

WHAT'S ON



Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Biren Shome
Title: Liberation War Bangabandhu
Bangladesh
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-4, Rd-6,
Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 15-26
Time: 10am-8pm



Architectural Exhibition
Title: Nogormama: The Future of Our
Habits
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi 2
Date: November 2-30
Time: 12 noon-8 pm



Theatre Festival
Title: IDLC Theatre Festival
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 19- November 23
Time: 5 Pm onwards



Art Exhibition
Title: The Traveller's Song
Artist: Kanak Champa Chakma
Venue: Edge Gallery, Gulshan-2
Date: November 9- November 30
Time: 10 am-8 pm



Concert
Title: Rock4Peace
Date: November 16
Time: 5 pm onwards
Venue: BICC

'Bhabna' to kick off DIFF 2019

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Famous dancer Samina Husain Prema has been entertaining the audience at both home and abroad for years. Having completed her education from well-known institutions like University of Dhaka and Rabindrabharati University, Kolkata, the Manipuri dancer's first formal dance training began at Chhayanaut Sangeet Vidyayatan. Prema currently works with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) as a dance instructor and is the founder of *Bhabna*, a school of classical Manipuri dance, that started its journey in 2007. She is set to perform for the second time at the Dhaka International Folk Fest, which begins today at the Bangladesh Army Stadium.

What are you performing at the event today?

I will be performing a *Dhamail*, a folk dance form from Sylhet, *Lathi Naach*, another traditional folk dance from Manikganj and an instrumental. I would like to thank BSA for helping me learn



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSVED

the dance form *Dhamail*. Without them, this performance would be almost impossible! The choreography will be very different and also challenging. Because I am performing on a big stage

today, I will have 16 to 18 performers, instead of just 8 or 10.

As an artiste, how would you define folk dance forms of Bangladesh?

Bangladeshi folk dance should represent

a particular regional essence, depicting the heritage and tradition of each district of the country. Their *mhudras*, *chalan*, and other stylistics should be authentic and natural. Folk comes from nature, and thus, should be natural, without any artificial elements. Costumes play an important role as well. Wearing traditional regional attires while performing on its folk forms always adds more to the performance.

How did you manage the rehearsals?

Being a dancer, I know how to organise and plan things in an orderly manner when it comes to preparing for a performance. I use the same formula to balance my professional and personal life.

What else are you working on besides your performance in the Folk Fest?

I will perform *Raibenshe*, a dance form, at the Ocean Dance Festival on November 22. I am also working on a production under the guidance of Shrimati Kalavati Devi. It will be based on Manipuri *nritya* and we plan to finish it by next year.



Artwork on display at the event.

DU's annual art exhibition concludes

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The annual art exhibition of Dhaka University's Drawing and Painting Department concluded yesterday at Zainul Gallery 1 and 2, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU).

A total of 96 artworks of 85 artists were exhibited in the event. Nine students were awarded for their best artworks on November 11. Pinak Ranjan Sarker, Tamanna Tasneem Supri and Md Helal Hosen bagged the Media Best Award in the categories Pencil/Pen, Water Colour and Oil Colour, respectively. Nishat Mim Sakin received the Best Award for Experimental Work.

Tanvir Malek won the Shahid Shahnewaz Memorial Award for his pencil drawing while Md Rowshon Habib won the Mahbubul Amin Memorial Award for his water colour. Saurav Dhar bagged the Kazi Abdul Baset Memorial Award for his oil painting while Rakin Nowar's pencil work ascertained the Delwar Hossain Memorial Award. Jayanta Mandal received the Anwarul Huq Memorial Award.

Professor Dr Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest. Renowned artist Professor Rafiqun Nabi; Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, FFA, DU and Engineer Mainul Abedin addressed the function as the special guests. The department chair, Shishir Kumar Bhattacharja also graced the occasion. Professor Sheikh Afzal Hossain, convener of the annual exhibition, delivered the welcome address at the event.

Wangala: Honouring the sun god

MINTU DESHWARA, from Moulvibazar

The Garo community celebrated Wangala, their largest annual festival, in Kamalganj, Moulvibazar, recently. The pre-winter celebration honours the sun God for blessing the community with a good harvest.

