

Classical Music

Dhaka Greets Sitarist Alif Laila

An exciting Bangladeshi-American sitar player features at a recital in city

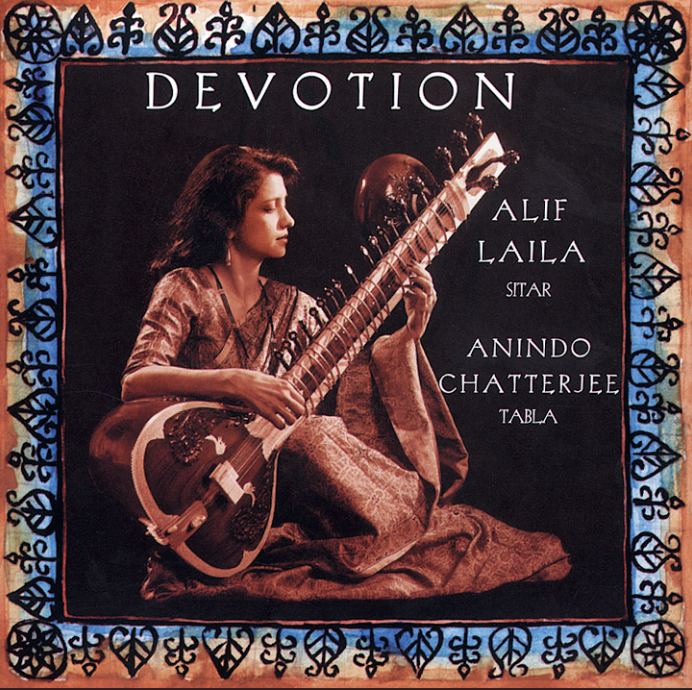
ZIAUL KARIM

As a delicately-patterned Persian carpet Alif Laila weaves intricate designs in her music --- rich in sound, fluent in strokes and opulent in presentation. Music lovers of the city will toast this rising star of contemporary classical music firmament at a recital at National Museum on February 3. Lila's evocative rendering is restrained yet forceful and one will not fail to notice the romantic yearning and supplicating quality that goes with it. Very truly did her guru Pandit Krishna Bhatt writes, "Alif Laila covets the bhav or emotion of ragas with profound sensitivity."

A very private sort of a person shunning publicity and giving only the barest details of her life she says, "My singing lessons begun at a very tender age at Bulbul Academy in Dhaka. I was introvert and shy to bones and could not express myself in vocal music. My

performance was appalling and my heart was never in it. My mother could sense that and initiated me to sitar. She is a great sitar lover. In an instant I fell in love with the instrument. I took to sitar when I was 15." Laila had the privilege of receiving training in sitar from Ustad Mir Qasem Khan, nephew of legendary sarod virtuoso of Indian classical music Allauddin Khan, in Dhaka and was groomed in the Senia Maiher gharana or mould: The elaborate alapchari in dhupad ang, the intricate laykari, the vast raga repertoire including jod ragas are characteristic of this school. Settled in America for over twelve years, Laila found the initial years uncomfortable for the development of her artistic self, a situation very much like a fish out of water. "There was very little opportunity to learn from an environment that was far from the classical ambience of the sub-continent. I soaked in from every imaginable

opportunity attended the recitals of the Indian classical musicians visiting USA, played CDs and cassettes of classical music and continued my sadhana." Laila has performed extensively in America. Her major solo recitals were held at University of Florida, Rutgers University, New Jersey, Towson State University, Baltimore, Old Dominion University, University of Colorado, among others. Her melody-soaked style is particularly favourite with her students. She has taught Indian classical music at the University of Maryland and teaches sitar to select pupils in Maryland. Laila is now under the guidance of Pandit Krishna Bhatt, a disciple of Pandit Nikhil Banerjee who is considered as one of the trinity of Indian sitar. "I'm deeply influenced by Nikhil Banerjee's style, the glowing softness of his delicate plucking which creates a crystal clear nada or



Jacket cover of Devotion.

arresting radiance." How about developing a style that would be recognised as your signature style? "I'm conscious about it. But I will listen to the dictates of my heart rather than my mind in this respect." Talking about her favourite ragas, Laila says, "Malkaun, Kafi, Yaman, Bhairabi are the ragas that take me to a journey into the realms of unknown, to a limitless joy of ecstasy, and cast a sublime trance on me. But that does not mean I do not have a longing for the other ragas." The essence of all art is devotion is what she believes. And quite understandably she calls her first album Devotion. The February 3rd evening will also see the launching of her CD Devotion. The musical evening at National Museum will co-feature one of the finest tabla players of contemporary musical scene Anindo Chatterjee as her accompanist for the evening and also in the album. Anindo has performed on the both sides of the Atlantic and accompanied such luminaries of

Indian classical music as Ali Akbar Khan, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and Pandit Rariprasad Chaurasia. Trained basically in the Farukhabad style of playing, Anindo later mastered the Punjabi and Lucknow styles under the tutelage of Ustad Afaque Hussain Khan. His broad and rich musical base works as a spring-board for him to move between styles with incredible ease and clarity. For his keen sense to anticipate musicians' movements he was the favourite accompanist of sitar maestro Pandit Nikhil Banerjee. The duo made a number of historic recordings together in the 70s and 80s. The ragas featured in Devotion are Puriya Dhanashri and Kirwani, both evening ragas. Puriya is played at twilight. It is full of bhakti or devotion with touches of shringar and karuna or pathos while the mood of Kirwanani is sweetly romantic. All in all, Anindo Chatterjee and Alif Laila's recital on February 3 evening promises a scintillating performance to be savoured by the city's music enthusiasts.

Exhibition

Ruposhi Bangla on Canvas

MUNEERA PARBEEN

It's not every colour on the palate that draws the attention when put on a canvas, but its how they are put together that strikes a note somewhere. Asma Kibria's painting exhibition ongoing at the National Museum in Shahbag is that kind of a how which gives an insight into a world of colours which expresses a wide range of emotions. The exhibition titled Ruposhi Bangla (Beautiful Bengal) actually gives an insight into a different Bengal, a Bengal that is expressed so well in colours of different moods. Asma has used colours and shades to catch the different moods of our country on the canvas in refreshingly scintillating manner that leaves one aghast at the marvel of creative expression. At the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition on Saturday, Former chief of caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman said that artists of the new generation will get inspiration from Asma's works. He observed that the particular use of colours in her paintings make a different kind of appeal. Director General of the National Museum Shamsuzzaman said in his speech that Asma has expressed the beauty of traditional Bangladesh with her brush and paints on the canvas as had done poet Jibanananda Das with his words in poetry. She has been able to depict the traditional beauty of our country with such appreciation despite the fact that she was trained at foreign institutes. Asma's works have a wide vari-

ety of subjects as topics. Animate and inanimate objects alike as the river, hills, boats, trees, people have found a place on her canvas with ease and grace. These pictures have sometimes been depicted in strong hues of blues, yellows and red/browns. At other times the same have taken shape in the use of softer hues that make them come alive in a different manner. In Fountain of Light for example the strong hues of yellow and reddish brown make the story come true in its expression of the theme. In Spring melody likewise, the combination of colours creates a harmony that is the very essence of a spring brightness. In her other paintings as Blue Rhythm and Joy of Victory! Song of the Night, the use of blue is more prominent. Blue, usually a colour of pain, is used in different expressions in Asma's paintings and in some places creates a beauty quite unique of it's own. In Song of the Night for example the serenity of the beauty of a night is capture din the use of the hue of blue alone. Asma began her stint with art at an art school in New York headed by Peter Baboux and later continued her training with the renowned Corcoran School of art in Washington DC in 1970. She has had a large number of exhibitions abroad including in Pakistan, Australia, Thailand, USA and Switzerland. She has also held had shows in Dhaka at different times. The exhibition at National Museum will remain open till February 12.



Joy of Victory

RECOMMENDATIONS

Poetry Reading

A poetry reading session by Sudeep Sen and the country's emerging poets will be held at the British Council Auditorium on January 31 at 6:00p.m. Sudeep Sen's Postmarked India: New & Selected Poems (Harper Collins) was awarded the Hawthorned Fellowship (UK) and nominated for a Pushcart Prize (US).

Art Exhibition

Alka mathur and Naresh Kapuria's joint show is being held at Bengal Gallery. Alka Mathur is a familiar name in the Dhaka art circle. The other is being introduced to the gallery-goers through this exhibition. The show is open till February 2.

Water Colour



Show

A special water colour show featuring country's seven celebrated water colour artists now being held at Shilpangan art gallery from 10 am-8pm everyday until February 4. The participating artists are Professor Abdur Razzaque, Mostafa Manwar, Professor Qayyum Chowdhury, Professor Hashem Khan, Professor Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam (Spain) and Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan.

Exhibition

Nurul Amin's 1st solo exhibition of studio pottery and glaze painting is going on at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10am to 8pm till February 3.



Alif Laila in her devotional trance.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE WEEK



Where The River Runs Black (Alessandro Rabelo, Charles Durning) at 9:30 p.m On Z MGM

CHANNEL-1

Morning 6:15 Face to Face 6:50 Akattorer Dinguli 7:00 Drama : Taka 7:40 Spy cam. 8:00 Din Protidin 8:25 Business File 9:00 Sawpno Dhekhe Mon 10:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 10:10 Aker Vitore Pauch. 10:40 Addar Table 10:55 Drama : Dahone Darod 11:15 Face to Face 11:50 Akattorer Dinguli 12:00 Drama : Taka 12:40 Spy cam. 1:15 Business File. 2:00 Sawpno Dhekhe Mon 2:50 I Focus 3:00 Bangla Cinema : Sikol Evening 6:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 6:10 Special Programme 6:40 Addar Table 7:15 Khathai Khathai 7:50 Akattorer Dinguli 8:00 A Special Programme on Jahir Raihan 9:15 Jiboner Gane 10:00 Anuvobo Anukhane 10:50 I Focus 10:00 Bangla Cinema : Beder Meyya

EKUSHEY TV

12:00 Ekushey News Headlines 12:05 Ajker Potrikay 12:15 Bangla Movie: Goriber Rani 2:40 Drishti 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Drama Series: Koyekjon Opradhi 3:30 Amader Kotiha 4:00 Chitrogeeti 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Circus 5:30 Drishti 5:50 Ajker Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:05 Classic Cartoons 6:30 Chardike 7:00 Deho Tori 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Drama Serial: Nei Kono Thikana 8:45 Drama: Atopor 10:00 BTV News 10:20 Mukto Khobor 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Animal Survivors 7:00 ESPU 7:30 Outer Bounds I & II 8:00 Without Warning I 8:30 Lonely Planet VI 9:30 Beyond 2000 15 10:00 The Quest 10:30 Go For IT! 11:30 Intimate Escapes 12:00 Intimate Escapes 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives II 2:00 Medical

Detectives II 2:30 Lifeline 3:30 Animal Survivors 4:00 ESPU 4:30 Outer Bounds I & II 5:00 Without Warning I 5:30 Lonely Planet VI 6:30 Let's Dance/There's No Food Like My Food 7:00 Real Kids. Real Adventures 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Hunters 9:30 Trauma IVLive in the ER 10:30 On the Inside 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Hunters 2:30 Trauma IVLife in the ER 3:30 On the Inside 4:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 Lifeline

CNN

4:00 CNN This Morning 4:30 Asia Business Morning 5:00 CNN This Morning 5:30 Asia Business Morning 6:00 CNN This Morning 6:15 Asia Business Morning 6:30 Asian Edition 7:00 CNN This Morning 7:30 Moneyline 8:00 Larry King Live 9:00 World News 9:30 World Sport 10:00 World News 10:30 Showbiz Today 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A (Replay) 12:00 World News 12:30 World Report 1:00 World News 1:30 World Sport 2:00 World News 2:30 Insight 3:00 Larry King Live (Replay) 4:00 World News 4:30 Biz Asia 5:00 Asia Tonight 5:30 World Sport 6:00 World News 6:15 Asian Edition 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat

8:00 Asia Tonight 8:30 World Sport 9:00 World News 9:30 CNN Indiadotcom 10:00 World News 10:30 Biz Asia 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A South Asia 12:00 World News 1:00 Style South Asia 1:30 World Business Today 2:00 World News 2:30 Q&A 3:00 World News Europe 3:30 CNN Newsmoon

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today Inc. World Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today Inc. World Business Report 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today Inc. World Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Hardtalk 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Holiday 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Mastermind India 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Earth Report 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Click Online 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Earth Report 6:00 BBC News 6:30 Mastermind India 7:00 BBC News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 Holiday 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Hardtalk 9:00 BBC News 09:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Hospital 11:30 BBC News World Business Report 11:30 Jancis 12:00 BBC News 12:35

World Business Report 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Talking Movies 3:00 BBCNews 3:30 World Business Report 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Asia Business Report/ World Business Report 5:00 BBC News 5:30 World Business Report Inc. Asia Today

HBO

7:00 A Promise To Carolyn 9:00 Radioland Murders 11:15 The Dead Pool 1:15 Terms of Endearment 4:00 Earthly Possessions 6:15 The Presidio 8:15 Top Secret! 10:00 Seven Years In Tibet 12:45 Internal Affairs 3:00 Radioland Murders 5:15 Top Secret!

