

WHAT'S ON



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

PHOTO: ATLAKASH



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



Launching Ceremony
Album of songs A/D of
'Narosund' by Tareque Masud
Venue: Sevenhill Restaurant, Dk
Tower, Level 7, 94 Sonargaon
Road, Bangla Motor

PHOTO: ATLAKASH



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

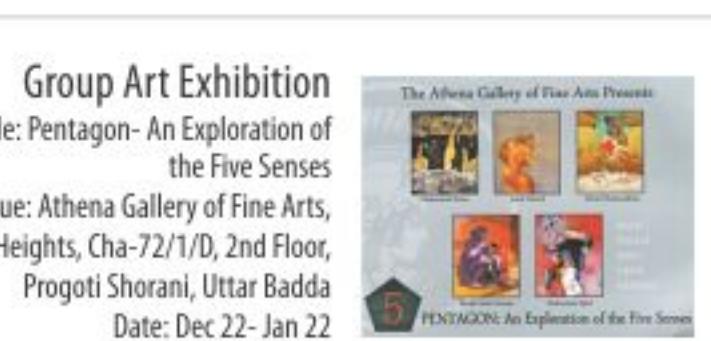


Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Serene Dream and Reality
Artist: Avi Shankar Amin
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance
Francaise de Dhaka, Dharmundi
Date: Dec 18-31

PHOTO: ATLAKASH



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Kazi Anirban
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60,
R-7A, Dharmundi
Date: December 19-29
Time: 3pm-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Pentagon- An Exploration of
the Five Senses
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts
Al Heights, Cha-72/10, 2nd Floor
Prognoj Shorboni, Uttara Badda
Date: Dec 22- Jan 22

PHOTO: ATLAKASH



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Kuhu
Venue: Radius Art Gallery,
Gulshan
Date: Nov 30-Jan 15

PHOTO: ATLAKASH

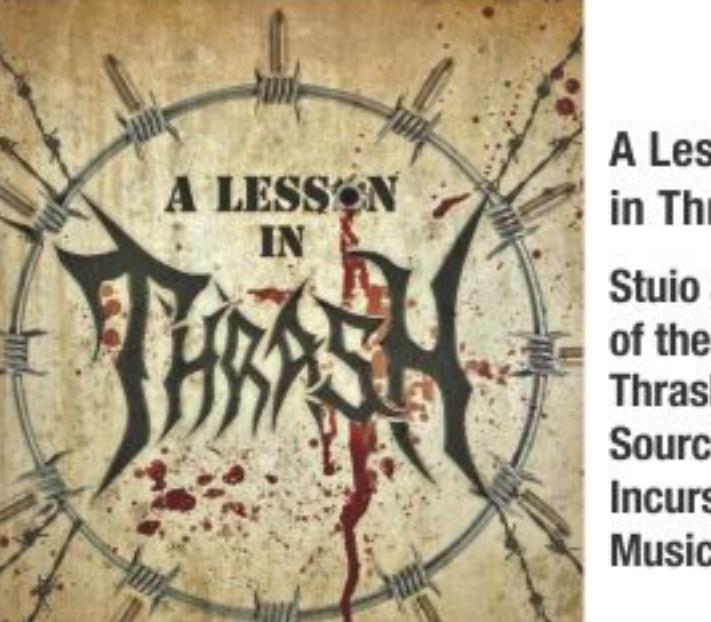
NEW RELEASES



Opajita
Mixed album
Source: G-Series



Bhorer
Shukrata
Solo album
by Masud
Khan
Source:
Agnirupa



A Lesson
in Thrash
Studio album
of the band
Thrash
Source:
Incursion
Music



Ke Tumi
Kar
Solo album
by Nirjhor
Source:
G-Series



Music that moved hearts and souls

Looking back at Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Festival '12

UDAY SANKAR DAS, from Chittagong

For a moment, I had to pinch myself to make myself believe that I was really where I was: sitting in Enclosure A with thousands of other music lovers in the first ever classical extravaganza in Bangladesh. It was the Bengal-ITC SRA Classical Music Festival 2012 held in Dhaka from November 29-December 2, dedicated to the memory of the legendary Ustad Allauddin Khan and participated by who's who of the classical music world of the South Asian sub-continent. It was a magnificent parade of gems of the highest quality for four continuous nights enthralling music aficionados in Bangladesh who have never seen anything like this before. The performances were mindboggling and I, for one, can put my hands on my heart and say it was a treat of a lifetime.

