

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: Nogonama: The Future of Our Habits
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi 27
 Date: November 2-30
 Time: 12 noon-8 pm

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

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

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



(From left) Rizwan Farouq (Chairman of MUB), Jessia Islam (Second Runner-up), Shirin Akter Shela (Winner), Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Alisha Islam (First Runner-up) and Tahrin Faiyaz Sareeta (Director of MUB)

Miss Universe Bangladesh meets the Prime Minister

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Before stepping towards the final stage of the 68th edition of the Miss Universe beauty pageant, Shirin Akter Shela, the winner of the first Miss Universe Bangladesh (MUB) had the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, at her official residence Gono Bhaban, on Saturday evening.

"It was a great honour and pleasure to meet the Honourable Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina. She showed great interest in the whole process of this international beauty pageant," said Rizwan Farouq, the Chairman of MUB. "The Prime Minister believes that this is an excellent opportunity to positively brand Bangladesh internationally. Sheikh Hasina has always been supportive of women empowerment, and she also assured all support from the Government," he added.

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader took the initiative to arrange the meet up. During the meeting, the Prime Minister mentioned that women are coming forward in all sectors in the country, and gave her blessings to Shela.

Each of the contestants from individual countries around the world will pursue the show for a unique cause. According to Rizwan Farouq, Shela's cause is to take a stand for climate protection and to represent the heritage of Bangladesh.



Shirin Akter Shela will be flying to Atlanta, Georgia on November 28 to represent Bangladesh in the international platform of Miss Universe 2019. This is the first time that Bangladesh is participating in the biggest beauty pageant competition of the world. The Grand Finale of the competition is going to be held on December 8. It will be telecasted live in 130 countries. Along with Shela, Rizwan Farouq, the First Runner-up of MUB, Alisha Islam, Second Runner-up Jessia Islam and the Director of MUB, Tahrin Faiyaz Sareeta were also present at the meet.

Inktober 2019 exhibition at EMK Center concludes



TIASHA IDRAK

As visitors entered EMK Center, Dhanmondi from November 9 till yesterday, they were greeted with inked artwork by the students of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. Titled *Inktober 2019*, the exhibition featured works by 44 students of Charukola, all of which were created during the month of October.

Inktober, the tradition of creating inked art everyday throughout the month of October, was pioneered by American artist Jack Parker in 2009. The students of Charukola took on the Inktober challenge, creating 31 artworks during the month. These works were exhibited in the *Inktober Showdown*

Charukola exhibition, held at the premises of the Faculty of Fine Arts from November 3 to November 5. Following the exhibition at Charukola, four artworks of each artist were chosen for the exhibition at EMK Center, accumulating to 176 enchanting artworks encompassing the exhibition space. Apart from this, individual portfolios, containing all 31 artworks of each artist, were also maintained for art enthusiasts to delve in.

The exhibition was inaugurated by renowned cartoonist Ahsan Habib, Editor of monthly satirical magazine *Unmad*, Biswajit Goswami, Lecturer of the department of Drawing & Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, artist Mong Mong Sho and Asif Uddin Ahmed, acting director of EMK Center.

Bishwajit Goswami said, "Our talented and young artists rendered our culture well." Ahsan Habib encouraged the artists to maintain storylines in their works so that in the future, they can be developed into comic strips and even graphic novels. "I would be happy to help in publishing these graphic novels or comic strips, which would add great value to the artists' portfolios", he said.

The artists of the exhibition shared how the challenge helped them polish and develop their skills, and echoed in agreement that this practice of inking must not cease. Young artists should be encouraged to take on the challenge.



Commemorating the music maestro Salil Chowdhury on his 96th birth anniversary, Jaltaranga, a cultural organisation, arranged a memorable musical evening titled, *Prithibir Garita Thamao*, at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library, recently. The artistes of Jaltaranga performed compositions by Chowdhury.



Artistes of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy performing production 'From Ganges Delta to Bangladesh'



Mehraj Haque Tushar and his troupe with their energetic performance

OF ROMANCE AND RHYTHM

Ocean Dance Festival mesmerises on Day 2

ZAHANGIR ALAM

Relaying the *rasa* of romance together with the rhythm of *ghungroo*, a number of artistes from across the world, kept the dance enthusiasts rapt on the second day (November 23) of the Ocean Dance Festival (ODF) 2019.

The organisers -- World Dance Alliance- Asia Pacific (WDA-AP) and Nriyajog are hoping to organise this international festival biennially. Director of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Liaquat Ali Lucky expressed his artistic solidarity with the organisers, and assured his all-out support for the upcoming festivals. Anisul Islam Hero and Lubna Marium, President and General Secretary of Nriyajog, were also present at the programme.

Dancers welcomed the dawn with Yoga in the serene beach near Mermaid Beach Resort. About a hundred foreign dancers and scholars are collaborating their Bangladeshi counterparts to come up with innovative arts, scholarly seminars, lecture demonstrations, site-specific performances, workshops, dance conversations and more.

The evening featured a number of scintillating performances by the artistes of WDA and ODF at Cox's Carnival Auditorium. Evoking romance in aesthetic styles, Lei Dance Theatre (Taiwan) mesmerised with their intimate choreography. Euphoria resigned supreme, when the dancers exerted the *mudra* of sheer intimacy.

Bangladeshi artiste-couple Amit Chowdhury and Sweety Das beautifully performed *Rupantor* at the festival. Starting with their respective forte Bharathanatym and Manipuri, the dancers later presented a contemporary piece with an Anoushka Shankar composition, *Lashya*.

Korean troupe Seojung Dance Company emitted blossoming beauty on stage, while presenting their production, *Spring, Coming with a Warm Breeze*. The four dancers -- two veiled in black and two adorned with innovative white costumes -- created floral rhythms with their corporeal gestures. Artistes of Nriyashaily (Sylhet) presented their production, *Holy Sand* at the festival. The Kathak and contemporary inspired piece ended with the harmonious display of religious symbols.

Dancers of Somatic Theatre Company (Taiwan), next took the stage to captivate the audience with their performance of *Not Alone*. The panic-stricken performance had many redolent nuances of social decay and morbidity.

Bangladeshi soloist Tahnun Ahmedy's fantastic presentation was followed by Mehraj Haque Tushar's stunning contemporary piece, *Trust*.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy artistes set off the part with their acclaimed production, *From Ganges Delta to Bangladesh*. Liaquat Ali Lucky planned and directed the patriotic production.

Rendering Lalou's compositions, Abu Nyeem with his troupe offered the production *Shohajer Sondhane*, while artistes of Nataraj fantastically danced to a Syed Shamsul Haq Poem *Amar Porichoy*, Tagore song '*Borisho Dhora Majhe*, among others.

Anamul Haque Bachchu's troupe Nriyabihar presented their spirited production *Bhumiputra*, delineating the anti-British santhal movement and adapting from the Syed Shamsul Haq classic *Nuruldiner Sarajibon*. Ariful Islam Arnab's choreography *Nature* came alive with a Tagore song *Megh Bolechhe Jabo Jabo* and the semi-classic music piece *Barkha Ki Rooth Aayi*. Nriyagram artistes from Mymensingh performed the rhythmic piece.

Branding Cox's Bazar as the ultimate destination of tourism, and celebrating its cultural heritage with the art of dance, Shadhona dancer Arthy Ahmed directed an exclusive ODF promo that was screened prior to the performances.



Nataraj with their charming performance



Korean troupe Seojung Dance Company performs 'Spring, coming with warm breeze'



Amit Chowdhury and Sweety Das perform 'Rupantor'



Lei Dance Theatre Taiwan perform 'Impression of our Home Town'