

<p>WHAT'S ON</p>	<p>Musical Programme Title: Jolsha Venue: TSC Swimming Pool, University of Dhaka Date: Today Time: 4 pm onwards</p>	<p>Art Exhibition Title: Feeling the Void by Hamiduzzaman Khan Venue: Dwpj Gallery Date: October 7-October 27 Time: 3 pm - 9 pm</p>	<p>Exhibition Title: Jamdani Festival 2019 Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi Date: September 6 - October 12 (closed on Sundays) Time: 12 noon - 8 pm</p>	<p>Theatre Title: Draupadi Parampara Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA Date: October 3 Time: 7pm - 8:40pm</p>	<p>Solo Print Exhibition Title: "Transformation" by Md Rafiqul Islam Venue: La Galerie, AFD Date: September 27 - October 12 Time: 3 pm - 9 pm</p>
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Ambassador Earl R Miller (C) with the other guests at the programme.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF EMK CENTER

NOUVEAUX VENUS

The newcomers' concludes at Gallery Chittrak

BORNALY DEBNATH

A group art exhibition titled, *NOUVEAUX VENUS, The newcomers*, concluded recently at Gallery Chittrak in Dhanmondi. The exhibition was sponsored by Ananda Shipyard & Slipways Ltd.

Sagufta Yasmin Emily, Parliament Member of Munshiganj-2, inaugurated the event as the chief guest. Eminent Ekushey Padak awardee Professor Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Department of Drawing and Painting, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka and Afruja Bari, Managing Director, Ananda Shipyard & Shipways Ltd, attended the event as special guests.

A selection of 35 artworks by seven promising artists were showcased at the exhibition. The artists were: Mahin Mahnuna Paloma, Mahdeen Rahman, Pradipta Bala, Madhubanti Raya, Indra Jit, Sonya Binta Hasan, and Nishat Tanzia. Most of the paintings were done in oil, acrylic, pen, and digital media.

Mahin Mahnuna Paloma's oil painting *Magnolia*, with versatility as its central theme, was on display. Mahdeen Rahman's *Rhiannon* radiated the essence of classical art. Madhubanti Raya's *Lady With Waterpot* was also an interesting piece.

EMK Center for Public Service and Arts completes seven years

TIASHA IDRAK

With the vision to promote young changemakers, diversity and inclusion, Edward M Kennedy (EMK) Center for Public Service and Arts celebrated their seventh founding anniversary on Monday. The event was held at their premises in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

The programme began with a speech by Vashkar Bhattacharjee, Head of DAISY Bangladesh and Program Manager of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA). A visually impaired person himself, he talked about the accessible e-books his team developed with the support of Access to Information and funding from EMK Center for Public Service and Arts. These audio e-books range from textbooks to books on sexual and reproductive health.

Azwa Nayeem runs Alokito Hridoy, an organisation that works towards quality

education. In order to create a learning environment which thrives on resilience and empathy, Alokito Hridoy tested different methods throughout the years in government schools. These include game-based and problem solving learning, among others. All the methods involve both teachers and students. With the support of EMK Center for Public Service and Arts, the organisation was able to train teachers from private schools.

"We dream of a Bangladesh that is home to the best teachers in the world. The current youth unemployment rate is at 4.4 million. We hope to train the youths as skilled leaders of the 21st century," said Nayeem.

Khalid Hussain, Vice President of Statelessness Network Asia Pacific (SNAP) spoke about their 'Empowering the Marginalized Community Through Technology Programme', which was supported by EMK Center for Public

Service and Arts. Hussain belongs to the Bihari community.

Earl R Miller, the ambassador of the USA to Bangladesh, was the chief guest of the programme. "EMK Center for Public Service and Arts is one of the most significant US outreach platforms across the world," Miller said. "Since its opening in 2012, nearly 400,000 people have visited the place."

Advocates of human rights, disability rights and minority rights, along with entrepreneurs and artists, were present at the event. Professor Imran Rahman, Dean of the School of Business of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) and Special Advisor to the ULAB Board of Trustees, and Asif Uddin Ahmed, Acting Director of EMK Center for Public Service and Arts, were also in attendance.

