

WHAT'S ON

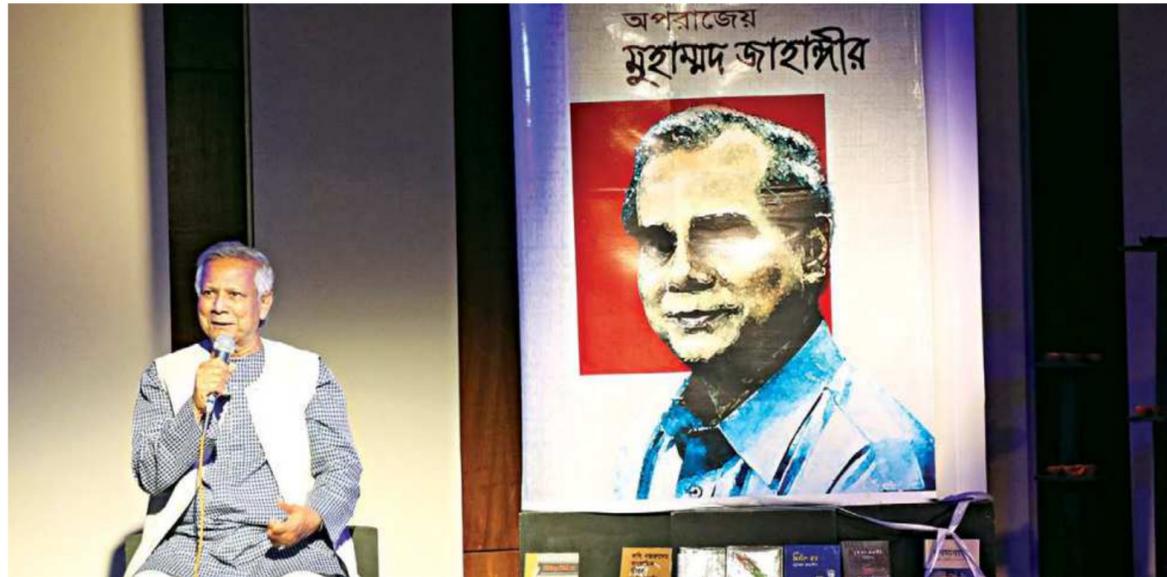
Group Painting Exhibition
Title: Guru-Shishya Shishya-Guru
Presented by: The Oriental Painting Studio Bangladesh
Venue: Zainul Gallery - 1, DU
Date: March 2 - March 8
Time: 10 am - 8 pm

Solo Exhibition
Title: Parables of the Womb
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
Venue: Bengal Shipalay, Dhamondi
Date: February 4 - March 28
Time: 2 pm - 8 pm (Except Sundays)

Concert
Title: Joy Bangla Concert 2020
Venue: Bangladesh Army Stadium
Date: March 7
Time: 12 pm to 10 pm
Tickets available at <https://ticket.youngbangla.org/>

Theatre Performance
Title: Krishna Sarothi
Venue: EMK Center, Dhamondi
Date: March 7
Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Cartoon Exhibition
Title: Shojonghati Rekha
Venue: Kala Kendra
Date: February 21 - March 17
Time: 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm



Professor Muhammad Yunus speaks at the programme.

PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

Launching ceremony of 'Oporajeyo Muhammad Jahangir' held

BORNALY DEBNATH

The memoir, *Oporajeyo Muhammad Jahangir*, in remembrance of prominent cultural activist, media personality and journalist Muhammad Jahangir, was launched at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro on February 29. The event was hosted by dancer duo Shamim Ara Nipa and Shibli Mohammad from Nriyanchal.

Muhammad Jahangir breathed his last at the age of 68, on July 10, 2019, after an uphill battle with cancer for years. He was the executive director of Centre for Development Communication and the coordinator of Nriyanchal.

Family members of Muhammad Jahangir, including his wife, his son Apurba Jahangir and his

brothers, Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus and former Physics Professor at DU Muhammad Ibrahim Yunus, were in attendance. Ekushey Padak awardee and theatre activist Keramat Moula, noted dancers Kajol Ibrahim, Doly Iqbal and Anisul Islam Hero, along with prominent actor Ferdous were also present. Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Chairman, Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, also attended the event, which featured poetry recitations and instrumental performances. The esteemed guests shared their thoughts and memories of Muhammad Jahangir at the programme.

"We wrote this book with our family members, relatives and people who were close to my

father. He was a man of many talents. I will try to continue his legacy in every way I can," said Apurba Jahangir. "This was our first Ekushey Boi Mela without my brother, Muhammad Jahangir. He always encouraged me to publish books during the fair. I think he would have liked this book that we have compiled for him. He enjoyed visiting different countries with me and always gave me good advice about life," added Professor Muhammad Yunus. "We often went to our village during vacations. He carried a list with him that had important topics we could discuss in our group conversations. He was a disciplined man."

The event ended with a performance by students of Nriyanchal.

Curtain falls on the sixth edition of DIMFF

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

The country's first ever mobile phone based filmmaking festival, 'Dhaka International Mobile Film Festival' (DIMFF), is organised by Cinemascope, a film based apprenticeship programme of ULAB. The sixth installment of the festival took place at Star Cineplex, Shimanto Shambhar, this year.

Devaki Bist (Nepal), Sadia Khalid Reeti (Bangladesh), and Arifur Rahman (Bangladesh) served as the jury members of the event. The partners of the festival were Prothom Alo, ABC Radio, Star Cineplex and MedFlect.

202 films were submitted from 41 countries from around the world this year, whereas, last year, 95 films were submitted from 34 countries. *The Conundrum*, directed by Anupam Hore and Tahsin Ahmed was announced as the winner at the grand finale of DIMFF 2020.

