

Shadhona’s International Project in the UK

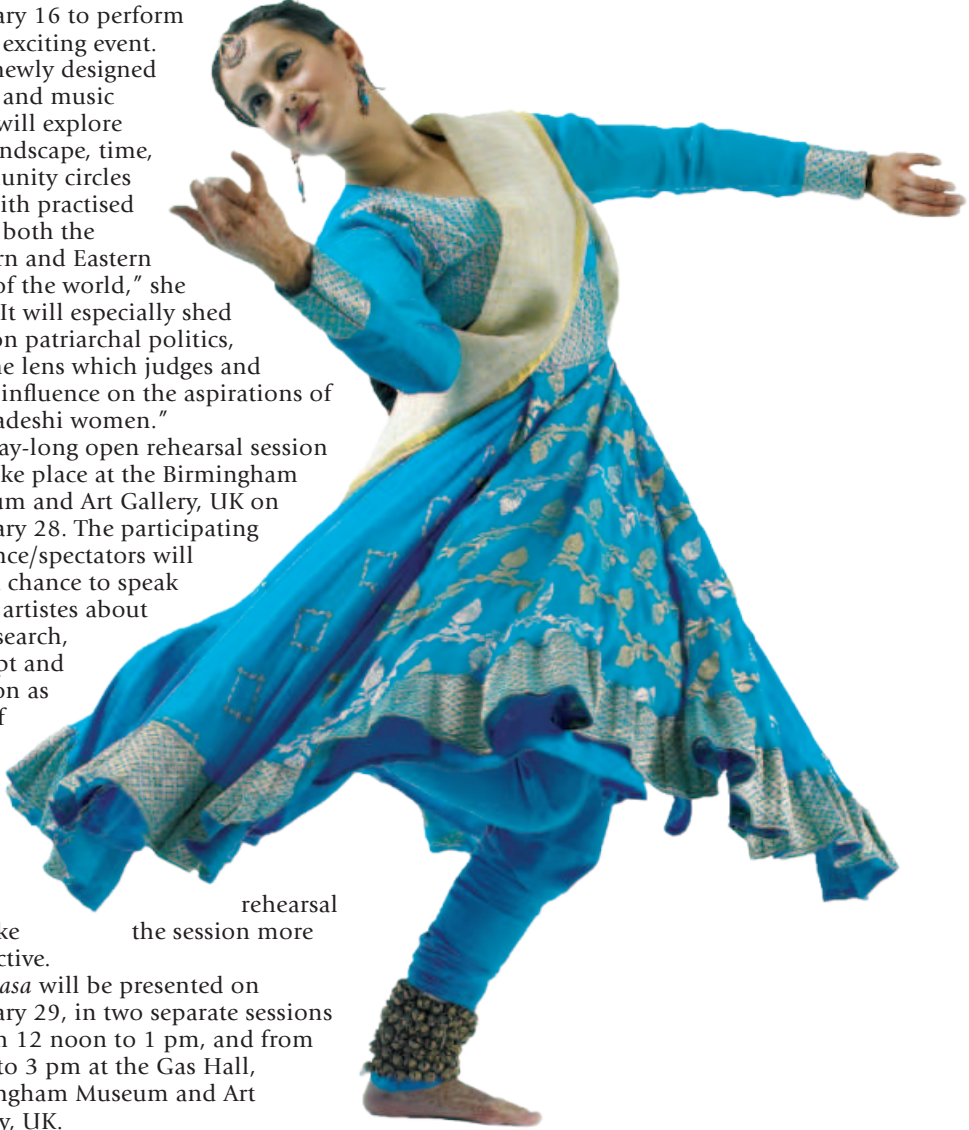
Promising dancer Arthy Ahmed set to perform in Birmingham



