

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
 Alluvial Soul
 Artist: Kalidas Karmakar
 Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dharmondi
 Date: Nov 20-Dec 16
 Time: 12-8pm



Bengal Classical Music Fest 2014
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka
 Date: Nov 27-Dec 1
 Time: 5pm -5am



Group Art Exhibition
 Artworks by 40 Eminent Artists
 Venue: Biswajit Shahitto Kendro
 Art Gallery, Dhaka
 Date: Nov 14-28
 Time: 3pm-8:30pm



Korean Film Festival
 Organiser: The Korean Embassy Dhaka
 Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: Nov 28-29
 Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Life is Here
 Artist: Kanak Champa Chakma
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60, Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
 Date: Nov 15-Dec 6
 Time: 12pm-8pm



NEWS bytes

"Blind Massage" sweeps Golden Horse



Chinese-French film "Blind Massage" has picked up six awards at Taiwan's 51st Golden Horse awards. The film, which features blind amateur actors as massage therapists, won best feature film, best cinematography and best sound effects. Zhang Lei won best new performer, while the film also picked up the honours for best adapted screenplay and editing.

The Golden Horse awards are considered to be the Chinese-language equivalent of the Oscars.

Ann Hui won her third Golden Horse for best director for "Golden Era", based on the life of Chinese writer Xiao Hong.

Chen Shiang-Chyi won the coveted best actress award for "Exit".

But "Black Coal, Thin Ice", a detective thriller that won Berlin's prestigious Golden Bear prize earlier this year, could only manage one win for art direction. It was nominated in eight categories.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



The swarmandal (also known as Sur-mandal) is an Indian harp/zither that is today most commonly used as an accompanying instrument for vocal Hindustani Classical music. The name combines *suvara* (notes) and *mandal* (group), representing its ability to produce a large number of notes.

Swarmandals measure from twenty-four to thirty inches in length and twelve to fifteen inches in width. It is also similar to an instrument from Iran, and has been used for many generations, dating back to the Mughal era. Some of the vocalists who have used this instrument extensively are Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan, Pandit Jasraj, Kishori Amonkar, Ustad Rashid Khan and Pandit Ajay Chakravarty.



