

WHAT'S ON

Poush Mela 1420
 Organiser: Poush Mela Ujjapon Parishad
 Venue: Ramna Botomul
 Date: Dec 20-22
 Time: 7am-8pm



Photography Exhibition
 Title: Eternal Japan
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi
 Date: Dec 21-25
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Annual Art Exhibition
 Organisers: Shilpakala Academy and Dhaka Art College
 Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Dec 9-21
 Time: 11am-7pm



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Return to Eden
 Artist: Nasima Khanam Queenie
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
 Date: Dec 13-27
 Time: 3pm-8pm



Architectural Exhibition
 Architect: Kashif Chowdhury
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan
 Date: Dec 13-Jan 13
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Books on Liberation War launched in Chittagong

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg
 The publication ceremony of two books -- "Bangladesh Srishti'r Muldhara: Bangabandhu-Chhatra League-Nucleus" and "Swadhinatar Ghoshona: Dhanmondi Theke Bangladesh" penned by freedom fighter and liberation war researcher Dr Mahfuzur Rahman was held at Bishud Bangla premises on Thursday evening.

The former is about a nucleus, architected by Serajul Alam Khan, Abdur Razzaque and Kazi Aref Ahmed, that worked from the 60's inside the then East Pakistan to kindle the spirit of liberation among student leaders.

The essential documents related to first announcement of independence by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the history of airing of the announcement are available in the other book.

Noted cultural personality of the port city and proprietor of Bishud Bangla, Alam Khorshed presided over the programme where freedom fighters Fahimuddin, The Daily Star Bureau Chief Raisul Huq Bahar, Sirajul Islam Raju, Muktiyoddha Sangsad Chittagong city unit's ex-Commander Md Shahabuddin, Rakhil Chandra Bonik spoke on the books and reminisced their liberation time and pre-liberation experiences.

Speakers at the ceremony said that through the books, today's generation would be able to know the true and unknown history of preparation of liberation war of Bangladesh.

A plethora of pristine melodies
Classical Music Fest at Chhayanaut



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

ZAHANGIR ALOM

A two-day classical music festival was set off at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut Shangkriti Bhaban through the rendition of National Anthem on Thursday evening. Eminent music guru Pandit Amaresh Roy Chowdhury of Rajshahi was scheduled to inaugurate the seventh Shuddha Sangeet Utshab; but as he could not make it due to the ongoing political stalemate and blockade, Khairul Anam Shakil, general Secretary of the organisation delivered welcome address and inaugurated the festival. Chhayanaut guru Razwan Ali Lablu paid homage to recently deceased

were on vilambit ektaal and teentaal respectively. Swarup Hossain on tabla and Sanjibon Sanyal on harmonium accompanied the singer. Vocalist Latifun Julio also presented an evening Raga "Shudh Kalyan" at the festival. Her vilambit bandish "Bolana Lagi Banme Papihara" and drut bandish "Bajo Rey Bajo Mandelra" were on vilambit ektaal and teentaal respectively.

The lone Mohan Veena artiste Dolan Kanungo of Chittagong performed Raga "Bageshree" at the festival. He truly did justice to his recital with Swarup Hossain on tabla accompaniment.

Classical vocalist Saurav Kumar Nahar (Patna, India) was the last performer of the first session of the opening

with a choral tarana (on teentaal) performance by artistes of Chhayanaut. Guru Rezwan Ali Lablu directed the performance based on a morning Raga -- Gujri Todi. Chhayanaut teacher Bizon Chandra Mistry next took the stage and performed a shandhi prokash Raga "Bilashkhani Todi". Bilash Khan, son of legendary Mian Taansen, composed the raga that belongs to the Bhairvi thaat. Bizon, immersing in the melancholic sweetness of the raga, rendered his vilambit bandish "Abo Mor-e Kanta" (on vilambit ektaal) and drut bandish "Ja Ja Re Ja Kagwa" (on teentaal). Ifekhar Alam Proddhan on tabla and Alamgir Parvez on harmonium accompanied the singer.

