

WHAT'S ON



Musical Programme
Title: Jolsha
Venue: TSC Swimming Pool, University of Dhaka
Date: October 2
Time: 4 pm onwards



Art Exhibition
Title: NOUVEAUX VENUS, The newcomers
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, Dhanmondi
Date: September 27- September 30
Time: 5 pm – 8 pm



Exhibition
Title: Jamdani Festival 2019
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
Date: September 6 - October 12
(closed on Sundays)
Time: 12 noon - 8 pm



Theatre
Title: Draupadi Parampara
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: October 3
Time: 7pm - 8:40pm



Solo Print Exhibition
Title: "Transformation" by Md Rafiqul Islam
Venue: La Galerie, AFD
Date: September 27 - October 12
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm

Md Rafiqul Islam's 'Transformation' at AFD



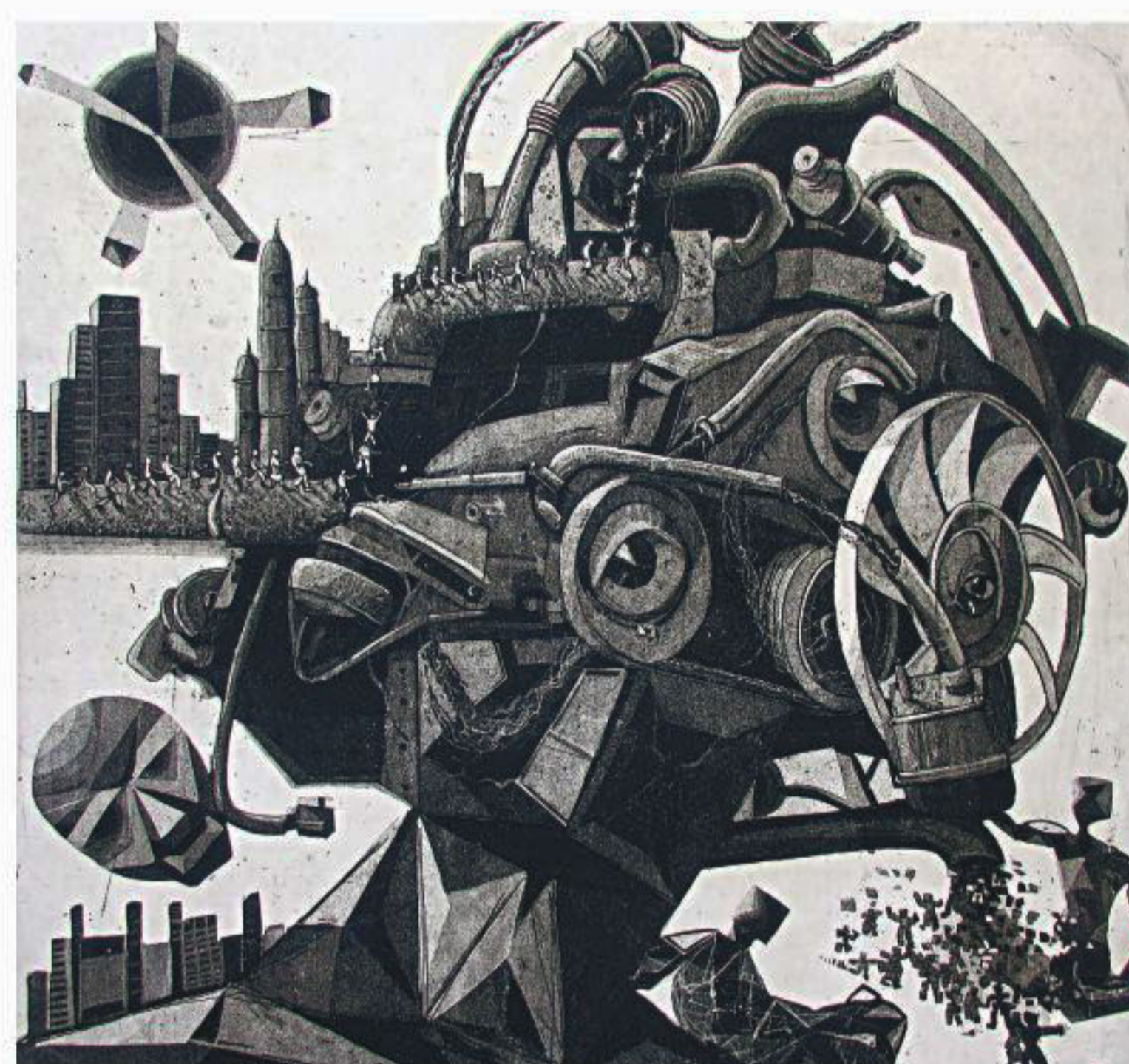
'Santal Life' (Etching and aquatint)

