

WHAT'S ON

Bengal Classical Music Festival

Organiser: Bengali Foundation

Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka

Date: Nov 28- Dec 1

Time: 5:30pm-5am



BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2013

Dhaka, Bangladesh

In association with ITC Sangeet Research Academy

Theatre

Play: Boshonto Jagoron

Venue: Nat Mandal, Dhaka University

Date: Nov 22-28

Time: 6:30pm

Group Exhibition

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

Venue: 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1

Date: Nov 16-Dec 7

Time: 12pm-8pm

Fundraising Exhibition

For Nur A Shafee Ahnaf

Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi

Date: Nov 24-26

Time: 4pm-7:30pm

Art Exhibition

Title: Pater Gaan Banglar Bagh

Artist: Nazir Hossain

Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali

Date: Nov 15-24

Time: 11am-7pm

## NEWS bytes

### DiCaprio donates millions to save tigers



Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio has donated \$3 million to help save tigers in Nepal. "The Great Gatsby" star made the donation to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) via his charitable foundation. The funds will be used to significantly increase the number of tigers in Nepal by 2022 - the next year of the tiger.

In a statement, the 39-year-old said he's "hopeful" the money will help "exceed the goal" of doubling Nepal's tiger population.

Nepal's tigers are classified as endangered and - as with the general tiger population - are under threat from "habitat destruction and escalating illegal poaching."

The DiCaprio Foundation aims to protect "Earth's last wild places and foster a harmonious relationship between humanity and the natural world." Earlier this year, the foundation raised \$38.8 million through donations and an art auction at Christie's in New York. The tiger grant is the first from the proceeds of the auction, according to the WWF.

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!

US singer-songwriter Kelly Clarkson is a big fan of Jane Austen. In 2012, she purchased a turquoise and gold ring that had belonged to the British novelist for £152,450 at auction house Sothebys, against a reserve price of £30,000. Clarkson is a fan of Austen's work and also bought a first edition of Austen's 1816 novel "Persuasion". Clarkson had intended to wear the ring as her engagement ring. Her then-fiancé (now husband) Brandon Blackstock commissioned a replica of the ring for her, which she has been seen wearing on many occasions, most notably during the 2013 Grammy Awards and the Second inauguration of Barack Obama.



BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FEST '13

# "Classical artistes are all members of one big family"

-- Reenat Fauzia



4 DAYS TO GO

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Reenat Fauzia is one of the most sincere practitioners of the sitar in the country. Coming from a family lineage of the likes of the great Ustad Allauddin Khan, she has been an avid musician of the Senia-Maihar gharana, and is set to perform at this year's Bengal Classical Music Fest. In a conversation with The Daily Star, the artiste shared her anticipation and views on the festival.

What's your anticipation regarding the festival?

Reenat: The foremost thought on my mind is that I am representing my country. There are so many great artistes at the festival, and not too many from Bangladesh, so my biggest target is to play at the high standards that it sets. I want to make Bangladesh proud through my art.

Are you making any special preparations for your performance?

Reenat: See, we classical artistes must go through rigorous practice throughout the year. It applies to all artistes, wherever you are from. If an artiste drops their riyaz, it's difficult to get back to the same level. But the performance at the festival is definitely added motivation; I'm probably spending more time in riyaz than I usually would.

You will be performing on the third day, sharing backstage space with artistes like Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Vidushi Aruna Sairam and Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri. Thoughts on that?

Reenat: The thought delights me. Throughout the festival, we'll be meeting and sharing experiences with such greats. Plus, our family has a rich musical tradition; Ustad Ayat Ali Khan -- brother of Ustad Allauddin Khan -- is my grandfather, so I can almost feel an invisible bond between us. I feel like all classical artistes are members of one

big family, irrespective of geographical and other boundaries. So I am very excited to be meeting people close to my heart.

How do you think this festival will impact audiences and artistes of classical music in Bangladesh?

Reenat: More than artistes, I think it is a great initiative for listeners; even the classical artistes of Bangladesh will be listeners at the festival. I believe the festival is a great reinforcement for classical music, to inspire aficionados of the arts.

# Tisha

## excited to carry BD-Korea goodwill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nusrat Imrose Tisha received a rare honour two months ago when she was appointed the Goodwill Ambassador of South Korea in Bangladesh for a two-year term. Now, with Korea's year-long celebration of the 40th anniversary of bilateral relations with Bangladesh set to be held this month, the actress told The Daily Star she was "excited" to be attending various programmes, including cultural functions, chalked out on the occasion.

