

WHAT'S ON

9th Annual Theatre Fest
Organiser: Dept of Theatre and Performance Studies, DU
Venue: TSC
Date: Dec 1-12
Time: 6:30pm

৯ম থিয়েটার ফেস্টিভাল
১১-১২ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৪
৬:৩০ ঘটিকা

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar
Buddha
Venue: Café Mango Gallery,
H-3/A, Rd-72, Gulshan
Date: Nov 14-Jan 14
Time: 10am-10pm



Dance Drama
Bandi-Bandar Roopkotha
Srishti Cultural Centre
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: December 5 and 6
Time: 6:30pm



16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh
Venue: National Art Gallery,
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 1-31
Time: 11am to 8pm except
Fridays (3-8pm)



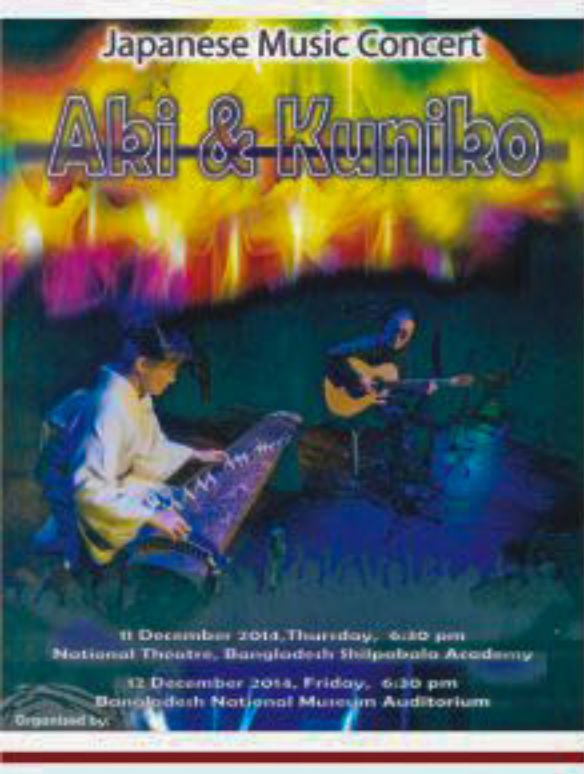
Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Life is Here
Artist: Kanak Champa Chakma
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60,
Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1
Date: Nov 15-Dec 6
Time: 12pm-8pm



NEWS bytes

Japanese concerts in town

The Japan Foundation, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh National Museum has organised a Japanese Music Concert "Aki and Kuniko", to be held at 6:30pm on December 11 at National Theatre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, and on December 12 at Bangladesh National Museum Auditorium. The concert is open to all, says a press release.



"Frozen" sequel rumour quashed



Idina Menzel crushed some tiny hearts on Monday when she addressed rumours about whether a "Frozen" sequel is in the works. The controversy stems from a recent Telegraph interview, in which the voice of fan-favorite Elsa was quoted saying a second installment was "in the works...hopefully." Turns out, she may have spoken too soon.

When asked about the sequel on the 'Today Show', Menzel said, "You know, I have no idea. I just assumed that because it's so successful that's what they're up to!"

Disney chairman Alan Horn told reporters in April that a "Frozen" sequel had not yet been discussed and that instead the company was concentrating on getting a stage version of the musical ready for Broadway.

But that doesn't mean that Disney is going to "let it go." Released in November of 2013, "Frozen" quickly became the most profitable animated film of all time, grossing \$1.27 billion, and Disney estimates that the Oscar-winner brought in an additional \$1 billion in retail revenue over the past year.

Source: Time

A grand display of art

16th Asian Art Biennale opens in Dhaka



Guests with the winning participants at the opening ceremony.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, the biggest art event of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), saw curtains rise on its 16th edition on December 1. The exhibit that began in 1981 features renowned artists of the Asia Pacific region, and has been held once every two years at BSA.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith opened the exhibition at the main auditorium of the National Theatre Hall of BSA on Monday morning. Cultural Affairs secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas chaired the event, where Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor spoke as special guest while DSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky delivered welcome address. Among others present were noted artist Hashem Khan, Director of Postal Services Nayeb Delwar Hossain and Director of BSA's Fine Arts department Md. Anwar Hossain.

The guests paid tributes to a portrait of eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury at the

Fine Arts building of BSA, and later went to the Shaheed Minar to pay their last respect to the artist.

Marking the opening of the exhibition, a cultural programme was also held at the main auditorium of the National Theatre Hall later that evening.

