

## WHAT'S ON

**Zainul Quamrul Exhibition**  
Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya  
Gallery, National Museum  
Date: Dec 22-Jan 18  
Time: 10am-8pm

**Theatre**  
Play: The Trial of Mallam Iya  
Troupe: BotTala  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall,  
Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Jan 10

**Musical Soiree**  
Artists: Salma Akbar and Sajed Akbar  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre,  
Gulshan  
Date: Jan 10

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Artist: Baham  
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60,  
R-7/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 10-22  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Film Festival**  
Title: Tribute to Suchitra Sen  
Venue: International Digital  
Cultural Archive, Shilpakala  
Academy  
Date: Jan 8-17

**13th Dhaka International Film Festival**  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka,  
EMC Center, National Museum and  
Public Library  
Date: Jan 10-18

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Tanjina Tama  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural  
Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: Jan 11



PHOTO: STAR

## The New Year orchestra is on...

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

The New Year is like an orchestra. Orchestra is sheer harmony. In villages the women thresh paddy in the Dekhi separating the rice from the grain in rhythmic coordination. Older folks gather around in small tea shops and slurp steaming cups of tea, boatmen while slumping the oars in the water, sing passionate bhatiali songs in high pitched voices. In the cities the muniwala with a jhunjhuni or handmade trumpet slung across his shoulder is seen blowing a song to his heart's content. The song probably from a forgotten movie or the latest cinema. The cobbler hammers the nail maintaining a definite rhythm, the chabiwala (locksmith) rattles his keys in search of customers.

A round up of the busy cultural calendar of the year that was:

The major cultural events of 2013 in Dhaka included Chobi Mela, 40 years of Dhaka Theatre Fest, Bengal Classical Music Festival, Hay Fest and more.

The seventh edition of the biennial photography festival, the largest and oldest of its kind in Asia, was held in January last year. The weeklong festival featured works of 34 photographers from 24 countries.

Musicians, both young and old, arrived



at the heart of the countrywide rallies demanding the severest punishment for war criminals -- to fuel the demonstrations with their voices. A wide array of musicians -- from folk icon Momtaz to underground heavy metal expressed their solidarity with the movement through their songs at Shahbagh's "Projonmo Chattar". Many of the participating musicians expressed their all out support.

To uphold the opulent heritage and

Hasanul Haq Inu.

The capital once again geared up to bathe in the radiance of brilliant minds who gathered at the Bangla Academy premises from around the world on the occasion of the Hay Festival Dhaka 2013.

This is the third time in as many years the three-day literary festival kicked off in the capital from November 14.

World class thinkers and writers, including Tariq Ali, Ahdaf Soueif and Pankaj Mishra, engaged in intellectual sessions of the festival.

A total of 75 sessions were held. And then there was celebration of music, of grandeur. Bengal Foundation's efforts along with ITC-SRA, took the 2013 Classical Music Festival and made it bigger, better and eternally cemented in memory.

The biggest names in Indian classical music and dance, along with representation from Bangladesh, kept the Army Stadium pulsating for four full nights as audiences in tens of thousands wrapped themselves in the arts of the highest order.

We all know music is magic. Music is harmony. Let us all lend a hand to those who work day in and day out to keep the nation humming. This one message will make it a better year for one and all!

diversity of Bangla music, Bengal Foundation and India's ITC-Sangeet Research Academy held a nine daylong Bangla music festival, the first ever at the SRA premises, titled "E Kon Maya-e: Bangla Gaaner Utsab -- Kolkata 2013", at the ITC-SRA, Tollygunge, Kolkata.

The festival -- dedicated to the National Poet of Bangladesh, Kazi Nazrul Islam, was inaugurated on February 8 by the Information Minister of Bangladesh



## Uttam-Suchitra film festival at Shilpakala Academy

A CORRESPONDENT

A ten day Uttam-Suchitra film festival began on January 8 through the screening of "Shilpi" at the International Digital Cultural Archive of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segunbagicha in the city. Under the title "Tribute to Suchitra Sen", ten popular films of the popular duo Suchitra Sen and Uttam Kumar will be screened in the festival. Liakat Ali Lucky inaugurated the festival as

chief guest.

