

# BENGAL ITC-SRA CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2012

## Magic happened on stage



Sujata Mohapatra

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The large space inside Bangladesh Army Stadium was used cleverly and efficiently -- not missing out on any vital component that would be required for a nightlong programme. Right from the outset on the opening day of Bengal ITC SRA Classical Music Festival 2012 (November 29), the arrangement was in a word, impeccable.

The seating arrangement was also very well thought out. The front was reserved for the esteemed guests, while general attendees sat not far away. There were also arrangements for seating on the sides, ample number of projectors and speakers were placed in the stadium, ensuring that everyone, no matter where they were, could see and hear the proceedings and performances on the stage.

### Regal shehnai sets off the musical voyage

Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain Khan kicked off the festival with a shehnai performance set on Raga Hansadhwani. Hansadhwani, belonging to thaat Bilawal, represents all 'shuddha swar' (pure notes). Hussain's performance produced perfect 'gamak' (profound waves of melody) coupled with 'taan'. Two shehnai artists Hassan Haider Khan and Ahmed Abbas Khan accompanied Hussain during the performance. Renowned tabla artiste Pandit Samar Saha embellished the performance with several tabla 'lahora', 'rela' and 'laggi'.

### Raga Bageshree blossoms

Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan on sitar played a melodic game of Bageshree, a raga pertaining to the thaat Khamaj. The artiste's stunning performance seemed to make the gentle dewy breeze blow over Madhabilata flowers. Shahid Parvez's 'alaap', 'gaut', 'bistaar', 'jhala' and 'tehai' seemingly made the moon smile. Yogesh Samsi accompanied the Ustad on tabla.

### An immaculate Dhrupad performance

Dhrupad is the oldest existing form of classical music. Khayal, thumri and tappa have been created from this form of music. Pandit Uday Bhawalkar offered a dhrupad set on Raga Jog. Pratap Awad accompanied the performance on 'tehra taal' (seven-beat) and 'sul taal' (ten-beat) on pakhawaj. Uday Bhawalkar's rendition of 'gamak' and 'gamaki alaap' were set on 'vilambit', 'madhya' and 'drut laya', and covered three octaves -- 'mandra', 'madhya' and 'taar saptak'.

### A Juganbandi to remember

Pandit Tejendra N Majumdar on sarod, with Pandit Subhankar Banerjee on tabla, created a musical euphoria. The duo presented a 'juganbandi' that the Dhaka music connoisseurs will remember. Showcasing the splendour of Raga Lalit, Pandit Majumdar played a composition on 'rupak taal madhyalaya'



Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty



Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan



Pandit Tejendra N Majumdar



Pandit Uday Bhawalkar

and a 'drut' composition on 'teen taal'. Mesmerising the audience, the Pandit duo suddenly paused several times amid the speedy juganbandi.

### Like rippling water

When Odissi dancer, teacher and exponent Sujata Mohapatra took the stage, the first night of the festival was at its peak. As Mohapatra made her entrance -- with delicate footsteps, initial-

ing "Mangalacharan" [her offering to the Divinity], it looked as if one of the 'waterbending' characters from the uber-popular TV show [later adapted into a movie by M. Night Shyamalan] "Avatar: The Last Airbender" has come out of the screen. Mohapatra's performance was interrupted once by power cut but that couldn't break the spell she put on the audience. Her super-fluid movements, which could only be likened to rippling water, demonstrated a command and restraint that only come

from years of devotion to one's craft.

### Ushering the dawn

Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty ushered in the dawn through performing a khayal set on Raga Aahir Lalit. According to the Pandit, he learnt the raga from Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and Pandit Ravi Shankar, but rarely performs it. For the special performance at the Dhaka festival, Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty also composed a new bandish. "Raathbar gunijan gaaye bajaye, Aaj anandmay

bhor". He presented it on 'vilambit ektaal'. "Wah! Kya baat!" -- were instant responses from the audience. Yogesh Samsi presented several 'tabla lahora' while Gourab Chatterjee on harmonium and Allarakha Kalawant on sarangi accompanied the Pandit.

