

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

32nd Anniversary
 Organisation: Padatik
 Nattya Sangsad
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: January 23
 Time: 5:30pm



Theatre
 Play: Punarjanmo
 Troupe: Prachyanato
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: January 24
 Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Staring Women
 Artist: Nazia Andaleeb Preema
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
 Date: January 15-26
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Exhibition
 Title: Rang
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattashali Gallery, National Museum, Shahbagh
 Date: January 15-25
 Time: 9:30am-4:30pm & 4:30-8:30pm (Fridays)



Retaining popularity over 25 years

In conversation with Suvro Dev

ZAHANGIRALOM

Born in Sylhet, singer-composer Suvro Dev completed his MSC in Biochemistry from Dhaka University. He took formal music lessons from Ustad Ram Kanai Das. He received the President's Award in music on BTV's "Nutun Kuri" contest in 1978.

Suvro Dev is undeniably a popular name in the Bangladeshi music industry. Ever since his first audio album titled "Hamelin-er Shei Banshiwala" was released in 1984, he has captured the hearts of many Bengali music fans. To date he has produced and recorded over 30 albums, he informs.

Among Dev's well known albums are "Jey Banshi Bhengey Gechhey", "Shesh Chithi", "Shada Kagoj", "Buk-er Jomin", "Mon-e Porey", "Mon-er Thikana", "Lolita", "Bhabtey Parina", "Amar Bhalobasha", "Priyojon", "Swapnolokey Tumi", "Kono Ek Shondhaye", "Sharthopor", "Chhowa" and "TumiAarAmi".

"The album 'Lolita' features Sylheti folk songs which date back hundreds of years. I collected these songs from Bidit Lal Das -- a revered singer from Sylhet -- and rearranged them, combining Latin American, Indian and Arabic elements," asserts Dev. Among Dev's chart-

topping songs are "Ami Hamelin-er Shei Banshiwala", "E Mon Amar Pathor Tho Noy", "Moron Jodi Hoy", "E Amar Shesh Chithi", "Neel Chandoa", "Ei Shei Buk-er Jomin", "Tumi Takalei E Chokhey", "Chondidas Rojokini", "Krishnochurar Chhaya-e", "Behula", "Bangladesh Jegey Othey" and more.

In 1991, Dev made the first music video of his hit number "Shesh Chithi", which was shot in Sweden. His popularity reached greater heights when in 1997 ATN Hindi (India) aired the "Suvro Dev's Show", where a number of his music videos were aired.

Asked about his favourite songs of all times, Dev mentions, "Tumi Ki Keboli Chhobi (a Tagore composition), "Ami Nei Bhabtey Byathaye" (Kishore Kumar), "K'phonta Chokher Jol" (Manna Dey), "Careless Whisper" (George Michael), "Black or White" (Michael Jackson), "Child" (Freddie Aguilar) and "Ami Manush Chhinechi, Je Chhobitakey Oshomapto Korey, Shada Kagojer Pataye Pataye, Shanjher Rongey Rongin Akash (all recorded by me)."

"In my opinion, RD Burman (India) and Jean Michel Jarre (France) are the two greatest composers," he adds.

Dev has a penchant for both cricket and football. He composed and performed the



Suvro Dev

theme song "Cricket Cricket" of the Mini World Cup tournament, which was held in Dhaka in 1998. The socially aware artiste composed the song "Shoth Manush Kokhono Acid Chhorena" for acid victims. The song was aired on BBC on July 22, 2000.

Dev has also done playback for both Dhallywood (Dhaka) and Tollywood (Kolkata) films. The film "Bhagya Debota" (produced in Mumbai) featured a song "Shonao Abar Amakey Rokto Dao, Ami Debo Swadhinota" recorded by the singer. He has

also written and composed title songs for several TV plays and serials. Directed by Arun Chowdhury, the TV serial "Chhoto Chhoto Dheu" featured two of Dev's songs -- "Jiboner Chhoto Chhoto Dheu" and "Bhulitey Parina" (sung by Shakila Zafar that became hugely popular).

Dev along with Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan were selected as the brand ambassador of PEPSI International through a popular star selection round held in South-East Asia in 1994. Dev was invited to the Bollywood Music Award held at Nassau Coliseum, New York, USA in 2000, where he performed alongside AR Rahman, Lucky Ali, Kavita Krishnamurthy and Jose Feliciano. He has also performed in many other countries.

In recently held 5th Citycell-Channel i Music Awards-2009, Suvro Dev along with Ferdous Ara performed a fusion titled "Rakto Diyechhilo Bangali Ekkin Bhassar Jonno", mingling both classical and folk tunes. Dev composed the song.

Apart from his extraordinary 25-year career in the music world, Dev, currently the director of ATN Music, has over 20 years experience in the media world and media management.

"My only dream is to popularise Bengali music globally," says a confident Dev.

Actress Bindu goes places

Channel 1's new TV play "Megh" airs tonight

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

TV play "Megh" goes on air tonight on Channel 1. The direction and screenplay is by Chayanika Chowdhury, while the story is by Wahid Sentu and Pavel Chowdhury.

The play centres on a beautiful differently abled girl. She is deserted by a man. Later she finds love over the internet. Though he is aware of her condition, this man refuses to leave her. However there is a twist at the end of the story. The cast: Bindu and Apurbo.

The Daily Star talks to Bindu for more on "Megh":

"The drama is really interesting," said Bindu, "It was basically kept for Valentine's Day, but the director could hardly wait and decided to air it on the Channel's birthday."

"There is a theme song, 'Jebhabee Tumi Shokal Dekho Shurjo Kintu Ektai' (However you see the morning, there is only one sun). This song just adds to the scenic story and evokes the emotion felt throughout the drama. I love this song."

She had finished shooting for another TV play "Leelaboti" when this correspondent met her. "I'm basically shooting night and day, but this has now become a part of my life."

Questioned about any interesting events while shooting for "Megh", Bindu said, "The entire work was interesting. Chayanika Boudi, Apurbo, the cast, the tea- we are all like a family. So



Bindu

there is a lot of teamwork. Something that was interesting here was the Sierra Country Club, which is not really a shooting spot. The director was able to convince the authorities and get permission to shoot in this exotic location. It was great to be there, it felt like somewhere out of the country."

"In acting you get to have a

variety of experiences, you get to go to places, ride on go-carts and do things that you could have never imagined in ordinary life. That's what makes acting a really great profession, that and the fact in creating something new. Like in "Megh", I could actually empathise with the feelings of the despondent girl, who recovers her long lost hope."

A confluence of art forms ends at BSA



Sharmila Bandyopadhyay



Belayet Hossain Khan



Proma Obonti



Shaju Ahmed

A CORRESPONDENT

As part of its regular monthly events, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranged a two-day long classical music and dance programme at the National Music and Dance Centre auditorium beginning on January 20. Director General of BSA Kamal Lohani inaugurated the programme while director of Music and Dance Department of BSA Mahmud Selim along with other officials and artistes of BSA was present on the occasion.

On the opening day, a classical music (both vocal and instrumental) recital enthralled the audience

as Priyanka Gope, a teacher of Chhayanaut, performed a *thumri* followed by another by Ustad Syed Zakir Hossain. Alauddin Mian presented raaga *Malkosh* on the violin, followed by raaga *Jilla Kafi* on sarod performed by Yousuf Khan. Delwar Hossain Khan and Syed Meher Hossain on tabla and Shakur on harmonium backed up the musicians.

On the concluding day, a spectacular classical dance evening showcased the superb choreography of Sharmila Bandyopadhyay (Manipuri), Proma Obonti, (Odissi) Belayet Hossain Khan (Bharatanatyam) and Shaju Ahmed (Kathak).

Sharmila Bandyopadhyay with



A Manipuri group recital at the programme.

her troupe members -- Shudeshna, Sonia, Mohona, Laxmi, Afsana, Era, Shatabdi and

Bijoya -- performed five styles of Manipuri focusing on 'Pantha Jagoi', 'Radha Abhisar', 'Tandob',

'Dhakor' and 'Krishna Lila'.

Proma Obonti along with her troupe members -- Priyanka, Anwi,

Shejuti, Shoma, Joyita, Riya and Tondrila performed five approaches of Odissi highlighting the apocalyptic vision and creative appeasement of Lord Shiva.

Belayet Hossain Khan with his troupe members -- Salma, Aditi, Nimmi, Nushaba, Ishita, Fatema, Sonia, Rimu and Jennifer -- captivated the audience with four genres namely 'Alarippu', 'Zotiswarom', 'Tilana' and 'Naborosh' of Bharatanatyam. 'Naborosh' is a genre of Bharatanatyam that represents nine moods like love, laughter, fury, compassion, disgust, horror, heroism, wonder and peace through dance performance.

Shaju Ahmed along with his

troupe members -- Simi, Monjury, Eshita, Ananya, Mukta and Emon charmed the audience with five forms of Kathak. Their performance started with a "Bandana" followed by two compositions respectively on 'Teentaal' and 'Jhaptal', 'Mayur' and 'Tarana'. The performance was flawless.

At the end of each performance, Kamal Lohani, Mahmud Selim and dance artiste Deepa Khandakar felicitated the choreographers and other dance artistes with 'uttario' and bouquets of flowers.

Kamal Lohani spoke prior to the performance. Channel 1 was the media partner of the event.

PHOTO: MUMIT M