Shimul bhai is immaculate." The director says that the challenge of recreating the classic ad was immense. "We had to figure out a way to make the ad film look colourful and nostalgic at the same time, and it was not an easy task. We had to nitpick every detail until it was perfect." Judging by the response of the audience, the touching commercial, indeed, was perfect.

## Election at Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho today



**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
 Comprising mostly of artistes from the television arena, the biennial election for the Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho is set to commence today from 9 am onwards. The polling will continue till 5 pm at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA).

Reputed actor Khairul Alam Shabuj has been assigned as the Chief Election Commissioner, while playwrights Brindabon Das and Masum Aziz will assist him as election committee members.

As of recently, the election campaigns have been running quite extensively. Regarding the campaign, the candidates were seen at various locations across the capital, including Baily Road, BSA, Mogbazaar Media Coli among other places. Many have also taken to the social media to run their campaigns.

At today's Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho election, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Tushar Khan and Shamim Visti will be contesting for the presidential seat. Ahsan Habib Nasim and Abdul Hannan are competing for the post of the General Secretary.

Renowned actors who are set to compete at the elections this year, include the likes of Zakia Bari Mamo, Azad Abdul Kalam, Nadia Ahmed, Bonna Mirza, Rawnak Hasan, Anisur Rahman Milon, Sumana Soma, Swagata and others.

Lutfar Rahman George was elected as the Organisational Secretary as he had no opposition in the election. The winners of today's elections will run Obhinoy Shilpi Shongho for the next two years.

## World Music Day to be celebrated at Shilpakala Academy

Arranged by Bangladesh Sangeet Sangathan Sammonoy Parishad and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, World Music Day will be celebrated on June 21 and 22 at the Shawkat Osman Hall, Central Public Library, Shahbagh. K M Khalid, State Minister, Ministry of Cultural Affairs will be the Chief Guest of the event, which will also be graced by Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, Golem Kuddus and Sheikh Sadi Khan. The programme will start from 4 pm today.

PHOTO: STAR