### Tracing the heritage of classical music

At the back end of the stadium was a quaint open-air exhibition, with portraits and short biographies of the legendary musicians and dancers who had their roots in, or performed in what is now Bangladesh -- covering from the Mughal era to the stalwarts of the 20th century Ustad Allauddin Khan, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Ayet Ali Khan and Ustad Vilayat Khan. Music enthusiasts thronged the exhibition, walking through the rich history and legacy of classical music in Bangladesh.

### Books, magazines, CDs

There was a small exhibition on another part of the stadium grounds, showcasing the various activities, exhibitions and other events of Bengal Foundation. A stall carrying Bengal Foundation's publications and CDs was also nearby, alongside stalls of the publication houses Prothoma Prokashoni and Daily Star Books.

### Refreshments

For a programme scheduled to go on until dawn and expected to be attended in large numbers, there were ample supply of refreshments -- traditional pitha and other snacks, and full fledged dinner, all placed in order at one side. There were also seating arrangements for eating, under a canopy.

Among others, Bangladeshi artiste Ustad Shahadat Hossain Khan played Raga Jif on his sarod. Bangladeshi tabla artiste Zakir Hussain accompanied the performance on 'vilambit' and 'drut teen-taal'. Talented vocalist Omkar Dadarkar rendered a melodious khayal set on Raga Haameer. Sanjay Adhikary on tabla, Gourab Chatterjee on harmonium and Sarwar Hossain on sarangi accompanied the performance. Waseem Ahmed Khan also rendered a khayal based on Raga Chandrakauish. Sanjay Adhikary on tabla, Pandit Jyoti Guha on harmonium and Sarwar Hossain on sarangi assisted the performance.

The event organisers have not only meticulously planned, but the execution was efficient too. Today's programme has been dedicated to the memory of pioneering choreographer and dancer Pandit Uday Shankar. Prothoma Alo is the strategic partner and The Daily Star is partner of the festival. Maasranga Television is the telecast partner while abc radio is the broadcast partner. Ice Media Limited is the media partner of the festival.



Exhibition featuring portraits and biographies of legendary musicians and dancers.



## Uday Shankar Modernising dance in the Subcontinent

World-renowned dance artiste Uday Shankar's father, Pandit Shyam Shankar, was a native of Jessore district. Uday was born in 1900, in the city of Udaipur, while Shyam Shankar was serving the Maharaja of Jhalawar as his private secretary. Shyam Shankar was a connoisseur of performing arts. To him dance was both art and worship. Uday himself was instinctively inclined to dance and painting. He was sent to Mumbai in 1918 to receive training at the famous J.J. School of Arts and then to Gandharva Mahavidyalaya. For higher training, Uday Shankar went to Royal College of Arts, London, where he received both theoretical and practical training in oriental and western painting and dance. Sir Rothenstein, President of the Royal College of Arts, introduced him to leading performing artists of Britain. With a scholarship from the Royal College of Arts, Uday went to Rome for further training in painting.

Uday's training at home and abroad and his interactions with the leading contemporary dance artistes of India and Europe equipped him for performance at cross-cultural levels. The great Russian ballerina, Anna Pavlova, engaged him to create two dance items with Indian themes: Radha-Krishna and the Hindu Marriage.

Uday's compositions demonstrated his extraordinary imagination, knowledge and perception. His association with Pavlova inspired him to design modern Indian ballets where movement and costume, theme and decoration, music and song had to be proportioned and blended to fit the modern stage. With Pavlova, Uday performed numerous shows in a coast-to-coast tour of the USA.

Uday Shankar returned to India in 1929 with a new vision. With him came Simone Barbieri, a pianist in Paris, and now a dance partner and disciple of Uday. Together they toured India and presented shows, drawing

enchanted audiences everywhere. With him also came Alice Bonner, an influential Swiss sculptress and art historian. With Bonner, Uday visited all parts of India in search of folk dance and instruments. He was fascinated and inspired by the highly stylised classical forms and varieties of Indian folk dances. He chose Kathakali and made it popular all over India, particularly in Bengal. With the cooperation of Alice Bonner, he established in Paris a dance and music company called 'The Compagnie Uday Shankar de Dance Musicque Hindous'. From 1930 to 1942 his troupe gave 889 performances all over Europe. His engaging performances brought a new awakening in the Western world about the richness of South Asia's dances and music.

In 1939, with the encouragement of Tagore, Uday established an institute called 'Shankar India Cultural Centre' at Almora, in the foothills of the Himalayas. The gurus whom he invited to teach at the centre with him were Shankaran Nambudirei for Kathakali, Kandappa Pillay for Bharatanatyam, Amobi Singh for Manipuri and Ustad Allauddin Khan for music.

Uday Shankar's national and international recognition brought respectability, status and dignity for dance. He made dance in India and in Bengal as respectable as music and theatre. Uday Shankar finally settled in Kolkata in 1960. In 1971, he was decorated with Padma Vibhushan for his unique contributions to the renaissance of Indian performing art. The Visva-Bharati University conferred on him the Deshikottama in 1975. Uday Shankar was a compulsive innovator. Drawing on classical and folk dances, he created his own style, which was essentially mystic and transcendental. He blended mythological and modern themes into a new creation suitable to modern taste and sensibilities.

Compiled by Correspondent

## 007 COMES TO D-TOWN "Skyfall" at Star Cineplex

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Great news for Dhaka film buffs: the latest James Bond film, "Skyfall", has had its Bangladesh release. While the film saw its UK release on October 1, it was released in the US on November 9. The film was released in Dhaka on November 29. Star Cineplex made it happen for the local fans of the British secret agent. According to Internet Movie Database, the film will see its Japan release today.

"Skyfall" is being released worldwide at a time when the film franchise celebrates its 50 years. Star Cineplex at Bashundhara City mall was decorated with portraits of iconic

bond girls and previous 007 agents. Local models featured in a brief fashion show, while pop singer Mehreen rendered the "Skyfall" theme song, originally recorded by Adele, just before its screening.

Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of Star Cineplex, made a brief speech praising all the supporters for helping him to bring the film in Bangladesh.

"Skyfall" is the 23rd film in the series, produced by Eon Productions and distributed by MGM and Sony Pictures Entertainment. It features Daniel Craig as James Bond and Javier Bardem as Raulo Silva, the antagonist. The film has been directed by Sam Mendes

and written by Neal Purvis, Robert Wade and John Logan.

The film follows Bond investigating an attack on MI6; the attack is part of a plot by former MI6 operative Raoul Silva (Bardem) to humiliate, discredit and ultimately kill M (Judi Dench) as revenge against her for betraying him. The film sees the return of two recurring characters after an absence of two films: Q, played by Ben Whishaw; and Eve Moneypenny, played by Naomie Harris.

"Skyfall" is the last film of the series for Judi Dench.

The Daily Star is one of the media partners of the event.

### THE WEEKLY STRUM

.....Cm.....Ab..F  
This is the end  
Hold your breath and count to ten  
.....Cm.....Ab...F  
Feel the earth move and then  
.....Cm7/D# Gsus4 G  
Hear my heart burst again  
.....Cm.....Ab...F  
For this is the end  
.....Cm  
.....Ab...F  
I've drowned and dreamed this moment  
.....Cm.....Ab...F  
So overdue I owe them  
.....Cm7/D# Gsus4 G  
Swept away I'm stolen



.....Cm.....Bb.....Ab.....  
Let the sky fall when it crumbles  
/G.....F.....Cm7/D# Gsus4.....G  
G  
We will stand tall and face it all together  
.....Cm.....Ab...F  
At sky-fall  
.....Cm.....Ab...F  
Skyfall is where we start  
.....Cm.....Ab...F  
F  
A thousand miles and poles apart  
.....Cm.....Ab...F  
b  
Where worlds collide and days are dark  
.....F.....Cm.....Ab...F  
Put your hand in my hand

