

BENGAL ITC-SRA CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2012

A whirlpool of melodies

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The second day (November 30) of the Bengal ITC SRA Classical Music Festival 2012 maintained the brilliance of its beginning. The grandest ever classical music festival is being held at Bangladesh Army Stadium in Dhaka. The second day's programme kicked off with an exclusive presentation, titled "SRA on Strings". A number of instruments -- sitar, sarod, sarangi, flute, violin and tabla -- fashioned a fusion based on Raga Kafi.

Ustad Rashid Khan's moving rendition of the Raga Puria Kalyan weaved a garland of melodies -- narrating myths of both the sun and the moon. Puria Kalyan, belonging to the 'thaat', Marwa, is an intermingling of Raga Yaman or the 'full moon' and Raga Puria. The time in between the setting of the sun and the emergence of the moon is considered apt for performing the raga. Ustad Rashid Khan brilliantly articulated the bliss of moonlight and saying farewell to the sun. That state of mind was expressed through the 'vilambit bandish', "Aaj Subana". During his descent on the raga, the ustad fashioned a melody involving 'Kalyan ang' (re ni dha, pa) and 'Puria ang' (ma, dha, ni, re, ga, ma, re, ga, ni re, sa). The 'sangat' of sarangi imitated his vocals. Khan's exquisite performance of 'pukaar', vocal throwing, 'laykari', 'mirkhand' (combination of the notes) and 'drut sapat taan' created a musical whirlpool. Pandit Subhankar Banerjee on tabla, Pandit Jyoti Guha on harmonium and Allarakkha Kalawant on sarangi accompanied the ustad. Rashid Khan also performed a thumri, "Yaad Piya Ki Aaye", originally recorded by

Ustad Bade Gulam Ali Khan. Prior to performing an a piece set on Raga Antardhwani on his santoor, Pandit Shivkumar Sharma said, "Music is not only for entertainment but also for fostering spirituality. The experiences of life concentrate on the oneness with the Almighty." Pandit Sharma first presented a slow, mellifluous 'alaap' -- almost like a butterfly coming out of its cocoon. He performed alaap jor', a 'vilambit' composition on 'jhap taal' and two 'drut' compositions set on 'addha' and 'teen taal'. The pandit went beyond the sphere of words and made his melody speak to the Divinity. Yogesh Samsi produced apt rhythms on his tabla while Shikahito, a disciple of the pandit, accompanied on tanpura.

Veteran sarod maestro Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta enthralled the Dhaka music connoisseurs with playing tunes of a Tagore song, "Shedin Dujoney" as 'bandish'. The piece was based on Raga Pilu. Prior to that he performed a 'dhun' set on Raga Kaunshi Kanara.

While performing a khayal, set on a romantic Raga Basant Mukhari, the accomplished vocalist Kaushiki Desikan showcased endless expressions and styles in the 'vilambit bandish', "Naina mere Baware". Kaushiki's performance featured 'bistaar' with 'boltaan', 'meed', 'gamak', 'raagdari' and 'shom'. The artiste's 'drut bandish' (on 'teen taal') "Bhayo Bhor' was remarkable. Tabla artiste Yogesh Samsi embellished the performance by presenting exquisite 'lahora' and 'rela'. Later, the artiste presented a dadra



Ustad Rashid Khan

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH



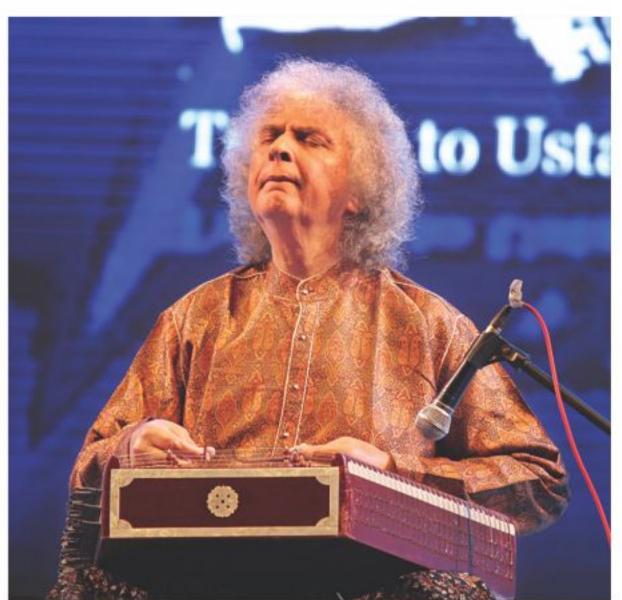
Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta

based on Raga Mishra Pahari.

