

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Festival
Suchitra Sen
Organiser: Suchitra Sen Smrity Sanrakshan Parishad, Pabna
Venue: Mukto Moncho, Pabna
Date: November 26-December 3



Theatre

Play: Tin Poishar Pala
Troupe: Bahubachan
Venue: Zahir Raihan Cultural Centre, Shurapur
Date: November 25
Time: 7:15pm



Group Art Exhibition

Title: Tree & Roots
Artists: Mithu, Kanak Champa, Arjo and Shiropa
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7/A, H-60, Dhanmondi
Date: November 27-December 7
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: Bangladesh on Top of the Everest
Photographer: Musa Ibrahim
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: November 26-December 9
Time: 9-8pm



BAMBA's concert to address violence against women



Clockwise (from top): Warfaze, Artcell and Nagarbaul will perform at the concert.

Taking a stand against gender violence, Bangladesh Musical Bands' Association (BAMBA), in association with UNFPA and the Government of Bangladesh, will hold a mega concert at the Army Stadium in Dhaka. Featuring popular bands of the country, the concert will be held tomorrow, says a press release.

country are going to perform at the concert. They are Nagarbaul, LRB, Miles, Souls, Warfaze, Prometheus, Aurthohin, Artcell, Cryptic Fate, Metal Maze, Power Surge and Lalon.

The concert will also mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Woman. The theme of the concert is 'Say No to Violence Against Woman: Be a Real Man.'

Twelve leading and promising bands of the

Music Review

Lost gems found in "Haramanik"

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Laservision recently produced an audio album, titled "Haramanik", featuring five folk songs and three instrumental recitals (one on sitar and two folk compositions on surashree, an instrument devised by Dr. Mridulkanti Chakrobarati).

Dr. Chakrobarati has recorded the folk numbers -- "Mon Tui Dekhna Khujey Dehar Majhey", "Tomarey Dekhibar Mon-e Chay", "Ami Kichhu Noy", "Ami Kothaye Pabo Tarey" and "Amar Bondhu Doyamoy" written and composed by five mystic bards Shah Abdul Karim, Amiruddin, Hason Raja, Gogon Horkora and Radharamon Dutta respectively.

Reenat Fauzia has recorded three dhun on sitar -- based on Raga Bhatiali, Mishra Khmaj and Mishra Pahadi, while Dr. Chakrobarati has done two instrumental recitals -- Palli and Bhatiali on surashree, for the album.

The vocal and instrumental performances come alternatively on the album. Starting with the intense but light melodic vocals by Dr. Chakrobarati, the album wraps up with the symphony of Pahadi dhun on sitar by Reenat Fauzia.

The mingling of folk and classical tunes on the album is likely to appease a music connoisseur. Regional or local intonations in the folk songs (by Dr. Chakrobarati) make them sound more authentic.

On sitar, one of the major classical instruments, Fauzia's immaculate performance of Raga Mishra Khmaj offers a pleasant surprise -- it ventures into the realm of Raga Kirtananga.



Cover of the album.

Surashree is the brainchild of Dr. Chakrobarati, the first Professor at the department of Music, Dhaka University. It is actually a modern and refined form of tat instrument that resembles dotara. With steel brass and four strings -- 'Ma', 'Sa', 'Pa', 'Re' -- surashree produces melodic tunes and can be an ideal substitute for tanpura. Not only folk, but also Rabindra Sangeet, Adhunik and even classical tunes can be played on surashree.

Dr. Chakrobarati has played a folk tune based on the song "Boli O Nanodi

Aar Dumutho Chal Pheley Dey Haritey" (belongs to the Jhumur genre of Birbhum, West Bengal) on surashree. The Santali element is noticeably audible in the composition, while his Bhatiali tune definitely summons the song "Mon Majhi Tor Boitha Ney Re".

"The combination of vocal and instrumental performances in an album is rather rare. Eminent Tagore artiste Suchitra Mitra and renowned sarod player Ustad Amjad Ali Khan recorded an album like this in the mid

1990s. Legendary composer V. Balsara on piano and iconic singer Hemanta Mukherjee were featured once in an album as well," Dr. Chakrobarati informed.

Hossein Ali on banshi; Mokaddes Ali on dotara; Anirban, Sanjib and Sabuj on tabla; Dipan Sarkar on keyboard and guitar instrumentally accompanied the artiste duo on the album. Dipan Sarkar recorded the tracks and engineered the sound, while Sheikh Sadi Khan was in charge of overall management.

Born in Sunamganj in 1955, Dr. Mridulkanti Chakrobarati completed his B. Mus (1980) and M. Mus (1982) with distinction from Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan, West Bengal. He earned his PhD from the same university, for his dissertation on "Trend of Bengali Music and Rabindra Sangeet on Folk Tune (Eighth to Twentieth century)". Dr. Chakrobarati has written several research-based books on music and music composers.

Reenat Fauzia is the granddaughter of Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, younger brother of the internationally famed Ustad Alauddin Ali Khan. Her mother Fauzia Khan is a renowned singer of Bangladesh. Noted singers Farida Yasmin, Nilufar Yasmin and Sabina Yasmin are her aunts. She had her initial lessons on sitar from her cousin Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan. Her formal training was under Ustad Khurshid Khan, also a cousin. She also completed a certificate course on classical music from Chhayanaut. Reenat Fauzia is now working as an Associate Professor at Home Economics College, Dhaka.

Profile

Mohammad Rafiq and his music

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Mohammad Rafiq Khan, a professional musician, has a mastery over several instruments, ranging from the tabla to cornet and flute.

"Music is a tradition in our family. However, each generation is plagued by financial constraints. The saving grace is that we enjoy being musicians though there is little scope for sufficient earning," said the 46-year-old Rafiq.

"In my childhood I took taalim (lessons) from my father on various musical instruments like tabla, flute and cornet. Later, I took lessons from Ustad Pabitra Kumar Dey on tabla at the district Shilpakala Academy for several years to attain mastery on the tabla. My uncle Ustad Mobarak Ali Khan, gave me flute lessons and my association with this instrument made



Mohammad Rafiq plays cornet.

me a familiar name," added Rafiq.

Veteran cornet artiste Ustad Khalil Miah took Rafiq as his disciple and transformed him into a superb cornet player. "I am grateful to my ustads (teachers) who helped me become a professional artiste.

"When plays and jatra pala were

held on a regular basis in different regions of the district, we earned a good income and could maintain our family well but the situation has changed. Now it is difficult for us to lead a life with dignity," lamented Rafiq.

Rafiq has a family of six, which includes three children, and during the off-season is hard pressed to maintain them.

"Along with my team, I travel around in greater Mymensingh to make contacts as well as in other districts like Dhaka, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Sunamganj, Pabna, Chandpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal," said Rafiq.

"During Durga Puja we enjoy reasonable returns as we are offered Taka 30,000-50,000 for a band comprising eight artistes on different instruments," he added.

However, Rafiq is distressed that the

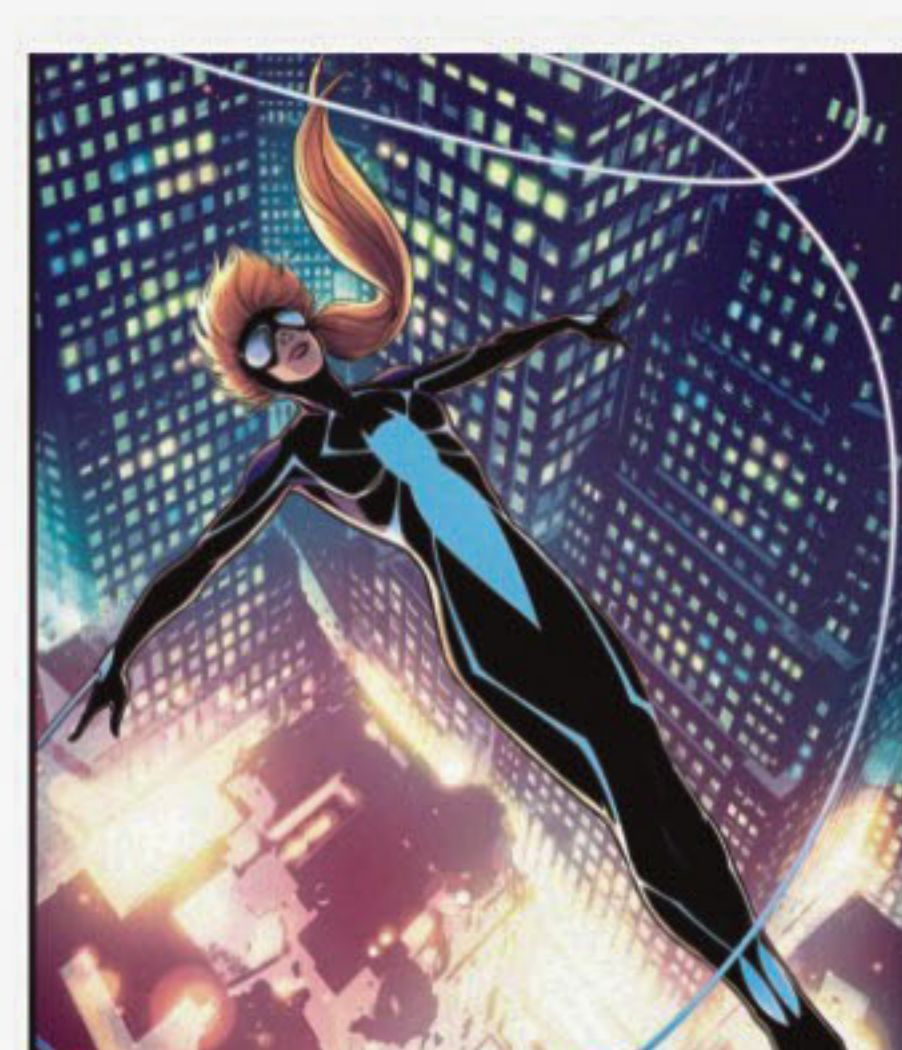
present generation is not interested in the traditional musical instruments and many instruments could become obsolete.

"To master a musical instrument, one has to take lessons under the guidance of ustads for years together but the young show little interest in such a long course," said Rafiq. He also expressed regret that there are few newcomers in the field.

Rafiq Khan is associated with district Shilpakala Academy, Lok Krishti Shangstha, Bahurupi Natya Shangstha and other educational institutions of the town including Mymensingh Cantonment Public School and College.

Meanwhile veteran cornet artistes Alhaz Uddin, Akbar Ali and Soda Miah, compliment Rafiq for his mastery of the cornet, making him a role model for the new generation.

Is Spider-Girl the new Spider-Man?



Spider-Girl is not a sidekick, but the lead character.

A new comic series has just hit the stands starring a female version of Spider-Man.

Spider-Girl -- aka Anya Corazon -- is a 16-year-old high-school student of Latino descent who lives in New York.

The makers, Marvel Comics, say she provides a positive, modern image of an empowered young woman.

Unlike most superheroes, she has no superpowers, but she is trained in martial arts and has excellent fighting skills.

Marvel hope the comic will appeal to the growing number of young female comic book readers.

"People want to read stories with characters they relate to," says Spider-Girl editor Tom Breennan. "We certainly hope that young women will pick this up and enjoy it."

Spider-Girl wears a skin-tight black outfit with a large pale blue spider emblazoned across her front, and is very toned and strong.

Spider-Girl's father is an investigative reporter and she, like Spider-Man, has a strong sense of justice.

As the storyline develops the two characters will sometimes work together on missions, with Spider-Man playing something of a mentor role.

Source: BBC

www.kfcbd.com

Returning by popular demand

KFC Krushers full of real bitz!

Taste the Drink You Can Eat

Virgin Mojito

Choco Lash

Strawberry Smoothie

Krushers, made from a unique combination of chocolate, cookie bits, coffee, dairy and ice are available in 5 mouth watering flavors.

Available only in selected stores

TRANSCOM FOODS LIMITED