

WHAT'S ON



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



Architectural Exhibition
Title: Nogornama: The Future of Our Habits
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi 27
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



Photography Exhibition
Title: Travel & Travelettes
Photography Exhibition Season 03
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 27- December 1
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm



Eminent folk singer Chandana Majumder serenading the audience



Malek Kawal and his troupe

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

DIFF 2019's ultimate showdown

Bangladeshi artistes upholding the glory of traditional folk music

ASHLEY SHOPIRSHI SAMADDAR

The final day of the fifth Dhaka International Folk Fest (DIFF) 2019 featured two Bangladeshi artistes-- Malek Kawal and Chandana Majumdar.

The three-day event, presented by Meril, powered by Dhaka Bank and organised by Sun Communications, concluded recently.

The evening kicked off with Maizbhandari Sufi Qawwali songs by Malek Dewan, popularly known by his stage name, Malek Kawal. He

was accompanied by his Qawwali troupe. Honouring the century-old legacy of Sufi music and mysticism, the Bangladeshi artistes took over the stage with Nagarsang Kirtnas. The booming beats of dhol and tabla blended with his voice as he sang his first track, *Ism-e-azam*.

With lights, music, and a gallery packed with enthusiastic listeners, Malek Kawal's next song, *Main Hoon Mast Kandari*, hymned in harmony with a chorus. Their forty-five minute performance concluded with the song *Maulana Maulana*.

Their performance was followed by Finnish-Russian folk band Sattuma, who entertained the audience with neo-folk songs and instrumentals, incorporating the soothing sounds of violin, clarinet, folk flutes, and jouthikko with modern instruments such as a bass guitar and drums.

Chandana Majumdar charmed the audience with her first song, *Bhokti Chole Jaate Choron Pai*, as she presided over the stage. Keeping up with the momentum, the folk queen then went on to present popular folk songs, *Dhonno Dhonno* and *Shinni Khoaw Lov*

Ache Jar.

Captivating the audience with her voice, she narrated the folklores of *graam* Bangla, rendering Bijoy Sarker's composition, *Tumi Jano Na Re Priyo*. She bid farewell to the stage with the super-hit track, *Jao Pakhi Bolo Taare*.

The musical night came to a crescendo with Pakistani Sufi rockers Junoon on stage, as they mesmerised the audience with their compositions such as, *Junoon*, *Mera Mahi*, *Yaar Bina*, *Yaara Yehi Dosti Hain*, and their all-time favourite-- *Sayonee*.

Nirab and Bubly in 'Casino'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Popular actors Nirab and Bubly have made a mark in the film industry with their outstanding performances in a short span of time. They are set to star in Saikat Nasir's upcoming film, *Casino*. This is the first time that the two artistes have paired up for a film. "*Casino* highlights a widely talked about issue, and I am proud to be a part of the film," said Nirab.



'No Dorai' to hit the shores on November 29

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladesh's first surfing film, *No Dorai*, which translates to "not afraid" in Chittagonian dialect, is scheduled to hit theatres on November 29. Star Cineplex (ShowMotion Limited) is set to venture into production with this film. The story of *No Dorai* is based on the life of Ayesha, a young Bangladeshi

girl from Cox's Bazar, who defies society's norms to follow her dream of becoming a surfer. The film, directed by Taneem Rahman Angshu, is shot by cinematographer Suman Sarker. Popular Bangladeshi singer Zefer Rahman is the executive producer of the project. *No Dorai* features Sariful Razz and Sunerah Binte Kamal in the lead roles.

'BotTala Rangamela 2019' begins

TIASHA IDRAK

The eleven-day international theatre festival, *BotTala Rangamela 2019*, began yesterday at the Liberation War Museum in Agargaon. With an objective of breaking the brutal silence of indifference and embrace the courage of magnanimity, the festival was inaugurated by renowned theatre personality Ataur Rahman.

Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Dr Md Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, NDC, was present as the chief guest. Playwrights Sadhana Ahmed, Ruma Modak and Shubhashish Sinha attended the opening ceremony as special guests.

"Undoubtedly, theatre has its entertainment value. However, it also plays a role in educating people by forming a connection," said Ataur Rahman. He applauded the festival organisers for appreciating the people behind the stage. 10 artistes worked behind



'Crutch-er Colonel' was staged on the opening day.

PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

the stage for this year's iteration of the event.

"Unlike books, the life of theatre is ephemeral. Through plays, the actors bring the characters to life. There are often profound moments on the stage that strike an actor with an epiphany, that perhaps this is the reason they are alive", added Ataur Rahman. Playwright Ruma Modak expressed that theatre is her voice of protest.

Professor Shafi Ahmed,

President of BotTala, opened up about the name of the organisation. "In the past, people used to gather beneath banyan trees (*bot tala*). Discussions, festivals and fairs were held around the trees. A banyan tree is, in fact, a symbol of union and harmony," he said.

"In recent times, we have not really raised our voices against the atrocities around us. I believe that this silence and indifference is

brutal. This festival is our attempt to break these patterns, which is why we have chosen the Liberation War Museum as our venue, despite the cynicism of many." After the inauguration, there was a dance performance, titled *Dhak-korotale bajuk jibon*, by the Monipuri Theatre troupe.

The play, *Crutch-er Colonel*, was staged on the opening day. It is based on the biographical novel of the same title, about Bir Uttam Colonel Abu Taher, written by Shahaduzzaman. The novel is adapted for the stage by Soumya Sarker and Samina Luthfa Nitra. The play is directed by Muhammad Ali Haider. It stars Imran Khan, Kazi Rukhsana Ruma, Samina Lutf Nitra, Toufiq Hasan Bhuiya, Pankaj Majumder, Evan Riaz, Mohammad Saeed, Monjurul Islam Rony, Golam Mahbub Masum, Bakirul Islam and Nafiuul Islam.

Crutch-er Colonel is the ninth production of BotTala theatre troupe. The production featured minimalist props, yet portrayed the historical events of the story effectively. A few boxes, two ladders, proper lighting, great music, and a troupe of brilliant actors, brought Colonel Taher's story to life. The festival will conclude on November 26.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Grand Finale of *Diploma Mishti Lorai Season 6* was held amidst festivity at the Dhaka InterContinental Hotel. The national dessert expert title was awarded to Samia Tabassum Tahsin, while Tarannum Zabeen and Asif Ahmed Rahi were the first and second runners up respectively. Approximately 60,000 dessert makers from across the country had participated in the programme.

Australian High Commissioner Julia Niblett, New Zealand Dairy Products Bangladesh Limited's Managing Director S A Mallick among many other renowned personalities corporate and cultural arena were present at the finale. The grand prize of *Diploma Mishti Lorai Season 6* was BDT 5,00,000, while the first and second runners-up won BDT 3,00,000 and BDT 5,00,000 respectively.

The organisers of this critically acclaimed show are looking forward to its next season.

