

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Folk Music Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Shilpakala Academy premises
Date: January 25-31
Time: 5pm onwards



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: A Pilgrimage for Peace
Artist: Kazi Ghiyasuddin
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-27/5/F, R-27 Dhanmondi
Date: January 29-February 11
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Sk. Mehedi Kamal
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-26, R-3 Dhanmondi
Date: January 29-February 7
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: The Mysterious Sky
Artist: Mushfiq Hassan Bony
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: January 26-31
Time: 12-8pm



Call to uphold folk culture and traditions

Loko Sangskriti Utshab 2010 in Chittagong



A group of Baul musicians perform at the festival.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Chittagong

Amid much enthusiasm, a two-day festival began here in the port city on Friday with a call to uphold and nurture the folk traditions -- the root of Bengali culture.

Samaj Samiksha Sangha -- an organisation that conducts researches on society, economy and culture -- held the festival titled, "Loko Sangskriti Utshab 2010" at DC Hill Park premises.

"Culture originates from life and survives through spontaneity. Any

imposed practice of thoughts and ideas may cause it to sway from its natural course," said Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on the inaugural day.

He hoped that our folk traditions would survive the aggression of satellite culture and thrive.

Poet and columnist Abul Momen, also the resident editor of the daily Prothom Alo, was special guest at the discussion presided over by Festival Celebration Committee chairman Kazi Mahmud Imam Bilu.

In his speech Abul Momen said, "If our folk culture loses spontaneity its existence would be under threat."

Folk traditions are often being practiced like they should be preserved in museum, observed Momen, urging all to come out of this trend.

Among others, Festival Celebration Committee convener Debashish Roy; Samaj Samiksha Sangha executive director Ahmed Saifuddin Khaled; Shihab Chowdhury and Suman Chowdhury also spoke at the meeting where director Mintu Chowdhury read out the festival declaration.

Speakers at the meeting called upon all to join hands in the mission to uphold and nurture the folk culture of Bengal. They also urged the government to take necessary steps to facilitate this mission.

In the festival declaration, the organisers demanded setting up folklore society in every division of the country and also a folklore department at Chittagong University.

The declaration also demanded the recognition of mother languages of indigenous groups and making primary education accessible in these languages.

Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out from central Shaheed Minar premises. The procession ended at DC Hill Park where Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Fariduddin Ahmed Chowdhury inaugurated the festival.



A performance by Rakhain dancers.

Aamir as Guru Dutt?

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, Jaipur

Aamir Khan.

Guru Dutt's son Arun said that the film's script in being written by Anurag Kashyap and Aamir has already been approached for the role.

"A script on the life of Guru Dutt and his struggle in the Bollywood film industry decades ago is being written by a famous filmmaker Anurag Kashyap and director Shivendra Dungarpur," Arun told PTI. He was here to inaugurate the 2nd Jaipur International Film Festival. "Aamir Khan is likely to play the protagonist but he has asked us to provide a copy of the script. It will take time," he said.

"In a personal request to the scriptwriter, we have asked to be cautious while touching the topic of the relationship between my mother Geeta Dutt, my father and also Wahida Rehmanji," he said.

Arun said Dutt's works, which include films like "Pyasa" and "Sahib Bibi Aur Gulam", are being restored.

Nine such films would be digit-

ised with the latest computer technology under the National Film Archive programme, Arun said.

To begin with, the restoration work of "Sahib Bibi Aur Gulam" has been taken up, he said.



Guru Dutt



Aamir Khan

Playing from the heart

Flutist Ustad Shahabuddin Khan

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Ustad Shahabuddin Khan creates a mesmerising environment with his flute. Today he is a renowned flutist not just in Mymensingh region but also in the country.

Shahabuddin has had a passion for the flute for over 40 years. Born in the village Swalpa Chapila in Gafargaoan upazila here in 1955, the son of late Tamizuddin Khan and Shamsun Nahar, Shahabuddin was attracted to the instrument from his very childhood. When he was a primary school student, he came across a local artist Amir Ali, who was proficient in flute and ghatu gaan.

Determined to master the flute, he set out in search of flute gurus in Mymensingh district. An opportunity came his way when he enrolled at Govt. Ananda Mohan College after passing the SSC in 1972.

It took Shahabuddin quite a while to come across an Ustad who would train him the classical notes on flute. As he says, "I was disheartened but later I decided to learn other musical instruments and started taking taalim (lessons) under the guidance of Ustad Badal Chandra Chanda and Badrul Huda on violin, sitar and esraj, and my learning continued for 10 years.

"I heard the programmes on classical music broadcast from Kolkata and Guwahati radio stations (India) and was gradually immersed in the classical style.

As my practice on different musical instruments went on, I later added those notes on my flute."

His passion for classical music has brought the self-made Shahabuddin to his present position in the world of music. Now Khan has acquired mastery in different ragas.

Shahabuddin favours many ragas: Emon, Bhairavi, Khamaj, Bhupali, Bhimpalashree, Hindol, Malkosh, Chandrakosh, Dhansree, Sud Kalyan, Desh Malahor, Hansha Dhvani etc.

Shahabuddin, a musician of Kirana Gharana, now teaches the flute at Bangladesh Agricultural University Sangeet Bidyalaya, Nazrul Shena, Aokmoy Naha Sangeet Bidyalaya and Mymensingh Sangeet Bidyalaya. Many of his students are now performing at the national level.

Shahabuddin is also the director and music composer of many dance dramas based on the folklore of this region, including "Mahua", "Malua" and "Chandrabati". Since 1978, he has judged flute competitions arranged by Bangladesh Radio and BTB.

Principal of Mymensingh Sangeet Bidyalaya, Shahabuddin, is also a researcher of Mymensingh-region based folklore that enriched Bengali literature and culture manifold.

On the present status of classical music including learning the flute, a disheartened Shahabuddin Khan told The Daily Star that the present scenario is dismal. Learning of classical



Ustad Shahabuddin Khan

music, he went on to add, requires time and patience. Learning the flute, he said is more difficult than other musical instruments as it needs powerful lungs.

Learning of classical music, he asserted, does not only depend on institutions; it is a type of learning where a student has to be attached with masters for years together.

"Research institutions for folklore and traditional music should be established throughout the country to draw the attention of the younger people towards classical music," said Shahabuddin, adding that the government's role should be pivotal on this front.

Global Groove

South Asia's first Electronic Music Convention



The convention featured performances by electronic acts from Europe and India.



PHOTO COURTESY: FELIX

A CORRESPONDENT

The Global Groove movement has attained major popularity in the international music scene. For the first time in India, 'Global Groove Music Convention & Festival' was held recently. The event was held at Tivoli Gardens, Chatterpur, New Delhi. Some of the best electronic acts along with many best-known international acts gathered at the event. Nafis Tahsin Ahmed Shubho of Live^2 Events-AM joined the major event as a delegate from Bangladesh. Here's what Nafis had to say about the convention:

How was the experience?

Nafis: The experience was awesome. There was energy, there was music. On the closing day, two mega shows were on at the same time at separate venues.

Max Mueller Bhavan, along with Entertainment Media Services, presented the Global Groove Music Convention & Festival. Goethe Institut was actively involved with this project. A lot of representatives of different countries, mainly from Europe and South Asia, were there to evolve ideas and opportunities for future prospects.

There were discussions that included the artistes' prospects in terms of performance and albums.

At the end of the convention, delegates from different

countries shared views.

Do you have plans to involve Bangladeshi electronic acts (music) in future conventions?

Nafis: To be honest, the term "electronic act" is still not that familiar in our country. In Bangladesh even though "club music" has just pervaded the scene, we still have a long way to go. The music scene in Bangladesh is certainly growing and this should encourage sponsors to invest and support musicians to flourish and be on a par with their international counterparts.

That's what I hope!

But yes, personally I do have such plans and have also spoken to a few electronic acts from around here for the next convention.

Which electronic acts were there at the convention?

Nafis: There were many from around the world. Notwist (Germany), Phi Degrees (Mumbai, India), Mathias Schaffhauser (Germany), Order of the Essence (Goa, India), Teddy Boy Kill (Delhi, India), Mimetic (Switzerland), Bobby & Blumm (Germany) were some of the names.

In the past few years there has been a steady growth in the clubbing scene of this part of the world, fuelled by economic growth, and growing interest in this particular kind of music among the young. Needless to say electronic music is much in demand.

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