Asif Uddin Ahmed stated that by 2020, EMK Center will have its own VR Studio and YouTube station, among

other things.

"We need more organisations like EMK Center for Public Service and Arts all over Bangladesh, which are promoted and financed by corporates because the work that they do is on par with international universities," said Imran Rahman. ULAB has been associated with EMK Center for Public Service and Arts as their management partner since March 2018.

EMK Center was founded on September 30, 2012, through a partnership between the Liberation War Museum and the American Center of US Embassy, Dhaka. It is named after Senator Edward M Kennedy, one of the many leaders who had supported Bangladesh during the Liberation War. EMK Center for Public Service and Arts is dedicated to inspiring, engaging and empowering citizens of all ages to uplift themselves and their communities.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Cholochitro Shilpi Samiti Election nomination forms being distributed

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Artists have started collecting nomination papers for Cholochitro Shilpi Samiti Election from FDC. The election commissioner, Ilias Kanchan, distributed the papers to the candidates. "We have started the allotment for the nominations in a festive mood. We are also hoping for a fair election on October 25," says Ilias Kanchan.

Actor Moushumi and D A Tayeb collected their nomination forms on the first day. So far, actor Misha Shawdagor and Moushumi have formed their panel. However,

there might be independent candidates participating in the election.

Zayed Khan will be running this election from Misha Shawdagor's panel. "I am hoping to get the same support that I received in the previous election," he says. Zayed also informed that actors Rubel and Dipjol will be contesting as Vice President from Misha and Zayed's panel.

Shamsul Alam Khan, General Secretary of Film Producers Association, is the chair of the three-member appeal board in this election, along with director Sohanur Rahman Sohan and Roshidul Amin.



SAARC artist camp and exhibition held in Male



PHOTO: COURTESY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The 9th SAARC Artist Camp and Exhibition 2019 recently took place at the National Art Gallery, Male. The Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage, Yumna Maumoon, officials from the SAARC Cultural Center and officials from the Ministry of Art, Culture and Heritage attended the ceremony. The chief guest was the Minister of Economic Development, Uz Fayyaz Ismail.

The Director of SAARC Cultural Center, DKR Ekanayake, noted that the main objective of the event was to promote regional unity. She further pointed out the role of the camp in enabling the artists to showcase the heritage of the member states, as well as serving as a platform to share experiences and knowledge to create meaningful relationships.

The Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage,

Yumna Maumoon, in her speech, spoke on the importance of art as a medium of expression, and the government's dedication towards the development of the industry. She also thanked the chief guest for announcing their initiative to have a shop that will sell local art and crafts in each resort in the Maldives.

Addressing the gathering, Minister for Economic Development, Uz Fayyaz Ismail highlighted the effectiveness of art as a form of communication. He further stressed the importance of mobilising the immense potential of the creative people. He also spoke on the importance of existence of economically and financially viable mechanisms for trade in order for the artist to survive and announced the opening of an art center in Male next year.

As the host country for the Artist Camp

and Exhibition of Paintings 2019, the Maldives welcomed the artists participating in the event and the SAARC Cultural Center Officials to the Maldives.

Artists created artworks on the themes, "Oceans, a binding treasure of South Asia" and "Cultures and confluences of creativity." Each participant created two paintings, that are now on display at the gallery. 29 artists from the member states of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the artist camp and exhibition this year.

Bangladeshi artists Nazma Akther, Anukul Chandra Majumder, Md Tarikat Islam and Shulekha Chaudhury, along with art critic Mainuddin Khaled attended the art event, where Ajit Kumar Debnath, joint secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, was team leader.

CHANNEL i TURNS 21

A celebration marking the 21st birth anniversary of Channel i, the first digital channel of Bangladesh, was organised at their head office. The programme included the cutting of a cake, along with cultural performances. Many notable artistes of the country were present at the occasion.



PHOTO: COURTESY