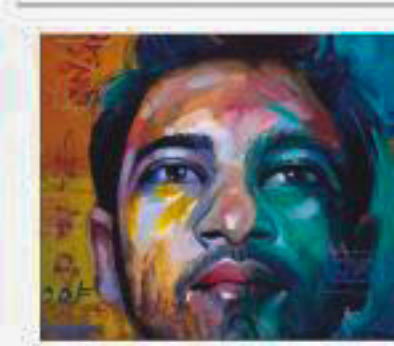


WHAT'S ON



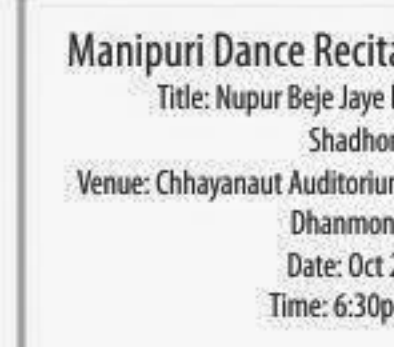
Art Exhibition
Title: Searching Myself
Artist: Monjur Rashid
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
Date: Oct 21-Nov 3
Time: 12-6pm



Fazlul Haq Memorial Award 2014
Organiser: Fazlul Haq Memorial Committee
Venue: Ballroom, Westin Hotel, Dhaka



Shorot Utsab
Organiser: Monor Khorak
Venue: Aftab Nagar
Date: October 24
Time: 3pm-9:30pm



Manipuri Dance Recital
Title: Nupur Baje Jeye by Shadhona
Venue: Chhayanaat Auditorium, Dharmad
Date: Oct 28
Time: 6:30pm



Book Launch
Book: Rongpuray by Shaokor Majid
Venue: Chhayanaat Auditorium, Dharmad
Date: Oct 25
Time: 6pm



Cultural Programme
Organiser: Jafaranga
Venue: Chhayanaat Auditorium, Dharmad
Date: Oct 24
Time: 6:30pm



Theatre Festival
Title: Bothala Rongmela
Organiser: Bothala
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Oct 26-31
Time: 6:30pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Syed Hasan Mahmud
Venue: Bengal Shilpakala, Dharmad
Date: Oct 24-Nov 15
Time: 12-6pm

Rinku on DS Café

DS Cafe is a great place to touch base with renowned cultural celebrities. This month, popular folk singer Rinku who features on the hot seat will respond to all your questions between 4 and 5 pm at The Daily Star Centre on October 25.

Readers, have a field day talking to Rinku over the telephone and finding out all about him. The best question will be highlighted in the transcription. Call 01711623915 and 01711623917 to speak to Rinku.



TV WATCH

Vivek Sood on Editor's Guest

Special talk show "Editor's Guest" will air on Maasranga Television tonight at 7:30pm. Hosted by Chief Executive and Chief Editor of Maasranga, Syed Fahim Munaim, tonight's episode will have telecom operator Grameenphone's Chief Executive Officer, Vivek Sood as guest. He will speak on different issues related to the country's telecom industry, and information and communication technology.

The programme is produced by Sourav Pandey.



THE EXTRAVAGANZA RETURNS

Bengal Foundation announces Bengal Classical Music Festival – Bangladesh 2014

FAHIM FEROUS

Five nights. Fifty-five hours. One hundred and sixty artists. The biggest classical music festival in the world is back.

Anticipation had been in the air for a few weeks now; connoisseurs and enthusiasts alike of classical music, many of them christened to the art forms as recently as the last two years, had been searching for news on when the big classical music festival was going to be held this year. Bengal Foundation, the organisation that had been presenting the festival of colossal scale for the last two years, finally made it official yesterday at a press conference at the Hotel Sonaragan in the capital: The Bengal Classical Music Festival -- Bangladesh 2014 will be held from November 27 to December 1, at the Army Stadium, and will be dedicated to *Polli Kobi* Jasimuddin.

"Often, an event is seen in isolation; this festival is so much beyond that. It has been 25 years of endeavours of Bengal Foundation that has culminated into this festival, and the best part is -- people of Bangladesh are making it happen. All our sponsors and partners are Bangladeshis entities. Bangladesh truly owns this festival," opened Director General of Bengal Foundation Liva Nahid Chowdhury, who anchored the press conference. She also gave out the outline of the festival, including the major visiting artists and Bangladeshi artists, and Bengal Foundation's past, present and future activities surrounding the development of classical music, particularly the school that is scheduled to open mid-November.

