


WHAT'S ON

Bengal Classical Music Festival
Organiser: Bengal 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




Fundraising Exhibition

For Nur A Shafee Ahnaf
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 24-26
Time: 4pm-7:30pm



Musical Soiree

Title: Raagproddhan Bangla Gaan-er Ashor
Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Nov 26
Time: 6:30pm



NEWS bytes

Hunger Games Sequel soars at Box Office

The Hunger Games sequel has stormed to the top of the US box office chart with takings of \$161m. But it narrowly failed to become the biggest opener of the year, falling short of the debut of "Iron Man 3" of \$174m.

"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire", starring Jennifer Lawrence, did achieve the most successful November opening of all time.

Its performance dominated cinema-going in North America, with near-



est rival "Thor" taking in a mere \$14.1m.

The only other new entry, Disney comedy "Delivery Man", starring Vince Vaughn, had to settled for fourth place.

"Catching Fire" managed the fourth biggest US opening of all time, behind "The Avengers", "Iron Man 3" and "Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows: Part II".

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



Having run across an ad for an open casting call and attending her first audition, Hollywood actress Michelle Rodriguez beat 350 other applicants to win her first role in the low-budget 2000 independent film "Girlfight". With her performance as Diana Guzman, a troubled teen who decides to channel her aggression by training to become a boxer, Rodriguez accumulated several awards and nominations for the role in independent circles, including major acting accolades from the National Board of Review, Deauville Film Festival, Gotham Awards, Las Vegas Film Critics Sierra Awards, and many others. The film itself took home a top prize at the Sundance Film Festival and won Award of the Youth at the Cannes Film Festival. Following her debut in Girlfight, Rodriguez has consistently portrayed tough and tomboyish characters that operate in traditional male fields such as the police force or armed forces. Rodriguez says that she does not mind the typecasting, and in fact, is somewhat responsible for it. Rodriguez has also been performing as a disc jockey since 2009 - both internationally in night-clubs and at film premiere after-parties; she has stated that her preferred genre to mix is house music.

A lone living legend of Purbanga styled classical music

2 DAYS TO GO

In conversation with Vidushi Girija Devi



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Vidushi Girija Devi is a lone living legend of Purbanga styled classical music. Acclaimed by music enthusiasts and connoisseurs alike, the prima donna of the Benaras and Senia traditions has dedicated her life to the cause of Hindustani classical vocal music for over five decades. Born in Benaras in 1929, she was initiated into music at the tender age of five under the tutelage of Pandit Sarju Prasad Mishra. She is renowned for her amazing proficiency in khayal, thumri, dadra, tappa, kajri, hori, chaiti and bhajan. Vidushi Girija Devi has received many awards and accolades, including the Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and the ITC Award. She has been a guru at the ITC Sangeet Research Academy since its inception. The artiste is set to return to the stage at Army Stadium this weekend when the Bengal Classical Music Festival begins, and many will remember her hypnotising presentation at last year's Classical Music Festival, when she spoke to The Daily Star -- who are a partner to the event.

Showcasing the opulence of Purbanga style, the vivacious Devi of music stated, "Such a rich variety of music is to be found nowhere in the world. The Purbanga styled music covers a gamut of classical and semi-classical genres including dhrupad, dhamar, khayal, tappa, tap khayal, tarana, thumri, dadra, chaiti, kajri, holi, sadra, jhulan, purbi dadra and many more. Among those, chaiti, kajri, holi, jhula have been derived

from folk music. Folk music just has a connotation of those melodies; but if you want to adorn the melody for a decorative performance, you must follow the classical style.

Khayal music has the quality of winning over the human heart or soul where the god of music resides. How can an artiste win the hearts of an audience through their rendition? In reply, Devi says, "Have you heard Bade Gulam Ali Khan or Ustad Faiyaz Khan's style of rendition? How was your feeling? The artiste would perform from the core of their hearts. Today, so-called artistes perform more or less for performance sake, which is why their performances often fail to capture the listener's heart. Precise learning is a prerequisite to perform well. None can outshine others without it.

"Those who want to learn classical music have to learn from their heart. This will keep their love for classical music alive. Otherwise, the passion will be lost and music won't last long. They should always pray to God for the constant melody in their voice," added the artiste.

To the question, how can we reach God through music, Vidushi Girija Devi responds with "One can reach God only through swar and meditation. You may earn fame, but you cannot showcase your excellence in performance."

The octogenarian performed a romantic Raga Behag on the penultimate night of the festival, and in an unscheduled jugalbandi (dual performance) with Pandit Birju Maharaj, sent a wave of excitement through the rows of music lovers. They presented a chaiti -- "Bairan Re Koyelia Tori Bol-i Na Sohaye".

Murtaja Baseer critically ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent artist Murtaja Baseer has been admitted to the coronary care unit (CCU) of United Hospital in the city with severe respiratory problems. The artist was suffering from heart and lung complications. The 82-year-old Baseer was admitted to the hospital on November 22.

Baseer, one of the foremost painters of Bangladesh, has established an individual style. Baseer has other talents, too. He is a poet, short story writer, novelist, researcher, numismatist and filmmaker.

The artist was born in 1932. He joined Dacca Art College (now the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) as a student in 1949. During the Liberation War, he left the country for Paris with his family. Baseer stayed in Paris till June 1973. While in Paris, he studied mosaic and etching at Beaux Arts in Paris. In 1973, Baseer returned to Bangladesh and joined Chittagong University as an assistant professor. He retired from teaching in 1998.



PHOTO COURTESY: CHHAYANAUT.

Marking 14th death anniversary of Poet Sofia Kamal, cultural organisation Chhayanaut held a memorial programme featuring discussion and musical offerings. Noted writer and a trustee board member of the Liberation War Museum Mafidul Haque delivered "Sufia Kamal Memorial Speech" at the event while vice president of the organisation Dr. Sarwar Ali spoke. Later, artiste of Chhayanaut performed both solo and choral songs originally composed by DL Roy, Atul Prasad and Rajanikanta Sen.

LRB set to participate in South Asian Bands Festival 2013

A CORRESPONDENT

On the invitation of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India, rock band LRB -- led by Ayub Bachchu -- will visit New Delhi in India from November 26-30 to participate in the South Asian Bands Festival 2013 being organised jointly by ICCR and Indian NGO, SEHER.

The South Asian Bands Festival 2013 in India will showcase several prominent bands from South Asia such as Pardis from Afghanistan; ZnG from Bhutan, Barefaced Liar, The Raghu Dixit Project from India; Eman's Conspiracy from Maldives,



Albatross from Nepal, Strings from Pakistan and Stigmata from Sri Lanka, among others.

The festival will be organised

at the Purana Quila in New Delhi. Ahead of the festival, there will be a preview of the festival on November 28 at Rashtrapati

Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India, in which a select few bands, including LRB, will participate.

LRB, a legendary name in the history of Bangladeshi rock music, was founded in 1991 by Ayub Bachchu. LRB released its debut album entitled "LRB 1 and 2" in 1992 and readily gained popularity. With the passage of time, LRB's music has been widely appreciated by music lovers in Bangladesh and abroad.

The band now comprises Ayub Bachchu (lead vocalist and guitarist), Swapan (bass guitarist), Masud (guitarist), Romel (Drums) and Shamim Ahmed (sound engineer).

Nritya Nandan's Norwegian experience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nritya Nandan, a reputed dance institution led by eminent dancer Sharmila Banerjee, represented Bangladesh in Norway, in a collaborative programme between the two countries recently.

Organised by Rikskonsertene (Concerts Norway), along with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, over a 20 day trip, Nritya Nandan participated in a series of school concerts in collaboration with a famous local band of Norway "Trio Natthergal (Nightingale)", in the towns of Lillehamer, Oyer and Gausdal.

