

WHAT'S ON



Creative Event
Title: Expecto Patronum!
Venue: BSM Group, Dhaka Office
Date: October 25
Time: 10 am – 6 pm



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



Concert
Title: Arnob & Tahsan Live
At Kianondo 2019
Venue: Dhaka Residential Model College
Date: October 25
Time: 8:30 am – 4 pm
For more information, log in to Kishor Alo's website



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



Music Concert
Title: Fuad Live in Dhaka
Venue: ICCB Hall 2
Date: October 26
Time: 6 pm onwards
For Tickets, Contact: +8801844494624
(Between 10 am- 9 pm)



Paintings on exhibit at the event.

PHOTO: MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

‘Impressions of Surroundings – 5’ underway at AFD

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

Artist Mohammad Mohiuddin Ahamed graduated with a BFA in painting and drawing from National University and an MFA in painting from University of Alternative Development. *Impressions of Surroundings -5*, his ninth solo exhibition, is currently taking place at Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD). Alongside being a professional artist, he is a school teacher. He is also passionate about music and writing. Given that this is his fifth exhibition of the same name, it is

evident that Ahamed is incredibly affected and aware of the effects of his surroundings. While many artists may look to art as a means of escape, Ahamed uses his paints and brushes to ground his relationship with reality. The paintings featured in the exhibition are all abstract works of art. Upon entering the gallery, the viewers are welcomed by a colourful mesh of shapes and textures. Perhaps there is no set message directed towards the public in Ahamed's art, but rather, an invitation to reflect upon one's own feelings, if any, evoked by his

paintings. An expansive canvas that nearly took up an entire wall, features fragments of newspaper collaged amidst bands of highly pigmented paint. This painting reflects the title of the exhibition most closely. When words and phrases such as "Trump", "at what cost?" and "children need nurturing outside classroom" jump out at us, there is no mistaking that we are standing in the middle of current events without any way of escaping our surroundings. Growing up at Muladi, Barishal, Ahamed was surrounding by the

tranquilities of nature. Having come far away from that life into a metropolitan city, there are some aspects that he could not leave behind. Even though a figure can rarely be identified in his artworks, drawings of fishes and similar shapes can be seen. These drawings acknowledge the rivers surrounding his rural home and the rest of the country. Different modes of art and storytelling are highlighted in his works, which can inspire the audience to think more broadly and imaginatively. The exhibition will run till October 26.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

GANGA JAMUNA CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2019

On the closing day of the Ganga Jamuna Cultural Festival 2019, Aranyak Natyadal staged 'Mayur Singhasan' at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, while Somoy Natyadal staged 'Bhager Manush' at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Theatre 52 will staged 'Nonon Purer Melay Ekjon Komola Sundori O Ekti Bagh Ase' at the Studio Theatre Hall.

Fakir Lalon Shah remembered in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, From Mymensingh

A programme on life and work of Fakir Lalon Shah was held in Mymensingh on Friday. Mymensingh Sahitya Sangasd's study circle Bikkhanorganised the event their office. The programme included Lalon songs, poetry recitations and a flute concert. The discussion, *Lalon Manoboder Chaitanya Swar*, was addressed by eminent baul artiste, Sunil Karmakar,

poet Awlad Hossain and Rezaul Karim Aslam, among others. Mahbub Al Hasan, Joyeta Orpa and baul artiste Mizan Baula performed songs at the event. They were assisted by Probir Dey on tabla. The speakers said that Lalon is an icon of Bengali culture, who inspired and influenced many poets, social and religious thinkers of the Indian subcontinent and beyond. Artist Mohammad Rajon anchored the programme.



PHOTO: STAR

Sheena Chohan joins Anam Biswas' 'UnFair'



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrated Indian actor Sheena Chohan has played the lead roles in seven feature films and worked with National Film Award-winning directors. She has joined the cast of *UnFair*, a short film about colourism and discrimination, helmed by Anam Biswas, the director of *Debi*. The fifteen-minute film is written by British screenwriter Fraser Scott, who has lately been in the limelight for his film on a female dalit auto-rickshaw driver in Kerala. Chohan was nominated in the Best Actress category at the Shanghai and Dubai Film Festivals for her role in *Ant Story* (*Pipra Bidya*), helmed by internationally acclaimed director Mostafa Sarwar Farooki. On the other hand, Biswas won the National Film Award of Bangladesh in the Best Screenplay category for *Aynabaji* in 2016. He liked Chohan's performance in *Ant Story*. *UnFair* follows the character of Sheena as she leaves her small village to pursue a career in modelling in Dhaka. However, owing to her dark skin tone, she faces discrimination. As a result, she resorts to using skin bleachers to try and make herself more presentable and acceptable for modelling jobs. The film aims to break the social stereotypes associated with fair skin. "We live in a society where people still believe in fairness creams and matrimonial advertisements still demand fair brides and grooms. These outlooks need to change," said Chohan. "I am keen on taking up more international projects and I really like Anam Biswas' work. So, when this opportunity presented itself, I was thrilled. It is a prestigious and important film that presents a challenging role for me." The weeklong shoot of the film will take place at the end of this year.