At the festival, "Sabar Uparey", "Sagarika", "Pothey Holo Deri", "Saptapadi", "Ekti Raat", "Harano Sur", "Sajher Pradeep", "Sare Chhuttur", "Ora Thake Odhare" will be screened.

The film screening programme has been organised by the academy to the pay tribute to the 82-year-old legendary Indian actor Suchitra Sen, who has been critically ill for the last few days.



The towering figure of Indian music was an inspiration to the little contestant.

## Talent search on Rabindra Sangeet

Tribute to **Kanika Bandopadhyay** on her 89th birth anniversary

A CORRESPONDENT

A talent hunt on Tagore songs marking the 89th birth anniversary of legendary singer Kanika Bandopadhyay will be held at Satyajit Ray auditorium, RTC, ICCR of Kolkata, India on January 12. Six contestants from Bangladesh and 11 from India (West Bengal and Tripura) have so far been selected for the final round of the competition titled "Kanika Smarane Rabindra Sangeet-e Notun Protibhar Shondhan-2013".



The six top ranking contestants will be conferred "Mohor Kanika Shamman 2013" along with cash money at the gala event. The participants of the final round will perform at a cultural event to pay tributes to Kanika Bandopadhyay.

Tagore singers and teachers, Nargis Chowdhury and Shila Momen from Bangladesh and Shanga Mitra and Anubha Ghosh of India will be the judges for the final round. Deputy High Commissioner for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kolkata, India Abida Islam will grace the occasion as chief guest, while Rajashree Behera, eastern regional director of ICCR will preside over.

Two cultural organisations, Padatik-Bangladesh and Mitali- Indo Bangladesh Cultural Society, in collaboration with Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR, Kolkata and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy have been arranging the competition for the last several years. The previous events have been held in India. From next year on, the competition will be held in Bangladesh and India alternately.

The Daily Star and ATN Bangla will promote the programme.

## On a musical note...



Fazlur Rahman Babu

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

Of late many actors have followed their hearts to emerge as talented singers as well. Among them is National Award winning Fazlur Rahman Babu whose rendition of the song "Nithua Pathare" in the movie "Monpura" earned him immense popularity. Millions of music lovers still hum the popular tune. Several solo and mixed albums of the acclaimed actor have been released, while he has come into the spotlight with his rendition of songs in the film "Chetuputro Kamola".

Another National Award winning TV actor Chanchal Chowdhury also sang for "Monpura". Subsequently, a number of audio companies offered him singing assignments. Chanchal has released an audio album. His last song was for the film "Pita" based on the Liberation War with Meher Afroze Shaon.

Tarin entered into the media world as a child artiste. Later, the former Natun Kuri champion emerged as a successful actress-cum-dancer. She came into the spotlight with her powerful acting in the well known serial "Sangsaptak". To the surprise of her fans, the actress was seen singing away on a TV channel. She released a solo album last year.

Prominent television actress and director Bipasha Hayat has long dominated the media world. She has also emerged as an author. But many are yet to know that the versatile talent is a painter and sings Tagore songs.

Meanwhile, famed film artiste Moushumi revealed her singing talent by playacting in several movies. The actress was seen performing songs on different TV channels as well. She recently sang for the movie



Chanchal Chowdhury



Tarin

"Chayachhobi". Earlier, her mixed album was released. Actor-cum-model Apurbo made his debut as director recently. A little known fact of him is that he has been singing since his childhood. He rendered songs on several TV shows. His rendition of the title song in the play "Bhalobasher Chatushkon" aired on ntv became very popular.

While acting in TV plays, Shagota has long innings in the world of cinema, modelling and anchoring. In addition, she has a passion for singing. She also was a member of the band Mahakal. She was often seen performing in different stage shows.

Theatre artiste Shamim Zaman emerged as a singer when he worked with the theatre troupe Arannak Nattaydal. Several solo and mixed albums of the actor hit the audio market. He also rendered the title song for a TV play.

Former Dhallywood heartthrob Diti has been singing for quite sometime. She released an audio album and also playacted in films. Apart from this, she has featured as a singer on different TV channels.

Although Romana and Tisha are not regular performers, they do have melodious voices. Tisha, Romana, Kona and Nafisa jointly formed a band named Angel Four.

Popular artistes of the silver screen Jaya Ahsan and Shakib Khan rendered songs in their own films.