"The festival sets our actual objective in motion" ... Luva Nahid Choudhury

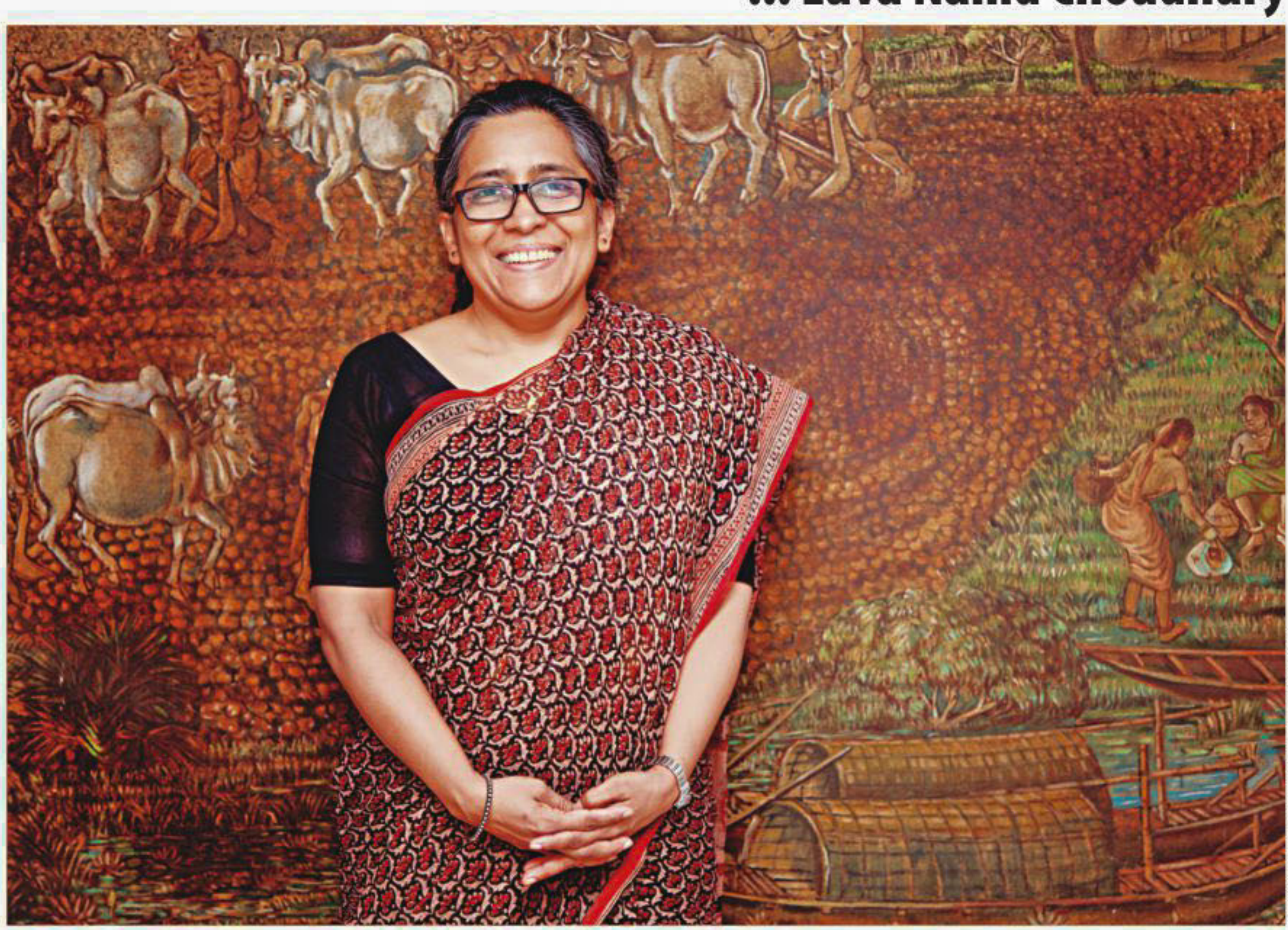


PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

FAHMIM FERDOUS
 From the organising perspective, if the Bengal Classical Music Festival is a complex, intricate and multi-level system, Luva Nahid Choudhury is the control room of it. The Director General of Bengal Foundation has been instrumental in making the last two years' events a success, and with the festival returning this year bigger than ever, The Daily Star caught up with her on her views and visions:

At the last two year's festivals, it never looked like anything at all was out of plan. How do you ensure that?

Luva Nahid Choudhury: Oh, lots of things do not go as planned, and we have had our share of such issues. But the idea is to not let anyone feel that, (smiles) and it takes a lot of very detailed planning. It's not just the event management; laying up the venue layout, negotiations with sponsors and partners, guest management – which is a very large part of our plans, and the infrastructural aspects of the festival – there are separate teams looking into all of that. People only see the festival, but there is an incredible amount of work in the background that cannot be seen. In Bangladesh, there's always complain that

organisers aren't organised themselves, but it's our people, from Bangladesh, who are doing it.

But irrespective of how you plan, execution of it is equally important. How is that taken care of?

Luva Nahid Choudhury: I think it comes with the work culture of the organisation; you are expected to fulfill your responsibilities. And everyone has to put in the effort

"...the target is to take practice of music in the country to new heights."

and the hours; it doesn't matter whether I have an invite somewhere in the evening, if I have work I stay back. And I think the others also see their bosses are working longer hours than them, it motivates them to deliver too. And what's very comforting is people adopt this as their own practices, and take charge when needed.

What's your take on the festival growing in terms of artistes and time-span this year?

Luva Nahid Choudhury: I speak from the Foundation's perspective when I say the festival is not our target; the target is to take practice of music in the country to new heights. The festival is a means to do that, perhaps one of the key means, but not the only one. The festival is not the objective; rather, it sets our objective in motion. To incorporate Bangla songs to this year's festival is like tying the end to the beginning, but there are many bridges to be crossed in between. But I want to talk about the young artiste's participation (a classical chorus by the first batch of students from Bengal Parampara Sangeetalya), I think we as a nation are very quick to catch on to things, and the world knows it by now. And if they don't get stage fright, they are ready for it. So, I think it will get easier every year to incorporate them. And as for audience participation, I think at this age of information, nothing is restricted to a certain class. Who can claim today that they are the only connoisseurs of classical music? And secondly, we never presented it in a diluted or an easy to comprehend form; we gave them the purest form, and it's very satisfying to see that people are receiving it the way they are.

Radio Shadhin rallies to eliminate violence against women

November 25 is observed worldwide every year as the 'International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women'. Radio Shadhin 92.4fm has taken on an innovative programme, encompassing outdoor activations, radio programmes and an online awareness campaign on social media, says a press release.

The theme of this campaign is "You Can Mend This Wall, But Not Her Wound." The focal point of this awareness campaign is the art of wall painting. Over three days, three walls in three localities of Dhaka were painted with the broken face of a woman, and along with it a hard-hitting slogan calling to end this violence now. The three walls were located opposite Jamuna Future Park, beside TNT University & College in Arambag and opposite the American Burger outlet in Banani 11. The final wall painting was inaugurated by theatre personalities and chairperson and managing director of Asiatic 360 respectively, Aly Zaker and Sara Zaker on November 23.

Aly Zaker said that respect for women and the end to violence should extend to every moment. Sara Zaker observed that at present, a minimum of 40 per cent of women in our society find themselves violated in some way or the other, and the need for awareness is frightfully important.

Apart from that, there is also a social



media campaign with the hashtag #RiseUpForWomen, to spread awareness among the masses, along with an application on Facebook.

Radio Shadhin's weekly programmes will also go through a few changes. Psychological counselling show "Tumi Bolo Amra Shunchhi" last night hosted a legal counsellor to answer queries of listeners on violence against women. The two episodes of Wednesday night's show "Shohor Golpo" on the November 19 and November 26 are on the same topic. Dr. Mahbuba Dewan, a specialist on gender studies, will be on SreyoShe (3PM) today, on the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Rekha shoots in Nishat garden for "Fitoor"



Rekha arrived in India's Srinagar on Thursday and was immediately introduced to two AK47-wielding commandos who were to become her constant companion till she left the city two days later. The actress, who plays a character modelled on Charles Dickens' Miss Havisham in 'Fitoor', the Indianised version of "Great Expectations", arrived at the city's picturesque Nishat Bagh on Friday morning. Dressed in an ornate red wedding 'joda' with a cream sequined dupatta covering her burgundy wig, a diamond stud sparkled on her nose and her eyes twinkling from behind designer glasses, the glamorous Rekha garnered plenty of curiosity. Tourists were stopped from entering the garden on the chilly, foggy day, as Rekha walked through the grounds streaked with red-and-gold autumnal leaves. Her cottage, though a set, mingled perfectly with the surrounding even as the mistress of the house stood apart.

Source: TOI

ARIFIN SHUVO A career on the roll

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Arifin Shuvo has made it big on the silver screen with films like "Agnée", "Purnodoirgho Prem Kahini" and "Tarkata". And his career is on the roll with the release of the widely appreciated "Kistimat".

The Daily Star recently talked to the celebrated actor about his tryst with celluloid. Excerpts:

What has been up with "Kistimat"?

Shuvo: I'm very happy with the great feedback the film has received both within and outside the country.

"Kistimat" is a major milestone in my career as it has given me further exposure to acting techniques. Besides, I had to overstretch myself physically for the movie.

Your film "Agnée" was another blockbuster...

Shuvo: I give the entire credit to Iftakar Chowdhury because it would never have been a roaring success without him. Also, as the film was produced by a big name like Jaaz Multimedia, its success was somewhat assured. "Agnée" was a brilliant experience for me as I survived a fatal accident on the sets overseas. However, I forgot all my woes when the film received such a great reception at the box office.

Tell us about your upcoming films.

Shuvo: "Warish" is the brainchild of director Salahuddin Lavlu and shooting is scheduled very soon. Here I'm likely to play the title role with Dhallywood heart-throb Mahi. The film has an outstanding script. "Mritupuri", meanwhile, will be shot in Australia where some Australian actors are to be a part of the cast. Directed by Zayed Rejwan, the film is based on the life of an underworld gang.

What obstacles do you think the film

industry faces?

Shuvo: Low budget, lack of standard cinema halls, a shortfall of skilled technicians, script writers, music composers and actors. In spite of all the troubles, I think we are doing quite well.

With our neighbouring Bollywood getting a strong foothold globally, where do you think we are in comparison?

Shuvo: It will take a few years for our films to be on par with Indian films. Before making a film, they are assured of a big budget and huge market for cinema.

Comparisons should be made only when these factors are taken into consideration.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Korean film festival on Nov 28-29

A CORRESPONDENT

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Dhaka will hold a two-day Korean Film Festival on November 28 and 29 at Bangladesh National Museum. Two movies will be screened at the festival everyday, which is open to all. On Friday, the festival will open with "Officer of the Year" followed by "Always"; and on Saturday, "Mama" and "Secretly Greatly" will be screened.

SM Haroon-Or-Rashid, Managing Director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) will attend the festival as chief guest.

The Korean Embassy hopes that this film festival will provide a good opportunity for those who are interested in Korean culture and language.



Jessica Chastain teases possible Marvel role

Jessica Chastain has revealed that a meeting has taken place with Marvel over an undisclosed role, although the star has confirmed it is not Captain Marvel.

"We've talked about aligning our forces in the future," Chastain told MTV of her relationship with the studio. "And here's the thing with me... If you're going to be in a superhero movie, you only get one chance. You're that character forever. So why do a superhero movie and play the boring civilian?" She possibly hinted at Maya Hansen -- the "Iron Man 3" character she had been attached to, before eventually dropping out on account of scheduling difficulties.

"I don't want to say too much," continued the star, "but there was one thing, there was a possibility in the future of the character becoming... And I was like, 'I understand that, but I want to do it now!'"

Just who that character might be is up for interpretation, although Chastain has moved to quash subsequent rumours that she is in line to play Captain Marvel. "I've never had talks about Captain Marvel. [I] was referring to a different film from over a year ago, in my recent MTV interview."

In the meantime, Chastain can be seen starring in "Interstellar", that has already received great reviews.

Source: Totalfilm