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: Nogornama: The Future of Our Habitats
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi 27
Date: November 2 – 30
Time: 12 noon – 8 pm

Musical Show
Title: Ghurni: Beats/Verses
Date: November 28
Time: 7 pm onwards
Venue: Jatra Biroti

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

Star Melodies
Title: Shornojuger Paanch Sabyasachi Sangeet Shroshtha'r Gaan
Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave
Date: November 30
Time: 6 pm

Anandita Khan (c) with her troupe.

Nandan Kala Kendra performing their indeginious dance.

Dancers set off the festival with a Tagore song rendition.

Ananya Dance Theatre - Trikone/Connentivites (USA) perform at the festival.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Samina Husain Prema with her troupe.

Ocean Dance Festival in full swing

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Centring on the theme "Bridging the Gap", the largest international dance fiesta,'Ocean Dance Festival Bangladesh 2019' is underway in Cox's Bazar.

Huang Yu Ting from Taiwan presenting Odissi.

Sashar Zarif's choreo lab with an intriguing performance.

The four-day event was organised by World Dance Alliance and *Nrityajog*, the Bangladesh Chapter of World Dance Alliance – Asia Pacific (WDA-AP) and is supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh Tourism Board, partnered with Mattra and Channel I. It is featuring about 81 foreign choreographers, scholars, practitioners, dancers and researchers. Seminars, workshops, choreo labs, as well as live and visual demonstrations of contemporary dance practices is being organised at the Mermaid Beach Resort.

Dr Urmimala Sarkar, President, WDA-AP, formally inaugurated the conference held before the fiesta. "The festival, along with the annual conference, is an outcome of our vision, mission and dedicated labour. We are happy and proud," she said in her welcome speech. WDA-AP Vice-President Lubna Marium, former President Yunyu Wang (Taiwan) and Anisul Islam Hero, President of Nrityajog, the Bangladesh Chapter of WDA-AP, were also in attendance, among others.

World renowned British Bangladeshi dancer Akram Khan sent a video message that was screened at the session. "From the dawn of civilisations, human beings have been continuing corporeal practices. If it is done in unison, it will be more powerful and the world will be easily informed of the important messages," he said in the video message.

Cultural Affairs Minister K M Khalid, MP, inaugurated the festival at the indoor venue, 'Cox's Carnival Auditorium', in Cox's Bazar on the opening day. Renowned dancers Laila Hasan and Anisul Islam Hero also spoke at the ceremony. A number of participating artistes, led by Tabassum Ahmed, set off the inaugural dance. Performances by World Dance Alliance were also presented at the inaugural ceremony.

The festival began with Ananya Dance Theatre Trikone-Connectivites's soul-searching performance. Mingling the essence of mime, the artiste trio effortlessly connected audience with their theatrical movements, soulful expressions and the contemporary dance elements.

Anisul Islam Hero, Laila Hasan, K M Khalid and Lubna Marium at the inaugural ceremony.

Artistes of Trishul with their joyous display.

Shedding light on Tagore's adoration towards nature, artistes of Shadhona incorporated the bard's songs and poems in their production, *Aay Amader Angone* that thoroughly mesmerised the dance enthusiasts at the festival. The presentation of Odissi dance (Batu with Ornament) by Taiwanese artiste Huang Yu Ting also entertained the audience. Lithuanian dancer Kristina Dolinina and Indian dancer Shivani Verma collaborated together to present the Kathak-based piece, *Have we met before?*, while Bangladeshi dancer Anandita Khan upheld the pain and plight of immigrants in her contemporary styled solo piece, *Refugees.*

Mingling Contemporary with Kathak, Moumita Jaya presented, *Religion- A Cause of Conflict in Culture, Bangladesh* at the festival. The beautiful Bharatanatyam performance by Bangladeshi troupe Kolpotoru was followed by promising Bangladeshi soloist Zuairiyah Mouli, who showcased *Ardhanarishwara* at the grand festival.

The special presentation of the opening day was Choreo Lab Showcase, by Canadian artiste Sashar Zarif. The production was an outcome of a multinational residency programme under Sashar Zarif, who aesthetically choreographed the piece, unleashing multicultural exchanges. Several dancers from Bangladesh, India and Hong Kong performed in it. The light, dancers' movements and spontaneous performance captivated all.