Pt Subhankar Banerjee on his aural and rhythmic creations

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Classical tabla virtuoso Pt Subhankar Banerjee compares musical performances to paintings on canvas. Taking tabla as his forte, both as a solo instrument and as an accompaniment, he can rearrange rhythmic creations for any musical performance. His scintillating and versatile way of playing and masterful improvisational dexterity gained him acclaim across the globe. He is also a composer and singer, with three solo albums to his

South Africa and Asian Fantasy Concert in Japan. His performance in London with the Symphony Orchestra is also noteworthy. He also collaborated with renowned musicians such as John McLaughlin, Chico Freeman, Gil Goldstein and Ross Daly. *Tabla Tale*, *The Art of Tabla*, *Heart Beat*, and *Calcutta to California* are some of his many music albums. Banerjee also worked in Hollywood films such as *Night of the War* and *Dark Streets*. His latest creation, *Sacred Drums of India*, is one of the most



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

credit. The maestro recently came to Dhaka to conduct a three-day tabla workshop for both solo and group recitals. Bengal Foundation invited him to conduct the workshop at Bengal Boi, where around 40 Bangladeshi tabla artistes participated in two groups. "I want to come here again in November and December to instruct the Bangladeshi talents and conduct the workshop for three days, each month," said Pt Subhankar Banerjee. At the age of three, the musical prodigy, born to singer-composer Kajalrekha, was trained under Pt Manik Das, *Benaras Gharana*. He went on to learn music from Pt Swapan Shiva of *Farukhabad Gharana* for 25 years. Many of the greatest stalwarts consider him as one of the most brilliant tabla players today. His wife Nivedita is a classical singer, while his two children Aahiri and Aarchik, are shaping up as a fine vocalist and a tabla exponent, respectively. Among other programmes, he has performed in the Nobel Peace Prize Concert, Festival of India in Brazil and

successful rhythm bands performing all over the world today. According to Banerjee, the presentation of the *raga* depends on the demand of the artiste, while the *gharana*, the mood of the *bandish*, and a *terekete* must radiate different hues. The mix of tabla and *bayan*, their volume control, the making of *zamin* (groundwork), *layakari* and *lachak* (swaying moves) also vary in performances. At the same time, *Raga Darbari* and *Khamaj* are not the same. "What can go with Rashid Khan cannot apply in the case of Pt Venkatesh Kumar," he shares. "Budhaditya Chattopadhyay, Shujaat Husain Khan and Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan, all belong to one *gharana*. However, their requirements differ vastly." He further spoke about composing his own music. "I started playing and composing my own pieces, but I did not step beyond my *gharana*," explains Banerjee. "Ustad Zakir Hussain once acknowledged that my playing style has its own specialty. That was a huge blessing for me. I believe in telling stories by creating different aural and rhythmic sounds."



Alam Khan with Sabbir.

PHOTO: COURTESY

A legendary comeback

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

National Film Award-winning music director Alam Khan turns 76 today. He is set to return to music direction in films after a decade with FI Manik's *Shotto Bochon*. He has composed five to six songs for the film. Close Up-1 singer Sabbir recently playbaced for *Chol Hariye Jaire*, one of the songs from *Shotto Bochon*. Munshi Wadud has written the song.

The film will feature Moushumi and Dipjol in the lead roles. "This song is a milestone in my singing career," says Sabbir. "Being able to work with such musical maestros is an achievement in itself." Alam Khan first came into the spotlight with the song, *O Re Neel Doriya*, from *Sareng Bou*. He went on to win National Film Awards for films like *Boro Bhalo Lok Chhilo*, *Teen Konyo*, *Surrender*, *Dinkal*, *Bagher Thaba*, *Ebadot* and *Ki Jadu Korila*.