

WHAT'S ON

Bengal Classical Music Festival

Organiser: Bengal Foundation

Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka

Date: Oct 28-Nov 1

Time: 5:30pm-5am

Art Exhibition

Title: Pater Gaan Banglar Bagh

Artist: Nazir Hossain

Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali

Date: Nov 15-24

Group Exhibition

Title: Very Graphic: The Art of Storytelling in Graphic Detail

Venue: 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Date: Nov 16-Dec 7

Fundraising Exhibition

For Nur A Shafee Ahnaf

Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi

Date: Nov 24-26

Time: 4pm-7:30pm

Theatre

Play: Raja Ebong Onyanno

Troupe: Prachyanat

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Nov 20

NEWS

bytes

Sabbath named Classic Rock's legends

Heavy metal stars Black Sabbath triumphed at this year's Classic Rock Roll of Honour, picking up three prizes including the living legend award. The Birmingham band also won album of the year for "13" and event of the year, after it topped album charts worldwide and scored them their biggest US hit.

Previous living legend winners include ZZ top, Jimmy Page and Iggy Pop.

Other winners announced at this year's London ceremony include Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones and Fleetwood Mac.

Now in their ninth year, the awards were handed out during a ceremony at Camden's Roundhouse, hosted by former Marillion frontman Fish.

Other winners included John Mayall's classic album "Blues Breakers With Eric Clapton", Zakk Wylde being named metal guru and the spirit of prog award, won by Alex Lifeson.

Source: BBC



Over 2,800 Kuchipudi (a form of Indian Classical dance originating from Andhra Pradesh, India) dancers, including 200-plus natyagurus created a Guinness World Records on December 26, 2010 performing to a 'Hindolam Thillana' (Carnatic dance music) at the GMC Balayogi Stadium in Hyderabad. The spectacular show, performed by dancers from 15 countries and every state of India, was staged in praise of Kuchipudi choreographer Siddhendhra Yogi. The 11-minutes programme was part of the concluding ceremony of the three-day second International Kuchipudi Dance Convention.



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladeshi director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's film "Television", which depicted a transforming society in the country and a growing conflict between tradition and modernity, bagged the top Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (Netpac) award at the Kolkata International Film Festival which concluded on Sunday. Festival chairman, veteran actor Ranjit Muklick and director Goutam Ghosh handed over the award to managing director of Impress Tele-film Limited and Channel i, Faridur Reza Sagar and actress Tisha. Faridur Reza Sagar thanked the festival organisers and film aficionados of Kolkata, claiming that the award will inspire more good films from Bangladesh. The film had also been received warmly by the audience at the festival. Both the screenings drew large crowds, who commended the story, dialogues and acting.

This was the second time in three

years that a Bangladeshi feature film bagged the prestigious award at the Kolkata festival. In November, 2011, it was Nasiruddin Yousuff's feature film "Guerrilla" which received the same award.

Altogether, nine films from Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Singapore, Philippines, China, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand had contested for the award this year. A total of 189 films from 66 countries were screened during the eight-day festival.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hinted at more categories for competition in the forthcoming festival.

Yesteryear matinee idol Biswajit and veteran singer Dwijen Mukhopadhyay were also felicitated at the closing ceremony of the festival. The logo for the next edition of the festival was also unveiled.

The highlight of the closing ceremony was, however, the tribute to "Pancha Konya" - five daughters - of Bengal who have shone the bright-

est on the big screen -- from the first Indian Miss Universe and actress Sushmita Sen to screen sirens Bipasha Basu and Rani Mukherjee to yesteryear actress Moushumi Chatterjee and current Tolly heart-throb Koel Mullick. All the five ladies were felicitated on a star-studded evening at the Science City.

Sushmita, draped in red chiffon, walked tall as she spoke about the courage and conviction that she draws from the indomitable spirit of Bengal.

Bipasha stole the show with a typically Bengali get-up saree for the occasion. The actress, who spent her schooldays in Kolkata, was touched by the informal atmosphere on the dais. "It's (Bengal) like a family to me, Mamata'di has pampered us a lot," she said.

Rani Mukherjee was roundly applauded as she walked up on dais and said she felt instant warmth as chief minister Mamata Banerjee asked her parents to come on stage too.

Dancing to the beats of the dhol

A CORRESPONDENT

Choreographer Anisul Islam Hero and his four-strong Dhuli ensemble left Dhaka on Friday to participate at the Bangkok International Congress on HIV/ AIDS in Asia and the Pacific. The opening and closing ceremony will commence with drum beats with dancers from Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and the host country Thailand. Srishti Cultural Centre will present a dance piece based on the theme. Dhuli Nazrul, Shafiq. Mobarraq and Hassan, along with dancers Hero, Kanta, Tamim, Shakib and Kajal will perform from Bangladesh.



A 100-year old tradition

Lathi Khela held in Magura

PONUEL S BOSE back from Magura

The 100-year-old Lathi Khela Mela, a traditional festival of Magura district, was held on Friday amid much fanfare.

Organised by Dumurshia villagers, the day long event was held at Dumurshia high school premises under Mohammadpur upazila in Magura district.

Some eight 'lathial' groups from four upazilas of Magura and adjoining districts took part in the event.

Every year, this traditional mela has been held on this day at Dumurshia village. The fair attracts a large number of enthusiastic visitors every year.

