

WHAT'S ON
TRIBUTE TO MAD CARTOON
 Exhibition
 Title: Tribute to Mad Cartoon
 Venue: Dink Gallery, Dhamondi
 15th floor
 Date: August 23 – 25
 Time: 3 pm – 8 pm

REVENUE
 Exhibition
 Title: Revenue
 Venue: Dink Gallery, Dhamondi
 Date: August 18 – 20
 Time: 3 pm – 9 pm

Revolution
 Photography & Poetry
 Exhibition
 Title: ProjectDink: Revolutionary
 Photography And Poetry Exhibition
 Venue: Dink Center, Dhamondi
 Date: August 26 – 28
 Time: 10 am – 7 pm

Rock Concert
 Title: Legacy of Rock N Roll
 Venue: ICCR, Hall 04 (Nabotari),
 Bashundhara
 Date: September 13
 Time: 3 pm – 10 pm
 Hotline: +8801707975206

Art Exhibition
 Title: Mahurama solo art exhibition by
 Sharmistha Taberjee
 Venue: Dink Gallery, Lalmita
 Date: July 27 – August 22 (except
 Mondays)
 Time: 5 pm – 9 pm



(From left) Paintings by Murtaja Baseer and Monirul Islam, respectively.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Murtaja Baseer and Monirul Islam!

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Today marks the 88th birthday of the multifarious genius Murtaja Baseer, whose six-decade career takes up a unique place in the modern art history of Bangladesh. But what makes this prolific artist stand out is his continuous attempt to learn, grow and evolve. The artist still thinks that he could not do what he wanted to do in the realm of art. "I am still a bud yet to bloom," says Murtaja Baseer, the youngest son of eminent scholar Dr Muhammad Shahidullah.

"Art is like my everyday prayer; a lifelong perseverance. Creating a painting is like giving birth to a child. When I am not at work, I contemplate. The moods of my paintings are diverse as I go through a myriad of feelings and experiences," adds the Shadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak winner.

The Wings and Epitaph for the Martyrs are two of his noteworthy series, articulating truth, beauty, homage, romanticism and spirituality. Many are perhaps not familiar with Baseer's other identities as a poet, short story writer, novelist, researcher, numismatist and filmmaker.



(From left) Monirul Islam and Murtaja Baseer

PHOTO: COURTESY

An interesting aspect of Baseer's work is his self-portraits. He draws himself at least once in a year. "You know what I had learnt from my life? No one is your true friend. Your inner self is the only entity you can truly rely on and trust your deepest secrets with. When I feel lonely, I stand in front of the mirror and ask who I am. The answer lies in the drawings of my self-portraits," concludes the artist.

Today also marks the 77th

birthday of internationally renowned Bangladeshi artist, Monirul Islam. The Ekushey Padak winner believes that art, aesthetics and emotion are basic things in life. "Life is a canvas and it is the artists who portray the various aspects and elements into it. Understanding art is a process that incorporates many things. It doesn't happen all of a sudden in someone," says the Spain and Bangladesh based artist Monirul Islam, who works on diverse media including

print, watercolour, acrylic, oil and others.

Subtle lines with a harmonious colour balance between space and composition is an important aspect in Monir's works. The artist fondly uses minute doodles, lyrical lines, dots, tiny motifs and symbols. Applying meticulous colours in thin layers and reducing the texture of the paint to its most minimal expression. Monirul Islam established an individual abstract language in the early '70s.

"My artistic fantasies play with many unfinished works scattered in my studio. They seem to grow with my dreams spreading their wings. I dream of depicting what I cherish; but I don't know whether I'll make it or not. A painting never ends. This unquenchable thirst is a prerequisite for any artist to move forward," says Monirul Islam. "Art itself is much more powerful than the artist. Art, culture, literature and education are necessary to nourish the soul. The art of talking, cooking, eating, dressing, behaving and above all, art for teasing sensuousness encircles our life," concludes the artist.

The Daily Star wishes the two art maestros many happy returns of the day.

National Mourning Day observed in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

Marking National Mourning Day 2019, a painting competition for children was held at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala in Mymensingh.

The art gallery organised the competition in four groups for the participants. Children from different educational institutions of the city drew sketches of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, informs Mukul Dutta, the Deputy Keeper of the art gallery.

A judge of Bangladesh Supreme Court, Md Abu Tariq, the Principal of Sheahed Syed Nazrul Islam College, Dr AKM Abdur Rafiq, the Children Affairs Officer of Mymensingh Shishu Academy, Md Mehdi Zaman, and a trainer of Zainul Shishu Charupath, Badal Chakraborty, were present at the event. Later, the guests distributed prizes among 16 winners of the art competition.

Different socio-cultural and educational institutions, including Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy and Mymensingh Shishu Academy also organised various programmes, such as painting competitions, rallies and discussion meetings, to observe the occasion.

Mymensingh District Administration and Police also organised cultural competitions for children in different parts of the district.

Alokchitra Shilpi Sangsad organised a photography exhibition on the Liberation War. Around 150 photographs were displayed at the exhibition.

The State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid Babu, Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner Khondoker Mostafizur Rahman, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Mymensingh Range), Nibash Chandra Majhi, Deputy Commissioner, Md Mizanur Rahman, visited the exhibition.



PHOTO: STAR



#metoo



Bongsho Morjada



Kalo Megher Bhela

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Exciting Eid ul Adha specials on television

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

With multiple channels airing exciting programmes throughout the festive season of Eid ul Adha, *The Daily Star* highlights on a compilation of some of the most delightful upcoming shows on TV. Similar to a feature that was published previously, this too, follows up on some of the best programmes that our channels have to offer to the audience today.