'Peace' (Cyanotype)

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

Md Rafiqul Islam's second solo print exhibition, *Transformation*, opened recently at La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD). The inaugural ceremony was graced by the presence of Professor Abul Barq Alvi from the Department of Printmaking, University of Dhaka, as well as prominent artist Shahid Kabir.

Rafiqul Islam uses the diverse media of printmaking, which includes etching and aquatint, platography, cyanotype and

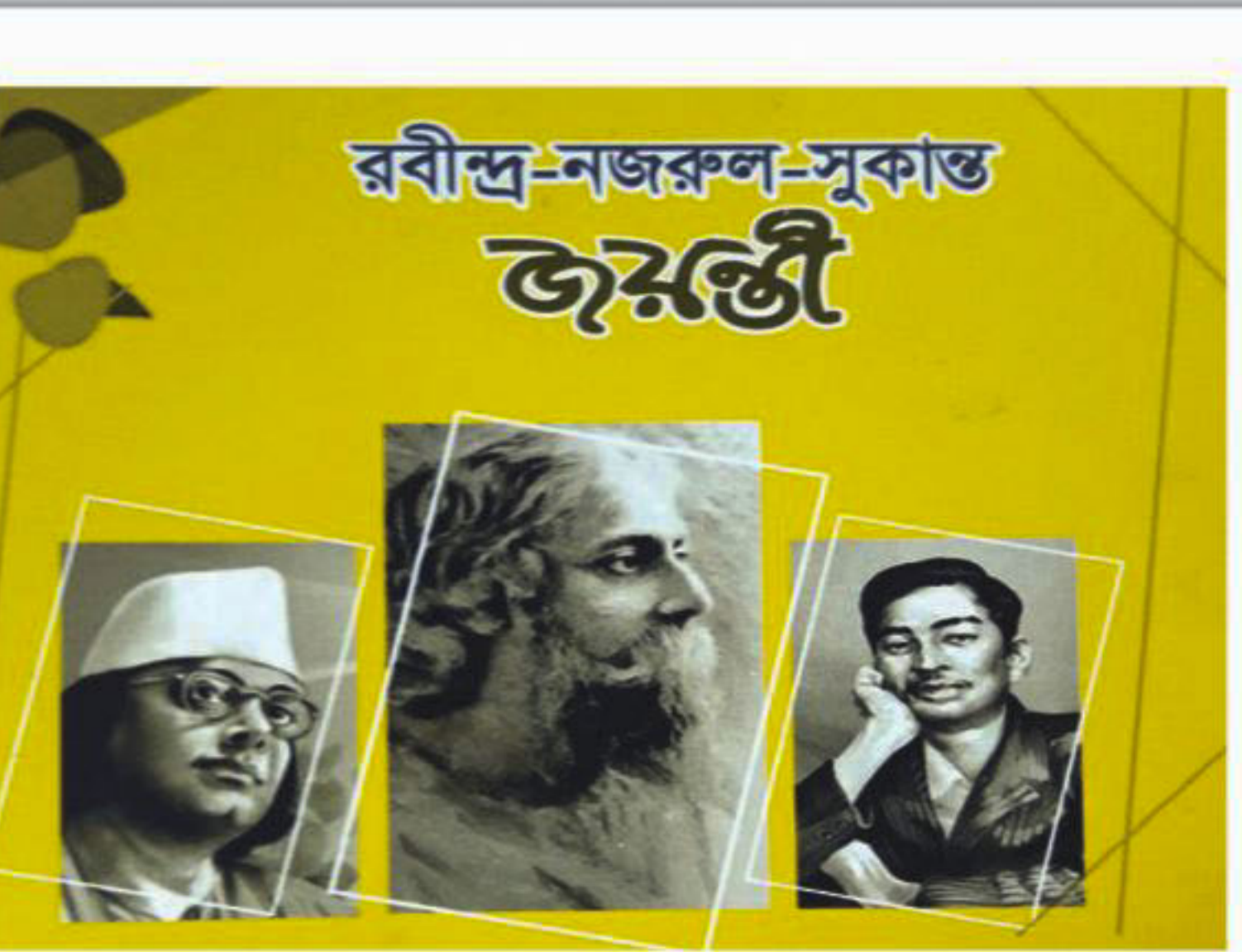


'Transformation 1' (Etching and aquatint)

cyanotype with gum-print, to amplify the messages in his artworks. He explores the often troubling and thought-provoking concept of social reality through

his images. In the artist's statement, he mentions a slogan, which characterises the exhibition and lends an explanation of his

ideology quite simply, "We want peace, not war." Without having read the title of his exhibition, viewers will still manage to understand that the artist tries to make a point about humanity and its relationship with development and mechanisation. In many of the artworks, stylistic depictions of machines, wheels, nuts, bolts and screws take up large areas of the frames, whereas viewers can only notice the humans who are portrayed as tiny puzzle pieces of a larger picture, insignificant at first glance, but crucial in actuality, if they observe the works closely. The exhibition also features common subjects in Bangladeshi art such as natural landscapes, boats and rural life. These simple images serve as a reminder of the simplicity that still exists in our world and pulls us back to more humane