

WHAT'S ON

Stand-up Comedy Show
 Title: Stand-up Comedy Show, Naveed's Comedy Club
 Venue: Wind Blows, Uttara
 Date: December 21; Time: 7 pm Tickets: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScap4UnHtgeiDtl_6NUSUbdMr7593rLx_C_45nYfR39nkeA/viewform

Concert
 Title: 20 years of Artcellism
 Venue: ICCB Expo Zone
 Date: December 24
 Time: 3 pm onwards

Concert
 Title: Big Rock Day V.2
 Hosted by: Blues Communications Limited
 Venue: ICCB Expo Zone
 Date: December 21; Time: 3 pm - 9 pm
 For more info: https://www.facebook.com/events/825389451251506/?active_tab=discussion

Concert
 Title: Miles 40th Anniversary
 Venue: ICCB, Hall - 3
 Date: December 24
 Time: 6 pm onwards

Art Talk
 Title: Cinemascope: Sadik Ahmed & Pipilu Khan
 Venue: Counter Culture Club, Dhamondi
 Date: December 18
 Time: 6 pm onwards
 Registration: <https://forms.gle/oH5NwHJtKfFHBc8>



PHOTOS: COURTESY

'Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition' opens today

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The art exhibition, *Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition*, organised by Bengal Shilpalay, opens today at Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall in Dhanmondi. Riva Ganguly Das, the High Commissioner of India in Dhaka, will inaugurate the exhibition as the chief guest. Renowned artist Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, will attend the event as the special guest. *Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition* will conclude on February 15, 2020.

The exhibition showcases the works of modern and pioneering Bangladeshi and Indian artists in a new light. Bengali modernism was a contextual practice drawn from the subcontinent's traditions of courtly and folk art, as well as lessons of the various modern and contemporary creative

movements from the West. The artists from the region explored tradition, reviving ancestral forms and incorporating a rich folk culture into their works, to come up with a fine balance between tradition and modernity. Rural landscapes, geographies, people, and their connection with nature's nuances and dimensions played an important role in defining the artists' approach. The geometric organisation of forms were often replaced by organic sensibilities, through which sharp, precise and definite shapes were transformed into soft, free forms and earthy expressions. The exhibition aims to introduce the aesthetic leanings of early practices, which led to the wave of modernism in art in this part of the world. The featured artists of the exhibition are Aminul Islam, Gaganendranath Tagore, Jamini Roy, Kazi Abdul Baset, Mohammad Kibria, Murtaja Baseer, Qayyum Chowdhury,

Quamrul Hassan, Ramkinkar Baij, Rashid Choudhury, Safiuddin Ahmed, S M Sultan and Zainul Abedin.

The team behind the exhibition selected an array of works from the rich collection of Abul Khair, the Chairman of Bengal Foundation, and included works of influential modernist forerunners from the 1930s onwards. Tanzim Wahab, the curator of the exhibition, inspired several talented research associates of the Bengal Arts Programme to engage in their creative endeavours and inputs to successfully showcase the artworks. Priyanka Chowdhury, a research associate of the exhibition, recently gave *The Daily Star* team a guided tour of the show.

Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin's *Tea Stall* and S M Sultan's painting on the 1970 cyclone are two of the rare paintings on exhibit at the event. A mother is seen suckling her baby, while a heap of corpses is amassed at the

offshore in Monpura, Bhola, in S M Sultan's cyclone painting. The digital display of uncommon sketches and drawings by several featured artists, together with the books, magazines, photographs and antique crafts attribute a unique quality to the exhibition.

The audience will have the opportunity to revisit old times by going through the *Kherokhata* (diaries) of Quamrul Hassan, a book of letters and essays by Jamini Roy, a book titled *Ramkinkar*, a special issue of *Kali O Kalam* on Mohammad Kibria and rare photos of the master painters, among other things, at the exhibition. "Abul Hasnat, Editor of *Kali O Kalam*, contributed the books for the exhibition, while Luva Nahid Chowdhury, Director General of Bengal Foundation, provided her collection of Kazi Abdul Baset's artworks," mentioned Priyanka Chowdhury. "Quamrul Hassan's famous sketches, one

of his portraits by Nasir Ali Mamun and photographs describing his participation in various socio-political movements with texts, are also on display. We are also installing three videos on S M Sultan, Gaganendranath Tagore and Murtaja Baseer." Upon entering the gallery, the view of Rashid Choudhury's life-sized tapestry will marvel the visitors. Safiuddin Ahmed's shimmering prints, titled *On the Way to the Fair and Flood*, along with his captured and developed photographs, his book published by Skira and Bengal Foundation and a rare sketch book, coupled with its digital display, are also on exhibit. In addition, beautiful paintings and illustrations by Qayyum Chowdhury, masterpieces by Mohammad Kibria, Aminul Islam's rare paintings and Safiuddin Ahmed's unique oil paintings are some of the many notable works at the exhibition.

Ismail Ferdous A passionate photojournalist

SUMAIYA KABIR

Last Friday's wintry afternoon saw a large audience cosy up for an insightful discussion with Ismail Ferdous at the Imagine Productions headquarters in Niketan. With numerous accolades to his name, Ismail Ferdous is a Bangladeshi documentary photographer at National Geographic, who currently resides in New York.