Some 32 countries are participating in the month-long 16th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Brunei, China, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, South Korea, Soudia Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Jordan, UAE and hosts Bangladesh. Some 204 artworks by 104 artists by foreign artists will be on display, while 71 artists/critics will also be visiting on the occasion, including Uguracan Akyuz from Turkey, Ranbir Singh Kaleka from India and Gao Pend from China. Observers from USA, France, Egypt and Brazil are also visiting.

A five-member committee also selected 228 works of 209 Bangladeshi artists, from a submission pool of 518 applicants. Artists Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Monirul Islam, Syed Abdullah Khalid, Mansur Ul Karim and Dr. Farida Zaman constituted the panel.

Three grand prizes and six honorary mentions were also decided for the exhibition, with the grand prizes going to Md. Abdul Momen (Bangladesh), Hessa Ahmed Kalla (Qatar) and Gulshan Hossain (Bangladesh). The honorary mentions were awarded to Bishwajit Goswami (Bangladesh), Maynul Islam Paul (Bangladesh), Dr. Fakhriya Al-Yahyal (Oman), Kamruzzaman Shadhin (Bangladesh), Nurul Amin (Bangladesh) and Hamed Al-Jabri (Oman).

For the first time, performance art has been included in the exhibition, with 10 artists taking part.

The exhibition remains open till December 31, from 11am-8pm on weekdays and 3pm-8pm on Friday.

Parvathy Das Baul captivates Chittagong audience

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

A performance by renowned Baul artiste Parvathy Das Baul grabbed the attention of a large audience at the premises of Zilla Shilpakala Academy Chittagong on Monday evening.

Arindom Naty Samproday, a theatre group of the port city, honoured the renowned Baul artiste from India on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

Akbar Reza, president of the theatre group and Saifu Alam, GS of the group, presented the artiste with a crest. Kamol Dasgupta, a theatre personality, draped her with a shawl.

Parvathy said she is the daughter of this soil. "My father left the country 40 years ago and I grew up hearing the stories of Bangladesh from my grandmother," she said, adding, "My grandmother used to tell me the story of Chittagong, the tale of the anti-colonial movement by Masterda Surja Sen and his followers."

"I have created an image of Chittagong in my mind by listening to these stories," she said. "Coming to Bangladesh, I feel that I have known this country for many years."

Parvathy fascinated the audience with her soulful renditions of Baul songs such as "Parar Loke Gol Kore Ma" and "Shudhu Ami Ami Kore Berao"

Parvathy wrapped up her performance with a promise to return to Chittagong soon.



The artiste enthralled the port city audience. PHOTO: STAR



A garland of ragas

Bengal Classical Music Fest ends on a high note



Vishal Krishna performs Kathak with finesse; (below) Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, Uday Bhawalkar and Moniruzzaman immersed in recital.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

ALOKE KUMAR SEN and ZAHANGIR ALOM

The third Bengal Classical Music Festival wrapped up on a high note, with Dhaka music lovers looking forward to the return of the world's biggest classical musical extravaganza in 2015.

The five-day long festival brought together many evocative features. The creation of history in terms of the largest gathering (over 55,000) on the penultimate day excelled the prestige and gravity of the festival. The exit of a sublime soul (the eminent Qayyum Chowdhury) left us in tears. Legendary sarod maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan augmented that pathos paying rich tribute to the revered artist through styling gamak-based moaning melody.

The maestro started off with offering Raga Khamaj. The sweetness of his recital mingled with the tunes of Tagore song and a folk dhun that kept the audience rapt. Next, starting with raga Bhairavi, the maestro played Bilashkhani-ang alap for five

minutes. It's thought that the legendary Bilash Khan made his father Mian Tansen come alive for a while from death through rendering the raga. So, Amjad Ali Khan's recital of the raga might be thought as an effort to soul-searching for Qayyum Chowdhury. He later returned to playing raga Bhairavi and recited a gat set on Raga Todi on teentaal and drut ektaal.

The sarodia fashioned a musical high through weaving a garland of melodies with several ragas - Jogia, Gunkeli, Lalit, Bhupal Todi, Bairagi and Anand Bhairavi. The performance appeared transcendental as tabla artiste Satyajit Talwalkar and pakhawaj artsite Pt. Fateh Singh Gangani generated divine rhythms. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan instigated the percussionist duo in styling torrents of beats. Later, the trio created a musical mahol following jugalbandi and a sawal-jawab recital. The audience was bound to immerse in the melodic bliss.

Pandit Uday Bhawalkar performed an immaculate dhrupad based on a romantic raga Behag. "Kaha Se Tum Mad Pi Aaye Ho" were the words of the dhrupad bandish. Pratap Awad accompanied the performance on dhamar taal. His second rendition of the bandish "Madhav Maan Bhayo" was on sur-phank-taal.

