



PHOTOS: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

## 2019 Korean Film Festival in Bangladesh from November 29

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea is hosting 2019 Korean Film Festival from 29 November to 1 December at the Bangladesh National Museum.

This year's festivities kick off with Ambassador Hu Kang-il's congratulatory remarks at the opening ceremony at 4 pm on November 29, which will be followed by the opening film *Extreme Job*.

The festival is free and open for all.



## 'Beyond the Borders' in review

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

Ata Mohammad Adnan's solo photography exhibition, *Beyond the Borders*, was held at O'Play recently. Adnan is popularly known as the force behind the wedding photography firm, Reminiscence. He is also a doctor by profession. He is credited with being exceptional at capturing the small, precious and genuine moments at any event. For the exhibition, his lens was focused towards mainly strangers, in various parts of the world. Yet, his ability to capture the essence of relationships, love and emotions shone through.

Pictures from a specific region were grouped together alongside a quote describing that area. Of all of them, the one that certainly struck a chord with most people was that of Kashmir's. "If there is heaven on earth, it is here," read the quote accompanying the picture. Given the political conflicts surrounding the area over the last few months along with the gruesome tales of horror and inhumane torture, the images automatically held a different meaning. The natural beauty remains frozen in these images, whilst the people of Kashmir suffer through an unimaginable reality.



A section of the exhibition was attributed to couples and love around the world. One that stood out was a photograph of a couple walking in the rain at night, in an otherwise empty road lit up by halogen street lights. The

picture seemed to convey a warmth and beauty that most people associate with Kolkata, India. Another photograph taken at a beach in Cox's Bazar saw a man and a woman in burqa, sitting on chairs a few feet apart, with the sea in the background.

The quote, "Music is the universal language" was accompanied by images of people playing a variety of instruments in different parts of the world. "Faces around the globe" featured portraits of different people with face-paint on, each a representation of their respective culture.

Pictures depicting the natural beauty of Nepal and the cold of London were also exhibited. With a man as proficient as Adnan behind the camera, it felt as though whatever he chose to focus his lens on, told a story. The exhibition was a testimony to the unique way in which he views the world. Even though most of the exhibited photos can be found on social media, those who visited the exhibition were lucky enough to get a glimpse of his world view in the physical realm, which created an altogether memorable experience, different from scrolling through websites on our smartphones.



## IDLC Theatre Festival 2019

On the fourth day of the IDLC Theatre Festival 2019, Shomoy Natyadal will stage 'Bagher Manush' inset at the Experimental Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) from 5 pm onwards. On the other hand, Dhaka Theatre will stage 'Dhoboman' at the National Theatre Hall of BSA from 7 pm onwards.

PHOTOS: COURTESY

## 20 years of Artcellism

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

One of the most prolific bands in Bangladesh, Artcell is soon to celebrate their 20th birthday. To make the celebrations a memorable one, Asiatic Experiential Marketing Limited will

organise a special concert, named 20 years of Artcellism, which will look to be a new step in reviving the outdoor music scenario in the country. Tickets will be available soon for the concert, which will feature a blend of new and popular bands, alongside Artcell.



PHOTO: COURTESY

# OCEAN DANCE FESTIVAL

An extravaganza of visual poetry sets sail today in Cox's Bazar

ZAHANGIR ALOM

'Nriyajog', the Bangladesh Chapter of World Dance Alliance - Asia Pacific (WDA-AP), in association with Channel i, and supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh Tourism Board, has, for the first time, organised the Ocean Dance Festival (ODF) 2019. The theme for the festival is 'Bridging the Gap', referring to the prowess of dance to bridge the gap between socio-cultural and economic situations within society.



Artistes from Shadhona will perform 'Aye Amader Ongone', a dance drama based on Tagore's 'Brikhhoropon', on the opening day. The production is directed by Lubna Marium.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SHADHONA



Cultural Affairs Minister K M Khalid, MP, will inaugurate the four-day (November 22 - 25) festival as the chief guest today at 5pm. Dr Md Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal, Secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Md Kamal Hossain, DC, Cox's Bazar, will attend the inaugural programme as special guests.

The four-day dance extravaganza will feature more than 200 artistes from 15 different countries. National level Bangladeshi dancers and troupes will have a strong presence at the festival. The artistes will perform solo, duet and group dance performances at the indoor venue, 'Cox's Carnival Auditorium', in Cox's Bazar. Besides, a number of dance professors, practitioners and researchers will conduct seminars, workshops as well as live and visual demonstrations of contemporary dance practices at the Mermaid Beach in Pechar Dwip. It is Nriyajog's plan to make the ODF a biennial event with dedicated time to

contemporary dance practice in Bangladesh and around the world.

"I believe that the festival will play a vital role to accelerate the process of cultural diplomacy and cultural tourism in Bangladesh," said Lubna Marium, eminent dancer and principal curator of the event. "The festival aspires to work as a platform to introduce various Bangladeshi dance genres to the world. We hope that we will present a world class event to the nation."

World-renowned British-Bangladeshi dancer Akram Khan has sent a special video message that will inaugurate the World Dance Alliance conference. The festival is being organised by a National Committee of around 40 dance organisations from all over the country, headed by Nriyajog.

"I am happy to announce that some special performances have been added to the line-up", said renowned dancer Anisul Islam Hero, who

is also the president of Nriyajog. "Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has a ten minute visual presentation on the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whereas a 25 member Santal dance troupe from Naogaon will present their traditional dance." Mattra and Channel i are the media partners of the festival, in cooperation with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry and the Tourism Board. The Drama and Theatrical Department of the University of Chittagong is an academic associate of the event.

World Dance Alliance (WDA) serves as a primary voice for dance and dancers throughout the world, and encourages the exchange of ideas and the awareness of dance in all forms. WDA operates via three regional centres with an overarching global executive bringing the three together in matters of policy and global projects.