and natural feelings. They take us away from the gruesome and often dystopian realities that may result if we become over-dependent on factory-produced objects and development, without paying heed to our environment. The exhibition will be open till October 12.



Tagore, Nazrul and Sukanta celebrated

AMINUL ISLAM, From Mymensingh

Udichi Shilpi Goshthi Mymensingh (USGM) celebrated the birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Sukanta Bhattacharya at its auditorium at Horikishore Roy Road recently. The event included a discussion on the life and works of the three great poets, and a cultural event.

The discussion was presided over by Dr Pradip Chandra Kar, President, USGM. Prof Motindra Sarker, Prof Nazrul Hayat and Lutfur Rahman participated in the discussion. Sanat Kumar Ghosh, Secretary of Bangladesh Pragoti Lekhok Sangha Mymensingh District Unit was present, among others. Terming the bards as social reformers, the speakers said that their voices against injustice, oppression and repression made a spontaneous wave to awake the Bengali nation to fight for their due rights. The speakers also termed Sukanta Bhattacharya, along with Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, as one of the key figures of modern Bengali poetry. Sukanta wielded his pen against the Second World War, the famine of 1943, fascist aggression and communal riots, they added. The artistes of Udichi danced and performed songs at the cultural show. Poetry recitation was also a part of the event. To end the programme, the Udichi artistes also staged the dance drama, *Samanya Khati*, based on Tagore's poem. Jishutosh Talukder, Secretary of Udichi, anchored the event.



The honourable guests at the event. PHOTO: KAZI SALAHUDDIN RAZU

An evening of inspirational poetry at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro

MINAM HAQ

Members of Alor Ishkool recently held the ninth instalment of their poetry recitation programme, *Ebari Prothom Tumi*, at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro. The chief guests of the evening were Nirmalendu Goon, eminent poet and winner of Ekushey Padak, among other awards, and Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founder of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro. The organisers dedicated the event to deceased elocutionist Kamrul Hasan Monju. During the first half of the programme, the participants recited powerful and thought provoking poems, written by Nirmalendu Goon. The event took place under the direction of Hasan Saleh Joy, while Rupa Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka, was present as the directorial adviser. After the recitations, Hasan Saleh Joy presented an *utorio* to Nirmalendu Goon and Rupa Chakraborty, respectively. Later, the aforementioned names, along with Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, addressed the audience. The speakers spoke highly about the importance of poetry in our culture and

how Nirmalendu Goon's eloquence as a wordsmith, contributes to the art, and continues to play a vital role in our literature. While congratulating the newcomers to Alor Ishkool, Rupa Chakraborty also remembered what a great personality Kamrul Hasan Monju was. She also highlighted the prominence of poetry during her talk. Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed recalled his memories with the poet from his early days, and shared some interesting instances with the audience. He further congratulated the individuals who helped take Bishwo Shahitto Kendro to new heights, ever since he left the organisation to embark on his journey as an educator. When the microphone was placed in front of Nirmalendu Goon, he took the audience by delight with his humble sense of humour, and had them laughing heartily. He recalled incidents from his early days as a poet and shared other memorable moments from his life. He applauded the organisers for arranging such an occasion to nurture the art of poetry. He further informed that he is currently busy, more with reading and translating foreign literature, rather than writing his own poems.

Curtains close on 14th National Children's Drama and Cultural Festival

TIASHA IDRAK

Throughout the 14th National Children's Drama and Cultural Festival, the atmosphere of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) was joyous and vibrant. In the eight venues across the academy, children from all over the country participated in stage plays, acrobatic shows, musical programmes, drawing contests and an array of other activities. Over fourteen stage plays were performed on the penultimate day of the festival, by young artistes from different theatre troupes. A total of nine plays were staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA. Three of them were: *Becharam Kenaram*, by Kids' Cultural Institute, *Oshongoti* by District Shilpakala Academy Child Theatre Troupe from Magura, and *Ameliorative Land* by Shupto Thita. Based on Upendrakishor Ray Chowdhury's story, *Becharam Kenaram* revolves around the exploitations of a cunning man, Becharam, and his gullible servant, Kenaram. The plot thickens when Kenaram is blessed with a violin which once played, forces



PHOTOS: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

its listeners to dance. The play is directed by Dr Sourav Shakhawat. *Oshongoti* is an original play which highlights class differences. It is written and directed by Md Minarul Islam Jewel. The plot of the play revolves around Minhaz, a slum boy who lives with his adoptive father and siblings. From a young age, Minhaz and the other teens are forced to sell drugs, as a

part of their father's business. If one makes the sale of the day, they are rewarded and if they do not, they face punishments. Minhaz has difficulties keeping up with his sales. As a result, he is severely reprimanded by his father. He befriends Tawsif, a young boy from an affluent family, but their friendship is not accepted by the people of the slum. A fascinating

aspect of the play is that it uses rap music to showcase Minhaz's frustrations. *Ameliorative Land* is a theatrical dance play that showcases the tale of Bangladesh as a nation since its inception. It begins with an act depicting the sacrifices of the martyrs and the birangona women during the Liberation War. Through dances, the scene shows Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's initiative to integrate the birangona women into the society by honouring them. Then, in the second act, it proceeds to portray the prejudice and discrimination festering between the different sexes and ethnic groups. The act ends with the message to eradicate sectarianism and sexism, for they will stunt a society's growth. The third act features the promise of the forthcoming generations to create a better tomorrow. Colourful costumes, elaborate dance choreography, classical and contemporary songs and poetry, made the performance captivating. The production is choreographed and directed by S M Raihanul Alam. The festival concluded on Saturday with a cultural programme.