PHOTOS: COURTESY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK
Sahasa is a programme that depicts the encounter with one’s inner self, in the conflicted world of values and equal rights. This live dance and musical piece is the beginning of a unique international collaboration of three female artistes from Birmingham and Bangladesh through a three-year project called *Transforming Narratives*.
Sonia Sabri Company and Shadhona are two internationally renowned art organisations from the UK and Bangladesh, respectively. For the first time, they have come together in pursuit of presenting a breath-taking performance. The participating artistes for the project include dancers Sonia Sabri (Kathak) and Arthy Ahmed (Bharatanatyam), vocalist Sanchita Pal and tabla maestro Sarvar Sabri. The performances will be followed by a Q & A session.
Sahasa weaves a web of curiosity and debate through the bold South Asian inspired dance and Bangladeshi music, in response to research conducted with women in Birmingham and Dhaka. The research revolves around personal aspirations and challenges within a framework of societal, political and cultural demands.
Promising Bangladeshi Bharatanatyam Dancer Arthy Ahmed is flying to Birmingham, UK on

February 16 to perform in the exciting event. “The newly designed dance and music piece will explore like landscape, time, community circles and faith practised in the both the Western and Eastern parts of the world,” she says, “It will especially shed light on patriarchal politics, and the lens which judges and exerts influence on the aspirations of Bangladeshi women.”
A day-long open rehearsal session will take place at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, UK on February 28. The participating audience/spectators will have a chance to speak to the artistes about the research, concept and creation as part of the
to make the session more interactive.
Sahasa will be presented on February 29, in two separate sessions -- from 12 noon to 1 pm, and from 2 pm to 3 pm at the Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, UK.



WHAT'S ON



Musical Evening
Title: Bhalobashar Akhore Lekha
Boshonter Gaan
Organiser: Star Melodies
Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave
Date: February 15
Time: 6 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)



Book Fair
Title: Amar Ekushey Bô Mela
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy Premises
Date: Feb 2 - 29
Time: 3 pm - 8 pm; 11 am - 9 pm on weekends

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



Dhaka Art Summit
Title: Dhaka Art Summit 2020
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 7 – 15
Time: 10 am – 8 pm



Musical Programme
Title: Pt. Barin Majumdar Music Fest
Venue: Government Music College, Agargaon
Date: Today
Time: 4 pm onwards



12 Bengali and German folk tales on Goethe lockers

PRIVANKA CHOWDHURY

Recently, Goethe-Institut welcomed 13 young artists to redecorate their lockers, through the project, ‘Übernatural: Unlocked’, facilitated by HerStory Foundation. The artists painted a mural of 12 supernatural female characters from German and Bengali folk tales on the lockers. The opening ceremony of ‘Übernatural: Unlocked’ took place at Goethe-Institut’s library on February 11.



PHOTO: SHANTO LAWRENCE COSTA

At the ceremony, six storytellers gathered around the library to share stories. They also arranged a scavenger hunt for the audience, who competed with one another to win a gift bag from Goethe Institut and HerStory Foundation. The band Alex and the Monsters performed at the event. Eminent painter Monirul Islam and Kirsten Hackenbroch, Goethe-Institut Director, were present, among other noted guests.
Concept artist and animator Fj Mony painted the character of *Rapunzel*, one of her most favourite fantastical characters. “I never painted a locker before, but I had a great time throughout this project. I have tried to incorporate different techniques and vibrant colours in my work,” Mony explained.

Sayeef Mahmud illustrated the character, *Chandburi*, from a personal context. “Most of us grew up listening to the stories of *Chandburi* from our grandmothers and in our minds, we all have picture our grandmothers as the *Chandburi* at some point,” said Sayeef, adding that the women in his life are his pillars of strength. HerStory curator Katerina Don mentioned that through extensive research, they came up with an array of stories, including one from the transgender community.
The other featuring artists were Aabir Khalid (*Mader Gaan*), Ahmed Fahim (*Patal Konya Monimala*), Antora Mehrukh Azad (*Tanyabi Firti*), Farah Khandaker

(*Frau Prechta*), Inshra Sakhawat Russell (*Sultana’s Dream*), Kabir Ava (*Brunhild*), Rafiuzzaman Rhythom (*Frau Holle*), Shourov Khan (*Lorelei*), Venessa Kaiser (*Behula and Manasha*) and Wasi Ahmed (*Bon Bibi*). Kazi Istela is behind the typography of *Übernatural: Unlocked*.
Goethe-Institut, in partnership with HerStory Foundation is also hosting a pop-up of the Sister Library, which will run till tomorrow. One hundred books are available for reading at the pop-up, which will end with a ‘Zine With Us’ workshop with librarian Apmi Thami at the institute tomorrow, from 2 pm to 4 pm. The workshop is open to all upon registration.



