

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Truce
Artist: Ata Mojlish
Venue: Dvip Gallery, Lalmatia
Date: January 25 – February 1
Time: 3 pm – 9 pm (Except Mondays)

Workshop
Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop
by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo
Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur
Date: January 25, 2020
Time: 11 am – 6 pm

Cultural Festival
Title: Bangladesh Shanskrity Utshab 2020
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 3–23, 2020
Time: 4 pm – 8 pm

Musical Evening
Title: Tondrahara Raater Gaan
Organiser: Star Melodies
Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave
Date: January 25
Time: 6:30 pm onwards

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

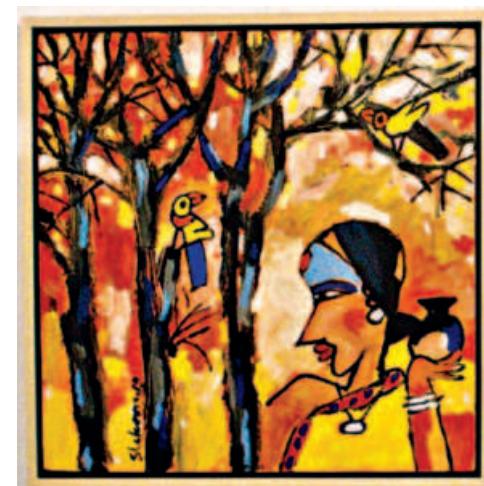


Artworks on exhibit at the event.

Charity painting exhibition for Art Fest 2020 underway at Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

A painting exhibition by eminent artists of Bangladesh was inaugurated at Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, recently. The exhibition, which will run till January 27, is a charity event. The revenues generated from the sale of the exhibited works will go towards organising the Art Fest 2020, Nilphamari.



For the past few years, the Art Fest, alternatively known as Charukola Utshab, has been organised at a location outside Dhaka, involving different groups of people, with a focus on school children and the youth. Charukola Utshab aims to create an interchange of art practices between the city life and the country life outside the metropolitan. The festival functions largely as an art camp, with many guidelines and teachings provided to the young people interested in art. Different topics surrounding social issues and causes, such as the environment and nature, are highlighted in the themes of the workshops. Additionally, cultural programmes, an arts and crafts fair and sightseeing walks are also scheduled during the event.

Along with the children, university art students and renowned artists also take part in the events and create artworks in an interactive environment. Since this initiative is seen as a one with many spillover benefits, especially with respect to engaging the youth in arts and culture of our country while keeping them immersed in positive activities, prominent artists have come together to help raise funds in order to organise yet another successful festival.

The paintings displayed in the ongoing exhibition portray a variety of styles, media and subjects. A wide array of emotions swirl through the depictions of various realities of the artists. Canvases swathed in intricate abstract acrylic textures are hung alongside nature landscapes. Some of the paintings include words and poetry inscribed in decorative patterns. Many of the paintings focus on feminine figures, with regards to their significance and relation to nature and family.

Though the paintings by established artists have little in common, be it in styles, subjects or depicted moods, the exhibition presents itself unitedly in the collective goal to not only further the arts within an exclusive circle, but to promote the arts in a broader sense that can impact people in different parts of the country. The financial support as well as the ideological encouragement provided by the senior artists of Bangladesh for the Art Fest will surely go a long way in ensuring a rich and vibrant artistic and cultural landscape for the youth and for our future.

With the slogan, 'Future in Frames', this year's International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh will take place from January 24 to 31 at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium in Central Public Library.

During a press conference at Alliance Française de Dhaka recently, Farha Jahin Biva, Festival Director, announced the details of the programme. President of Children's Film Society Bangladesh, Dr Mohammad Zafar Iqbal, General Secretary Munira Morshed Munni, Festival Founder Morshedul Islam and Festival Advisor Dr Yasmeen Haque, along with Festival Co-Director Fariha Jannat Mim, were present at the press conference.

