

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 Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
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, Dhanmondi
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

Composer and music director Selim Ashraf passes away



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Renowned composer and music director Selim Ashraf passed away on breathed his last on March 2 at 3 am, at Better Life Hospital, Malibagh, in the capital. The composer of many popular songs, including the patriotic number *Je Matir Buk-e Ghumiye Achhe*, has left behind his wife, noted singer Alam Ara Minu, only daughter Adrita, friends, and relatives.

His wife Alam Ara Minu confirmed the news on social media.

The composer was suffering from respiratory, blood and kidney related problems for the last four years. In February, 2019, he was admitted to the United Hospital in the capital, as his condition deteriorated. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stood by

him, and provided BDT ten lakh as financial assistance for his treatment.

Earlier in September 2018, the artiste returned home after 13 days of treatment at Shri Ram Medical Centre in Chennai. Sabina Yasmin, Syed Abdul Hadi and Andrew Kishore stood beside him and came forward with medical help, after his condition deteriorated, this year.

Selim Ashraf's songs, *Ei Jaduta Jodi Sotti Hoye Jeto*, *Oi Je Dekha Jaay Rey*, *E Amar Ohonkar*, *Ei Jibon To*, and *Je Batashe Phote Phul* among others, were well received by the audience.

He was buried at his birthplace Dohar, after his namaz-e-janaza yesterday, followed by Zuhr prayers at the premises of BTV.



PHOTO: STAR

Tauquir Ahmed returns to theatre with 'Ondhokar'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

National Award winning director and actor Tauquir Ahmed is one of the founders of the renowned theatre group, Natyakendra. He will be directing the play *Ondhokar*, his fourth directorial venture in theatre, after a

decade. The artiste has also written the script for the play.

Members of Natyakendra will perform in *Ondhokar*. Rehearsals of the play, which portrays the lives of refugees around the world, are currently underway. The date of the play's premiere will be announced soon.

Gulshan Society hosts book fair at Gulshan Lake Park

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

With an objective to promote reading, Gulshan Society hosted their first book fair in Gulshan Lake Park, throughout the last weekend of February. The fair featured books, magazines and newspapers, in both Bengali and English. Barrister Shukla Sarwat Siraj, General Secretary of Gulshan Society and Shayaan Seraj, Civic Utilities Convener, jointly planned the event.

A live book reading session also took place at the event, attracting a large number of visitors. The reading of a braille book, authored by a visually impaired child, and the reading of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's *The Unfinished Memoirs* by Ramendu Majumdar and Abdus Selim, were two of the highlights of the session. Artistic sessions were also organised, throughout which children coloured life-size cut-outs of Bangla letters.

The event was attended by many noted personalities. Bengal Boi, UPL, Pathok Shomabesh, Charcha, CRI, Her Story, Cosmos, Bookworm, Boi Bichitra, Daily Star Books, Dhaka Tribune, The Business Standard, Milkshake Collective, Ignite, Prothom Alo, Pathao, Roll Express and Cha Chai had their own stalls at the fair.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: COURTESY

'Let Me Out' staged at Jahangirnagar University Six-day drama festival begins

MD ASADUZZAMAN, from JU

As the last scene of the play, *Let Me Out*, drew to a close at Selim Al Deen Muktamancha in Jahangirnagar University (JU) on March 1, the whole crowd was left emotional. The play narrates the tale of a determined mother who is in search of her lost son. It conveys an important message about a state's insecurity and horror, as the public fights for justice. When a state's policemen do not fulfill their duties properly, people face horrors of inhumanity. Sometimes, these incidents lead to extrajudicial killings and shattered dreams. The play also shows how the lack of accountability affects the public.

Tarua, a popular theatre troupe, staged *Let Me Out* at JU, on the opening day of the six-day drama festival, marking the 40th founding anniversary of Jahangirnagar Theatre. Based on true events, the play is written by Runa Kanchon and directed by Bakar Bokul.

It takes place in Los Angeles in 1928. The city's police department has gained notoriety for their gun squad, which is used to murder anyone who dares to stand against them. Even though *Let Me Out* takes place around a hundred years ago, the story is relevant to modern times. The lack of accountability of the

authorities, the extrajudicial murders and the oppression are some of the many important motifs in the play.

