



National Film Awards for 2017 and 2018 announced

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
The Ministry of Information announced the recipients of the National Film Awards- 2017 and 2018, yesterday. The National Awards recognise the contribution of artists in Bangladesh films.
The Lifetime Achievement Awards will be given to renowned actors ATM Shamsuzzaman and Salma Begum Sujata for the year 2017, and MA Alamgir and Prabir Mitra for the year 2018, for their tremendous contribution to the Bangladeshi film industry.
The awards for the Best Film category will be given to Kaiser Ahammed and Sunny Sanwar for Dhaka Attack (2017) and Department of Films & Publications for the film Putro (2018).



is set to receive the award for Best Costume for her work in Tumi Robe Nirobe.
Putro dominates the categories for 2018, in the Best Male Singer category for Naimul Islam Ratul and Best Female Singer category for Sabina Yasmin, who will jointly receive the award with Aankhi Alamgir (Ekti Cinemar Golpo). Putro is also set to win in the Best Lyrics (Zulfijar Rasel and Kabir Bakul for Jodi Ehbabe) Bhalobusha, Best Screenplay (Saiful Islam Mannu), Best Dialogue (S M Hasan Biddat), Best Editor (Tariq Hossain Biddat), Best Cinematographer (Z H Mintu), Best Sound Recorder (Azam Babu) and Best Costume (Sadia Shabnam Shantu), categories.
Runa Laila will receive 2018's Best Composer award for the song Golpo Korar Oi from Ekti Cinemar Golpo, whereas Best Script and Best Art Direction will go to Suddipta Sayeed Khan and Utam Kumar Guha for Jannat and Ekti Cinemar Golpo, respectively. Best Cinematographer and Best Makeup will be bagged by Z H Mintu and Farhad Reza Milonfor Pest Master 71 and Debi, respectively.



Dilara Zaman discusses working in films

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Renowned actor Dilara Zaman has been a part of the showbiz world for decades, working in television and films. She continues to be a busy actor and a regular favourite on the screen.
As of now, the actor is working on the film, Orjon 71, directed by Mirza Sakawat Hossain, where she essays the role of a freedom fighter's mother. She has already shot some sequences of the film at the BFDC.
Dilara Zaman claimed that she is quite selective about film scripts and only chooses roles that are suitable for her age.
On the other hand, she plays important roles in the television series, Jaygir Master, directed by SA Haque Akik, and Priyo Protibeshi, directed by Abu Hayat Mahmud.

Three-day programme in honour of Bhupen Hazarika concludes

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Indian artiste Bhupen Hazarika, born on September 8 in Assam in 1926, passed away on November 5, 2011 at the age of 85. He was a singer, lyricist, musician, poet and filmmaker. His songs, which celebrate humanity and universal brotherhood, have been translated and sung in many languages.
Local and Assamese artistes paid tribute to the maestro at a three-day commemorative programme at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The programme, titled, Mora Iatri Eki Toronir, commenced on November 5 and concluded yesterday. It was jointly organised by BSA, and India's Byatikram Masdo and Assam Sahitya Sabha, marking the 8th death anniversary of Bhupen Hazarika. The programme featured discussions, seminars and cultural functions.
Assamese cultural activist Dr Soumen Bharatia, Padma Shri award winner Surjakanto Hazarika, Samar Hazarika, younger brother of Bhupen Hazarika, and others were present at the inaugural ceremony, presided over by Director General of BSA Liaquat Ali Lucky.
The programme commenced with guests lighting candles. A minute's silence was also observed in memory of Bhupen Hazarika. Besides, the book cover of an upcoming book, Ami Eli Jajubar, based on Bhupen Hazarika's life, was launched at the programme. The book is penned by Surjakanto Hazarika.
" Bhupen composed and penned hundreds of popular songs in both Bangla and Assamese. He directed films, acted on the silver screen, painted and taught philosophy at a university. He advocated equal rights for disadvantaged people. The artiste also translated, composed and wrote many books," said Surjakanto Hazarika.
Liaquat Ali Lucky, Dawor Hazarika, Samar Hazarika, Dipali Dash, Diakshu Sarma and others paid tribute to Bhupen, singing his popular Bangla and Assamese songs. Liaquat Ali Lucky sang O Ma Lashoda, while Dawor Hazarika sang the Assamese song, Binuro Mar Nisati. Samar Hazarika rendered the song, Moi Bisarisi Hajar sobut and Diakshu Sarma performed Moi eti jajubar. Besides, artistes of BSA and Dhaka Sanskritik Dal presented a dance recital at the show.
On Wednesday, a discussion on Bhupen Hazarika's life and works was held at National Theatre Hall of BSA, followed by a cultural programme. The play Bambuarir Shudhu by Byatikram Masdo, was staged on the concluding day.



