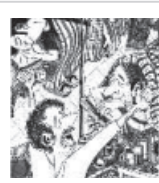


WHAT'S ON



Group Art Exhibition
Title: His Dream World
Venue: Shilpangan, Dhanmondi
Date: December 27 – January 11
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm



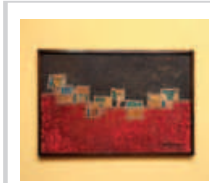
Cartoon Exhibition
Title: People of many colours
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: December 20 – 31
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm (Mon – Thurs);
9 am – 12 noon & 5 pm – 8 pm (Fri – Sat)



Cultural Festival
Title: Bangladesh Shanskritik Utshab 2020
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 2-23, 2020
Time: 4 pm – 8 pm



Cultural Festival
Title: Zainul Utshab 2019
Venue: Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
Date: December 29-31
Time: 10 am – 8 pm



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)



The guests, awardees and organisers at the festival.

PHOTO: COURTESY

'Zainul Utshab 2019' underway at DU

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Zainul Utshab 2019 is currently underway at the premises of Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU), marking the 105th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, the pioneer of the art education movement in Bangladesh. Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni graced the occasion as the chief guest.

As previous years, the authority of FFA, DU, conferred the Zainul Shommanona to eminent artists and art educators at the event. This year, two prominent Bangladeshi

artists, eminent sculptor Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan and Professor Mahmudul Haque, and an eminent Indian artist Professor Dr Janak Jhankar Narzary received the Zainul Shommanona.

Helal Hossain, a fourth-year student of the Department of Drawing and Painting, FFA, DU, bagged the Zainul Gold Medal at the inaugural ceremony. Dr Dipu Moni handed over awards to the recipients.

Professor Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman, Vice Chancellor of DU, Professor Dr Muhammad Samad, a renowned poet and Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration) of DU and

engineer Mainul Abedin, son of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, attended the opening ceremony as special guests, among others.

Professor Nisar Hossain, renowned artist and Dean of FFA, DU, presided over the programme. Following the formal opening ceremony, the guests and the organisers inaugurated the permanent art gallery adjacent to the Dean's office in FFA, DU.

The FFA authority has been arranging the festival annually since 2009. The event, which includes several exclusive seminars every day, will conclude on December 31.

The event features an exhibition of artworks by eminent artists, teachers and students of FFA, DU.

The *Zainul Mela* is simultaneously going on at the FFA premises where all the departments of the faculty are selling artworks. Local artisans are also selling their handmade crafts at the fair.

The opening day was marked by a cultural programme, held at Bakultola, where students, teachers, alumni and a several popular bands, including Joler Gaan, performed. Some folk and cultural troupes will also perform at Bakultola every day throughout the festival.

Azizul Hakim on 'Mithur Muktijuddho'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Acclaimed actor and director Azizul Hakim is set to play a key role in Zahid Shaon's upcoming film, *Mithur Muktijuddho*. It is a government granted film, set in the backdrop of the Liberation War of Bangladesh. "I have always been drawn to stories about the Liberation War and I am excited to be working on this film," said Azizul Hakim. The shooting for *Mithur Muktijuddho* will start on January 10, 2020, in Jhenaidah, where Azizul Hakim will be staying for a week. He will return to Dhaka to work on a television serial afterwards.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Nritya Nandan's 'Parampara'



Renowned dance school Nritya Nandan arranged an Indian classical dance programme, titled 'Parampara', at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut on December 28. Eminent dancer, choreographer and the director of the school, Sharmila Banerjee, has conceptualised the event that featured performances by promising dancers, Sudeshna Swayamprabha (Manipuri), Maria Farih Upama (Bharatnatyam) and Moumita Jaya and Hasan Ishtiaque Imran (Kathak). All the featured dancers, as ICCR scholars, completed their Masters in Dance together from Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata in 2018.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Two books published in celebration of writers and translators

SHARMIN JOYA

Gantha, a women's writing group, in association with Bengal Boi, published *The Woman Who Ate Cooking Pots* by Jahana Naushin, and *Gantha Miscellany*, the first book by the members of Gantha. These two books are collections of short stories, mostly translated from Bangla stories. *The Woman Who Ate Cooking Pots* comprises of ten short stories, while *Gantha Miscellany* contains sixteen. The launching ceremony of these books took place at Bengal Boi recently.

Bangla Academy Literary Award winner Niaz Zaman, who is also a translator and professor at the University of Dhaka, hosted the event. She is the editor of *Gantha Miscellany*. Dr Parween Hasan, Vice-Chancellor, Central Women's University and Luva Nahid Chowdhury, Director General, Bengal Foundation and Director - Administrative of Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements, were also present.

The programme began with Professor Niaz Zaman's speech. A minute of silence was observed for the recently deceased writer Rizia Rahman and translator Raina Moinuddin Abu Zafar. Their last works are enlisted in the two books. The event progressed with the speeches of the other guests.

Luva Nahid Chowdhury stressed on the point that English translations of Bangla



(From left) Professor Niaz Zaman, Dr Parween Hasan and Luva Nahid Chowdhury at the event.

PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

works are growing in numbers, which is excellent. She further appreciated writers and translators for their hard work in this regard. Dr Parween also talked about the cultural nuisance that often creates a gap in the one-to-one relationship between Bangla and English, while translating. When faced with idioms, colloquialisms, metaphors, symbols and the like, there

are a few ideas that keep the cross-cultural boundaries intact. Moreover, the guests spoke about the importance of encouraging people to read more literature.

The event concluded with the translators and the writers of the stories reading a few lines from their works. The books are now available at Bengal Boi.

'Loko-Sangskriti Utshab' held in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, From Mymensingh

A daylong folk cultural festival, *Loko-Sangskriti Utshab*, was held at Tengorpara in Mymensingh, on December 28. Parbon, a cultural group, in collaboration with the Ekota Club in Mymensingh, organised the festival with the slogan, *Loko Sangskriti Jagoron, Sampriti Ummayan*, to promote cultural events in rural areas. It was the fourth edition of the festival.

The event included *Ekdil Gaan, Puthipath, Jari Gaan, Behular Nachari* (a type of dance), *Lathi Khela, Dariabandha, Gutti Khela*, a circus and *Hadudu*, among other traditional activities. Like previous years, the festival was held after the harvesting season. It began with the National Anthem, followed by different cultural events

associated with rural communities. The entrance gate of the event was made with traditional agricultural tools, like plough, leveler and hats.

The *Ekdil Gaan* performance by Akram Boyati and his troupe from Phulbaria was excellent. Advocate Emdadul Haque Selim, who hails from the Neugi Kushmail village of Phulbaria, said that such traditional activities should be revived for the better interest of the country's culture.

"We have been organising the festival to revive the nearly extinct rural cultural activities, games and sports," said Mottalib Darnari, one of the organisers of Parbon. Akram Boyati inaugurated the festival, while Sakar Mustafa, Head, Folklore Department, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, was the chief guest.



PHOTO: STAR