A dance performance by Santal dance troupe *Trishul* from Naogaon, planned and coordinated by Trina Mojumdar, emitted the essence of Bangladeshi folk and indigenous culture. Fifa Chakma and Antar Dewan brilliantly depicted the Chakma ways of life through various dances. Bangladeshi troupes led by Dipa Khadakar, MR Wasek, Pradip Chandra Naha and Samina Husain Prema beautifully presented *Gram Bangla, Gambhira, Dhamail* and *Raibenshe* dances at the festival respectively.

Kolpotoru with their engaging Bharatnatyam performance.

U2 collaborates with A R RAHMAN

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideology of non-violence, Irish band U2, in collaboration with Oscar-winning composer A R Rahman, released a new track, *Ahimsa* (non-violence) under the banner of Island records.

"To practise *Ahimsa,* it requires courage and strength. It is a quality that is resistant to weapons or power," said Rahman.

"It's a mission which is most needed to heal the modern world and I believe it is the perfect time to collaborate with U2, with their amazing legacy, to revive this movement."

The lead guitarist of the band, The Edge, informs that visiting India has been on their bucket list for a long time, and they are very excited. "The principles of *Ahimsa* served as an important pillar of what our band stands for, since we first came together to play music," he said.

Bono, the lead vocalist of U2, said, "The fight against injustice has always been important to us and they were somewhat shaped and formed by Martin Luther King who was a student of Mahatma Gandhi. This is why *Ahimsa* is important."

U2 is set to kick off their first ever show in India this December with the arrival of 'The Joshua Tree Tour 2019' in Mumbai.

'Notuner Utshab 2019' to commence from November 29

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

Announcing the inaugural ceremony of the *Notuner Utshab 2019*, a press conference, hosted by the organisers Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, was held at the Conference Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), yesterday. The event was presided by former Minister of Cultural Affairs, Asaduzzaman Noor, MP.

The seven-day long theatre fest, supported by Ministry of Culture, Unilever, Berger Paints and Dhaka Bank Limited, will begin on November 29, with an inaugural ceremony at the national Theatre hall, BSA, at 5 pm. State Minister of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid, MP will attend the event as the chief guest. Veteran artiste Ramendu Majumder, Mamunur Rashid, Chief Editor of Aranyak Natyadal, Nasiruddin Yousuff, President of Dhaka Theatre, and Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA will attend the event as special guests. Sara Zaker, Vice President of Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, along with the General Secretary of the troupe, Ataur Rahman will deliver the welcome speeches.

Asaduzzaman Noor with the theatre directors at the press conference. PHOTO: FARZANA AKHTAR

During the festival, seven plays will be premiered at 7 pm every day, at the National Theatre Hall, BSA. The festival will begin with Pantho Shahrear's *Kalo Goler Kabbo*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice,* casting Asaduzzaman Noor as Shylock. This will be followed by Shamim Shagor's *Radharomon* on the second day. The third day will showcase *Akashey Phuitese Phul-Letokahon*, a drama directed by Dr Roton Siddique and Hridi Huq. An adaptation of Tagore's *Aruproton*, directed by Saidur Rahman Lipon, will be staged on the fourth day. Kazi Toufiqul Islam Emon's *Khwabnama,* inspired by Akhteruzzaman Elias's novel of the same name, will be presented on the fifth day. *O Monpahia*, scripted and directed by Shubasish Sinha, will be staged on the sixth day.

The festival will conclude with Mostafiz Shahin's *Lottery,* featuring visually impaired actors on stage, with Sara Zaker as its dramaturge.

Bangladesh's stronghold on Filmbazar India

PHOTO: COURTESY

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Film Bazaar India, South Asia's largest film market, has seen unprecedented success for Bangladeshi filmmakers this year. Out of 234 films displayed, 25 films were highlighted as 'recommended' films. Among these, four films were Bangladeshi – *Nonajoler Kabbo* (The Salt In Our Waters) by Rezwan Shahriar Sumit, *Mayar Jonjal* (Debris Of Desire) by Indranil Roychowdhury; *Hasina: A Daughter's Tale* by Piplu Khan and Made In Bangladesh by Rubaiyat Hossain. Besides these, *Sand City,* directed by Mahde Hasan, a co-production of France and Bangladesh and *Eka*, directed by Bijon Imtiaz and Arif Rahman, a co-production of India and Bangladesh, were on display in the co-production market. Amitabh Reza Chowdhury's *Rickshaw Girl* and Taneem Rahman Angshu's *Nodorai* were on display in the viewing room. "There is a strong Bangladeshi presence in this festival," said Josim Ahmed, who is the producer of Debris of Desire, "The segments that we have been featured in are very competitive, and I am happy to say that we have fared really well."