

WHAT'S ON

Group Drawing Exhibition
Title: His Light, His Shadow
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-42, Rd 16 (new), Dhannondi

Tagore Dance-Drama
Title: 'Mayar Khela'
Organiser: Shadonna
Venue: National Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 23

Theatre
Play: Mahaparinirvan
Troop: Sabut
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 21
Time: 6:30pm

Remembering Soovas Dutt
Film Screening
Venue: Dance and Music Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Dec 22-27

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Journey of Ali Akbar
Artist: Ali Akbar
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7A, Dhannondi
Date: December 14-21

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Kazi Anibar
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhannondi
Date: December 19-29
Time: 3pm-8pm

Classical Music Fest
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhannondi
Date: Dec 20-21
Time: 1st day from 6pm; 2nd



SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

The elegant Alif Laila, nicknamed Kumkum, in a maroon Jamdani took the stage with her sitar on the last day of the Bengal ITC-SRA Classical Music Festival in Dhaka. She has been instrumental in initiating the festival. She plans to perform soon at the prestigious Purcell Room, South Bank Center, London where she will be presenting her music -- her expressions of the ragas -- with her watercolour paintings. Alif Laila is one of the very few, internationally performing, sitar artistes of Bangladesh today.

This year has been particularly productive for Alif. In her recent CD, "I Am a River", combining sitar and jazz-saxophone she was accompanied by Tamjoy Bose, an icon in world music. She also composed an Indian classical piece with the sitar and the cello, which was performed at the Bangladesh Embassy, Washington DC in April this year to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh-US relations.

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Alif has released seven CDs and two DVDs of Indian classical sitar.

Talking about memorable performances she says, "My performance at the Shaheed Minar in 2004 was a momentous occasion for me. Playing Palash Kafi, a mixture of Bhimpalesri and Kafi, I was quite apprehensive about how people would respond to semi-classical

instruments because until then, only street plays, songs and dances were performed annually as part of the homage to our Language Martyrs."

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land and now teaches privately in the US.

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However, there is a definite revival and I am happy with the response from the audience," says Alif.

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