

WHAT'S ON



Theatre Festival
Title: Notuner Ushab 2019
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: November 29 – December 5
Time: 7 pm onwards



Architectural Exhibition
Title: Nogomama: 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 Biroti



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: Shomajuger Paanch Sabyasachi
Sangeet Shroshthar Gaan
Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave
Date: November 30
Time: 6 pm



Shammy Akter (Bangladesh) performed 'Mine'.



Artistes of Srishti Cultural Centre stage the colourful dance-drama 'Badi-Bandar Rupkatha'.

Ocean Dance Festival concludes on a high note

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Ushering in a new horizon of prospect for Bangladeshi dance artistes, and inspiring cultural exchange with the global dance community, the international dance biennial 'Ocean Dance Festival 2019' concluded in Cox's Bazar on November 25.

The four-day (November 22-25) event was organised by World Dance Alliance-Asia Pacific (WDA-AP) and Nrityajog, the Bangladesh Chapter of WDA-AP.

The festival was supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Bangladesh Tourism Board, and was partnered with Mattira and Channel i. It featured hundreds of international dancers, choreographers, scholars, practitioners and researchers, performing diverse dance styles and conducting seminars, workshops, choreo labs, site-specific performances, dance conversations, as well as live and visual demonstrations of contemporary dance practices. Centering on the theme, *Bridging the Gap*, the venues, Mermaid Beach Resort and Cox Carnival, teemed with an unprecedented display of dance prowess.

The highlight of the day's performances was Srishti Cultural Centre's much-acclaimed production, *Badi-Bandar Rupkatha*. The production was based on the Arabian Nights story, *Alibaba and the Forty Thieves*. It featured innovative multi-media inputs, including a stunning 3D projection mapping on stage.

The production's dance direction was done by Sukalyann Bhattacharya, while Joy Sarker composed the music. Renowned singers Lopamudra Mitra, Nachiketa, Srikanta Acharya, Anwesha, Jayoti, Raghab and Monomoy have lent their voices for the production.



(Left) Chia Yew Su from the University of Taiwan performs 'Blossom' on the concluding of the festival. (Right) Weimingpak (Hong Kong) presents 'Toilet Pump'.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Shamim Ara Nipa, Shibli Mohammad, Dolly Iqbal, Sabrina Nisa, and Anisul Islam Hero were the lead dancers, while they colourfully staged the production accommodating 80 dancers.

Performances by the contemporary dance artistes of WDA-AP included *Toilet Pump* by Weimingpak (Hong Kong), *Mine* by Shammy Akter (Bangladesh), *Touch the Sound* by Sumedha Bhattacharyya (India), *Ultraviolate* by Shadhona and Nyeem Khan Dance Company

(Bangladesh), *Democracy* by Eashin Arafat (Bangladesh), *Thresholds Crossed-Reconfiguration* by Megan Thompson (USA) and *I & Myself* by Anil Kumar Singh and Mofassal Alif (India and Bangladesh).

Prior to the performances, Anisul Islam Hero and Lubna Marium, President and General Secretary of Nrityajog, the Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar, alongside local dignitaries spoke at the concluding ceremony.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Ekushey Padak awardee poet Rabiul Husain passes away

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ekushey Padak awardee poet and architect Rabiul Husain passed away at 6 am yesterday, at Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). He was admitted to the Critical Coronary Unit (CCU) of the hospital on November 16. The eminent poet had been suffering from blood infection.

The poet, who published unique Bengali poetry journals, wrote more than 25 poetry books, articles, novels and children's books. His notable books include *Omnibus*, *Golpo Gatha* and *Bangladesher Shhapottyo Shongskriti*, among others.

Besides winning the prestigious Ekushey Padak in 2018, Rabiul was also awarded with Bangla Academy Award, National Poetry Council Award and IAB Design Award. He was conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture ceremony in 2014. Husain was a trustee of Bangladesh Liberation War Museum and a member of Ekattorer Chatak Dalal Nirmul Committee's executive council. His architectural creations includes the Shaheed Minar at Jahangirnagar University campus.

His body will be carried to Bangla Academy today at 10 am, and Martyr Monument (Shaheed Minar) at 10:30 am. The prayers of his Janazah will be held after the Zahr prayer at the Central Mosque, University of Dhaka. After that, he will be taken to the Liberation War Museum and Architectural Institute.

Rabiul Husain will be buried at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectual Graveyard.



PHOTO: STAR

A T M Shamsuzzaman hospitalised again

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Ekushey Padak awardee and National award winning actor A T M Shamsuzzaman was recently hospitalised again.

According to his family members, the actor was staying at his residence in Old Dhaka. Due to gastric issues, Shamsuzzaman had to be shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), where he had to undergo a minor surgery on November 25.

Shamsuzzaman is currently staying at cabin no 322 of BSMMU. "The surgery was successful. However, the doctor has advised him to stay under observation at the hospital for a few more days," said the actor's younger brother Saleh Zaman Salim. We hope he gets well soon.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Second Round of 'Mastermind Family Bangladesh' kicks off

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The first round of the popular quiz show *Mastermind Family Bangladesh*, broadcasted on Duronto TV, concluded with a tremendous response from the audience with 64 different families recently. Proceeding with the same format, the second round of the competition began yesterday. The show will be aired from Sunday to Thursday at 8 pm, 12 pm and 2 pm. The knowledge-based quiz show is directed by Sumona Siddique and

presented by Nobonita Chowdhury.

32 families, one from each episode, have qualified for the second round. These participants will be competing for the third round. The show is sponsored by Chopstick.

The 'Mastermind' franchise first aired in the UK in 1972 and gained immense popularity due to its uniqueness. The programme was aired in several countries, including Australia, New Zealand, India, Ireland, Russian and Turkey with a local flavor in each of the geographic locations.

Contrast in the rural and urban: Art talk with Marufa A Chowdhury

TIASHA IDRAK

On Saturday, artist Marufa A Chowdhury opened up about her experiences at Art Talk in 3rd Space, Dhanmondi. Titled *Contrast in the rural and urban*, the talk was hosted by Arafat Ahmed Ali. The session, attended by youths, began with a brief introduction of the artist and the participants of the art talk.

Marufa A Chowdhury, an established ceramic artist, talked about her journey and inspirations. She was raised in Dhaka and later, pursued her education in Santiniketan, India. The artist has won several awards from the Bishal Foundation and Bulbul Lalit Kala Academy, among others.

Chowdhury shared her views on the simplicity of the rural Santal villages near Santiniketan and how they intrigued her. Starting from the people to their homes, everything about their lives touched her. Thus, her work reflects the contrast between her experiences of growing up in Dhaka and as an art student in Santiniketan.

The artist presented her views on the art form.

"Pottery is a type of meditation, to be honest. Ceramic work needs to use a lot of natural elements like clay and fire, among others," she mentioned, "You need to immerse yourself into it."

A Powerpoint presentation with pictures of her artworks, including ceramic art, painting and pottery, was displayed at the discussion, where the artist shared the message and inspiration behind each one of her creation.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Among the few samples she had showcased, the blue pottery pieces, made using the Turko-Persian pottery technique, captivated the audience. The name 'blue pottery' comes from the eye-catching cobalt blue dye used to color pottery. With no clay being used, the

'dough' for the pottery is prepared by mixing quartz stone powder, powdered glass, *multani mati* (Fuller's Earth), borax, gum and water.

The art talk concluded with a question/answer session with the participants.