179 films from 39 countries will be screened across five festival venues every day, for free. All the films are especially made for children of all ages. In addition, Nehal Quraishi, Pipli R Khan, Nahid Masud and Amitab Reza Chowdhury will conduct workshops on cinematography, direction, sound in film and storytelling, respectively. There will also be sessions, featuring freedom fighter and battlefield photographer Haroon Habib and the first Bangladeshi female FIFA referee, Jaya Chakma.

18 films from 48 submissions will be screened in the Bangladeshi Children Filmmaker's section, out of which five best films will be awarded. The Jury board for Child Film Section consists of five members who are below 18. Besides the 'Young Bangladeshi Talent' section, this year, a new section, 'Bangabandhu Through My Lens' has been introduced, in celebration of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation. Around 150 films will be screened from various countries in the 'International Film' section. Shamim Akhte, Ferdousi and Syed Salahuddin Zaki, Nurul Alam Atiq, Nur Imran Mithu and Abu Shahed Emon will be in the jury board of the varied film sections.

Morshedul Islam mentioned that close to 150 children are working in the festival committee. Dr Mohammad Zafar Iqbal said, "We saw our children grow through this festival. It definitely takes a lot to arrange an event like this, and it takes conviction to continue it for thirteen long years."

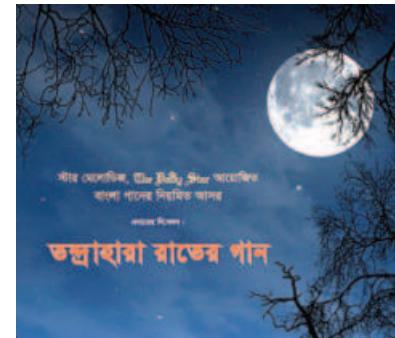
"We have made special transport arrangements for school students and we also urge parents to bring their children to the festival," said General Secretary Munira Morshed Munni.

For more information about the festival, visit www.cfsbangladesh.org/festival2020.



(From left) Fariha Jannat Mim, Farha Jahin Biva, Morshedul Islam, Dr Mohammad Zafar Iqbal, Munira Morshed Munni and Dr Yasmeen Haque at the press conference.

Star Melodies to host 'Tondrahara Raater Gaan' on January 25



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Star Melodies, an initiative of The Daily Star to promote Bangla music, will host a special evening, titled 'Tondrahara Raater Gaan', featuring evergreen nostalgic, romantic songs.

The programme, sponsored by Dhaka Bank Limited, will be held on January 25, 2020, at 6:30 pm in the A S Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre.

Noted artistes Mahfuzur Rahman, Samarjit Roy, Champa Banik, Tanjina Karim Sharalipi and Shemonty Monjari will perform at the event, hosted by Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief, Culture Initiatives, The Daily Star.

Seats are limited and available on a first-come first-serve basis.



'Kathbirali' has received a lukewarm response at Ananda Cinema Hall.



At Star Cineplex in Bashundhara City, the crowd for 'Kathbirali' mainly consisted of youngsters.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHE

'Kathbirali' garners mixed reactions from cinemagoers

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Niyamul Mukta's 'Kathbirali', starring Sporsha, was released in 18 cinema halls inside and outside Dhaka, on January 17. Positive public reviews of the film surfaced on social media platforms immediately after its release. Looking into the film's current progress, The Daily Star recently visited numerous cinema halls in Dhaka. So far, 'Kathbirali' has received a lukewarm response at Ananda Cinema Hall, located in the

heart of Farmgate. The first impression of the ticket counter for the matinee show of the film was disappointing. Only a couple of people were seen holding tickets to 'Kathbirali' at the venue. According to the managers, although the film attracted some cinemagoers during the weekend, the numbers went down as soon as the holidays ended.

At Star Cineplex in Bashundhara City, the crowd for 'Kathbirali' mainly consisted of youngsters. On the other hand, at Balaka Cinema Hall, the film is running

quite well. It has managed to attract a significant number of cinemagoers. A couple of young film buffs, standing in a queue outside the hall, said that they came to watch the film because of positive word-of-mouth.