Iftekhar Alam Proddhan presented a solo tabla recital on teentaal at the session. He played qaida, tukta, peshkar, rela and chakradar at the event. His fashioning of peshkar of various laya along with tukra was really sweet. Sheuli Bhattacharjee recited alap, jod, jhala on her violin augmenting the bliss of a morning Raga Nat Bhairav. Sabuj Ahmed accompanied her on tabla.

Satindranath Halder rendered vilambit and drut kheyal on Raga "Mongol Bhairav" at the festival. Goutam Sarker on tabla and Bizon Mistry on harmonium accompanied the noted vocalist.

Accomplished classical vocalist Alope Kumar Sen was the standout performer of the two sessions. The artiste, first gripping the apt mood and majesty of the Raga "Mian Ki Todi", enthralled the audience. The raga, created by Mian Taansen, is thought to be the best piece of musical prayer in late morning. He performed his vilambit bandish "Ab Morey Raam" (on vilambit ektaal) and drut bandish "Ab Morey Naiya" (on teentaal). His weaving of the bandish together with gamaki taan, aakar taan, pukar, raagdari, melodically resting on "Sa" of taar saptak were fascinating. His vistar presentation was an evocative of meaningful musical phraseology. Sen's ecstatic presentation of a tarana "Na der der dim Ta nana tana dere na" came next on ektaal. The spirituality of the raga melted out through his voice diffusing the pristine melody in the morning air. Goutam Sarker on tabla and Bizon Chandra Mistry on harmonium styled a musical high to the performance.

Mobile Phone Operator Grameenphone sponsored the festival.



Chhayanaut artistes (top), Dolan Kanungo (left) and Alope Sen perform at the programme.



classical vocalist and guru Ustad Rabiul Hossain while vice president of Chhayanaut Dr. Sarwar Ali presented vote of thanks at the event.

The festival, comprising three sessions, comes to an end this morning (December 21).

Based on Raga Hansadhvani, artistes of Chhayanaut began the musical flight through performing a popular bandish "Laagi Lagan Pati Sakhi Sana," composed by Ustad Aman Ali Khan. The rendition, set on teentaal, captivated the audience. Chhayanaut guru Asit Dey directed the performance.

Rezwanul Haque came next on stage to perform an evening Raga "Yaman". His vilambit and drut bandish

night. The artiste performed khayal, tappa and bhajan at the festival, courtesy of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka. Saurav started off his khayal performance set on a romantic Raga "Behag". His vistar performance in mandra saptak seemingly evoked a distant romance. The artiste's speedy taan, sargam and different-rhythm making taan won hearts of many. His rendition style resembled that of Pandit Rajan, Pandit Sajjan and Pandit Chhannulal Mishra. Later, the singer rendered a chhoto khayal on Raga "Chhayanaut", a tappa on Raga "Bhairvi and a bhajan on Raga "Charukeshi".

The second session of the festival started at 9 am and continued till 1pm on December 20. The session began

IT'S TRUE!

The Blaster Beam is a concept electronic musical instrument consisting of a 12 to 18-foot long metal beam strung with numerous tensed wires under which electric guitar pickups are mounted which can be moved to alter the sound produced. The instrument produces a very distinctive bass tone, the sound of which is often described as 'dark' or 'sinister'. It was designed by John Lazelle in the early 1970s, and was first widely used by Francisco Lupica.



American child actor-turned-musician Craig Huxley created his own refined version of the Beam out of aluminium which was brought to fame in the soundtrack for "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" (1979) where it was used to create the signature V'ger sound. It has since been used to create dark unnatural sounds in other movie soundtracks in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and by new age artists including Kitaro, Stearns and Huxley.

NEWS bytes

Slash reveals plentiful progress on new album



Guitar great Slash is making the most of his time with Myles Kennedy and the Conspirators, as the band members are using some end-of-the-year downtime to get a jump on their next album. He has been keeping fans up to date on their recording sessions, having recently stated in a series of tweets that things were coming together quickly and that they were working on what he expected to be "a really heavy" record. Slash also posted a few videos to give fans a glimpse inside the studio. In his latest update, Slash reveals that the band now has a wealth of material completed (16 tracks and an instrumental) and will have a difficult time narrowing down what will actually go on their upcoming disc.