3rd founding anniversary of DUBS observed

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
Chirkutt vocalist Sharmin Sultana Sumi, the organisation's moderator, DU Political Science Dept. Associate Professor Aynul Islam, singer Joy Shabriar, Founder president Lalon Mahmud, Incumbent president Enayt H Monon and General Secretary Janesar Al Amin were present, among others.
Appreciating the important role of the club, Sharmin Sultana Sumi, also a former student of the university's International Relations department, said DUBS has been playing a positive role in promoting band music in the university.
Bangla five, Cyanide, Krishnapaksha, Introit, Tahin Kanti Das, Jongshon and Bloodcell performed at the concert.
The organisation, which started its journey with campus-based musicians, was formed in 2016.

'Furniture' at the 25th Kolkata International Film Festival

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
Writer-director Nazmus Sakib Himel's diploma film Furniture has been selected in the National Competition (short fiction) section at the 25th Kolkata International Film Festival 2019. Furniture is produced by Satsayjit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRTITI). The film will compete for the festival's coveted Golden Royal Bengal Tiger prize.
Renowned actor Jyotika Jyoti has played one of the lead roles in this film. Actor Deepak Suman will also be seen in another lead role in this project.
The film depicts a family that migrates from a village to a small town seeking better education for their children. In their new neighborhood, they face social pressure for not owning furniture at their house. The film portrays how the family deals with the new crisis, which they did not experience in their rural life.
Before pursuing the direction & screenplay-writing programme as an ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) scholar at Satsayjit Ray Film and Television Institute, Himel studied in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka.



WHAT'S ON

- Comedy Show
Title: Samjona Comedy Night
Date: November 23
Venue: Jomnang Cafe Gulshan
Time: 8:30 pm onwards

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Self Depiction
Artist: Abida Tanzim Mahi
Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
Date: October 21 - November 12
Time: 4 pm - 8 pm

Architectural Exhibition
Title: Nopanna: The Future of Our Habitat
Venue: Bengal Shipalaya, Dhanmondi 27
Date: November 2 - 30
Time: 12 noon - 8 pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Pancher Prachin Dhar / The Ancient Lineage of The East
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New DOTS, Mohakhali
Date: October 25 - November 10
Time: 12 noon - 8 pm

Festival
Title: Dhaka Lit Fest
Venue: Bangla Academy
Date: November 9
Time: 9 am - 7:30 pm

Musical Workshop
Title: SAGA: Theory and practice with Mohit Dey
Date: November 9
Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur
Time: 5 pm onwards

