

<p><b>WHAT'S ON</b></p>	<p><b>Solo Art Exhibition</b> Artist: Najib Tareque Venue: Dwip Gallery, 1/1, Block-D, Lalmatia Date: Nov 29 - Dec 15 Time: 3pm - 9pm (Except Mondays)</p>	<p><b>Theatre</b> Title: Renulota Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA Date: Today Time: 6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>Art Exhibition</b> Title: For the Love of Country Artist: Dr Farida Zaman Venue: Bangladesh National Museum Date: December 6 - December 11 Time: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Theatre Festival</b> Title: 14th Kendrio Barshik Natya Utshab 2019 Venue: TSC and Natyamondol Auditorium, DU Date: December 1 - December 10 Time: 6:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Film Festival</b> Title: 15th International Short &amp; Independent Film Festival Dhaka 2019 Venues: Central Public Library, National Museum and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: December 7 - 13 Time: 4 pm (Opening Ceremony) For more information, visit <a href="http://isiff-bd.org/">http://isiff-bd.org/</a></p>
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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (C) during her speech as Chief Guest at the National Film Awards.



Eminent actor ATM Shamsuzzaman was one of the Lifetime Achievement awardees for 2017.

# NATIONAL FILM AWARDS CELEBRATED IN GRANDEUR

**SHAH ALAM SHAZLI**  
The Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) was adorned with beautiful decorations, complete with posters and banners of films in the yesteryears -- as the National Film Awards for 2017 and 2018 were handed over to the awardees in the grandest celebration of the film industry and its most dedicated contributors, yesterday.

The programme, attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the chief guest, was presided over by Information Minister Hasan Mahmud. Present as the special guests, were State Minister of Information, Dr Murad Hasan, and Hasanul Haq Inu, former Minister of Information.

"The film industry has the responsibility of spreading a positive message to the society," said the Prime Minister in her speech. "I believe that our artistes are some of the most talented

ones that I have ever seen. I hope that you (the artistes) will keep making the country proud, and also produce films which reflect various aspects of real life, from which one can derive inspiration."

Four eminent personalities were presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for their relentless contribution to the film industry- ATM Shamsuzzaman, Prabir Mitra, Alamgir and Sujata.

For 2017, Shakib Khan and Arifin Shuvo jointly won the award for Best Actor in a Lead Role (Male) for their roles in *Shotta* and *Dhaka Attack*, respectively, while Nusrat Imrose Tisha won the award for Best Actor in a Lead Role (Female) for her role in *Haldaa*. Ferdous and Symon Sadiq jointly won Best Actor in a Lead Role (Male) for their roles in *Putro* (2018) and *Jannat* (2018), respectively, whereas Jaya Ahsan won Best Actor in a Lead Role (Female) for her role in *Debi* (2018).

Badrul Anam Saud bagged the award for Best Director in 2017 for *Gohin Baluchor*, while Mustafizur Rahman Manik was awarded for *Jannat* (2018).

A beautiful cultural programme took place after the event, hosted by the beloved duo of Ferdous and Purnima. A musical performance by eminent artiste Khurshid Alam was one of the highlights of the programme, along with memorable ones by Momotaz, Samina Chowdhury, Naquib Khan, Imran, Kona, Sabbir and Liza. Apu Biswas, Mahiya Mahi, Bobby, Tama Mirza and Nusraat Faria brightened up the evening with their dance performances. Warda Rihab presented a patriotic performance with her troupe.

The National Film Award, honouring the efforts of the people working in front and behind the scenes in the film industry, is one of the biggest achievements for an artiste in the country.



Nusrat Imrose Tisha (2-R) won Best Actor in a Lead Role (Female) for 'Haldaa' (2017)



Shakib Khan (2-R) was one of the awardees for Best Actor in a Lead Role (Male) for 'Shotta' (2017).



(From left) N Rashed Chowdhury, Morshedul Islam, Dr AK Abdul Momen and Nasiruddin Yousuff

## 15th International Short and Independent Film Festival begins

**TIASHA IDRAK**  
Film enthusiasts gathered at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium of the Central Public Library for the opening ceremony of the 15th International Short and Independent Film Festival, on December 7. Organised by Bangladesh Short Film Forum, the festival will conclude on December 13.

