

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Three Worlds
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery,
 Lalmatia, Dhaka
 Date: January 31 –
 February 11
 Time: 3 pm – 8 pm

Winter Festival
 Title: Heem Utshab
 Venue: Jahangirnagar University
 Date: February 6-7
 Time: 10 am onwards

Book Fair
 Title: Amar Ekushey Boi Mela
 Organizer: Bangla Academy
 Venue: Bangla Academy
 Premises
 Date: Feb 2 - 29
 Time: 3 pm onwards

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

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: 7
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
 Date: January 24 –
 February 7
 Time: 11:30 am – 7:30 pm



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Ekushey Boi Mela begins today

The month-long Ekushey Boi Mela will commence today. Thousands of new books are published and released by authors from around the country, in one of the most

anticipated events of the year. This edition of the fair was rescheduled to accommodate the mayoral elections that took place yesterday.

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Shamir Montazid takes flight with 'Urche Heisenberg'

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Shamir Montazid, an online educator at 10 Minute school, is currently pursuing his PhD at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. An avid writer, Shamir's previous publication *Heisenberg Golpo* was one of the best-sellers at the Ekushey Boi Mela, last year. This time, he is all set to narrate his travel experiences from 23 cities across 12 countries, through his book, *Urche Heisenberg*, a collection of personal stories delivering basic instructions while planning a trip, be it the best places to eat or the major sites to visit.

Shamir developed a liking towards science since he was a child as he grew up watching documentaries and science shows on Nat Geo and Animal Planet. "Taking up genetic engineering at the University of Dhaka (DU) was one of the hardest decisions I had to take," he mentions. "It was even harder to juggle my CGPA and work at 10 Minute School as sometimes, I had to work continuously for 15 hours a day."

During this time, one of his teachers from DU got the opportunity to pursue a research with Oxford. "While scrolling my teacher's Facebook posts, I fell in love with the city," he adds. "My passion for science compelled me to apply to Oxford for my PhD."

Getting into Oxford was not an easy journey, and to add to his list of difficulties, he failed to commence his research in 2017 due to insufficient funding, despite receiving an offer letter. Later that year, his supervisor from Oxford insisted him to visit the university as an academic visitor. "I decided to reapply in 2018 with better



PHOTO: AVIPSU DAS GUPTA

credentials, and finally received full funding from Bangabandhu Fellowship Trust," he shares.

Speaking about his life in Oxford, the research lab is very intense and he often

has to work for 10-12 hours a day, including tasks like designing various experiments, and executing them to generate new observations.

Currently, he is working on naked mole rats, as these animals are resistant to cancer and ageing. "I want to investigate the difference in their stem cells that prevent them from cancer and ageing, he says. "Studying the underlying mechanism can be further replicated in humans for treatment purposes."

Despite his busy schedule, Shamir manages to take a long weekend off every other month to visit different cities in Europe. "My hard-work pays me with these small trips, and wander-lusting has now become an addiction", he shares. Also, since the naked mole rats are exclusive to African regions, he often has to fly to South Africa to carry out his experiments.

The 20 chapters of *Urche Heisenberg* features Shamir's breathtaking tales of bungee-jumping in Tibetan border, paragliding in Nepal, diving with sharks in London, catching wild animals in the African savannah, rafting in Bhutan, snorkeling and canoeing in Thailand. The book will be available at Tamrolipi stall and is intended to take the readers to an adventurous journey around the globe.



Summit's 'Hamiduzzaman Sculpture Park' in the making

ZAHANGIR ALOM, back from Gazipur

Summit Power Limited (SPL), the largest independent power producer in the country and a leading infrastructure developer and operator in South Asia, has set up 'Hamiduzzaman Sculpture Park' located at Summit Gazipur 464 MW Power Plant's Premises at Kodda, Gazipur to promote art. The bond of love and friendship between Muhammed Aziz Khan, Chairman, Summit Group, and renowned sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan has inspired them to take up this initiative.

The park, stretching over 2 acres of land, was inaugurated by Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, BB, Honourable Advisor to the PM on Energy, Power and Mineral Resources, and the adviser of Summit Power. He also played the role of a catalyst into shaping the park.

A press-meet, in the presence of Summit's board of directors and Hamiduzzaman Khan was coordinated at the park, by Mohsena Hassan, Head of Public Relations & Media, Summit Corporation Limited, recently. "My fond memories and interactions with Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin and sculptor Hamiduzzaman Khan has changed and enriched my perception towards art. Bangladesh has been progressed immensely and we have developed financially, however, only art and culture truly broadens our mind," says Muhammad Aziz Khan. "We want to embellish all our power plants

premises with art and sculptures gradually." As a tribute to the Hamiduzzaman's work and life throughout the last five decades, the park was named after him. "I am blessed to have Hamiduzzaman's friendship. He enjoys his artistic freedom to the fullest while I execute whatever he plans for," he adds. "There is a mutual respect and understanding between us, which we cherish every day."

Focusing on the importance of electricity in modern civilization, Hamiduzzaman Khan has created a 400-feet mural incorporating the forms of turbine, wheel, wire and more. The dynamic movement of the vast works and its compositional beauty seizes attention.

The park contains around 20 sculptures, including simple folk forms inspired birds, waiting mother, remembrance of 71, Ekattor Smorone, strong geometric formed metal sculptures and more. "Open-air sculptures in natural settings enhance the beauty of this place," says Hamiduzzaman Khan. "True growth can be achieved when there is a balance between work and art." The dormitory at the premises also evokes visitors with its unique blend of architecture and sculpture, interestingly incorporating art when necessary.