Shahidul Alam's exhibition opens at Rubin Museum in New York

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed Bangladeshi photographer, writer, activist and Time's Person of the Year 2018, Shahidul Alam's first comprehensive US museum survey starts following its public opening at the Rubin Museum of Art, New York, today at 6 pm (USA time).
The exhibition will cover the works from Alam's four-decade career. He has developed a broad range of work in both education and promotion of ethics and commitment, towards the issues that affect different societies, through his activism and photography. It will run till May 4, 2020.
The exhibition features over 40 photographs and ephemera including portraits, landscapes, and scenes of daily life, strife, and resistance in the "majority world" - a phrase Alam has used since the 1990s to reframe the notion of the "third world" or "global south."
The show highlights some of Alam's most important works, including A Struggle for Democracy, his earliest series as a professional photojournalist, which sheds light on Bangladesh's political struggles against an autocratic leader in the 1980s. It also showcases photographs from the Brahmputra Diary series, which explore life across three regions (India, the Tibetan Plateau in China, and Bangladesh) and religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam) along the majestic Brahmputra River. A sculptural installation of portraits on straw mats from Kalpana's Warrens, which attempts to break the silence on the disappearance of feminist activist Kalpana Chakma, is also on exhibit at the event.
While shining an unflinching light on major Bangladeshi tragedies as well as daily life, Alam's images reveal a country and her cultures that are often misunderstood and misrepresented. The exhibition also feature his new works, including a 3D model of the prison, where he spent more than 100 days behind bars in the globe and gives hope to those who continue to believe that a better world is possible. I'm thrilled to have the support of the Rubin Museum."
In addition to his powerful photographs, Alam is the founder of institutions and initiatives such as Dink Picture Library, Fathshala South Asian Media Institute, Chobi Mela Photography Festival and Majority World. The regional solidarity he has been able to catalyse cannot be overstated and is illustrated through the exhibition's narrative. "Photographic imagery in South Asia has become an effective means for the underrepresented to claim their voice and political presence. Alam is masterful at using images to tell stories and shine a light on injustices and inequities," says Beth Citron, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Rubin and organiser of the exhibition. "In a time when free speech and expression is challenged in Bangladesh and across the world, Shahidul Alam's lifelong work reveals the power of truth and voice in effecting change. As shown by the global support for Alam across the art world, literary sphere, scholarly community, and humanitarian organisations during his recent period of incarceration in Dhaka, Shahidul Alam's eminence cuts across fields."
As part of the exhibition, Shahidul Alam gave a talk yesterday at 6 pm (USA time) at the Rubin Museum of Art.
2018, for speaking out against the Bangladeshi government, as well as recent images taken after his release. "I heard of the possibility to show my work at the Rubin through three levels of bars with noise levels of over 100 decibels. I was in jail, but the choice was clear: this was an opportunity not to be missed," says Shahidul Alam. "Truth to Power is a tribute to the numerous acts of resistance all across

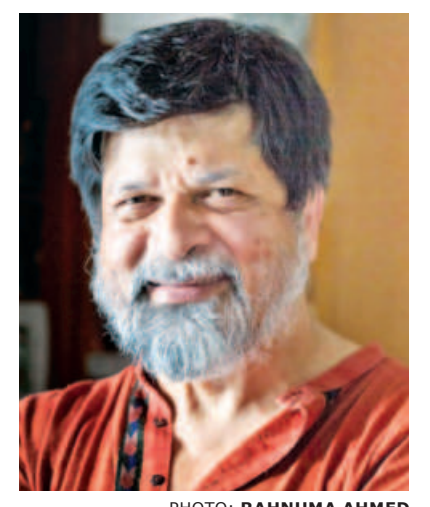


PHOTO: RAHNUMA AHMED

Syed Iqbal's 'My Broken Mind' in Toronto

ZIAUL KARIM
Astute brushstrokes, applied with verve and panache, mingle together in a multitude of vibrant colours as an imposing dream-stricken visage stare from the canvas. Simple grid pattern of primary colours interspersed with a submerged face, slowly and gradually emerging into this world from a dream. The surging passion of the execution of the painting Dream Face-2 reverberates in tincture and tone of the exhibits of Syed Iqbal's 18th solo, My Broken Mind.
Iqbal has developed a forceful and dynamic style, that seeks to comprehend the meaning of life through fragmented, fractured, broken, elliptical images. Conceived poetically, his paintings spring from the intersection of reality and dream and carry the viewers along, as though on a gently flowing stream.
"Vasily Kandinsky once said, 'Art is like religion. Its evolution is not a question of new discoveries that sweep away ancient truths, but of sudden revelations, like bolts of lightning, and explosions that burst in the sky like fireworks, spreading a bouquet of stars in multiple flashes.' For Iqbal, images and symbols are revelations. They appear in our dreams in multiple flashes. The artist is sometimes rueful, whimsically philosophical. He teases the viewer with provocations and paradoxes. For example, the painting, God has No Religion, depicts symbols of all major faiths around a one-eyed face (perhaps of the God almighty) in arresting blue. The face at the centre of the composition appears perplexed and confused.
He is restless and exudes a kind of raw energy. Vibrant colours in their dramatic intensity help channelise this energy in the Mindscape series.
This exhibition might as well be named Dear Life instead of My Broken Mind, because it is Syed Iqbal's lust for life that still gets him going strong at mid-sixties. He is still teeming with energy and excitement, eager to give expression to the fragments of images and symbols jostling and hustling in his subconscious.
The show, held at the Cedar Ridge Creative Centre in Toronto, Canada, has been curated by Ali Adil Khan, who is the founder and director of the SAGA Foundation and the South Asian Gallery of Art in Toronto. SAGA Foundation is the lead sponsor and promoter of the show as well.
Ziaul Karim is an editor and art critic. He lives and works in Bangladesh.



PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: SHAHRIAR KABIR NEMEL

Jaya's captivating KONTTHO

SHAH ALAM SHAUZI
National Award and Jio Filmfare Award (2018) winner Jaya Ahsan's new film Konttho is releasing in Bangladesh today. The film was recently released in Kolkata and has been well acclaimed by the audience. The diva talks to The Daily Star about her expectations from the film and more.
Your film 'Konttho' has been well received by the Indian audience. The film is releasing in your home ground today. How do you feel about it?
For the first time, an Indian film featuring me is being released in the country. This film, directed by Shibprosad Mukherjee and Nandita Roy, has a lot of surprises in store for my fans.
Tell us something about the plot of the film.
Konttho is a tale of struggle. It is the story of life and the willingness to be alive. I play the role of Romilla who is a speech therapist. This is the first time I took up this type of a role in my career. I believe, the film can work as an inspiration, especially for the ones who are suffering from depression. I hope, the audience likes their 'new' Jaya.
You have recently been busy shooting for the film 'Robibar' in Kolkata. When is it hitting the theatres?
I am working with Prosenjit for the first time in Atanu Ghosh's directorial film Robibar. We have already finished shooting for the film and it is undergoing the process of editing. It will be released soon.
When can we expect your film 'Bhoot Por'i'?
We finished shooting for the film recently. I am playing the character of Bhoot Por'i in the film. The thriller, directed by Soukarya Ghosal, has a mysterious plot, full of supernatural twists and turns, for the audience.
You are giving back-to-back hits in the Tollywood. What are your upcoming ventures?
I recently signed the film Ordhangini. We are planning to start the shoot this month.
After 'Debi', are you planning on any new productions?
I am planning to produce my film Phurat. The script is ready and we hope to start the production this winter.
Tell us a bit about your upcoming Bangladeshi films.
I have worked in the films Beauty Circus, directed by Mahmud Didar, and Peyyar Shubash, directed by Nurul Alam Atique. Both the films are going to be released very soon.

Rockarolla to rock JFP today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
Organised by Maximum Entertainment, Rockarolla looks to be one of the most star-studded concert of recent times -- with heavy hitters like Artcell, Arbovirus, Powersurge and Mechanix in the fold. The show will take place at Jamuna Future Park from 5 pm onwards. Being marketed as an "Underground Reboot", Rockarolla looks to capture the nostalgic feel of the golden days of underground rock music in Bangladesh. Tickets will be available at the venue.



Remembering Syed Jahangir and Kalidas Karmakar

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Bengal Foundation recently arranged a memorial programme, paying homage to eminent artists Syed Jahangir and Kalidas Karmakar at Bengal Shilpalaya in Dhanmondi. Renowned artist Rafiqun Nabi and prominent architect Shamsul Wares spoke at the event.
On the other hand, artists and art enthusiasts, with a heavy heart, attended a remembrance talk on internationally acclaimed artist Kalidas Karmakar, at Gallery Cosmos at Cosmos Atelie:71 of Cosmos Centre in Malibagh.
The speakers at both the programmes recalled their memories with the artists, and discussed their lives and contributions to contemporary art of Bangladesh.



PHOTO: COURTESY