Sadya Afeen Mallick, Editor, Star Arts & Entertainment, represented The Daily Star, one of the strategic partners of the event, at the press conference. She said from the beginning of time, mankind has sought to harness the melodies of nature -- the vibration of the bow of the hunter, the chirping of birds, the sounds of pouring rain or a flowing stream, and those who have captured that essence in their music, have been recognized as true maestros. She also thanked Bengal Foundation for proving

This year's festival line-up will see celebrated classical vocalist Vidushi Kishori Amonkar and world-renowned sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan perform for the first time at the festival. Other first-time artists include Malavika Sarrukai (Bharatnatyam), Karakudi Mani (Carnatic percussion), Umakanta and Ramakanta Gundecha, known better as Gundecha brothers (dhrupad, vocals duo), Manjusha Patil (kheyal, vocals), Kushal Das (sitar), Aman and Ayan Ali Bangash (sarod duo), Ganesh Rajagopalan (Carnatic violin), Ashwini Bhide Deshpande (kheyal, vocals) and Debashish Bhattacharya (slide guitar).

that there are still a good number of listeners of classical music in Bangladesh.

Sajjad Sharif, Managing Editor of the Daily Prothom Alo, representing the other strategic partner, said what seemed like a crazy idea on Bengal Foundation's behalf two years ago, has transformed into a craze among people, to enjoy classical music at such a festival every year.

Mahbubur Rahman, CEO of BRAC Bank, one of the sponsors of the event, termed the festival a dream come true for all art connoisseurs of Bangladesh to be experiencing so many greats on one stage, adding that he is looking forward to five sleepless nights.

Fahim Munaim, CEO of Maasranga Television -- the broadcast partner of the event, said what is great to see is that the festival is growing and moving in forward direction every year, in terms of participation and grandeur. He also lauded the efficient registration process and management of the organizers at the festival.

Anjan Chowdhury, Managing Director of Square Group, the major sponsor of the event, said Square Group was founded in Pabna that has a rich cultural background, and the group has always supported tasteful cultural initiatives.

Abul Khair, Chairman of Bengal Foundation, spoke last. He spoke about his vision behind initiating the festival. "All those who introduced Indian Classical

(sarod), Pandit Ullhas Kashalkar (kheyal, vocals), Vidushi Aruna Saifram (Carnatic vocals), Vishal Krishna (Kathak), Kaushiki Chakrabarty (kheyal, vocals), among many others. Juglabandi of different styles of classical music will also be on offering, with Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty performing vocals with young slide guitar artist Debashish Bhattacharya and Pandit Tejendra Narayan Mazumdar performing sitar with Carnatic violinist Ganesh Rajagopalan.

Bangladeshi artists performing solos at the festival are: Mohammad Moniruzzaman (flute), Swarup Hossain (tabla), Dr. Asit Roy (dhrupad, vocals), Amit Chowdhury (Bharatnatyam), Nishit Dey (sitar) and Supriya Das (vocals). Apart from that, a Bangladesh tabla quartet of Enamul Haque Omar, Goutam Sarkar, Mohammad Zakir Hossain and Bishwajit Natta, will perform at the festival, alongside a chorus classical performance of a group of 16 young vocalists who have been primarily selected for Bengal Foundation's classical music school Parampara.

To showcase the opulence of Bangla music, the opening and closing days' sessions will be opened by a 40-strong chorus of eminent Bangladeshi singers, singing three Bangla songs. Noted music director Foad Nasser Babu has arranged music for the presentation.

Registration for the festival, which is free of cost, is expected to begin on November 3, online on the Bengal Foundation web site. Off-line registration will also open at various outlets of Bengal Foundation, and at the venue. Transport buses to and from the festival venue will be increased this year, along with more audience entrances, expanded food court and restroom facilities.

Square Group is presenting the festival, with support from BRAC Bank. The Daily Star and the Daily Prothom Alo are strategic partners, Maasranga TV is the broadcast partner, Ice Today is the media partner and ABC Radio will be radio partner. Amari Dhaka is the hospitality partner for the event, which will be managed by Blues Communications.

Telefilm "Nil Akash Prem Bish" on ATN Bangla



A CORRESPONDENT

Telefilm "Nil Akash Prem Bish" will air tonight at 11pm on ATN Bangla.

Written by AKM Assaduzzaman and directed by Khan Mohammad Bodrudin, the telefilm is a story of love and betrayal.