Vidushi Ashwini Bhide Deshpande mesmerised the crowd with her presentation of Raga Jog. The renowned vocalist

used both komal and shudh nishad in rendering the raga.

The devotional bandish "Pratham Maan Allah Jinhe Racho Hain Noor-e Paak Nabijee Pe Rakh Iman" (on vilambit teentaal) presentation earned her accolades. Ashwini Deshpande beautified her offerings with precise murki, pukar, boltaan, aakar, bahelawa and off beat taan. She later performed a tarana "Tana Dere Na Tare Dani" on drut teentaal and wrapped up her part performing Raga Paraj.

Pandit Yogesh Samsi on tabla and Gourab Chatterjee on harmonium accompanied the vocalist.

Bangladeshi artiste M. Maniruzzaman superbly presented Raga Bageshree on his flute. He evoked the desired mood of the raga. The artiste earned applause reciting several speedy yet sweet tehai. Iftekhar Alam Pradhan on tabla and Sushen Kumar Roy on pakhawaj accompanied the flautist while Shariar Zaman was on surmandal and Moumita Zaman was on tanpura.

Vidushi Kishori Amonkar started off her maiden performance in the prestigious festival through rendering raga Kedar. Bharat Kamat on tabla, Milind Raikar on violin, Suyog Kundalkar on harmonium and Tejashree Bibhas Amonkar and Nandini Bedekar on tanpura and vocal support accompanied the eminent vocalist. The artiste's presentation of ektaal

bandish was "Raam Naam Dhan" while vilambit teentaal bandish was "Payo Payo Re Morey". Through styling outstanding ragdari vistar, bol-bahelawa, pukar together with beautiful gamak and some harmonised musical phrases, she won the hearts of music lovers. Later, she presented another bandish "Jhanaka Jhanaka Payal Mori" at the festival.

Prior to that, a number of eminent Bangladeshi artistes rendered three songs in chorus to set off the closing day's performances, singing "Amar Bhai'er Rokte Rangano", "Dhonyo Dhonyo Boli Taare" and "Ei Padma Ei Meghna". Kathak prodigy Vishal Krishna was next, enthralling the audience in a scintillating display of visual poetry with fluidity, speed and grace as he performed Shiv Bandana, different paran, ladi, chakradar, tehai and compositions.

The Bengal Classical Music Festival Bangladesh 2014, presented by Square Group, spanned 55 hours over five nights from November 27 and hosted some of the most revered names of Hindustani and Carnatic classical music. Tens of thousands, from all ages and strata swarmed the magnificent event every night.

The Daily Star was a strategic partner to the event, alongside The Daily Prothom Alo. Brac Bank supported the initiative.

Shah Rukh-Aishwarya to team up again

It has been almost a decade since Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan were seen together in "Devdas". Now the pair will team up for the remake of the classic "Chalti Ka Naam Gadi", in which they will be seen playing the roles essayed by Kishore Kumar and Madhubala. The movie, reportedly being directed by Rohit Shetty, is expected to be a blast at the box office.

Having done movies like "Devdas", "Mohabbatein" and "Josh" together, the couple is all set to sizzle on screen again.

Source: Indian Express



Two-day theatre festival ends in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The need to strengthen the theatre movement to combat against social injustice was the common theme of speakers at the recent two-day theatre festival organised by Manobadhikar Natto Parishad (MNP) in Pabna Town Hall premises. MNP, central unit organised the festival marking the central council of the organisation.

VC of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) Dr. Al Nakib Chowdhury inaugurated the event. Veteran journalist Kamal Lohani, also the president of the Parishad, chaired the programme, while human rights activist Advocate Sultana Kamal spoke as the chief guest.

Artistes gave music, dance and theatre performances at the opening of the festival. A cultural programme and staging of plays featured at the conclusion of the event.

Artists of MNP across the country staged plays focusing on human rights violations. Kamal Lohani was re-elected as president of the organisation at the central conference.

Malaika Arora at Lustrous Runway

A CORRESPONDENT

The 5th edition of "Pond's presents The Lustrous Runway" was held on November 28 at Radisson Blue Water Garden Hotel Ballroom. Seven designers--Nuzat Nawar, Nova Genuine Swarovski, Paera, Kimaya Design Studio, Studio Omana, Sarah Karim, and renowned Mumbai-based designer Purvi Doshi--participated in the event.

Bollywood actress Malaika Arora Khan and Bangladeshi Shishir Al Hassan were the celebrity showstoppers at the event. Malaika flaunted the runway with an astonishing outfit by Sarah Karim and dazzling jewellery by Gitanjali.