Song: Skyfall  
Theme song of the film "Skyfall"  
Lyrics and tune by Adele  
You may have my number you can take my name  
.....Cm7/D# Gsus4.....G  
But you'll never have my heart  
.....F.....G.....Ab...  
Where you go I go  
.....G.....Ab...  
What you see I see  
.....Bb.....Bm  
I know I'd never be me  
.....Cm  
Without the security  
/Bb.....Ab.....Cm  
Of your loving arms  
.....Cm/D#  
Keeping me from harm  
.....Gsus4  
Put your hand in my hand

**How well do you know 007?**  
Test your knowledge to win FREE PREMIUM TICKETS to SKYFALL with

The Daily Star STAR CINEPLEX JAMES BOND QUIZ.

QUIZ: 01  
1) Name the 6 actors who have played 'James Bond' in the Eon series of James Bond.  
2) Which actor (to date) has played James Bond in the most number of films?  
3) Name the island which serves as Dr. No's base of operation in the first Bond film.

To participate for your chance to win TWO FREE PREMIUM TICKETS to SKYFALL, email your answers to [skyfall.quiz@thedailystar.net](mailto:skyfall.quiz@thedailystar.net) or [skyfall.quiz@gmail.com](mailto:skyfall.quiz@gmail.com) by 4pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow on the newspaper and through email.

SOURCE: ULTIMATEGUITAR.COM

06:40 Biz Time	04:45 Mohajatik
09:00 Drama	09:40 Life in Metro
11:30 Drama Serial: 99, Shalheh All Lane	11:00 Gano Phone
ETV	12:45 Fox Movies
10:02 Dehaghai	10:45 The Chronicles of Namia: Prince Caspian
01:30 Bangla Feature Film	05:05 Shanghai Noon
07:50 Attapor Ami	07:00 What's Your Number?
12:05 Ekushey-er Raat	
Boishakhi TV	HBO
10:20 Bangla Feature Film	05:35 Ong Bak 2
03:00 Drama Serial: Ognipath	07:30 Mean Girls
08:00 Drama	09:30 Thor
09:20 Shudhai Adda	12:05 Inception
BANGLAVISION	National Geographic Channel
11:05 Ami Ekhon Ki Karbo	02:30 The Edge of Engineering
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	04:30 Mega Factories
06:25 Front Line	08:30 Alien Deep
09:45 Drama Serial: Gulshan Avenue	09:30 Expedition Wild
Rtv	Discovery Channel
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	02:30 How Stuff Works
07:35 Shera Ami Shongee Maa	05:30 One Man Army
08:20 Drama Serial: Capsule 500mg	09:30 Superhuman Showdown
12:05 Love Lounge	11:30 Man Woman Wild

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	ETV
08:00pm Chena Mukh Ochena	09:30pm Dhol
Manush	BANGLAVISION
09:20pm DB	08:15pm Hankipety
CHANNEL 1	Rtv
07:50pm Noorjahan	09:05pm Alishpur
11:30pm Rohini	09:50pm Mon Rangla
ntv	CHANNEL 9
08:15pm Oghoton Ghoton Potyochi	08:15pm Nagarik
	10:30pm Idiots

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.	News (English) at 9am, 6pm.
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
CHANNEL 1	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
ETV	Maasranga Television
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	11:00pm Nirapad Sarak Chai
12:30am Lead News	12:00am Zero Hour
CHANNEL 1	BANGLAVISION
09:45am Trita Matra	09:05pm Amar Ami
12:30pm Tarika Kotthon	11:25pm Lal Galop
ETV	Rtv
10:10pm Gaby Shilpo Gaan	10:40am Taroklap
Maasranga Television	Desh TV
12:02am Maasranga Shampromk	09:45pm Bela Obela Sharabela
Boishakhi TV	Gtv