Late film artiste Zafar Iqbal earned fame as a singer. He sang for several movies. The renowned actor also released his audio albums.

Shita rendered songs on different TV programmes and so has actor Hasan Masud. Azizul Hakin, Sharmin Lucky and Mosharaf Karim are great songsters as well.



Apurbo

## Maulana Azad is inspiration for Aamir Khan

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister, had predicted in an interview published in 1946 that it would not be possible for "East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)" to stay with West Pakistan for any considerable period of time.

"There is nothing common between the two regions except that they call themselves Muslims," recalled Bollywood actor Aamir Khan quoting Maulana Azad as having said in the interview published in Lahore-based Urdu magazine "Chattan" in April 1946.

Aamir is so impressed by the prophetic words of Maulana Azad that he wants to make a film on the "extremely intelligent" personage with a "progressive mind" whose predictions have come true.

"I hope that some day...this is the dream I have...I can use the capabilities that I have and the art form that I practice to make a film on Maulana Azad and to bring his life to a larger populace of India," the actor said speaking at the fifth edition of Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival inaugurated on Wednesday.

Speaking on "Maulana Azad: His Belief in Secularism and His Foresight" at the lawns of the Victoria Memorial Hall, a landmark in Kolkata, Aamir Khan referred to the interview by Maulana Azad in 1946 and said every word he said had come true.



Reading out excerpts from the interview, he pointed out that Maulana Azad had predicted that Pakistan that was being set up on grounds of religion will have problems like any other military dictatorship -- absence of friendly relations with neighbours and armed conflict, heavy burden of foreign debt and internal unrest and regional conflict.

"It is really amazing that he had such clear thoughts back then in 1946, a year before the Partition and Independence and lists out, point-wise, what is going to happen. And about 65 years later, we stand and see what he had predicted comes out to be true to the very word," the actor said.

A few words Maulana Azad had given to Aamir's uncle Nasir Hussain, a leading Bollywood director, have left an indelible mark on the actor's mind.

"Follow the heart and not listen to what others say"--Aamir recalled Hussain having heard from Maulana Azad and said it has a bearing on the actor's own career in cinema.

"If he (Maulana) had not given the advice to my uncle, he might not have been in films. If my uncle had not joined films, my father would not have joined films and if my father had not, I might be somewhere else. So I want to thank him [Maulana Azad] for the advice," said the actor basking in the glory of his latest Bollywood action thriller "Dhoom 3" enjoying stupendous box office success having garnered more than Rs 500 crore since its release recently and become the first Indian movie to do so.

Aamir said he had followed Azad's 'follow-the-heart' advice in making his box office hit "3 Idiots" some years ago.

## ABC Radio steps into sixth year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ABC Radio FM 89.2, that boasts of being ranked the 'number one' radio channel in terms of popularity, stepped into its sixth year on January 7.

The office wore a festive look to mark the occasion. Transcom Group chairman and chairman of the radio's board of directors, Latifur

Rahman; director of the board and The Daily Prothom Alo editor Matiuur Rahman; ABC Radio's executive director Jalaluddin Akand and COO Sanauallah Labtu spoke at a programme, before a cake was cut.

Special music and shows were aired all day to mark the anniversary, while many cultural personalities also dropped by to congratulate radio insiders on the day.



Latifur Rahman speaks at the programme.

## Sparkling Asha Bhonsle lights up Li'l Champs Finale

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Musical talent hunt shows have found a niche among the TV audience of the country, and their growing popularity over the years has expanded the forms and formats of the shows. Audiences have found it much more interesting to see a battle of talent and people striving to excel to reach a dream, than fictionalised drama that goes on forever. In recent years, children's talent shows have added dimensions to it, bringing out fantastic young talents to TV audiences. "Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs" on West Bengal (India) TV channel Zee Bangla has been one such popular show, that concluded its latest season this Sunday.

A very special guest graced the Grand Finale of the event, much to the delight of contestants, the show's judges, and audience alike. Asha Bhonsle, a living legend of Indian music, brightened up the gala event with her wit, liveliness, and -- at the age of 80 -- a voice still sparkling as ever.