Aspiring photojournalists and photography enthusiasts alike gathered at the venue to engage in conversations about the skills of photography, as well as the social and humanitarian issues Ismail Ferdous is known to cover in his works. Hosted by Imagine Studio's Sakib Pratyay and Gayatree Arun, the talk began with a background on the artist himself and his journey from photography being a hobby in his late teens, to him being a member of the elite photography club, The Photo Society by the National Geographic photographers.

With a reference to Pink Floyd's *Another Brick in the Wall*, he recalled an initial lack of inner fulfillment in his years of undergraduate education in business administration, and a subsequent development of



PHOTO: PIYAS BISWAS

inspiration as he began exploring exhibitions of famous photographers here in Dhaka. The discussion continued on his experience with societal pressure and lack of support, and some of the earlier projects he became known for, such as vividly capturing the aftermaths of cyclone Sidr and the disasters of Rana Plaza.

Aside from photography itself, the discussion ranged from topics on Ismail Ferdous' experience with challenges of earning a living through photojournalism and maintaining ethics, professionalism in Bangladesh as opposed to other countries, his time in Syria and the Rohingya refugee camps. The event concluded with a display of some of the artist's best captures and a Q&A session with the audience. The talk was streamed live on Facebook.

Currently a judge at the Alexia Foundation Awards, Ismail Ferdous hopes to return to Dhaka soon and take part in such seminars again.



(From left) Jamal Ahmed, Netherland's Ambassador to Bangladesh Harry Verweij, Information Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun and Tootii Rahman at the exhibition.



The guests and organisers paid tribute to the martyrs.



Kontho Jodha, Shaheen Samad (Ekushey Padak awardee) and Dalia Nausheen, performing patriotic songs. PHOTO: COURTESY

Bangladesh Heritage Crafts Foundation hosts Winter Carnival 2019

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladesh Heritage Crafts Foundation, Gulshan Society and the Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, collaborated to observe the Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day of Bangladesh, with the Winter Carnival 2019, at Gulshan Lake Park, recently.

The two-day event, initiated by the President of the foundation Tootii Rahman, consisted of an exhibition, a fashion show representing different decades, children attractions, stalls, heritage displays, cultural and folk-dance performances. It was organised by TS Events.

The main attraction of the event was a fifty feet canvas, painted by Ekushey Padak awardee and internationally renowned artist Jamal Ahmed with



Fashion show on Zamindari style sarees and modern trends in Bangladeshi sarees, painted by Jamal Ahmed and Kanak Chanpa Chakma.

his team, showcasing the history of Bangladesh from 1952 till date.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, MP, and Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun MP, graced the event with their presence. Chinese Ambassador Li Jiming and Netherland Ambassador Harry Verweij, BHCF Advisors Brig

Manzur, Rokia A Rahman, Dilruba Ahmed, Dolly Iqbal, Alpina Habib were present, in addition to Kaniz Almas Khan, CEO of Persona and Shumi, Founder of Shumi's Hot Cake. The American Ambassador Earl R Miller also paid a surprise visit. Singers Mehreen, Shwapnil, Noorjehan Alim and Promie performed at the event. Dr Amitabha Chanda presented a few patriotic songs. Actor Nipun, and performance artistes Annanya and Sawan also entertained the audience.

Samsung Fair Electronics was the main sponsor for the event, along with Gulshan Society and Joggers Club by Sakhawat Abu Khair Mohammed and Kamrul Bobby.

Media partners of the event were The Daily Star, Ittefaq, Dhaka Tribune, Daily Observer, Kaler Kantho, Prothom Alo, BTV and Channel 24, among others.

'Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela' underway in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, from Manikganj

Marking the Victory Day (December 16), *Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela*, a fifteen-day victory fair, was inaugurated at the playground of Manikganj Government High School in Manikganj, recently. Health and Family Welfare Minister and Manikganj-3 lawmaker Zahid Maleque formally inaugurated the fair by hoisting the national flag.

Manikganj Deputy Commissioner SM Ferdous, Police Superintendent Rifat Rahman Shamim, the fair committee's Convener Golam Mohiuddin, its Member Secretary Abdul Mazid Photo, Manikganj Judge Court's



Public Prosecutor Abdus Salam, Manikganj Municipality Mayor Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim, its former Mayor Md Ramzan Ali, commander of Manikganj district unit of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Tobarak Hossain Ludu and freedom fighters were present in the inaugural function.

Following the inaugural ceremony, a cultural function was organised. Singers Farhana Nupur, Anwar Hossain Ratan and local singers rendered songs while dance organisation Shilparath presented dance routines at the event. The fair also features a photo exhibition, discussions, Jatra, puppet show,

Paala Gaan, theatre, cultural functions and circus.

Around 300 stalls have been set up where various items including books, clothes, musical instrument, food and toys, said Abdul Majid, Member Secretary of the Parishad.

Marking Manikganj's liberation on December 13, Muktijuddher Bijoy Mela Parishad has been organising this event since 1991. Valiant freedom fighters of Manikganj, then a sub-division, liberated their motherland on this day in 1971 with hoisting the national flag atop Primary Training Institute in the district headquarters.

The fair will conclude on December 28.



Cultural organisation Chhayanaut arranged a musical programme yesterday to celebrate the Victory Day of Bangladesh at the Central Playground of University of Dhaka (DU). The event, arranged in association with DU, featured chorus and solo performances of patriotic songs, group dances and poetry recitations. The programme concluded with a rendition of the National Anthem at 4:31pm, the time of the Pakistani Army's surrender. Chhayanaut has been arranging this event since 2015. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSEH