

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, Dhanmondi
 Date: March 7
 Time: 12 pm to 10 pm
 Tickets available at <https://ticket.youngbangla.org/>

Theatre Performance: Krishna
 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

Nasir Ali Mamun's ode to the Father of the Nation

'Joy Bangabandhu' opens at AFD tomorrow

MOINUDDIN KHALED

Eminent photographer Nasir Ali Mamun's creative pursuit centers on the human portrait. His solo exhibition, *Joy Bangabandhu*, dedicated to the freedom fighters of Bangladesh and organised on the occasion of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, opens at Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) tomorrow. HE Jean-Marín Schuh, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh will attend the event as the chief guest, while eminent artist Shahabuddin Ahmed will be present as the guest of honour.

As the celebrated founder of portrait photography in Bangladesh, Mamun, born in 1953, is best known for his extraordinary and soul-searing portraits of celebrities from diverse backgrounds, including arts and politics. Working exclusively in black and white, his body of work from 1972 onwards captures rare moments of humans in a spirit of discovery. In a career spanning five decades, Mamun has 58 solo photography exhibitions and fifteen publications to his credit. Today, he has found a place for himself amongst the artist community in India and beyond. He is currently working to establish PHOTOSEUM, a museum based on photography, in Bangladesh.

Just after the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, Mamun's camera defined portraiture in Bangladesh, which eventually ushered in portrait photography in the country. Being 'the poet with the camera', Mamun has taken some of the most iconic portraits in Bangladesh. His black and white images display a beautiful, yet enigmatic and equivocal coalescence of light and shadow. Mamun took many portraits of Bangabandhu in the early seventies, and recorded his rare moments closely.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 1973, Dhaka.

As a young boy, Mamun witnessed some iconic speeches by the Father of the Nation. He also learned about the great leader's achievements from his father and grandfather. As a consequence, Bangabandhu was a focal point of exploration for Mamun when he started photography.

His encounters with Bangabandhu, beginning in 1964, are memorable. Young Mamun did not have a camera when Bangabandhu, the child of an ordinary middle-class household, became the saviour of a nation's oppressed population. However, he came to realise Bangabandhu's importance

as a leader. In 1970, during the general election, Mamun managed a camera, which gave him a window to capture the great man. The photographer has portrayed Bangabandhu in different capacities and frames, with an equation of emotion and intelligence, to bring the enormity of his personality to light.

During his election campaigns in 1970, Bangabandhu spoke at the Outer Stadium to inform the distant masses of the Pakistani misdeeds and pray for salvation of the lives lost at the hands of the military oppressors. Mamun photographed him during the speech, as he emboldened citizens of a soon-to-be

independent Bangladesh and during his return to an independent Bangladesh on January 10, 1972. He also captured Bangabandhu standing in front of the public during his iconic speech on March 7, 1971. Around 25 works, including previously unpublished historic photographs of Bangabandhu and our freedom fighters, will be on display at the exhibition.

The iconic imagery of the Father of the Nation that is embedded in the civilization of Bengal is not merely of an idol or sculpture. Rather, it is specially seen in modern media through Mamun's photographs.

It is difficult to interpret the personality of Bangabandhu without understanding the contexts of his photographs, which often put him against the backdrop of human oceans, or clear blue skies. Both these symbols illuminate his portraits by Mamun, who has selected low-angle images and applied top or high angles to connect the great leader with the crowd. If we were to draw comparisons, the relationship between Mamun's viewpoints with the style of artist Shahabuddin does not conflict. Shahabuddin never painted a picture of Bangabandhu with his exterior mannerisms in mind. But his paintings, depicting the immense brilliance of the Father of the Nation, unflinching in the eyes of oppressors, while never contemplating death threats, also personify Bangabandhu's magnitude as a visionary statesman. Although Mamun is not related to the artist, he his photography draws parallels to Shahabuddin's art, as Mamun captured Bangabandhu's greatness through the language of the light.

After the inaugural ceremony, *Joy Bangabandhu* will be open to all till March 24. The venue will be closed on March 13 and 14.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Maznun Mizan making a mark

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular television and theatre actor Maznun Mizan is currently busy with several projects. The actor is working on a number of television series along with some special television plays.

Produced by Mohammad Imam, Mizan worked on a special television play, *Kothar Ful* based on Bangabandhu's historic 7th March speech. The play will be broadcasted on BTV on March 7. Mizan will also appear on another special play titled, *Birotihin Nari*, directed by Shokal Ahmed, which will air on Boishakhi TV on International Women's Day.

He is currently working on two television series, *Gollachut*, directed by Matia Banu Shuku, which is currently on air in Nagorik TV and *Gormil*, directed by Hridoy Khan, is currently running on RTV.

For the first time in his twenty-year acting career, Mizan has directed a television play, titled *Amloki*.

Mizan was recently seen in the film *Gondi*, and will soon start shooting a new film, *Commando* in India and Bangkok. *Commando* will be directed by Shamim Ahmed Rony.

NSU's International Short Film Festival 2020 concludes



PHOTO: COURTESY OF NSU

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The closing ceremony of NSU's International Short Film Festival 2020, organised by the NSU Cine and Drama Club, took place at the university's campus recently. Acclaimed filmmaker Mostafa Sarwar Farooki and eminent actor Shahiduzzaman Selim were present at the event as guests of honour. Top ten films

were awarded in the national category. The winners were: *Alif* (Jubo Zubayer Hossain), *Aguan* (Novera Hasan Nikkon), *Bishpripa* (Ahsabul Yamin), *Poran Putul* (Mohetosh Kanti Roy), *Paper Kite* (Ziaul Hoque Raju), *Tale of an Ecliptic Time* (Zayed Siddiki), *Bijoy Ashuk Monushotte* (SM Bayazid Hossain), *Distortion* (Raiyan Mahbubul Momen) and *Total Bangladesh* (Golam Muntakim).



Fashion for the underprivileged

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Fashion for Life 2020 was arranged for the 5th time in Chattogram city's CRB Shirish Tola area for the underprivileged and street children. Fashion icon Bibi Russell, alongside several eminent personalities, participated with the children. The children participated in a fashion ramp walk with professional models and also showcased their talents in singing, dancing and acting. Students of several educational institutes participated in the event. The event aims to inspire these children for a better life.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Launching ceremony of 'Egiye Jaowa Nari' held

Shusmita Anis's 'Egiye Jaowa Nari' is a tribute to women, who, beyond all odds, keep moving ahead in their lives. A launching ceremony of the track was held recently at Halda Valley Tea Lounge, where the song and its music video was previewed. The melodious piece was composed and arranged by legendary keyboardist and composer, Foad Nasser Babu.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

SHARMIN JOYA

Prominent singers Shusmita Anis, Elita Karim, Kona and Priyanka Gope have lent their voices in the song penned by Mahmud Khurshid.

Honourable Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury graced the event as special guest, along with other noted personalities including Rokeya Afzal Rahman, Rubaba Dowla, Dr Fahmida Khatun, Nihad Kabir, Farzana Chowdhury, Rupali Chowdhury, Nasrin Sattar, Kaniz Almas Khan and Arfan Ali, among others. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury appreciated the lyrics and theme of the song, celebrating women and their success.

"Women are going places, and they come out to be the best at the work they are given. The

society must recognise that women are not going places because they are women, but because they are the best," she said.

The launching ceremony brought many successful women under one roof, sharing the experiences of their journeys. M Anis Ud Dowla, Chairman of ACI Limited, translated the lyrics of the song into English.

Under the banner of New Music Paradigm Company, the track and the music video was recorded by Twala Media's Kolkata team. *Egiye Jaowa Nari* will be released on International Women's Day (March 8). It will be available on all digital platforms, including Shusmita Anis's YouTube channel.