Robiul Islam, principal of Babu Khali Adarsha Degree College said Lathi khela is an ancient tradition of Bengal. But now the popularity of this art-form is on the wane. We must work together to re-introduce this spectacular art form to the urbanites and uphold our heritage.

Shorif Teheran Tutul, a lecturer said that this mela is



PHOTO: STAR

one of the prime festivals of the locals.

A village fair was also held in which traders from different upazilas of the district attended with their goods. People of all ages thronged the venue to enjoy the festivities along with a cultural show where local artistes entertained the audience.

Mustafa Zaman Abbasi

performs at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

Exponent and an icon of folk music, Mustafa Zaman Abbasi recently performed to a receptive audience at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in the city. The renowned singer rendered songs such as "Kon Ronge Baindhachho Gharhana", "Aamar Ontare Boirageer Lau Baje", "O Rongila Nayer Majhi", "Hason Raja Bole O Allah", "Yaad Aaye Ki Na Aaye Tumhari", "Mone Robe Ki Na Robe", "Allah Megh De Pani De", "Oki Bondhu Kajol Bhomorare" and more at the programme.

Son of legendary folk-singer Abbasuddin Ahmed, Abbasi is himself a collector of folk songs and has been dominating the cultural field for more than half a century.



Asif's comeback

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National award winner, singer Asif Akbar entered the music world all of a sudden. Soon, he secured undefeated position in the industry and enjoyed unprecedented popularity for years. Then he took a brief break from the music industry. He recently returned to the industry with a solo album. In a recent interview, he spoke on his upcoming project and music career.

Tell us about your upcoming album.

Asif: I did the album titled "Ex-Prem" after three years. It is my 29th solo album. Several production houses have already expressed their interest to release it. "Ex-Prem" is a war against piracy. Half of the amount earned by selling the album will be spent to protect the music industry from piracy.

Tell us about the songs in the album.

Asif: I have worked tirelessly for the album. Its name had been decided before composing the songs. The interesting thing is that, the title song was the final touch to complete the production. I have received acclamation from music lovers following the release of the album. I have tried to introduce some variations in it.

How do you feel on your comeback to the music industry?

Asif: To be honest, I had plans to return to the industry again. But, my sudden pause surprised the music lovers. Since then everyone insisted me of returning to music. Finally, I felt compelled to listen on the request of my fans.

You have rendered a Salil Chowdhury song in the album?

Asif: I have been singing the track for over 32 years, in fact since my school days. I also performed the song at various programmes on TV. Considering the issues, I recorded it.

What do you consider your achievements as a singer?

Asif: Entering the music world, I have been blessed with love from millions. In my 13-year career, I achieved everything from name, fame to wealth only due to

music.

What else interests you?

Asif: Definitely, cricket. I enjoy the game a lot. I forget everything else when the Bangladesh Cricket Team is on field. I have also traveled abroad to watch the Tigers play.

Tell us about your new album with Nancy.

Asif: The album, titled "Jhogra" features a total of 12 songs. Of them, two are



new while the rest are Hemanta Mukherjee songs. It was released by R Entertainment.

What else are you currently occupied with?

Asif: The production of the album titled "Sandeho" with Nancy is underway. I hope it will entertain the music lovers. We have some plans about duet album. "Sandeho" will be released under the banner of R Entertainment.

Airtel joins hands with MTV Bangladesh

Mobile telephone service company Airtel Bangladesh Limited is ready to push the local music boundaries into an international music platform, joining hands with MTV Program Platform Bangladesh.

"Airtel presents My Celeb MTV" -- a 30-minute programme featuring different personalities of the music world sharing their thoughts and music -- was launched on November 17. It will air every Sunday at 11pm on Maasranga Television, the official licensed channel of MTV Program Platform Bangladesh. VJ Yazdani will be the host of the show, says a press release.

The other programme, "Airtel presents MTV Chart Attack", launched on the same day, is also a half-hour slot packed with the biggest and the best local music talents and video show in Bangladesh television landscape under the official endorsement of MTV Asia, set to be aired every Sunday at 11:30 pm on Maasranga. The programme, hosted by VJ Anya, will have voting platforms through SMS, radio and online.

Shubho Mahurat of "Ghashphul" held



Cast and crew of the film at the event.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shubho mahurat of "Ghashphul" was held recently at Channel i's Tejgaon office. Produced by Impress Tele-film Limited, the film is jointly written by Mashiul Alam, Akram Khan and Laila Afroz and directed by Akram Khan.

Ghashphul is one of the six films declared under the banner of 'Boutique Cinema'-- an Impress Telefilm initiative to develop the country's film industry.

Among others, managing director of Impress Telefilm Limited Faridur Reza Sagor, director Akram Khan, music director Swani Zubayeer and cast of the film Shaila Sabi (Channel i Shera Nachiyee), Tania, Manosh Bandyopadhyay and Hasan Zahid along with crew of the film were present at the mahurat, announced by Faridur Reza Sagor. Other cast of the film includes Laila Azad Nupur, Shirin Alam, Kazi Asif Rahman and Nazakat Khan.

The storyline of the film is based on the idea of magic realism. The film contains only two songs. Swani Zubayeer has written and composed the song "Bohudin Por Aj Shokal Takey". Singer Priyanka Gope will record the song for the film. Another song titled "Shomoy Themey Giyechhilo", written by Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, was composed by renowned singer-musician Lucky Akhand. Swani Zubayeer is playbcking for the track.