From the primitive age to the modern era, art has developed and evolved in various courses and dimensions. To symbolically represent various significant histories of Bangladesh, the sculptor has been working for the park for the last two years. The artist needs a couple of more years to complete the

park. The artist has installed a metal sculpture, titled *Signal* attached to the wall of the dorm building which he plans to later transform into an art museum. The work symbolises primitive vocabulary and language. Other works installed in the park include 'The seed' and 'Wheel of civilisation'. Keeping greenery beneath the sculptures, the installation technique not only takes care of colours but also offers the blue endless sky as its backdrop. "I had a dream of building a sculpture park, and for which I bought an acre land in Kashimpur, Gazipur. However, the generous proposal of Muhammad Aziz Khan gave a wider canvas to my art," asserts Hamiduzzaman. "I would like to install sculptures into the nearby waterbody, for which I am closely interacting with the site and trying to adapt to the environment. With metal, stone, granite, steel wire and more, I would like to transform this sculpture park into an international standard in the days to come."

The park was informally launched in February, last year. However, many more installations will be added to make the area fully ready to welcome visitors. As it is set up inside the power plant area, Khan has tried to incorporate scientific aspects alongside artistic incorporations. "Work is natural to humanity, so is nature. Thus, we believe, the urge to innovate, build and create brings peace and happiness," concludes Muhammad Aziz Khan.



PHOTO: STAR

SULTAN FAIR concludes at Narail

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN, Ju

Marking the 97th birth anniversary of the legendary art maestro S M Sultan, a twelve day long international Sultan Fair and art exhibition concluded at Narail, recently. The Avant-grade artist was born in 1923. The festival was organised by Narail district administration, in collaboration with the local S M Sultan Foundation.

This year's celebration was dedicated to the 100th birthday of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. An international art camp was hosted near the banks of Chitra river's campus of Narail Government Victoria College with the presence of foreign artists across the world.

The art camp created opportunities for the Bangladeshi artists, where they exchanged their thoughts and presented the culture of Bangladesh to the foreign artists.

All of the artists participating in the exhibition expressed their gratitude towards S M Sultan. The great artists' work had an influence in their lives.

Zimbabwean artist Hazvineyi Bridget Mutasa, Indian artist Rupali Roy and Rajoshri, Bangladeshi artist Topu Khan, Fahmida Khatun, Shamim Reza, Elias Hossan, Samir Boiragi, among others created beautiful artworks.

Hazvineyi Bridget Mutasa's piece exposed an African baby's face with white-

pink-red texture representing her own country culture and society. "I discovered S M Sultan's work on the internet, thus I came here to visit his house and attended the fair because he inspired me a lot," she said.

Artist Shamim Reza, Associate Professor and Project Director, Jahangirnagar University (JU), with patchwork and Bangladeshi Katha design, added new dimensional artworks on the exhibition. His artworks highlight vibrant colours and different kinds of handmade beads.

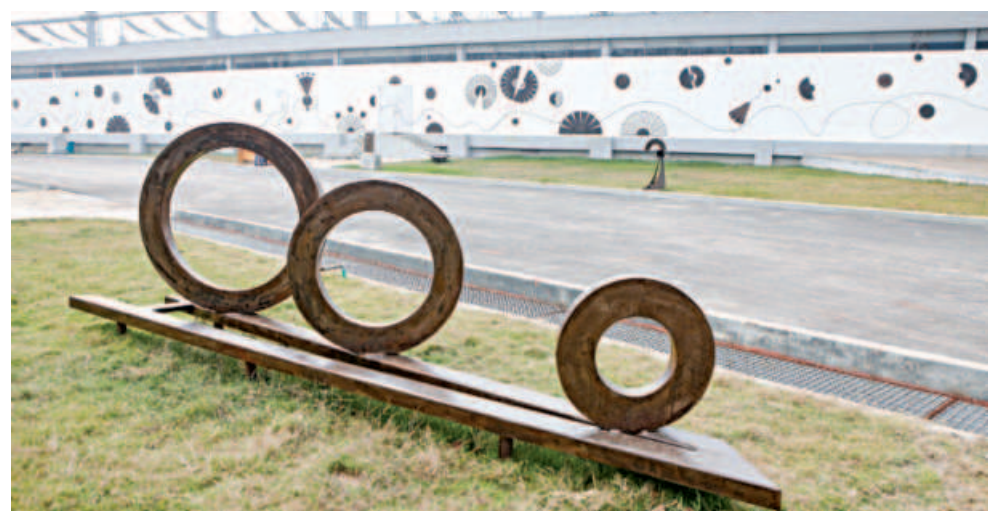
Artist Fahmida Khatun's Bengali bride, playing with colours like yellow and blue often expressing the mixed emotion of both happiness and sadness of a bride in our society.

Terracotta artist Tupo Khan beautifully engaged local culture and life with terracotta works.

Artists Elias Hossain, Hazvineyi Bridget Mutasa, Rupali Roy, among others, were honoured with 'Best Sultan Award' form the exhibition.



Hamiduzzaman Khan and Muhammad Aziz Khan view 'Remembrance of 1971'.



A jolly Hamiduzzaman Khan with his creation.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKRA