

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Painting Exhibition
Painter: Biren Shome
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H 26, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: December 20 - January 5
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Painter: Rejaul Karim
Title: Twilight Zone
Venue: Bengaluru Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275F, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
Date: December 8-19
Time: 12pm-8pm



Christmas Carol
Organiser: Incarnation
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Ramna
Date: December 11
Time: 4pm

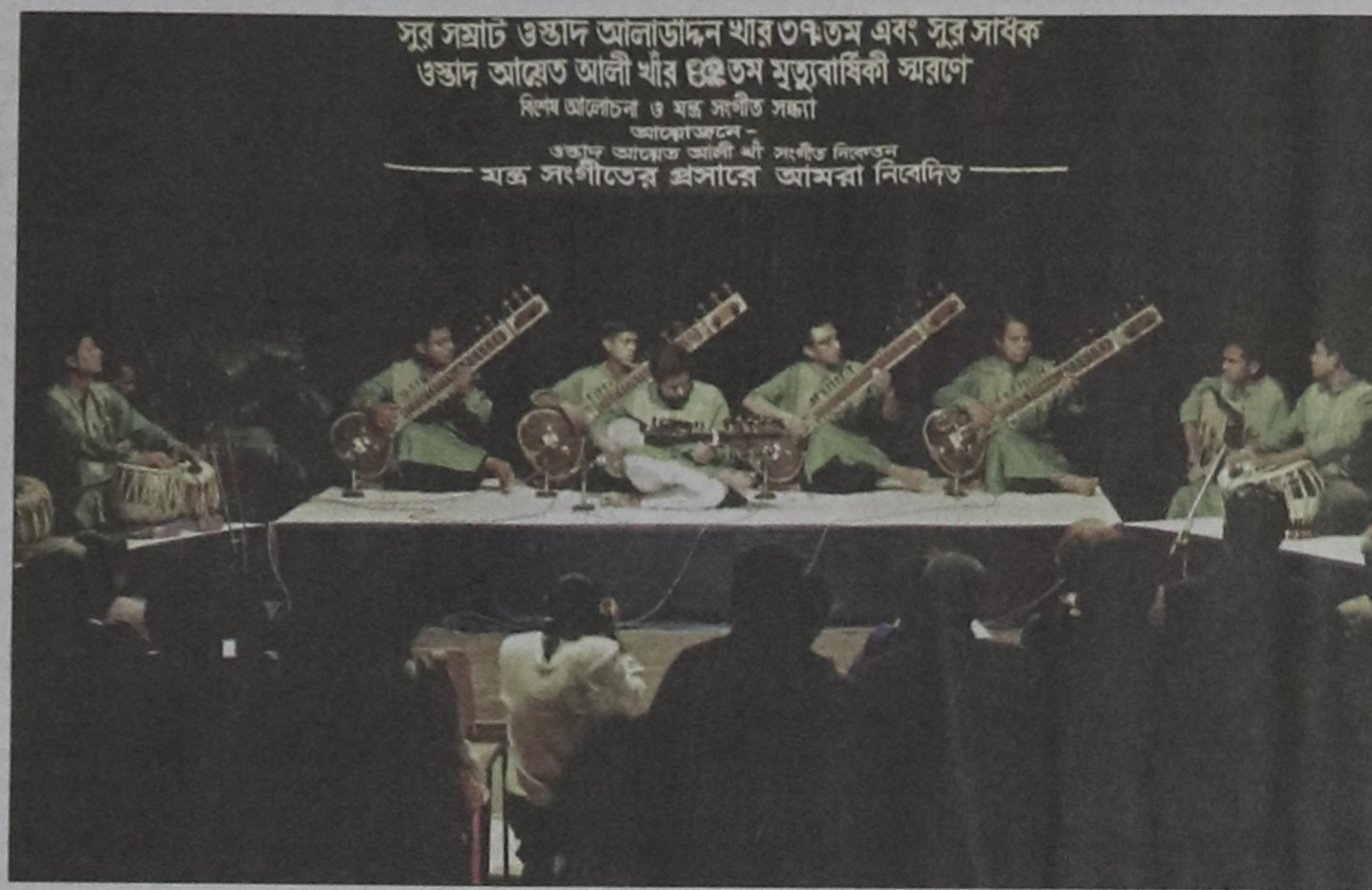


Film Screening and Discussion
Organiser: Steps Towards Development
Venue: Chayanaut Shangskriti Bhaban
Date: December 5-6
Time: 4:30pm onwards



Family ties

Performances by scions of the Khan family



The programme featured classical instrumental music.

CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of 37th death anniversary of sarod legend Ustad Alauddin Khan and 42nd death anniversary of renowned Indian classical musician Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, Ustad Ayet Ali Khan Sangeet Niketan held a concert featuring classical instrumental music on December 5 at the auditorium of German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi.

Dr. Justin Lee, the Australian High Commissioner, was the chief guest

while Mobarak Hossain Khan, president of Ustad Ayet Ali Khan Sangeet Niketan, presided over the programme.

Distinguished instrumentalists of the Khan family performed a composition, titled "Brindabon". The performance was led by noted classical musician Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan. Then the youngest member of the family, Shaptak Khan, presented "Raaga Emon" on the guitar. Sitarist Reenat Fauzia performed "Raaga Bhupali". The moving performance was received warmly by the audience. Fauzia is the daughter of music

exponent Mobarak Hossain Khan. Flutist Masum Billah played "Raaj Hoshang Dhwani".

Another famed member of the family is Sheikh Sadi Khan, who has carved a niche in playback music in Bangladeshi films as a composer. Sheikh Sadi Khan performed a piece based on "Raaga Gaboti" on violin. Veteran sarod player Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan performed with his daughters Rukhsana Khan and Afsana Khan. Shahadat Hossain Khan is the son of noted musician Ustad Abed Hossain Khan.

Naziba Bashar and Farhana Mahmud Kashfi perform at the programme.

'Arangetram': Coming of age of Bharatanatyam dancers

Moving performance at Shilpkala Academy

JAMIL MAHMUD

Dhrupad Kala Kendra, one of the leading Bharatanatyam dance schools, arranged a programme at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy on December 5. The programme marked the on-stage debut of two Dhrupad Kala Kendra students.

Naziba Bashar and Farhana Mahmud Kashfi are the two dancers, who completed their extensive training in Bharatanatyam under the tutelage of noted artiste Shukla Sarkar.

Eminent cultural personalities including dancers and theatre activists attended the programme as guests. The guests lauded Shukla Sarkar's passionate endeavour to uphold the dance form, and welcomed both the emerging artistes into the cultural arena.

The graduation programme is formally known as 'Arangetram'. It refers to the debut stage performance of a Bharatanatyam dancer, after going through years of training.

Most take Bharatanatyam as a hobby; the training usually begins from a very young age. Very few make it their career, as Bharatanatyam is extremely demanding and complex in terms of dedication and daily practice. Both students and teachers cherish the 'Arangetram' event, as it is a recognition of their devotion.

At the National Theatre Hall, both Shukla Sarkar and her students seemed elated. The seasoned dancer informed that as a guru it was her fourth 'Arangetram'.

She also admired her students' passion for the difficult dance form. "Both Naziba and Kashfi are like my own children," said Sarkar about her students at the programme.



Naziba Bashar and Farhana Mahmud Kashfi perform at the programme.

Nazib and Kashfi on the occasion.

After completing some formalities to prepare for the performance, Naziba and Kashfi took the stage. They took part in a series of dance performances, which were staged in two parts, highlighting the different elements of Bharatanatyam.

Naziba, an A-Level student and Kashfi who completed her B.Sc in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, demonstrated the mudra and forms of Bharatanatyam including 'Alarippu', 'Stuti' and 'Tillana'.

With the mingling of bhava (expression), raaga and tala (rhythm), the performances seemingly enthralled the audience.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy to implement Sisimpur Outreach Project

The Government of Bangladesh and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) recently signed an agreement to expand pre-school education in Bangladesh. Under this agreement, Bangladesh Shishu Academy will implement a venture named Sisimpur Outreach Project, says a press release.

Under this project, Bangladesh Shishu Academy will distribute early learning materials to pre-schools and will train pre-school teachers through its 64 district offices. Considering the importance of parents' role in expanding pre-school education, the project will also provide training support to the parents. Parents will learn how they can help their children in early learning through interactive. The Sisimpur team will support Bangladesh Shishu Academy's childhood education project by developing content for materials that will be distributed in more than 3,000 learning centers in Bangladesh. The resources include books, puzzles, games and teacher and parent training material.

In addition, Sisimpur and BSA will work together to generate awareness in the importance of early childhood education.



Sesame Workshop works with Nayantara Communications to produce Sisimpur in Bangladesh. The show airs on BTV and BTVWorld.

"AIDS Jaago": Films that awaken

KAVITA, New Delhi

What could be more opportune on World AIDS Day (December 1) this year than a series of short films by well-known Indian film directors that combine a socially relevant theme with gripping storylines?

That's a brief rundown of "AIDS Jaago" (AIDS Awaken), a series of four short dramatic films, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on HIV-AIDS, which were screened at the American Centre in New Delhi.

The films: "Migration" (directed and produced by Mira Nair, of "Monsoon Wedding", "Mississippi Masala" and "The Namesake" fame), "Blood Brothers" (directed by Vishal Bhardwaj the award-winning filmmaker behind "Omkara", "Positive" (by Farhan Akhtar, a most prominent young filmmaker) and "Prarambha" (The Beginning) by renowned cinematographer and director Santosh Sivan.

What binds the films together is that each of them



A scene from "Migration", directed and produced by Mira Nair.

convey their message forcefully, without the didactic droning that such works are prone to. In "Migration" we have a star cast of Shyam Ahuja, Irrfan Khan, Sameera Reddy and Raima Sen (grand daughter of legendary actress Suchitra Sen). This Mira Nair film reveals the criss crossing of rural and urban India through the rural protagonist Shyam Ahuja who migrates to Mumbai in search of work. His life is changed forever after an encounter with a bored home-maker (ably played by Sameera Reddy) whose husband (Irrfan Khan) is a closet

gay. He returns to his village and his young wife (Raima Sen) only to discover that he is HIV positive and that his newborn child has also contracted the deadly virus.

The films carry nuances not only of agony and despair but also of hope and courage. Take "Blood Brothers", for example. With Siddhartha (of "Rang de Basanti"), Pavan Malhotra, Ayesha Takia and Pankaj Kapur in the cast, we get to see how a young man with a positive HIV diagnosis (which turns out to be negative later) allows his life to fall to pieces, while another man

whose life has got mixed up with the former, knows that his is HIV positive, yet carries on with optimism and courage.

More than rallies and long-winded discussions, films of this calibre can go many miles in dealing with the stigma and discrimination that are joined with the disease.

Director Mira Nair, the brain behind the "AIDS Jaago" project, has been quoted as saying, "We cannot underestimate the potential of films to change behaviour and transform the world." Needless to say, more such films that raise awareness on this blight and demolish the numerous myths that surround the disease are necessary.

As recent figures indicate, an estimated 33 million people live with HIV/AIDS worldwide. India and Bangladesh are regarded as the hotspots for the disease. The "AIDS Jaago" series could strike a responsive chord in audiences in the subcontinent. They could also act as a clarion call to a complacent public that believes that HIV/AIDS is a distant threat and all victims pariahs of society.

"Drishyakalpo": A behind-the-scenes look at films, TV shows



Morshedul Islam speaks with Manzare Haseen Murad on the show.

CORRESPONDENT

"Drishyakalpo" is a discussion-based programme, highlighting cinema, TV plays and various aspects of the visual media. Aestheticism, cinematography, art direction, lighting and other issues will also be discussed on the show. Manzare Haseen Murad is the anchor of the programme, which will be aired today on Rtv at 11:30pm.

The programme has been directed by Syed Shabab Ali Arzu.