However, an official release date has yet to be teased.

Presents of performance

"A Piece For You" held at Goethe-Institut

LAMIA SAIYARA MELA

Thomas Lehmen, traveling through Asia and Europe since April 2013 on his motorcycle has been on a quest rather intriguing: utilising the communications and the act of human beings which reflect themselves in their surroundings and the simple gesture of showing love and affection towards others into his work. Being a dance teacher and director, he made his way to Bangladesh to continue his project he earlier took to other countries - creating a 'Piece' for everyone; for every one of the audience and performers. From December 2-17, Lehmen conducted a workshop in collaboration with Shadhona's dancers where he elasticised the perimeter of thoughts a performer adheres to, stretching it out and reeling pure emotions into it. He used elements as simple as presenting a speech verbally and dancing it out, using imaginary characters in front and communicating with them in an emotional note, inheriting family bonds for each and every performer and letting them show it, all were techniques that were induced in the dancers to really



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

broaden their perception. And it showed all through in the performance they held on December 18 at Goethe Institute.

Seated in the audience, the performers greeted everyone and attained such casualty that it was almost hard to notice out they were performers. There was not a trace of music in their

whole 45 minutes of presentation, but rather their playful and cheerful ambiance was the muse to the ears for the audience. Starting off with claps in different rhythms, performers in pairs made it to the stage with their own choreographed phrases of dance. And one by one, they had the microphone to their mouth and casually

conversed about things they like - sometimes also portraying that through dance gestures.

Giving this distinct hint to the audience, they joyously all through the presentation involved with the audience with their speeches and acts, sometimes role-playing and adding humour to the scene. And afterwards to wrap up the show, they finished with the unusual ability of returning to the phrases each performer presented at the starting, leaving the audience to bask in an almost baffling yet tantalising aura that could race through your mind for countless hours.

It was a performance hard to describe to those people who didn't watch it. It was something so deeply involved emphasising on art that it had to be experienced firsthand. The show was closed with a few words from Lehmen. He said "I wanted to give presents to human beings in a special human interaction", summing up the core idea of his workshop. He also termed his stay in Dhaka as "very interesting", and said he would cherish the memories.

The writer is a young dancer.

Political crisis hits jatra artistes



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Over 150 jatra artistes are out of work due to the ongoing political turmoil in the county.

"This is the toughest time in my career of over 10 years; if the current situation continues, it will compel me to change my profession," said a desperate jatra artiste Rekha Akhtar.

Meanwhile, Rozina -- who has played key roles in jatra pala -- said she had performed in 17 shows as opposed to 90 shows last year. "I took an advance of Taka 45,000 from my employer but it will be very difficult for me to repay the loan," said a worried Rozina. Like Rozina, many other jatra artistes face a similar predicament.

Nizam Uddin Bhuiyan, proprietor of Nizam Saaj Ghar (that sells attire for jatra pala programmes) said, "I received over 50 orders during October - December last year, but this year I have got only 26 orders so far. Some orders have already been cancelled due to the ongoing blockade programmes as most of our clients come from different upazilas and adjoining districts."

The slump has hit other others even worse. Yunus Ali, who makes costumes for jatra pala said, "I have not received even a single order so far. I have already decided to shut the business."

Priyanka makes setlist for New Year's Eve

Priyanka Chopra is gearing up to give her fans in Chennai a memorable New Year's eve. The actress-singer is making a list of songs for her live performance, scheduled at the Park Hyatt hotel, and she says she wants to enter the New Year "in style".

"Creating the playlist for my New Year's eve gig Park Hyatt Chennai. Got to make sure we arrive into the new year in style. See you there," Priyanka tweeted yesterday.

Following the footsteps of many Hollywood celebrities who have switched roles between singing and acting, Priyanka released her first single "In my city" in 2012. Her second international single this year -- "Exotic" -- featuring rapper Pitbull, created quite a stir online.

Source: Internet