Thousands of Garo people attended the day-long programme on the playground of Mirtinga Tea garden to begin the festivity by offering their traditional prayers. Traditional formalities were maintained while dedicating crops to the God.

Partho Areng, President of Sreechuk Youth Garo Organisation, was present at the programme. People of all ages dressed in their colourful garments (Dakmunda, Daksari, or Gando) and dance to music played on *dama* (long, oval-shaped drums).



PHOTO: STAR

Katta Doka (talking in a singing style), Ajea, Dani Doka (describing Wangala by singing) were performed during the day.

Garo people do not use any agricultural products before thanking God of fertility, Misi-Saaljong, which is why Wangala is an important occasion.

Khitish Areng, the head organiser (nokma), informed that Wangala is centered on thanksgiving and it is a time for the Garo community to be thankful to God for creating them and nurturing them. Wangala ushers in a festive mood. People meet and get to know each other, and it works as a catalyst for national unity among the people, he added.

The cultural programme was also arranged by Sreechuk Youth Garo Organisation as a part of the festival. Father Nikolash Baroi CSC, Father Gourab J Pathang, Father Diganta Chambugong attended as honourable guests.

FUAD'S upcoming album

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After a hiatus of seven years, popular musician Fuad Almutqadir is set to release an album, under the banner of TM Records. Six young artistes, Tashfee, Tasnim Anika, Fairuz Nazifa, Ashreen Mridha, Xefer and Pragata, will be featured in the album.

According to the managing director of TM Records, Kaushik Hossain Taposh, the team is delighted to be working with a talented artiste and music director like Fuad.

"I have come to know the female artistes who are a part of this project in the last few years," says Fuad. "I am familiar with their capabilities. Their styles and personalities are very different from each other. These women always bring in a lot of energy, and when I work with them, their energy leaves an impact on me too. As the father of a daughter, I feel that our society needs to appreciate the power of women."

DBF'S HOMELANDS

Art from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in UK

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation (DBF) inaugurated their latest exhibition, *Homelands: Art from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan*, at Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge, UK, on November 12. The foundation was founded in 2018 by Durjoy Rahman to promote art and artists from South Asia, internationally. It supports artists in creating new artworks and engages art practitioners in relevant exhibitions, publications and residencies. Having offices in Berlin and in Dhaka, DBF offers a channel to connect art and artists between Asia, Europe and beyond.

Artworks and performances by Munem Wasif, Yasmin Jahan Nupur, Iftikhar Dadi, Elizabeth Dadi, Seher Shah, Bani Abidi, Desmond Lazaro, Sohrab Hura, Nikhil Chopra, Shilpa Gupta and Zarina are featured at the event, which will go on till February 2, 2020. The exhibition is curated by Devika Singh, who is also a writer and one of the leading scholars in South Asian art.

The exhibition tells stories of migration and resettlement,

as well as violent division and unexpected connections within the subcontinent. The artists have incorporated essences of political and environmental histories, often contesting borders, finding common pasts and imagining new futures in their works.



Durjoy Rahman

Kettle's Yard is internationally renowned as a unique document of modernism in Britain. It is also a major centre for twentieth century and contemporary art in Cambridge. Artists like Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Barbara Hepworth, Joan Miró, Constantin Brancusi, David Jones, Naum Gabo, Henry Moore and both Ben and Winifred Nicholson, have showcased their works at the venue.