On September 23, Lee Yun-young, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, handed over the appointment letter to Tisha at the Embassy in the city. The elated actress said, "It is a great responsibility for me. My family members are very happy and so am I to be a Goodwill Ambassador."

Tisha is growing in popularity in South Korea, with her latest film "Television" first getting good reviews at the Busan Film Festival, and recently being commercially released in Korea. The film, directed by Tisha's husband Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, has received international acclaim, recently bagging the Netpack award at Kolkata International film festival and is nominated in two categories in the upcoming prestigious Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

Tisha's schedule remains busy, with new film "Dubo Shohor", also directed by Farooki. In addition, she is a regular in TV plays and serials; her current engagements include serial "Chandrabati" on Channel Nine and "Nil Ronger Golpo" on ntv.





## Zero Hour

### to hit the mini screen

A CORRESPONDENT

The cast and crew of "Zero Hour" have returned from Sri Lanka after filming the 28-episode serial directed by Sakal Ahmed. Written by Shafiqur Rahman Santanu, the lead actors of the series include Anisur Rahman Milon, Sahed Sharif Khan, Romana, Prova, Saju Khadem and Tushti.

The storyline: Adnan (played by Sahed) along with his newly-wed wife Shejuti (Prova) while on their honeymoon in Sri Lanka come across Sajjad (Anisur Rahman Milon), Shejuti's former love interest. A series of interesting events take place thereafter.

The drama serial will be aired on SA TV soon. The audience will soon get to know why the series has the interesting title "Zero Hour", said the director.

Talented classical vocalist Alope Kumar Sen performed as a guest artiste in a bimonthly "Srotar Ashor," held by Classical Music Department of Chhayanaaut on Friday morning. Chhayanaaut teachers, Goutam Sarker on tabla and Bizon Chandra Mistry on harmonium accompanied Sen who performed Raga "Ahr Bhairav". Chhayanaaut students Nazia Mishkat Toma and Rakimun Nahar Reeti rendered khayal set on Raga "Bibhas" and Raga "Bilaskhani Todi" respectively. Another guest artiste, Rezwanul Haque, performed Raga "Miyan Ki Todi" at the programme, directed by Chhayanaaut guru Asit Day.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON



## Shahnaz Nasrin Ila performs at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) in association with Asian Paints, IRCON and Marico Bangladesh organised an evening of Rabindra Sangeet by popular Bangladeshi artist, Shahnaz Nasrin Ila, on November 22, 2013 at IGCC, Gulshan 1.

Among the 19 songs presented at the programme were "Borisho Dhora Majhe", "Sudhasagar Teere", "Ami Shara Sokalti Boshe Boshe..(Dwijendralal Ray song) and the patriotic "O Amar Desher Mati."

Ila has performed at several concerts at home and abroad. She represented Bangladesh at the joint celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore in Kolkata last year.

Ila has released an album on Rabindra Sangeet titled "Praner Majhe Sudha Achhe". She has also contributed several articles on music for leading national dailies and journals of Bangladesh.



## Moha Ras Lila Festival concludes in Moulvibazar



MINITU DESHWARA, back from Madhabpur (Kamalgonj)

Ras Mela is the principal festival and fair of the Manipuris. It is also observed by some Hindus at different places. The Moha Ras Lila festival of the Manipuri community of Kamalganj upazila in Moulvibazar district concluded on Monday. Thousands of people thronged the festival venue and enjoyed the nightlong programme.

The festival is held each year during Purnima (full moon), between the Bangla months of late Kartik and early Agrahayan. This year, around one lakh people from across the country gathered at the Manipuri populated Madhabpur and Adampur villages of Kamalganj.

The Ras Lila festival celebrates the boyhood of Lord Sri Krishna. In Shibbazar "Jora Mondop" (Manipuri temple) of Madhabpur village, the major venue of Moha Ras Lila, the programme began with a presentation of "Gustha Lila" (farmer-boy dance). Several Manipuri boys made up as "Gopal" (the young Krishna) and his "Sokha" (friends), performed dances to the beat of musical instruments.

The raja of Manipur, Maharaj Jaysingh (reign 1764-1799) introduced Ras Mela to Manipuri society. Since the mid-nineteenth century when the Manipuris settled in Bangladesh, this fair has been observed at Madhabpur, Moulvibazar district.

The love trysts of Krishna and Radha are enacted through Manipuri music and dance drama. Crowds of viewers, including foreigners, throng the place to see the fair.

Besides Ras Lila, a discussion, reception, presentation of martial arts, handicraft fair and other cultural events were also held.