For the first time ever, a four-day classical music festival was organised by Bengal Foundation and ITC-SRA in the Army Stadium in Dhaka where, only with a few exceptions, all the famous stalwarts and maestros of the Indian classical music world were present at this epic event to showcase their talents. The most appreciable aspect in this huge gathering of music maestros is that alongside the veterans like Ustad Ali Ahmed Hussain [shehnai], Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty [vocal], Ustad Rashid Khan [vocal], Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta [sarod], Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma [santoor], Vidushi Girija Devi [vocal], Pandit Birju Maharaj [kathak], Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia [flute], Vidushi Aruna Sayeram [vocal], Pandit Rajan and Pandit Sajan Misra [vocal], Pandit Kumar Bose [tabla] and Vidushi Subhra Guha [vocal], the organisers chose to invite the next generation of classical music artists from India including Omkar, Dadarkar [vocal], Pandi Uday Bhawalkar [vocal], Adnan Khan [sitar], Kaushiki Desikan [vocal], Purbayan Chatterjee [sitar], Adnan Khan [sitar] and Waseem Ahmed Khan [vocal], to name a few.

This blend of youth and experience gave an extra flavour to the festival. It has demonstrated how the young generation has taken up classical music in the neighbouring country and this would encourage young musicians of Bangladesh to this dimension of our rich music heritage. The presence of Vidushi Sujata Mohapatra [Odissi] and Vidushi Alarmel Valli [Bharatnatyam] added grace to the festival. The organisers need special mention for also putting on stage, with these maestros, Ustad Shahadat Hussain [sarod] together with a number of young emerging artistes of Bangladesh including Alif Laila [sitar], Priyanka Gope [vocal] and Murtuza Kabir [flute]. Never before in the annals of the music world of Bangladesh have so many stalwarts and maestros been brought 'under one roof' for such a unique event.

The attendance at this four day festival has surprised not only the organisers but also the music world in the country. Nobody in their wildest of dreams could imagine that thousands of people would throng the festival arena and enjoy this 'feast' of extraordinary music. What was even more pleasing and encouraging was the presence of young people throughout this festival. They were seen to be enjoying the variety of music on offer from early evening till dawn. I think this was one of the greatest achievements of this festival: reviving interest and enthusiasm among this group of music lovers in our traditional classical music. If only the organisers were a bit more thoughtful about timing, there would be a few thousand more people in the audience to be mesmerised by tabla maestro Pandit Kumar Bose and captivated by the vocal rendition of Vidushi Subhra Guha on the third day of the festival. Sadly there were only a small number of die-hard music lovers till the end of the 3rd day's programme. But the attendance on the last day broke all records and I estimate that at least 12,000 people assembled at the venue to be enthralled by all the performances, be those

The writer is a freelance journalist.

Bangladesh Utshob

Ramna Park rocks with Banglalink



The daylong programme included songs, dramas, dances, poetry recitals and more.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Rather than the warm summer breeze of Pahela Baishakh welcoming them at the Ramna Park, Dhaka residents braved a chilly winter morning yesterday to visit the Banglalink Utshob, organised by telecom operator Banglalink at the park. Thousands of people, caught up in the festive spirit, set out to enjoy the Utshob, which offered a wide variety of entertainment to people of all ages.

The venue experienced an unusual winter day, with the festive mood warming up the entire Ramna Park. The Banglalink Utshob began at 10 am and wrapped up around 10 pm.

Another stage saw performances by Sabina Yasmin, Andrew Kishore, Bari Siddiqui, Sadi Muhammad, SI Tutil, and

the daylong programme included songs, dramas, dances, poetry recitals and more. The main stage at Ramna Park was named Kingbdontir Monchon, with Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam's portraits against the backdrop. The stage hosted Nazrul, Rabindra Sangeet, patriotic songs and poetry recitals throughout the day.

The eastern stage, titled Lokogitit Rajjive, hosted folk songs, with popular folk singers, rising stars and many other artistes from all corners of the country performing during the day.

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Fatima-tuz-Zohra etc. Bands like Dalchhut, Lalon and Dhaka also performed on this stage, lifting the crowd's spirit higher. Desh Natok also performed a play at the festival.

A hundred foot long painting was created by artistes to honour the memory of famous painter SM Sultan. Other unique features of the Bangladesh Utshob included Jobbarer Boli Kheha and Nouka Bajh or boat race, which drew in thousands of spectators.

The crowd at Ramna Park began to swell as evening set in. The stages featuring popular artistes, became the central hubs of the festival as the night grew longer.

This was the first Bangladesh Utshob arranged by Banglalink at Dhaka. Their festival partners were Prothom Alo, while media partners included ntv and Radio Today. Abdun Nur Tushar hosted a brief part of the festival programmes.

The guests at the event included Housing and Public Works minister Abdul Mannan Khan, Prothom Alo editor Motiur Rahman, Kamal Lohani, Sujit Mostafa, Topon Mahmud and several top officials from Banglalink.

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