Nilima and Anupom have a five-year age difference. Yet a friendship develops between them which later turns into a love affair. They get married and live happily until Nilima is killed. As the plot moves forward the mystery behind Nilima's death starts unravelling.

Sadia Islam Mou, FS Nayem, Nafisa Jahan, Shamol Maulla, Tapon Hafiz, Kafi Aman and others are in the cast.

"Success of an artiste cannot have a boundary"

Star musings with Jayanto Chattopadhyay

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

A renowned actor and well-known recitation artiste, Jayanto Chattopadhyay has worked in television, radio and cinema simultaneously with great enthusiasm. The Daily Star recently had a chat with the reputed artiste about his works and dreams.

You have worked in a wide range of media; how challenging has it been?

Jayanto Chattopadhyay: There are different branches in every profession, like for actors there is jatra, theatre, television, radio and films. An artiste cannot perform in jatra and theatre the way they play a character on TV, widely known as drawing room media. Same thing happens in cinema. But all the three were labeled as flop actors when they tried to do cinema. But take Utpal Dutta, who acted in theatre, radio, TV and films. He was a man who could play different roles. There is another successful artiste like him. He is Naseeruddin Shah from Mumbai.

How easy or difficult is it for a theatre artiste to become an established actor in films?

Jayanto Chattopadhyay: Sambhu Mitra was a man of stage. To me, he is an incomparable theatre



PHOTO: REDWAN ADIB RUPON

artiste. I watched a number of his plays, where he showed his tremendous acting skills. Besides him, Rudro Prasad and Titu Mitro were very talented artistes. But all the three were labeled as flop actors when they tried to do cinema. But take Utpal Dutta, who acted in theatre, radio, TV and films. He was a man who could play different roles. There is another successful artiste like him. He is Naseeruddin Shah from Mumbai.

Is it possible for an artiste to achieve all their artistic goals?

Jayanto Chattopadhyay: To me, success of an

artiste cannot have a boundary. You can never define it. So it has no end. Due to this, no satisfaction will ever come in arts.

What keeps you driven after all these years in the profession?

Jayanto Chattopadhyay: As I enjoy this, I never plan to shift to another profession. In another profession, the life would be more colourful but I really love the acting career from the core of my heart.

Is there any character that you haven't played yet, but wish to play someday?

Jayanto Chattopadhyay: I would someday like to play the role of a transgender. Besides, I have always dreamt of portraying a mentally imbalanced person.

Tell us of your association with recitation.

Jayanto Chattopadhyay: I aspired to be a singer, but could not continue it despite all efforts. Also, I learned to play drums from a trainer. Afterwards, I learned recitation from a teacher. As I started performing, I began to receive recognition and awards, and realised it could be something I could take up seriously.

Tele Samad hospitalized



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted comedian and film actor Tele Samad is undergoing medical treatment at the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of Square Hospital in the capital. The actor suddenly fell ill a few days ago and was admitted to the hospital. He is currently under the observation of Dr. Kamal Pasha.

According to family sources, Tele Samad had been suffering from heart disease along with other complications. He underwent a successful surgery in the leg last Tuesday. His family informed that the actor will have to remain under medical observation for a few more days.

Tele Samad staged an entry into the world of acting in 1973 with the film "Kar Bou" and over the years has appeared in numerous cinematic works. He is also a successful television actor and an occasional theatre actor.

The Judge: Centre on the courtroom

KAVITA, New Delhi

"Iron Man" Robert Downey Jr plays successful if abrasive New York lawyer Hank Palmer in new film "The Judge". Set off against Robert Duvall as his father, the upright and respected Judge Joseph Palmer, you can't go wrong. And indeed the actors do a great job of playing a father-son duo whose relationship is inimical and nasty.

So when Hank comes down to small American town Carlville in Indiana for his mother's funeral, he is anguished by the remoteness of his father. More than once through the film there is a heated war of words between the two that has Hank shouting out in fury about his dysfunctional family. The family in question consists of his testy father, brothers Glen and mentally challenged Dale.

However, there a twist in the meandering story

when the judge is accused of murder. A relieved Hank is all set to leave Carlville and on the plane to New York he gets the news. And so begins a long--too long--drawn out court trial where Hank steps in as defense lawyer for his reluctant father. But two and a half hours is prolonged for such a film to plod along even if there are moments when Hank displays a softer side--his relationship with his daughter, a reunion with a college sweetheart with whose daughter he happens to have had a quicky in a Carlville bar, a new found tenderness of his relationship with his father when he discovers that the judge is in the last stage of colon cancer but hasn't given up the fight.

Ultimately it is these moments which are the strong suit of "The Judge" rather than the prolonged trial of Joseph Palmer. But isn't that what the film was all about?



Memories to cherish a lifetime

Bangladeshi Youth Delegation visits India

ZAHANGIR ALOM, back from India

With a view to linking young minds together in building two friendly nations -- Bangladesh and India-- the government of India, for the third consecutive time, invited a 100-member Bangladeshi Youth Delegation to India. The visit spanned from October 13 to 20.

The programme involves interaction with local youth, visits to tourist important heritage sites and introduction to economic and social activities.

The delegation was taken to India's commercial capital Mumbai, Kolkata and New Delhi, with the mandatory stop at Agra. Government of India made sure we ticked off as much as we could on the to-see list. We blissfully roamed around Bandra and Juhu beaches in Mumbai and looked at a glance of Film City, Mumbai, Bollywood superstars -- Shahrukh Khan's and Salman Khan's residences. We visited World Trade Centre Mumbai and Bombay Stock Exchange as well. One evening, we had a view exchange programme with students of the University of Mumbai. Rendition of national anthems of both the countries wrapped up the event. We enjoyed a new feature film "Bang Bang", starring Hrithik Roshan and Katrina Kaif.

The historical places we visited in Delhi included Raighat, Red Fort, India Gate, Qutub Minar, and National Museum in Delhi. Excitement reigned supreme as almost all of us for the first time visited Agra Fort and Taj Mahal, the epitome of Mughal art, architecture and one of the seven wonders of the world, on the penultimate day. Last we stopped at Victoria Memorial, rode on Vidyasagar Setu as the reflection of tilted sunlight on the Ganges charmed us. Photographing, having Indian delicacies, making fun and merriment were rampant during the entire tour.

However, the highlight of our journey to India was the visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, where we met President of India, Pranab Mukherjee. Elected in 2012, the first Bengali President of India has even been called "Bangladesh's son-in-law" in newspapers as his



The delegation at the historic India Gate.

wife is from Bhadrabala, Narail.

Welcoming the delegation, the President said India attaches the highest importance to its relations with Bangladesh. The two countries share not only borders but also common history, culture and heritage. He urged the members of the delegation to work to make India-Bangladesh friendship strong and permanent.

As the President concluded his speech and posed for photographs, we were left with the humbling realisation that visiting Rashtrapati Bhavan as the guests of the President of the largest democracy in the world was definitely something that happens only once in a lifetime.

Indian secretary Rajeev Gupta to the Ministry of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs and Sports arranged a dinner in honour of us at Ashok Hotel, New Delhi where Bangladeshi and Indian youth performed music, classical dance,

recited poems and displayed fashion show. This writer too performed three songs at the cultural exchange programme.

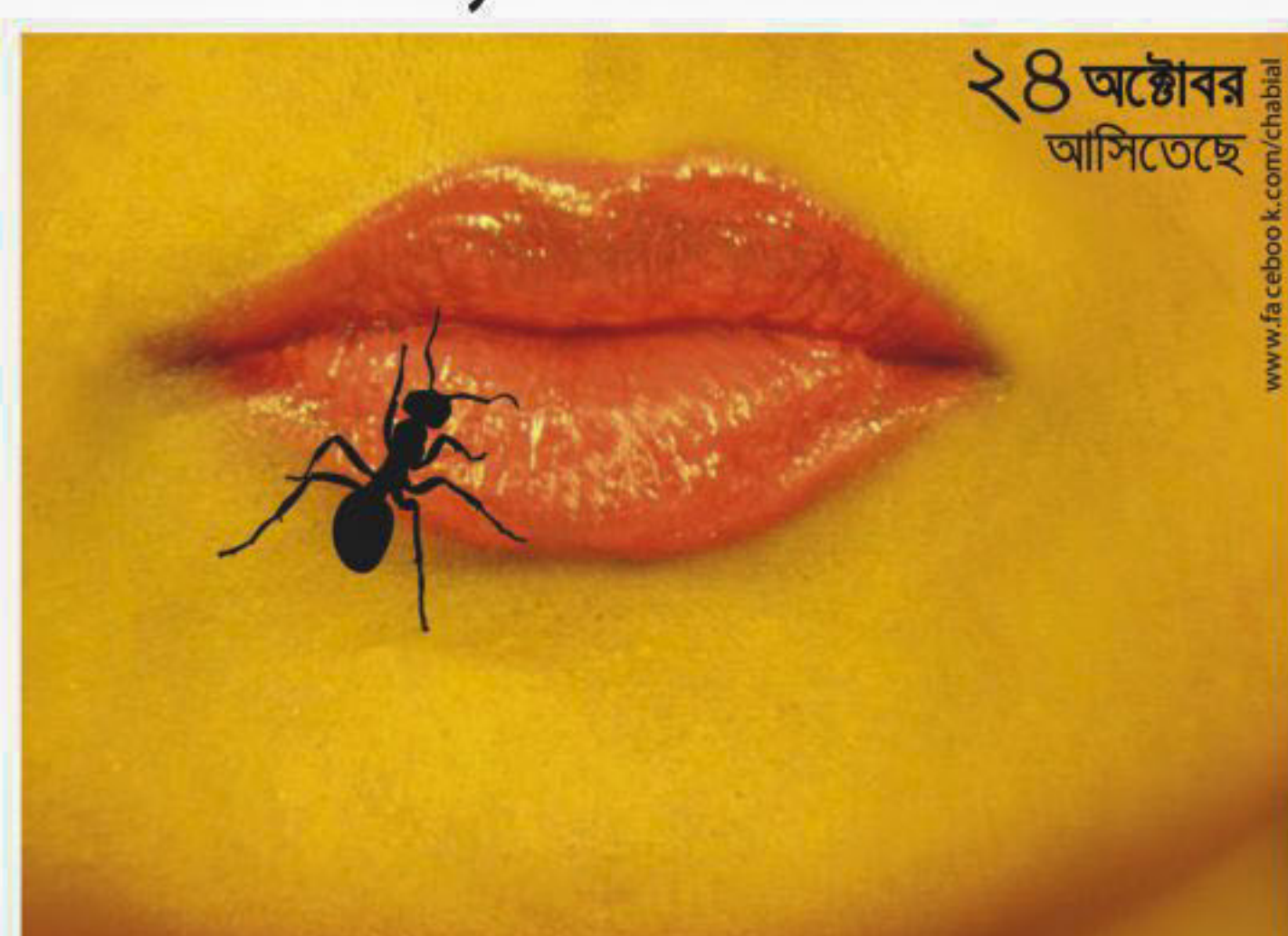
Going to India with ninety-nine individuals I'd never met before was quite a leap of faith on my part. But visiting unknown territories as a group of Bangladeshis meant that everyone was extremely friendly and many a night was spent in vibrant ardor. The overall treatment from police escorts, to VIP entrances, to the warm welcome from the State Government of Maharashtra showed us true Indian hospitality.

The visit to India was truly a learning experience for us all, as we got to explore and learn about India's dimensions that wouldn't have happened if we went by ourselves. As a guest of the Indian Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, I must commend India on the thought and emphasis it puts on its youth. India has many an attractive destination to keep any curious traveller satisfied.

Farooki's caravan out in Dhaka

Much-anticipated "Pipra Bidya" releases today

28 অক্টোবর আশিতেছে



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Tisha is not in the film, but to support her husband, she has cancelled shooting and is joining us on our campaign," Mostofa Sarwar Farooki had the excitement of a teenager in his voice on the eve of release of his latest feature "Pipra Bidya", that has already made ripples before its release. "The entire Pipra Bidya team, along with Tisha, will be out on the streets of Dhaka with our caravan (today, October 24) all day, visiting the cinema halls of Dhaka, watching the movie and interacting with fans, as well as awarding the winners of our promo contest," Farooki informed.

The fifth feature film of the director has already been screened and contested for awards at film festivals in Busan, Shanghai, Melbourne and Dubai. Magazines like The Hollywood Reporter have lauded the film, while the casting of a never-before seen on screen face (Noor Imran Mithu) as the protagonist, against an Indian actress (Sheena Chohan), also promises surprises.

The film releases in Balaka Cineworld, Star Cineplex, Blockbuster Cinemas, Madhumita, Ananda, Shyamoli Cineplex in Dhaka, along with releases in Tongi, Joydebpur, Mymensingh, Khulna, Tangail, Dinajpur, Barisal, Pabna and Sirajganj, among others.

The film is produced by Impress Telefilms under Farooki's production house Chabial, and is marketed by Jaaz Multimedia.