The programme was broken down in three

rounds, with one of the five finalists -- Shreyan, Ronita, Ashmita, Chiranjit and Arunita -- to be eliminated in the first two rounds and the winner decided from the final three after the ultimate round. However, the judges -- Kumar Shanu, Akriti Kakkar and Joy Sarkar -- only eliminated one contestant (Chiranjit), that too at the end of the second round.

The little singers showed immense resolve and control over their singing, to the extent that Asha Bhonsle herself was left surprised. She also drew out a lot of old memories associated with the songs sung by the contestants -- stories behind songs composed by her late husband, RD Burman, stories of her first playback songs, and little anecdotes associated with other songs. She also came on stage to sing her evergreen number "Piya tu ab toh aa ja", along with a number of guests, that included Indian actress of the yesteryears Debashree Roy, who herself expressed gratitude to Asha Bhonsle with a gift, for singing a number of songs picturised on her. Asha Bhonsle was also generous with little tips and suggestions for the contestants,

which the little ones eagerly received.

The third round, dedicated to the recently-deceased stalwart of Bangla music Manna Dey, saw some brilliant performances on stage. Shreyan sang "Baaje Go Beena", the lower registry of which greatly impressed Asha Bhonsle. Arunita's rendition of "Ami jolsha ghore" was possibly the best of the evening, while Ronita's version on "Lolita go" and Ashmita's "O Chand, Shamlake rakho jochhonake" were not far behind.

Mika Singh, another popular figure of Indian music, also joined the show near the end, to end it on his typically exuberant, energetic mood. He sang a few of his popular songs, much to the joy of the contestants and audiences. He also encouraged the contestants to continue with their singing beyond the show, saying they have a long way to go.

In the end, Arunita was crowned winner, combining marks of all three rounds. She received a car, a music scholarship and various other gifts and Hampers, while the runners-up did not go back empty-handed either, taking home scholarships and other courtesy prizes.

## Bahram's solo painting exhibition at Dhaka Art Centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Depart, an art magazine, is going to organise the first solo painting exhibition titled "Dereal", featuring the works of Syed Quamr Hossain Sheeraj, popularly known as Bahram. The exhibition inaugurates today at Dhaka Art Centre in Dhanmondi. Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Shiro Sadoshima will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Renowned artist Monirul Islam will be present as special guest on the occasion.

Bahram explores the inner mind of human beings juxtaposing human and animal shapes. He has achieved the technique over six-decades-plus career as a rickshaw and banner painter.

Bahram began his career at an early age when he was a child working under the guidance of his father. One of his early professional mentors was artist Abdul who ran a popular art shop at Agamachhi Lane in Old Dhaka, in the early 1960s.

The artist began to hone his craft by producing pieces for rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, boards, film banners, and billboards at different shops of the old city in the city.

The self-taught artist has demonstrated an individualised way of responding to the modern reality. The painter is currently producing blending images encompassing human and varied animal forms. Although some traits from his past experience as a rickshaw painter have certainly passed through his current practice.

The artist is now working under a scholarship from Art and Bangladesh, an organisation that launched Depart in 2010.

The exhibition will continue till January 22.



**closeup**

বাহু আঁসার গল্প - ২

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Terms & Conditions: Only Bangladesh adult citizens (18 years and above) can participate in this competition. The story should contain no more than 1000 words. During story submission, participants have to provide correct full name, occupation, email ID, mobile number, full present address, marital status for registration. Without these details, submission will not be accepted. Participants' submitted story should be creative, original and unique; any proof of plagiarism will disqualify the entry. An independent panel of judges will select top 10 stories based on creative writing skill and quality of the story. The top 10 story writers shall be rewarded with attractive gift hampers. Top 3 stories shall be considered for production of drama which would be aired on electronic and digital media. The 10 selected participants will be informed personally through Unilever Careline once the selection process is finished. This is to inform the participants that, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. shall have all the intellectual property rights of the stories submitted for "Closeup Kache Ashar Golpo 2" campaign and they will participate in personal interviews, still photo shoots, video shoots and talk shows as and when required regarding this competition. No one from any organisations related to this campaign can participate in this competition. Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. has the right to change, extend or modify this offer without any prior notice and Unilever Authority's decision will be considered as final in any given issue. To know more about this competition, please call Unilever Careline: (02) 9871215 or 09 666 999 666