

WHAT'S ON



Star Melodies' Musical Evening
Title: Bijoyee Rongee Aka Bela Shesher Gaan
Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave
Date: December 27
Time: 5:30 pm onwards



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



Workshop
Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop
Artist: Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo
Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur
Date: December 28
Time: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm



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



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Breaking Ground: Modern Art in Transition
Venue: Subir Choudhury Exhibition Hall, Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
Date: Dec 17 - Feb 15
Time: 1 pm - 8 pm (Except Sundays)

‘Big Rock Day V. 2’ sees phenomenal success



James



Arbovirus

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
Last Saturday's wintry evening saw a large audience gather at parallel sides of the Expo Zone at International Convention City Bashundhara, for the second iteration of Big Rock Day,

organised by Blues Communications. The first Big Rock Day concert took place in 2017. This year's band line up consisted of amazing acts, including Nagar Baul James, Vikings, Arbovirus, Nemesis, Avoid Rafa, Powersurge, Conclusion



Trainwreck



Conclusion

and Trainwreck. Farhadul Islam, the Managing Director of Blues Communications, spoke at the event. Aside from singing their original compositions, Powersurge paid a tribute to James, with *Jatra*. Celebrating their guitarist Fasihuddin Ahmed Itmam's

birthday, members of Arbovirus cut a cake on the stage. Vikings and Nemesis further entertained the audience with their popular songs. Nagar Baul James, the concluding act of the evening, rocked the stage with the hit number, *Leis Fita*, among other songs.

A tribute to poet-lyricist Hena Islam

SHARMIN JOYA
In observance of the 20th death anniversary of eminent poet-lyricist Hena Islam, a memorial programme, organised by Chattogram Musician's Club Dhaka (CMCD), was held at the National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), recently. Former Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, graced the event with his presence as the chief guest. Family members and friends of Hena Islam shared their fond memories of him. They also expressed their love towards his daughter, Dr Sabera Shabnam, for taking the initiative of arranging the memorial programme. Hena Islam's contribution to Bangla music was remarkable. Most of the renowned music composers of the industry have produced many hit songs in collaboration with him. Born as Azizul Islam, he was better known by his pen name,

Hena Islam. *Raat Koto Raat*, composed and sang by Ayub Bachchu, *Amar Golpo Shune* sang by Tapan Chowdhury, *Mone Koro Ekhon Onek Raat*, sang

by Naquib Khan, *Forest Hill Er Ek Dupure* (Souls), are some of Hena Islam's notable works. A lyrical book, *Chaine Phuler Mala*, was also launched at



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

the event. The book consists of a collection of his songs. Shabnam wishes to donate the selling amount from the book to a charity of differently abled children. The chief guest Asaduzzaman Noor stressed on the preservation of the works of the notable lyricists and composers. "It is very sad that in case of most of our favourite music numbers, we don't know who are the lyricists or composers," he said. "The lyricist and the script writer are the base on which an art piece is formed. We often ignore them. I feel their names and works should be archived carefully, so that it stays for a long time." The event concluded with the performances of songs written by Hena Islam. Eminent singer Samina Chowdhury, popular singer Kishore Das, along with many other noted artistes, performed at the event. The musical segment was conducted and directed by Naquib Khan.



Pragata Naoha's 'Kaalo' released

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ
Talented young singer Pragata Naoha released a new music video, titled *Kaalo* recently, aiming to raise awareness about an issue that is rarely talked about in the country - gender fluidity. The video, directed by Pracheta Ahana, was revealed in an event at a restaurant in the capital, alongside a concert featuring Hades, Anika Rashid Khan

and Old Dhaka Diaries, among others. The cinematography of the video is done by Salman Sadi. *Kaalo* is written and composed by Pragata herself, and is mastered by Rakat Zami. "It is an emotional moment for me to be able to voice out for the most under-represented people in our society," says Pragata. "We worked very hard on the song, and I hope people liked the music video."

National Science and Technology Museum holds children's art competition

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY
In the month of Bangladesh's Victory, the National Science and Technology Museum hosted a daylong art competition for children. The competition had three categories. The first group, consisting of children up to the third grade, drew as they liked. Children from the fourth to sixth grade were given the theme of the Liberation War, while the topic, Independence and Bangabandhu was given to children from the seventh to tenth grade. More than 700 children from 27 different institutions in Dhaka took part in the competition. 17 young artists received prizes for their artworks. During the prize distribution ceremony, Minister of Science and

Technology of Bangladesh, Architect Yeafesh Osman said, "Our children will lead the country with their creativity and intellect. They must receive the proper education as nation builders, to fulfill the dreams of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman." NMST director general Muhammad Munir Chowdhury, Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Mahbubul Hoq and Director of Bangladesh Science Academy Dr M A Majid were also present during the ceremony. Ayesha Mahjin Khan (Capestone School), Mohammad Shahadat Hossain (St. Joseph International School) and Nurul Aftab (A B C International School) received the top prizes of the competition.



PHOTO: COURTESY



DIFF's Bangladesh Panorama Section looks to promote local films

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
The 18th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) has announced the programme for its Bangladesh Panorama Section, which aims to promote Bangladeshi filmmakers and their work. Internationally renowned film critic and DIFF Festival Director Ahmed Muztaba Zamal confirmed the news on social media, recently. According to Zamal, the Bangladesh Panorama Section will consist of 10 to 15 selected fictional and documentary films, spanning the period from 2018 to 2019. Films that have a minimum length of 50 minutes are eligible for entry in this section. The International Film Critics' Federation, FIPRESCI, will give the Critics' Award. One film will receive a certificate and a crest from the FIPRESCI juries. The segment will showcase 11 Bangladeshi films: Ashraf Shishir's *Amra Ekta Cinema Banabo* (The Innocence), Nasiruddin Yousuff's *Alpha*, Arun Chowdhuri's *Mayaboti*, Pradip



Ghosh's *Shuttle Train*, N Rashed Chowdhury's *Chandrabati Kotha!* (The Tales of Chandra), Farid Ahmad's *Tunes of Nostalgia*, Masud Pothik's *Maya - The Lost Mother*, Proshoon Rahmaan's *Nigrohokol* (Long Period of Persecution), Impress Telefilm anthology *Iti, Tomari Dhaka*, Tauquir Ahmed's *Fagun Hava*,

and Taneem Rahman Angshu's *No Dorai*. The festival has been organised on a regular basis by the Rainbow Film Society, which has been dedicated to the promotion of a healthy cine culture in Bangladesh and to celebrating the global mainstream in film and its social relevance since 1977. The 18th DIFF will screen close to 220 films, with participation from around 74 countries. The festival will have competitions in its Asian Cinema Section, Retrospective, Bangladesh Panorama Section, Cinema of the World Section, Children Films Section, Women Filmmakers Section, Short and Independent Films Section and Spiritual Films Section. All the film screenings will be held across Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Central Public Library Auditorium, National Museum Auditorium, Madhumita Cinema Hall and Star Cineplex in Dhaka. The festival will run from January 11 to 19.