Ustad Mashkoor Ali Khan performed a melancholic Raga Malkaunsh. His 'drut bandish', "Koyelia Kuk Chhunabey" (on teen taal) earned hearts of many.

Bangladeshi Sarod artiste Rajrupa Chowdhury captivated the audience with a 'dhun' performance set on Raga Hameer on 'vilambit', 'madhyalaya' and 'drut teen taal'. The striking point of her performance was 'raagdari' and producing of peaceful melody.

Adnan Khan played a stunning 'dhun' set on Raga Yaman on his sitar. The crux of his performance was



Pandit Shivkumar Sharma

'gamaki taan' -- a very rare presentation in instrumental music.

The talented vocalist Deborshee Bhattacharjee performed Raga Shudh Kalyan. Yaswant Vaishnav presented a solo tabla 'lahora' based on raga Jhinjhuti. His 'chakradar', 'paran', 'gat', 'tukra' and 'otit tehai' were entertaining. Sandip Bhattacharjee performed a khayal set on Raga Kadar.

The festival comes to an end today. Today's programme has been dedicated to sarod maestro Ustad Ali Akbar Khan.



ATN BANGLA

Indies (Live)

Shustha Thakun

Shukher Hoy Bedonar

Drama Serial: Boiri

Gaaner Utshab

Drama Serial: Tukro

BTV

Business Vision Bangladesh Vs West Bangla Feature Film Din Jai Kotha Thake Drama Serial: Bhim Roti Drama Serial: Dhrupodi Kahini Rajkonna Lilaboti Shimana Periey Desh TV Gaan R Gaan **Business and Finance**

Sanskritir Sharadesh Tribute to Legend Drama Serial: Shongshar Total Sports Maasranga Television

Bangla Feature Film

Drama Serial: Nagarik

Power Voice 2012

Batash Binodon Sharadin **CHANNEL** i Tele-quiz 11:00 CHANNEL 9 Grorey Ghorey

Tomader Ei Wrin Kon Din Shodh Hobena On Gtv at 05:45pm





Bhuter Bari On Boishakhi TV at 06:15pm Drama Serial Cast: Abid Rehan, Humaira Himu

11:30

ntv

ETV



Desh Jurey Oporadh Porikroma X-Men: First Class Ekushey-er Raat Colombiana Boishakhi TV Shorashori Doctor Fashion Haat Drama Serial: Ognipoth 11:25 Sucker Punch Reporters Dairy Star World BANGLAVISION Bangla Feature Film Junior Master Chef

Ebong Class-er Bairey

Drama Serial: Ladies

First

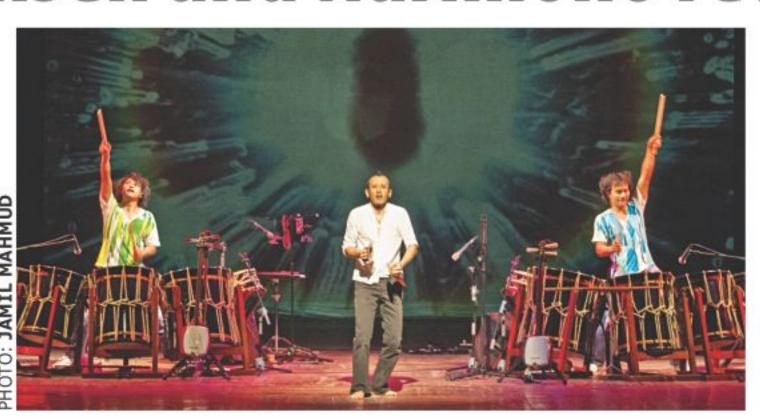
Australia 04:30 Revenge 10:30 Alcatraz

Taiko, Samisen and Narimono reverberate

JAMIL MAHMUD

Beats of taiko (traditional Japanese wide drums) and narimono (metallic percussion) mingled with measured acoustic sounds of samisen (threestringed instrument), and together created some unforgettable music, as Japanese fusion group 'Aun and Hide' performed for the Dhaka audience during a two-hour show at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka on

November 30. The Embassy of Japan arranged the concert to celebrate the 40th anniversary of



Japanese trio 'Aun and Hide' performs at Shilpakala Academy.

diplomatic relations between

Bangladesh and Japan. Aun is a band of twin brothers -- Ryohei and Kohei Inoue.

On the other hand, Hide is a

solo artiste.

The trio started with "Soul's Ville" and went for "San Pato" next. On the stage there were taiko at two sides.