STAR WORLD

6:00 Murder Call 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Dharm & Greg 10:00 Chicago Hope 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Everybody Loves Raymond 12:30 Frasier 1:00 Grace Under Fire 1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 2:00 Mork & Mindy 2:30 Happy Days 3:00 Baywatch 4:00 The Simpsons 4:30 Home Improvement 5:00 Star News Asia 5:30 Friends 6:00 JAG 6:55 Star News Asia 7:00 The Pretender 8:00 Law & Order Special Victims Unit 9:00 Friends 9:30

Star News 10:00 JAG 11:00 The Pretender 12:00 Law & Order Special Victims Unit 1:00 JAG 2:00 The Pretender 3:00 Creflo Dollar Daily 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life In The World With Joyce Meyer 4:30 World News 5:00 Grace Under Fire 5:30 Mork & Mindy

STAR PLUS

6:00 Tu Tu Main Main 6:30 STAR Geetmala 7:30 Hit Ya Fit 8:00 Cine Jharokha 8:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Star Morning Show 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 TSN 1:30 Small Wonder 2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Saans 3:00 Shagun 3:30 Siski 4:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 4:30 Cine Jharokha 5:00 Hit Ya Fit 5:30 I Love My India 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Fox Kids Daily 7:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Kii 8:00 Tu Tu Main Main 8:30 Kabhi Kabhie Mere Ghar Mein Bhuchaal Aata Hai 9:00 Kora Kagaz 9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Shagun 12:30 Telebrands 1:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 1:30 Star Movie Show 4:30 Kyunki Saas Bi Kabhi Bahu Thi 5:00 Saans 5:30 Meri Saheli

STAR GOLD

8:30 Bollywood News

9:00 Anand Ashram (Uttam Kumar, Sharmila Tagore, Ashok Kumar) 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Chhoti Bahen (Balraj Sahni, Nanda) 3:30 Bollywood News 4:00 Niaz Aur Namaz (Parkshit Sahni, Zahira) 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Mangal Masti-Mohabbat Zindagi Hai (Dharmendra, Rajashree) 10:30 Bollywood News 11:00 Mr & Mrs 55 (Guru Dutt, Madhubala) 12:30 Mr & Mrs 55 (Contd) 2:00 Geet Bahar 2:30 Niaz Aur Namaz (Parkshit Sahni, Zahira) 5:30 Mr & Mrs 55 (Guru Dutt, Madhubala)

STAR MOVIES

7:00 Comedy : Ernest Scared Stupid 9:00 Thriller: Guilty As Sin 11:00 Action : Manhunter 1:00 Drama : Blindness 3:00 Comedy : Life With Mikey 5:00 Action: Intent To Kill 7:00 Action: Air America 9:30 Action: Avalanche 11:00 Comedy: Ernest Scared Stupid 1:00 Action: Running Red 3:00 Drama: One From The Heart 5:00 Thriller: Without Malice

AXN

6:00 Dark Skies/Burn, Baby, Burn 7:00 World Most Amazing/Video II 8:00 Cyberteam in Akihabara/Flame of Recca 9:00 Slam Dunk/Samurai X 10:00 Charlie's Angels I/The Blue Angels 11:00 World Most Amazing/Video II 12:00 Farscape II/The Way We Weren't 1:00 Movie: Tenchi Muyo In Love 2 3:00 Who Dares Wins/Cyberteam in Akihabara 4:00 Flame of Recca/Slam Dunk 5:00 Samurai X/Who Dares Wins 6:00 Heart of Courage/Heart of Courage 7:00 Pensacola III/Officers and Gentlemen 8:00 Movie: Hong Kong '97 10:00 Charlie's Angels I/The Blue Angels 11:00 Pensacola III/ Officers and Gentlemen 12:00 Movie: Hong Kong '97 2:00 Dark Skies/ Burn, Baby, Burn 3:00 Silk Stalkings VI/Services Rendered