Arbovirus releases ‘Ami Amari Moto’ for Valentine’s Day

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As a gift for rock music fans on Valentine’s Day today, Arbovirus released the music video of *Ami Amari Moto* yesterday at 11 pm. The video, produced by GP Music, will be available on the band’s YouTube page. “It was an intercontinental music recording,” says Sufi, the vocalist of the

band. “Suharto and I recorded from Dhaka, while Ranjan and Aldnane did their part from UK and Australia respectively.”

Separate shoots were done to accommodate all five members of the band. The music video, directed by Marib Alam, was mixed and mastered by Raef Al Hasan Rafa.

BANGLADESH BANDS GEN NEXT

A R T O N A D

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Bangladesh Bands Gen Next is a project aimed to promote young and upcoming bands by providing them with a unique platform to express their talents. The programme has selected 26 young bands from Chattogram for its first run.

Rajib, Chinmoy, Joydeep, Robin and Roktim make up Artonad, a promising rock band which has performed their originals all over Bangladesh. Their song, *Gontobbohin*, sends a message against some of the hypocrisies of the society. “We tried to portray some of our anguish, that we often face in our day-to-day lives,” said Chinmoy, the lead guitarist of the band.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The artistes hope that the audience will like their endeavor.

The programme is helmed by advertising agency Creato, and produced by 49 Blue. The programme is sponsored by Marks Full Cream Milk Powder. Gontobbohin is available on the Marks’ YouTube channel.



Star Melodies to present songs about romance and spring tomorrow

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Star Melodies, an initiative of *The Daily Star* to promote Bangla music, will host a musical evening titled, *Bhalobashar Akhore Lekha Boshonter Gaan*, serenading the audience with songs about romance and spring.

Sponsored by Dhaka Bank Limited, the event will be held tomorrow at The Daily Star Centre at 6:00 pm.

One of the leading Rabindra Sangeet artistes, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, talented playback singer Anupoma Mukti, along with promising singers Sabui, Dr Alif Laila and Smoron will perform at the event. Sadya Aftreen Mallick, Chief of Culture Initiatives, The Daily Star, will host and coordinate the programme. The event is open for all. However, seats are limited, and available on a first-come first-serve basis.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

BGTF Chairman and Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), Liaquat Ali Lucky, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid and Secretary of the Cultural Affairs Ministry, Dr Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, among others, were present at Ganabhaban during the video call. BSA’s divisional branches in Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet joined the video conference from the DC offices at the same time.

Before formal inauguration, a dance performance with historic 7th March speech of Bangabandhu by the artistes of BSA and a group performance by dance troupe of Anik Bose, followed by Dhaka Theatre’s *Putra*, were presented



PHOTO: COURTESY

‘Jatiya Natya Utsab 2020’ opens

‘Jatiya Natya Utsab 2020’, organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), was inaugurated on February 12, by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through a video conference from Ganabhaban. The 18-day festival is being held in all 64 districts, simultaneously, with the theme, ‘Jongibaad- Obokkhoy-Durniti, Manbey Na E Sangskiti’.

at the National Theatre Hall of BSA. Natyachakra staged its mono-drama *Eka Ek Nari* at the Experimental Theatre Hall of BSA at the same time.

The second day of the festival featured the play, *O Mon Pahiya*, scripted and directed by Shubashish Sinha and presented by Manipuri Theatre, and Bahubachan’s *Aniket Sandhya* at Experimental Theatre Hall. As part of the festival, 302 theatre productions will be staged at different venues of BSA, Mahila Samiti and all district Shilpakala Academy premises. More than 30,000 theatre activists from 400 theatre troupes across the country are participating in this festival.

The festival is being held in association with Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.