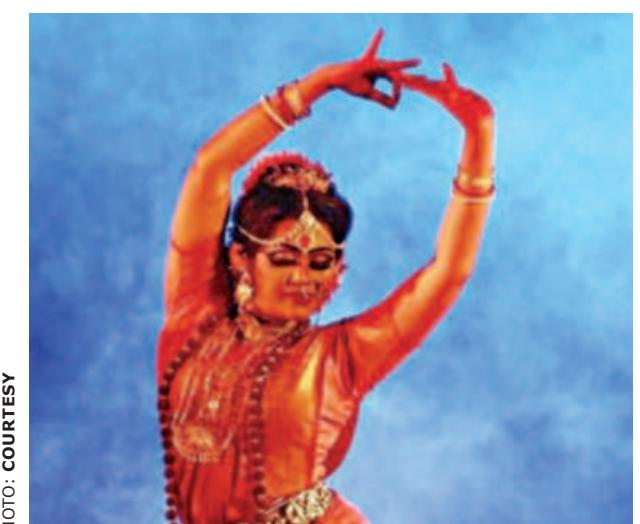
Since its release, 'Kathbirali' has performed quite poorly at Madhumita Cinema Hall. "Many cinemagoers have said that they liked the story of the film. However, a limited number of audiences are coming to watch it," shares Iftekhar Uddin Nawshad, the owner of the theatre.

Rachel Perris to speak at SOAS

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

A lecture by Gaudiya Nritya exponent Rachel Priyanka Perris will be held at Wolfson Lecture Theatre (SWLT), Paul Webley Wing, SAOS University of London, today. The free and open for all event is being hosted by the SOAS Indian Dance Society.

Rachel is an award-winning dancer, choreographer and researcher from Dhaka. Having completed her training under the tutelage of Mahua Mukherjee, she is the pioneer of Gaudiya Nritya in Bangladesh. She conducts regular workshops and courses for Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and other prestigious cultural institutions both home and abroad. The celebrated dancer has represented Bangladesh in acclaimed dance festivals worldwide, including the UNESCO Centre in Paris (2016) and at the Nobel Peace Ceremony in Oslo (2006).



Najib Tarque's 'Art Makes Us Human' at 3rd Space

SUMAIYA KABIR

Slowly gaining more and more popularity as the cultural hub of Dhanmondi, 3rd Space hosted an insightful art talk recently, where youngsters spent a wonderful weekend afternoon brainstorming how art makes us human, with Najib Tareque.

Najib Tareque is an artist, printmaker and writer, best known for being one of the pioneers of online art galleries in Bangladesh. He is the founding member of Jolrong, one of the first online art galleries in South Asia. His discussion, 'Art Makes Us Human', covered the beginning of his journey, his realisations regarding visual art and the age we live in today, where information is power.

What was unique about the art talk was that it was not simple a discussion

on art, but rather a wholesome experience of everything that is going on around us today. From literary conversations on recent happenings such as Abdulla Abu Sayeed's article, 'Saree', to European artists from the last century, movies and Bill Gates, the programme had it all.

The art talk began with the question of what makes us humans different from other animals. Najib Tareque gave an example of how a spider weaves his own web, the same way decade after decade, while we humans keep on progressing. We have learnt to evolve over time and fine-tuned our skills and all that we see



The music video for the song, 'Phuler Naame Naam', by Momtaz Begum, MP, was released at a press conference held at Zahur Hossain Chowdhury Hall of National Press Club (NPC) in the presence of Farida Yeasmin, General Secretary, NPC, recently. Besides singing the song which intends to raise awareness regarding child marriage in Bangladesh, the artiste is also seen in the music video.

PHOTO: COURTESY



around us today. He discussed how from the clothes we wear to the words we speak on open mics, everything is in fact, art.

'Art Makes Us Human' was not just the title of the talk. It is a virtual art project started on Instagram by Najib Tareque in 2015, which eventually spread across Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and Tumblr as well. Since 1987, he has been a part of various group and solo exhibitions, both at home and abroad. He has exhibited over a hundred images online in the last couple of years. Najib Tareque claims to have a thousand more posts ready, with all the images conveying different messages through writings, brush strokes and colours. A few other new mediaprojects came up in the discussion as well, leaving the audience excited for more interesting works from the artist.