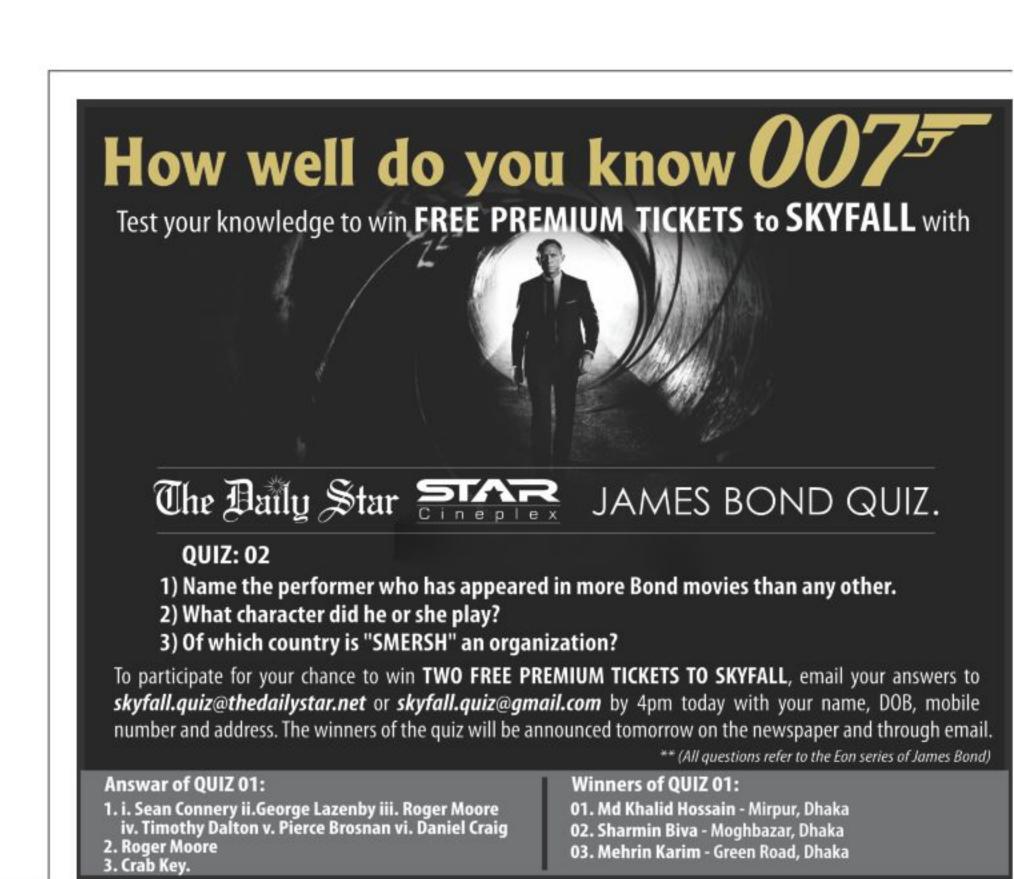
Distinguished guests -- Abul Kalam Azad, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Shiro Sadoshima, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh -- made brief speeches after the perfor-

mances. Mostly, the twins played on taiko and accompanied Hide when he was playing narimono.

Hide was vibrant and engaging. His superlative skills on the narimono was noticeable.

On the other hand, the twins were apt on taiko and samisen. They performed a piece featuring samisen. Ryohei also played a couple of pieces on flute.

The trio's repertoire also included "Be Free", To the South" and "Bon Voyage II".



15th Asian Art Biennale starts in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 15th Asian Art Biennale opened yesterday. As part of the festival, exhibitions are now on at National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shillpakala Academy (BSA) and Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith inaugurated the exhibition at BSA as chief guest. Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad was present as special guest. Suraiya Begum NDC, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs presided over the inaugural session. Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA was also present at the programme.

BSA has been organising the biennale since 1981. Apart from Bangladesh, 34 countries have taken part with 800 artworks at the event.

Among the participating countries are: Bahrain, Brunei, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, South and North Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand,

Philippines, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

Liaquat Ali Lucky said, "The Asian Art Biennale is one of the largest art festivals in the sub-continent. Artists, gallerists, critics and curators from different parts of the world are taking part in the festival. BSA is delighted to hold the event on a grand scale. Over fifty guests from overseas have taken part at the seminar. They will also visit the local galleries and will make observations on our art market and scenario. A fivemember jury committee, including veteran Bangladeshi painters and critics, have selected the artworks for the exhibition."

About 800 artworks of 538 artists are on display at the exhibition. The mediums include: paintings, etchings, sculptures, installations and video art.

Other highlights of the biennale include a two-day long seminar titled, "Cultural Crosspollination and Regional Perspectives". The seminar will be held today (December 2) and tomorrow (December 3) at the Seminar Room of BSA.

The festival will continue till December 31.