The team included a combination of talented young Bangladeshi artistes Sudeshna Swayamprabha (dance) and Nilmoni Singha (percussion). Participants from Norway were Ingeborg Christopherson on the flute, Erik Skanke Hosoi on the guitar and Karolina Radziej on the violin.

The 35-minute production which the team staged in schools was directed and produced by Sharmila Banerjee from Bangladesh and Hallgeir Frydenlund from Norway. The well-received production was the outcome of a mere three days of

rehearsals, with excellent coordination between the producers, musicians and dancers.

Based on the theme "Garden", the performance included a variety of European music pieces, accompanied by Manipuri pung and dhol, and traditional Bangladeshi, classical and contemporary dance composed to the music. While the Bangladeshi artistes performed with their music, the Norwegian musicians also sang and played to the popular song of Tagore's church-choir inspired song "Phule Phule Dhole Dhole".

At the very end of the performance, Sharmila Banerjee choreographed a piece with music, in which Sudeshna went up to each section of the audience and demonstrated through mudras, a bird, fish, deer, flower and bee. Sudeshna says it was an exceptional experience for her to interact with children who did not have English in their curriculum, and to communicate with them through dance, rhythm and beats. They in turn were engaged in the performance, and clapped with the rhythms, till the very end of the show.

Rikskonsertene has previously worked in collaboration with Nritya

Nandan; in 2012, Norwegian folk dancers Ulf Arne Johanessen and Margit Myhr, came to Bangladesh to conduct a four-day workshop for Bangladeshi dancers that concluded in a very successful stage demonstration. Sharmila, Sudeshna and Nilmoni later visited Norway, where they conducted workshops on Bangladeshi folk dance at Folk High Schools in Voss, Al and Follo. In March 2013, again on the Invitation of Rikskonsertene, Sharmila and Sudeshna visited Sri Lanka to attend Jaffna Music Festival where they again did a collaborative work with the local Sri Lankan group, Aru Sree Theatre and Norwegian music band Hat trick and Fiddle.



Sudeshna dances at a school, with musicians at the background.



দ্বিপ্রভা

মেহফা সাহাব ফারুকী'র চলচ্চিত্র

written by MOSTOFA SARWAR FAROOKI | produced by CHABIAL | co-produced with IMPRESS TELEFILM LTD.
camera: GOLAM MAOLA NABIR | editing: MOSTOFA FAROOKI & KHALED MAHAMUD RAJAN
sound: RIFON NATH | music: HRIDY KHAN & ARMANUL HOQUE
country: Bangladesh
www.facebook.com/chabial

"Pipra Bidya" to premiere in Dubai

A CORRESPONDENT

"Pipra Bidya", director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's latest film endeavour, is set to have its world premiere at the 10th Dubai International Film Festival, after it was selected for the official competition of the festival. The festival, set to begin on December 6, will announce its winners in a grand gala on December 13.

The nine other films that "Pipra Bidya" will be contesting with include quite a few heavyweights: This year's Camera d'Or at Cannes and Golden Horse (Taipei) winner "Ilo Ilo" by Anthony Chan; Venice Festival Grand Jury award-winner "Stray Dogs" by Tsai Ming-liang; winner of Un Certain Regard at this year's Cannes, "The Lunchbox" by Ritesh Batra; winner of Special Orizzonti at this year's Venice Film Festival, "Fish and Cats" by Shahram Mokri, and Palme d'Or nominee at this year's Cannes, "Grigris" by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun.

A total of 174 films will be screened at the festival, opening with Hany Abu-Assad's "Omar" and closing with David O. Russell's "American Hustle". Farooki, actress Sheena Chohan and Faridur Reza Sagar (on behalf of Bangladeshi producers of the film, Impress Telefilm) will leave for Dubai early next month to join a star-studded festival guest list that includes Kate Blanchett, Martin Sheen, Jim Sheridan, Priyanka Chopra, Mark Ruffalo and Naomi Harris.