The children's film, *Kalo Megher Bhela*, directed by Mrittika Goon, will be premiered on Channel i at 10:15 am. Written by renowned poet Nirmalendu Goon, the film was made with the help of a government grant. This is Mrittika Goon's first directorial venture, and features Runa Khan and child artiste Apon as the central characters.



Nilmaya

Streaming platforms redefining the entertainment industry

There was a time when audio-visual entertainment were an integral part of our daily lives, due to their fixed airing times. Be it films, sports or TV shows, we always found the time to watch television, no matter how busy our days were, and we even waited for repeat telecasts of our favourite shows. Millennials may never understand the revolution that Sony Walkman brought in the 80s, only because of the mobility of entertainment. People would not mind carrying a brick-sized device only to achieve mobility over entertainment. With the rapid development in high-speed internet connectivity and the inception of smartphones, tabs, laptops and other gadgets, people started winning over the static nature of visual entertainment.

In the last decade, we have seen a paradigm shift in the entertainment industry because now we can watch visual materials 'on the go' from any of our digital devices, with a decent internet connection.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, it was anticipated that the entertainment business will evolve for the better. A streaming service like Netflix has changed the way of consuming films and TV shows. Before Netflix, we rushed to the cinemas to catch the latest films. Now, we do not feel the need to watch films in cinemas, as Netflix has intervened our habits of watching films.

Streaming platforms have added value to the entertainment industry, focusing on three aspects: original shows, mobility of the viewing experience and a wide range of products. They are becoming the largest chain of producers globally. Mobility is one of the key values that streaming services have added to the world of visual entertainment and worldwide online content consumption has gained huge momentum over the past few years.

Even in Bangladesh, online platforms have shown commendable growth. Streaming services like Hoichoi, iflix, Bioscope and ZEE5 have gained acceptance and a huge following, alongside with the global platforms. Since these platforms



are subscription-based, payment methods have been an issue due to the low penetration rate in the online transaction. Bearing that in mind,

most streaming services offer easy subscription and payment methods nowadays. Hoichoi has incorporated debit and credit cards, local mobile

wallets as well as offline subscription cards that are available Meena Bazar and Gadget & Gear outlets in Dhaka.

Apart from original shows, the platform has a huge collection of third-party content for a wide range of subscribers. For instance, Hoichoi has an array of classics of Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Sen, Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Soumitra Chatterjee and many others.

Recently, Hoichoi kicked off its operations in Bangladesh. The organisation has started partnering up with local creative minds to produce content. National award-winning director Amilab Reza Chowdhury's web series, *Dhaka Metro*, director duo Tanim Noor and Krishnendu Chattopadhyay's web series, *Money Honey*, are both huge hits on Hoichoi.

Streaming platforms have transformed the entertainment industry by offering the liberty of creativity. Unlike traditional channels, directors who work on projects for streaming services have more control over their projects and actors have the opportunities to be more dynamic with their roles. Streaming platforms have opened up a creative ocean, providing artists with the appropriate tools to explore uncharted territories of entertainment, with the power of digital media.

SOURCE: FORTHUGHT PR

Towfique Ahmed

An ode to Bangla rap

MINAM HAQ

Long before he garnered popularity as one of the pioneers of Bangla rap, Towfique Ahmed was introduced to the art of poetry and music by his father from a very young age. Influenced by the tutelage of poetry along with tabla classes, and later drums, he developed an understanding between rhyme and rhythm. Little did he know, that his childhood lessons and his cadet college grooming, would one day strengthen his foothold in a genre that far differed from what he was learning.

Having featured as a guest artist in two different albums while residing in the UK, Towfique finally released his first self-titled album *Rajotto* along with his band mate Faisal Roddyin2010, under the banner of Ektaar Music. Songs like *Bidrohi* and *Protishrutu* among others, resonated well with the fans. Often, his meaningful and patriotic lyrics possessed a quality that served as a voice for the voiceless. And that in turn, helped Towfique carve his space in the music industry. To this day, he tends to cultivate that philosophy. Apart from the harsh realities of life that Rajotto's rap lyrics reflect upon, they also nurture a melodious side, evident by the variation in their music.

His next venture was with popular music director Adit. *Khepa Gaan* became an instant hit upon its release. Following the success of *Khepa Gaan*, the duo paired up again along with rapper ABD for a track called 52, based on the Language Movement of Bangladesh. Needless to say, it too was a favourite amongst listeners.

"Faisal bhai and I released our second album in 2014, titled *Dasheta* which was well-received by the fans," informs Towfique. "Since then, I have been blessed to have worked on a handful of other projects including solos, film songs, and theme songs for BPL, *Prothom Alo* and various other renowned brands."

Having studied law in the UK, Towfique is currently a lecturer at American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), teaching law. He also manages to practice law. "My main focus is to work on the issues regarding artist management and copy right laws, as I feel that these issues need addressing."

Three upcoming singles are currently underway from the band Rajotto. Towfique is also planning to work extensively on his solos in the near future.



PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MOHESHE

National Museum hosts seminar on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



PHOTO: COURTESY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Bangladesh National Museum arranged a seminar based on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on the occasion of the Father of the Nation's 44th death anniversary. Mohammed Abdul Majid, Secretary, Bangladesh National Museum delivered the welcoming address. Journalist Pranab Saha was the keynote speaker. Educationalist and former Vice-Chancellor of University of Dhaka, AAMS Arefin Siddique and noted journalist Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul were among the discussants. Dr. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, was the chief guest. Md Reaz Ahmed, Director General, Bangladesh National Museum, presided over the programme.

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