

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Art Exhibition Title: When I Grow Up Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi Date: June 20 - 25 Time: 9 am - 7:30 pm</p>	<p>Solo Print Exhibition 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)</p>	<p>Exhibition Title: Mukhoshor Aaraley Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi Date: July 12 - 14 Time: 3 pm - 8 pm</p>	<p>Musical Evening Title: Spanish Harlem Venue: The Junction Dhaka, Niketan Date: June 28 Time: 7:30 pm Tickets: BDT 500</p>	<p>Concert Title: Summer Session Acoustica Venue: Players Club, Jamuna Future Park Date: June 29 Time: 5 pm</p>
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BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL UNDER SPOTLIGHT

SHAKIB KHAN'S upcoming production ventures



PHOTOS: COURTESY

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The maiden Bangladesh International Theatre Festival 2019, organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), International Theatre Institute (Bangladesh Centre) and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, is underway at BSA. Eight troupes from seven countries -- France, India, Russia, China, Vietnam, Nepal and Bangladesh -- are staging various plays at the festival.



language. Somo donned the role of Macbeth, while Chingkhainganbi enacted the role of Lady Macbeth. Robindro as Banquo, Rocky as Duncan and Premjit as Macduff were among others to portray different roles in the play. French troupe Théâtre de Vidy Lausanne and the Young Vic London staged the play *Oh My Sweet Land* on the same day. Conceived by Corinne Jaber, the playwrights and directors are Amir Nizar Zuabi and Corinne Jaber. In the play, a woman is cooking *Kebbe*, a classical Syrian dish, obsessively in her kitchen and trying to come to

terms with what she saw during her trip to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, while looking for her lost lover. Actor Corinne Jaber performed on stage, while Nicolas Chorier was on technical support. Mymensingh-based troupe Anwesha Theatre staged a show of its folk-themed production *Joytun Bibir Pala*, following their traditional narrative style at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on June 22. The pala, written and directed by Sayik Siddiqi, depicted the conflict between the haves and the have-nots and sufferings of women in patriarchal society through

story of *Joytun Bibi*. A seminar on the title 'Meeting and Transmitting of the International, National and Sub-altern in the Theatre Space' was held at the seminar room of the National Theatre Hall on June 22. Renowned Indian theatre researcher Anshuman Bhowmick, Vietnamese theatre personality Dr. Chua Soo Pong, renowned Bangladeshi thespians Ramendu Majumdar, Mannan Hira, Kamal Uddin Kabir and Zahid Repon, renowned writer-researcher Mafidul Haque, filmmaker Ashish Khandker and dancer Pooja Sengupta spoke at the seminar. Professor Abdus Selim delivered the concluding speech at the seminar while Nasiruddin Yousuff, president of IIT (Bangladesh Centre) presided over the programme. Eminent Indian playwright and director Ratan Thiyam conducted a wonderful masterclass on the second day of the festival. Johoo Theatre (China) staged their play *F CK* at the National Theatre Hall on June 23. Mandala Theatre (Nepal) and Le Ngoc Theatre (Vietnam) will stage their play *Jhyalincha* (Dragonfly) and *Kim Tu* (adapted from *The Wilderness*) at 7 pm at the main auditorium of BSA on June 24 and 25 respectively. The festival will end on June 26 with the Nikolai Zykov Theatre (Russia) staging their production *Light Puppet Show* at the same venue at 7 pm.

Shah Alam Shazi
Shakib Khan, inarguably the biggest star in the Bangladeshi film fraternity, has taken the role of film producer in many occasions. His first production was *Hero: The Super Star*, whereas his latest production was *Password*, which released on this year's Eid Ul Fitr and is still running in theatres across the nation. Yesterday, during a press conference at Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC), he announced that his production company, SK Films, will be commencing work on four films simultaneously. The contracts for all four films were signed during the conference. The four movies are slated to be directed by four renowned directors. The list includes *Bir* by Kazi Hayat, *Password 2* by Malek Afsari, *Priyotoma* by Himel Ashraf and *Fighter* by Badiul Alam Khokon. Apart from Shakib Khan, three of the films' directors were also present during the press meet, namely Kazi Hayat, Malek Afsari and Badiul Alam Khokon. Himel Ashraf, the director of *Priyotoma*, could not attend since he was out of country. "I am who I am today because of cinemas," remarked Shakib Khan, continuing, "I feel a certain sense of responsibility towards films, and that has inspired me to produce these films from my own production company. I hope to produce more films in the coming years." Shooting for all four films will begin soon, starting with *Bir*. The films will be co-produced by Iqbal Hossain Joy.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

'(un)seen' and 'Ajantrik' unfold at Bengal Shilpalaya

Two parallel group exhibitions titled '(un)seen' and 'Ajantrik' were inaugurated at the newly formed premises of Bengal Shilpalaya at Dhanmondi 27 recently. The shows were jointly inaugurated by Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Department of English and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts, and Mr Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.



PHOTOS: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY
Bengal Foundation's Chairman Abul Khair addressed the guests during the inauguration ceremony. During his speech, he mentioned, "It is very important that we activate all forms of art which then could ignite a conversation for a cultural revolution." Many noted personnel of the country were present at the opening of the exhibitions. The inauguration programme was coordinated by the Director General of the Foundation, Luva Nahid Chowdhury. '(un)seen', curated by artists Sharmillie Rahman and Mustafa Zaman showcases the aftermath of a three day stay and transformation of the *topos* of Bormi, Gazipur. According to the curators, '(un)seen' is filled with languages in the making, ruptures that seek to defy all kinds of presupposition, artistic and interpretative, because of a shape shifting vigour that makes it break away from one character to another, one ambit of meaning to another. The exhibition is taking place in Quamrul Hassan Exhibition Hall. Showcased in Subir Chowdhury Exhibition Hall, the works featured in 'Ajantrik' are inspired by the famous film by filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak of the same name. Curator Zihan Karim mentions that in the relationship between man and machine, it is the duality of logic and emotion which is worth exploring. The artists responded to this dilemma from their individual point of views. Along with artists, 'Ajantrik' featured architects, theatre performers which enhanced the multiplicity of views and languages. During the inauguration programme, artist Jewel A Rob was awarded Subir Chowdhury Curatorial Practice Grant Award 2018. The exhibitions are open for public viewing till August 3 from 12 pm - 8 pm except on Sundays.



The humble artist



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SHARABA IQBAL
Passionate about painting, Proshun Halder is currently studying MFA in Drawing and Painting at the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. Proshun's father, who was an artist himself, was his greatest inspiration growing up. Proshun believes that artists in Bangladesh have many ways to create their own opportunities, network with different people and gain exposure. He sees social media as a great platform for the artist community, where everyone can learn from each other. He enjoys experimenting with different mediums of art. "My artworks, whether it be mainstream paintings or illustrations, are my way of expressing myself," says Proshun. "I discuss relatable and pop cultural topics, representing my surroundings." Proshun also has a YouTube Channel, which he says is not meant for tutorials. It is his way of sharing his art-making process with others and answer any queries that his followers may have. He



won the first and third prizes at Transparency International Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Cartoon and Photographs Awards and Exhibition in 2017 and 2018 respectively. He also took part in the 18th Asian Art Biennale. Many of Proshun's works articulate contemporary or universal stories of women. His paintings are highly narrative, with vibrant and colourful backgrounds. "Many emerging artists may start to feel that their work is not up to the mark, as these days, there is an overwhelming number of artworks that people share online," says Proshun. "But I take it in a positive way, and try to learn what I can by watching others. When it comes to drawing, I think that practice makes a man perfect."