The event was inaugurated in the presence of the chief guest, Dr AK Abdul Momen, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Eminent Indian filmmakers Kumar Shahani and Kamal Swaroop were the guests of honour. Zahidur Rahman Anjan, President of Bangladesh Short Film Forum, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Chairman of the festival committee and N Rashed Chowdhury, Director of the festival committee, were also present.

"We wanted to revive the lost heritage of independent cinema aesthetics, which we believe film practitioners of today feel disconnected to, due to the globalisation syndrome," said N Rashed Chowdhury. "We organised the festival with an

objective to create a space where aspiring filmmakers could be introduced to films across the world and could share their ideas with like-minded individuals. The difference between this film festival and others is that ours is entirely organised by aspiring filmmakers," added Zahidur Rahman Anjan.

Celebrated filmmaker Morshedul Islam received the annual Hiralal Sen Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to independent films in Bangladesh.

The weeklong festival, held across the Central Public Library, Bangladesh National Museum and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, will feature more than 200 independent films from 45 countries across the globe. The event will have film screenings from different categories of the competition, including *Tarek Shahriar Independent Shorts*, *NETPAC Jury Awards and Country and Region Focus*, along with retrospective screenings. Furthermore, it will feature a master class, three film workshops as well as tribute screenings of films by directors who have passed away.

## 'Prangone Mor Dui Banglar Natyamela 2019' underway at BSA



Prachyanat's 'Pulsirat' (today)

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**  
A nine-day theatre festival, titled *Prangone Mor Dui Banglar Natyamela 2019* is underway at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). With the slogan, *Ami Banglay Bhalobashi, Ami Banglake Bhalobashi*, the festival will conclude on December 14.

Prangone Mor, a prominent theatre troupe in the country, has organised the 11th edition of the festival with the support of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh and High Commission of India, Dhaka. Renowned cultural activist Asaduzzaman Noor inaugurated the festival, while State Minister of Cultural Affairs KM Khalid attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest. Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Riva Ganguly Das and BSA Director General and Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Chairman Liaquat Ali Lucky joined the inauguration ceremony as special guests with Founder and Director of Prangone Mor Ananta Hira in the chair.

A total of nine plays -- three from India's Kolkata, one from Delhi and five from Bangladesh -- are scheduled to be staged in this year's festival.

The event opened with the play, *Art*, by the Kolkata-based theatre troupe, Praxis Theatre Group. It was helmed by actor-director



Loko Natyadal, Siddheshwari's 'Amra Teen Jon' (December 13)



Green Room Theatre, Delhi's 'Bismilla' (December 14)

Gautam Sarkar. On the other hand, *Abritto* by Nandipat Theatre Group from Kolkata, was staged on the second day of the festival.

Yesterday, the host troupe Prangone Mor staged their 13th production, titled *Hasonjaner Raja*. Based on the life of the famous Bengali poet, mystic philosopher and songwriter from Sylhet, Hason Raja, the play is scripted by eminent writer Shakoor Majid and directed by Ananta Hira. Ramiz Razu, Awal Reza, Mainul Tawhid, Sagor Roy, Shuvechchha Rahman, Jewel Rana, Asha,

Prokriti, Preeti, Sujay, Niru, Sumon, Badhon and Ruma essay different roles in the play. Fayeze Jahir has designed the stage for the play, while popular singer Selim Chowdhury is the music advisor. The music of the play is planned by Thandu Raihan.

The festival will also feature a discussion on December 13. Besides, Gauhar Ara Choudhury, wife of Mamunur Rashid, Shahida Rahman, wife of Ataur Rahman, and Kristy Hafez, wife of Liaquat Ali Lucky, will be honoured at the event.



Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka, organised the ICCR Scholar's Evening at Gulshan Avenue recently. ICCR scholar from the batch of 2002, Mrityunjoy Das, mesmerised the audience with his flute renditions, along with Bishwajit Kumar Natta on the tabla. The Honourable High Commissioner of India, Riva Ganguly Das, felicitated the young artistes.