The six-day festival is organised under the theme, *Kaler Koraghat, Jege Uthuk Droher Lal*.

Prof A K A Shahnewaj from the Archeology Department, President, Jahangirnagar Theatre, inaugurated the festival at Selim Al Deen Muktamancha.

"A total of five plays will be staged every evening at the Muktamancha, while there will be single respective productions," said Nurul Islam Saimum, General Secretary, Jahangirnagar Theatre.

The five plays are: *Let Me Out* (Tarua), *The Bet* (Jahangirnagar Theatre), *Pulsiraat* (Prachyanat), *Raat Bhore Bristiti* (Upstage) and *Ersha* (Prangonemore).

Lyricist and freedom fighter Mohammad Rofiquzzaman and theatre activist Ahmed Kabi will be honoured at the festival.

On the last day (March 6), a reunion also will be held with former and incumbent members of Jahangirnagar Theatre.

Established in 1981, Jahangirnagar Theatre produced around 106 plays, and staged them at least 300 times across the country. The group also received a membership of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in 1988.

'Egiye Jaowa Nari': A tribute to women who are marching ahead

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To inspire women of all walks of life, artiste Shusmita Anis is launching the song *Egiye Jaowa Nari* to salute women who are overcoming their struggles and fighting for their basic rights every day. The launching ceremony of the song will be held today at Halda Valley Tea Lounge, Gulshan. Renowned singers Elita Karim, Kona and Priyanka Gope have lent their voices to this track. Mahmud Khurshid has penned the lyrics, while Fuad Naser Babu has composed the song.

The music video of *Egiye Jaowa Nari* is directed by Tvswala Media's Kolkata team. "Women are contributing in the society in many tangible and intangible ways. This inspirational song is dedicated to them, with the belief that men and women have equal rights and opportunities," says Shusmita.

Under the banner of New Music Paradigm Company, the track, alongside music video, will be released on International Women's Day (March 8). It will be available on all digital platforms, including Shusmita Anis's YouTube channel.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Boichitrer Oikotan A concert for diversity promoting tolerance and inclusivity



PHOTO: COURTESY

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

Indigenous band Madal and Institute for Environment and Development (IED) jointly hosted a cultural event, *Boichitrer Oikotan*, (Concert for Diversity) at the Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka, recently. The event was supported by Partnership for a Tolerant and Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB) project, UNDP.

Madal, along with eight other bands, performed at the event. Mro Sangskritik Dol, Khasia band Five Thorn Wings, Garo bands Sacrament and Kremlin, Santal band Sengel, Bengali band Bangla Five, Meghdol and indigenous band F Minor, enthralled the audience with their musical talents. The event featured different indigenous musical instruments and other performances.

Bangladesh has a rich history of culture, religion and ethnic diversity. Yet, intolerance and hate often threaten the peaceful coexistence of our diverse population. With that in mind, PTIB has launched the initiative, 'Diversity for Peace', to foster creative actions to connect people with different identities and to promote tolerance and inclusivity.

Members of different national and international development organisations, cultural activists, eminent media personalities, teachers, students and writers were present at the event.

Terracotta sculpture exhibition organised in Chattogram

ARUN BIKASH DEV, from Chattogram

An exclusive four-day terracotta sculpture exhibition, *Namoniyi O Kothin*, organised by Sculpture Centre Chattogram, concluded yesterday at Shilpakala Academy in the port city. 26 sculptors exhibited their works at the event. Art Critic Abul Mansur, a retired professor of Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University (CU) inaugurated the exhibition.

Alak Roy, a retired professor of the Sculpture Department of CU's Fine Arts Institute, said that it is regretful that there are no commercial art galleries in the port city.

"Artists who are based in Chattogram cannot exhibit their artworks because we do not have proper spaces," he said. "Subsequently, it is challenging for young people who want to pursue their passion of sculpture-building as a profession." Alak, who is the president of Sculpture Centre Chattogram, said it is also risky for a sculptor to organise solo exhibitions.

A large crowd of visitors attended the exhibitions to enjoy the different conceptual sculptures.



PHOTO: COURTESY