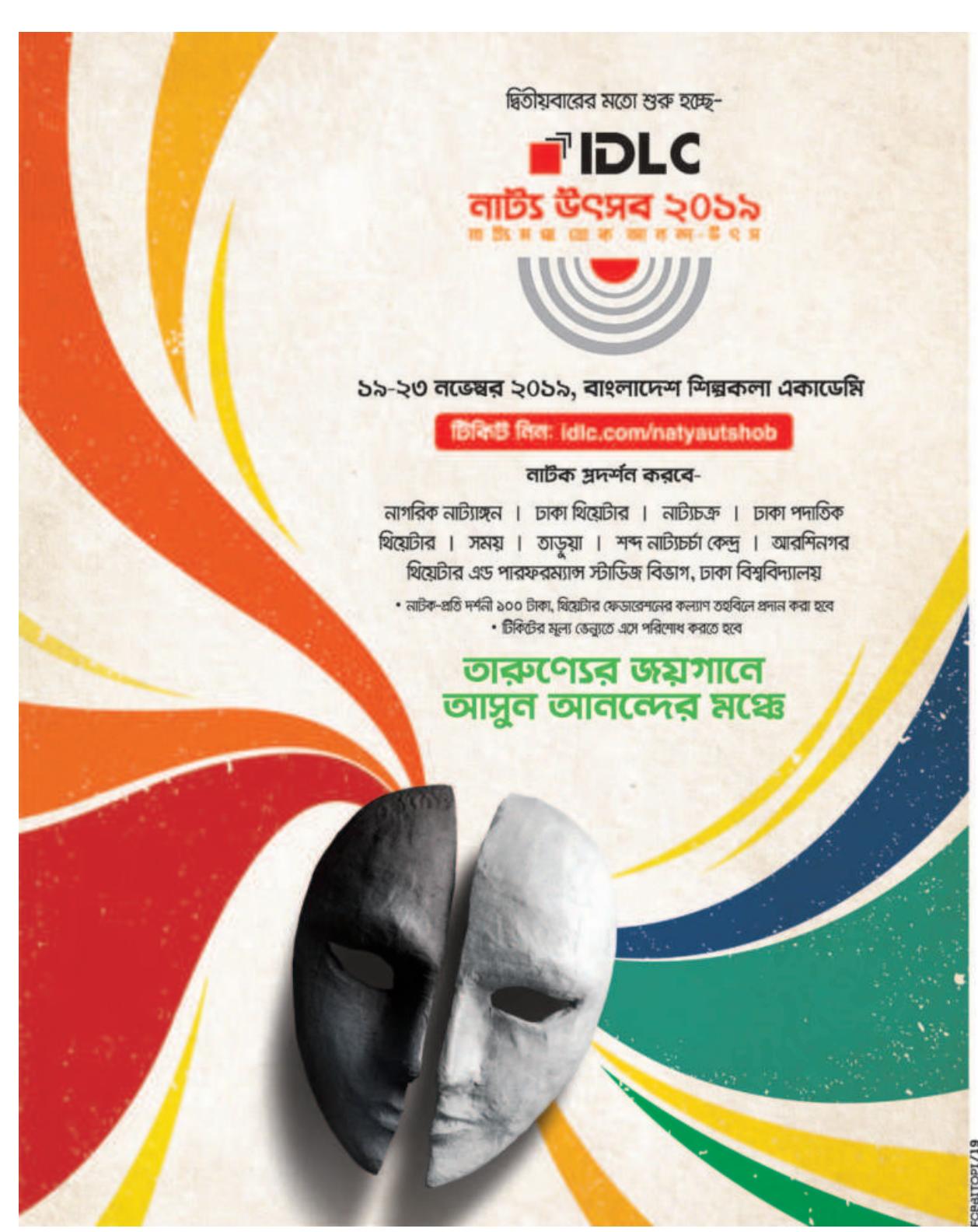
"DBF is committed to promoting the engagement and accessibility of South Asian artists around the world. I am delighted that DBF is a part of the exhibition," said Durjoy Rahman. "Through this collaboration, we mark an important moment that strengthens the bridges of cultural and creative exchange between the United Kingdom and South Asia."

Durjoy also added how the artists have responded to the continuing resonances, legacies and contested histories of the partition in 1947, the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, and the contemporary experiences of migration and diaspora across South Asia.

Alongside the exhibition, the foundation will present the symposium, 'Homelands: Art, Conflict and Displacement in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan', which will consider recent conflicts, and the violence and migration in and across South Asia. The session will be organised in collaboration with the Centre of South Asian Studies and the Department of History of Art, University of Cambridge.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF STEPHEN WHITE



FCB/STAR/19