

WHAT'S ON



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Jolokabbo 2
Venue: Edge Gallery, Gulshan-2
Date: September 18 – October 26
Time: 10am-8pm



Art Exhibition
Title: Feeling the Void by
Hamiduzzaman Khan
Venue: Dwp Gallery
Date: October 7-November 3
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm



Cultural Festival
Title: Ganga-Jamuna Cultural Festival
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala
Academy
Date: October 11- October 20
Time: 7 pm



Exhibition
Title: Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh
Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Plaza, BSA
Date: September 28 – October 26
Time: 11am - 8pm



Album Launch
Title: Kichu Kotha Kichu Gaan - Launch of
Ghaashphoring Choir's Album
Date: October 19
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 5:30 pm onwards



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Fakir Lalon Shah’s 129th death anniversary commemorated with ‘Shadhumela’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Fakir Lalon Shah is the most prominent figure in the country’s Baul tradition. His folk songs are practiced all over the world. The legendary Bard has secured an exceptional position in the history of traditional music for his humanitarian songs, blending philosophies of different devotional and

spiritual traditions. Lalon was born in Kushtia, in 1774.

On the occasion of Fakhir Lalon Shah’s 129th death anniversary, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised the seventh edition of *Shadhumela*, on October 15. The idea was conceptualised by Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA. In association with popular

Baul artistes, distinguished Lalon researchers, practitioners, educators, and cultural personalities, BSA took the initiative, where various activities are being conducted on a national level.

Fakir Lalon Shah composed about two thousand songs, according to experts. However, many rural Bauls claim that the number should be over 10,000.



‘Rohu Chandaler Har’ by Arshinagar and ‘Pa er Awaj Pawa Jaye’ by Theatre, were staged at the Ganga Jamuna Cultural Festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on October 15.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

In search of the purpose of art

Syed Rashed Imam Tanmoy’s talk at 3rd Space

TIASHA IDRAK

On Tuesday, young cartoonists and art enthusiasts sat under the twinkling lights at the premises of 3rd Space, to listen to prominent cartoonist Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy’s talk, *Inevitable art in everyday Bangladesh*, hosted by Arafat Ahmed Ali. Tanmoy is the associate editor of the monthly satire magazine, *Unmad*, and the founder of Cartoon People. For a start, Tanmoy broke the ice with an animated video, showcasing his struggles as an artist and an individual. He dreamt of becoming an artist for as long as he can remember. He travelled to many places on his bike, carrying a sketchbook. Growing up, Tanmoy was unhappy with how the art schools in Bangladesh were overly dependent on techniques and copying the work of others. He tried his hand at painting, but was not satisfied with it. However, when he began concentrating on cartoons, he



PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy and Arafat Ahmed Ali

realised that his work can be meaningful conversation starters.

He commented on how artists are prone to hide behind the curtains, referring to the members of the audience. “Art is a medium of communication. Drawing for me was a way to make friends,” said Tanmoy. He advised the artists to find out the purpose behind their art.

A political cartoonist himself, Tanmoy shared his views, and the hurdles he faced throughout his career. “Nothing about free speech is free. Artists must understand the political climate, and proceed strategically, keeping the boundaries in mind,” said Tanmoy, elaborating on how artists should respond to censorship. “It has always been about pushing the boundaries. We need to look for that window of opportunity, because at the end of the day, all we have is our voice.”

From family oppositions, peer pressure, favourite comic books and movies to story building and art styles, the talk delved into a wide range of topics. Promising cartoonist Morshed Mishu was also present at the event.

“Acting has always been my primary focus”

- Nikul Kumar Mondol

SHAH ALAM SHAZLI

Nikul Kumar Mondol started his acting career with *Jaatra Pala*. Soon, the actor’s performance was appreciated and he made his way to the theatre stage. With time, he gradually started acting in television dramas. Finally, the actor was seen this year in two promising hits, *Obotaar* and *Shaap Ludo*. Nikul talks to *The Daily Star* regarding his experience and upcoming works.

When did you journey with acting begin?

My hometown is Sreepur, Magura. I have been into this profession since my school days. I first started with *Jaatra Pala*, and then moved on to theatre. I am still involved in theatre and is working with Friday Theatre troupe in Dhaka.

You have acted on various platforms including dramas, theatres, and finally films. Which one did you enjoy the most?

Honestly, acting is the only thing that interests me. Acting has always been my primary focus.

Two of your films were released recently. How do you feel about it?

I played a minor role in *Shaap Ludo*. The film was well received by the audience, and is still running in many cinema halls around the country. My other film, *Obotaar*, is successively running in many cinema halls as well.

What kinds of characters do you prefer playing on screen?

I like playing negative and comic roles. Villainous attributes are always challenging, and thus, I enjoy them the most.

What are you currently busy with?

I have been featured in films like *Dhaka Attack*, *Debi*, and *Nuru Mia O Tar Beauty Driver*, before *Shaap Ludo* and *Obotaar*. Currently, I am working on *Nandini*. The film will be released soon.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



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JAMAL AHMED’S solo exhibition in the USA

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Renowned artist Jamal Ahmed is recognised for his bold approach to art. He crosses great lengths to depict the subjects he loves to. As a master of drawing, he is acclaimed for his realistic depiction of life, expansive landscapes, gypsy women, nubile women in all their voluptuous beauty, and the mystic troubadours of Bangladesh.

The artist’s 62nd solo exhibition will open on October 30 in the Eye For Art Gallery, Houston, USA. The week-long show will display 20 large-sized acrylic paintings. “I paint whatever I find interesting. I once went to the USA, and was struggling to figure out what to portray. Suddenly, a lonely and panicked pigeon sat beside my balcony, and I started painting it. After that, pigeons have become one of my favourite subjects,” says Jamal Ahmed.



The artist uses soft pastel, along with thin acrylic dust layers, and charcoal as the background of his paintings. The acrylic and charcoal dust generate amazing textures, along with a mystique aura on the surface of the canvas. The finer aspects of his drawings, their intricacies and how he effortlessly finds simple solutions to complex compositions, is for his students to dissect, understand, learn and make use of. Those who simply love life and

beauty, can find their essence in Jamal Ahmed’s works. He is a keen observer, but we cannot comprehend what goes on in his mind when he paints. His creative mind is as enigmatic as the picturesque setting we see in his art.

The artist received the Ekushey Padak this year, for his outstanding contribution to fine arts. Jamal Ahmed’s artworks have also earned him many other accolades, both home and abroad.