Other films nominated in the competition category were: *Distortion*, *Nostalgia*, *Sealed Deal*, and *Alive and Lily*. Meherunnesa won the ULAB Young Filmmaker Award for her film, *All Winner*. Like the previous year, the center of attraction of this year's DIMFF was the one-minute film category, where students of grades 1 to 12 submitted their works.

Professor Gitiara Nasreen, Department of Mass Communication & Journalism, DU, attended the programme as the chief guest, along with filmmaker Kamar Ahmad Simon as the special guest and Professor Jude William Genilo, Head of Media Studies and Journalism from ULAB.

The government has decided to observe April 3 as the National Film Day from this year. Keeping that in mind, the film submission procedure for next year will begin from April 3, mentioned the organisers.



PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Ispanahi Mirzapore Banglabid' sees a splendid response in Sylhet

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Ispanahi Mirzapore Banglabid, one of the most popular TV reality shows of Bangladesh, has begun their fourth season, with the promise of introducing Bangla to a wider audience. After the registration for the contest, more than 1,500 students (from grades 6 to 10) from Sylhet participated in the qualifying round. The selection round was held at Government Agragami Girl's High School & College recently. According to a press release, this round saw the highest number of participants in the history of the show. Eight students were selected for the main rounds of the programme in Dhaka.

Dr Farzana Siddika, Professor, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology and renowned elocutionist Mahidul Islam judged the session, while Md Aslam Uddin, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, and S M Didarul Hasan Deputy General Manager, Marketing, Ispanahi Tea Limited, handed over the crest to the winners of the Sylhet round.

The winner of *Ispanahi Mirzapore Banglabid* will receive BDT 10 lakh, while the first and second runners up will receive BDT 3 and 2 lakh, respectively. In addition, the top ten participants of the contest will be given laptops and books worth BDT 50,000 for their personal libraries.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DPS STS

Young talents impress at DPS Rock Fest 2020

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To promote young talents and help create a network of friendship and goodwill among students from different schools around Dhaka, Delhi Public School Dhaka (DPS STS) organised their annual programme, 'Rock Fest 2.0', at their senior campus.

Other than the students of DPS, there were participants from Aga Khan School,

Scholastica, and South Breeze. Along with representing their schools, they showcased their musical talents at the event. Popular bands Vikings and AvoidRafa also performed at the event.

Madhu Wal, Vice Principal of Delhi Public School Dhaka attended the event. Friends, families, and teachers were also present to support the young performers.

Unapologetically yours, Aqi Thami

Sister Library in Dhaka



Aqi Thami (C) at a workshop in Goethe-Institut Bangladesh.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF GOETHE-INSTITUT BANGLADESH

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY
Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, in partnership with HerStory Foundation, hosted a pop-up of the Sister Library at their Rein Library recently. Founded by Aqi Thami, an indigenous artist based in Mumbai, the Sister Library is the first community-owned feminist library in South Asia. Rooted in the culture of do-it-yourself (DIY) initiatives, self-publishing and guerrilla poster making, Aqi believes in creating art that is grounded in the act of 'doing' and addresses sociopolitical issues. Healing, marginalisation and resilience are prime aspects of her art practice.

Through thick and thin, Aqi found solace in books written by powerful women across the world. As her collection grew over time, she decided to share her books with others. With that in mind, her journey with Sister Library, a space that celebrates women's creativity, began. The library has one thousand works of female writers, artists and zine makers. It is an evolving and generative project that engages with an in-depth reflection of the visual and reading cultures of our time. The goal of the library is to bring readers together, acknowledge accomplishments of female writers and artists, explore women's literary contributions and celebrate women in the

creative arena.

Hailing from Darjeeling, Aqi migrated to Mumbai at the age of fifteen. Against all odds, she found comfort in art and reading. Six years back, Aqi noticed a gap in her personal collection of books -- only 20 percent of her shelves was occupied by books written by female authors -- this imbalance opened her eyes to the patriarchal set-ups around the world. "I made a very conscious decision to exclusively read books by women," says Aqi. She also made certain other changes to her lifestyle, choosing everything from food and clothes to music, films and art that were made and produced by women.

Throughout her travels, she enjoyed her time at feminist libraries, and not having one in India made her upset. She wanted to take the stories she read beyond her bookshelves, and start the Sister Library. Aqi also won the National Award for Emerging Artists (India) in 2018. She began to travel around India and set up her installation of bubblegum pink shelves, stacked with books of various genres and sizes, all of which had different stories of women. In 2019, she raised some money through crowd funding to set up a physical space for the library in Mumbai.

"The way these female authors told their stories and their ways of looking at the

world made a significant difference to my way of thinking," shares Aqi. She shared books with people who struggled to gain access to reading. Among other things, her collection includes rare graphic novels, zines and artistic books.

The Sister Library also encourages young boys and men to read different books by women. However, some of their workshops and discussion sessions are exclusively for women. "Sometimes, we have a *Mahila Mandali*, where women come and talk about issues which they would not be comfortable talking about in front of men. We believe that the more people read and experience creative works by women, the more they would be open to celebrating women," adds Aqi.

Aqi's work heavily focuses on societal taboos or sensitive topics, for which she has received significant backlash. "The library was kicked out of its physical space twice. I have also been detained for my projects. I understand that the kind of work that I do can upset a lot of people, but that just means I must be doing something right. I may be in a vulnerable position without a safety net, but I do what I do unapologetically," asserts Aqi.

The Sister Library Dhaka Chapter will commence at the Rein Library of Goethe-Institut Bangladesh on March 11, 2020.