

WHAT'S ON

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Muse of Myths  
 Artist: Abdus Shakoor Shah  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
 Date: Oct 9-29; Time: 12-8pm

**Solo Sculpture Exhibition**  
 Artist: Nowera Ahmed  
 Organiser: Bangladesh National Museum  
 Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Gallery, BNM  
 Date: October 7-19  
 Time: 9:30am-7pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Gods and Beasts  
 Artist: Ronni Ahmed  
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge  
 Date: Sep 12-Oct 17  
 Time: 12-8pm

**Theatre**  
 Play: Donduk Juddho  
 Troupe: Natyakendra  
 Venue: Studio Theatre Hall  
 Date: October 10  
 Time: 7pm

**Musical Soiree**  
 Golpo Gaane Rabindranath  
 Organiser: Uttarayan  
 Venue: National Theatre Hall  
 Date: October 10  
 Time: 6:30pm



In Conversation with MAMATA SHANKAR

APORAJITA MUSTAFA

Not only is she a celebrated dancer and choreographer, she is also an exceptional actress and has collaborated with stalwarts like Satyajit Ray, Rituparno Ghosh and Mrinal Sen. Through her work, she continues to carry forward their legacy as she passes this torch of artistry on to her own children and students. Mamata Shankar, daughter of legendary performers Uday Shankar and Amala Shankar, recently visited Dhaka to conduct a workshop on choreography, where she took the time to have a conversation with The Daily Star about the Uday Shankar dance form and her upbringing in the Shankar household.

Mamata Shankar said, "The Uday Shankar dance form is the ultimate culmination of many Indian classical and folk dance forms but the style remains identifiable on its own due to its remarkably unique texture. This form has a universal appeal as it allows the performer to express their stories to the audience with ease." Mamata stated that in order to connect with the audience, a performer must learn to coordinate the essential trio - body, mind and soul. As today's contemporary dance displays extensive athleticism, performances often fall short of conveying a full message to the audience in an attempt to be more visually striking. And this is what creates the basic artistic separation of the Uday Shankar dance form from any other contemporary style.

The Uday Shankar dance form is reputed for utilising many theatrical techniques which provide a distinctive edge to the style. The

uniqueness of this form, though, is principally attributed to breaking the fourth wall illusion, which happens to be quite an infrequently used technique in dance performances. As Mamata explained, "My father was an extremely humble human being. He presented all his offerings - all his creations - to the audience in the most humble manner. This, I believe, broke the barrier between the performer and the audience and, to some degree, unified the two."

While there is often social pressure on children of famous parents to reach the benchmarks set by their parents' accomplishments, Mamata Shankar's experience on this front was quite different: "My parents never made me feel burdened by their achievements, and I would like to thank them from the bottom of my heart for that. I was never forced to learn how to dance or act. Ever since I was a toddler, I developed sponge-like characteristics - I absorbed everything I was exposed to. Since I grew up in a world that revolved around performing arts, dancing and acting came to me naturally. For me, to dance was as simple as it was to breathe."

Mamata also conveyed a message towards the younger generation of artists in Bangladesh: "Legacy exists to be carried forward by future generations. And I hope that generation's focus can be shifted towards our own culture. We can discover room for progression within our own culture; Western standards are not the ultimate benchmark of development. So my ultimate advice would be to be proud of who you are, carrying on your culture, heritage and legacies."

Live life in FESTIVITY

AZM SAIFUDDIN

Festivity is in the air of Bangladesh. We celebrate heritage, culture and traditions through festivals. Festivals weave stories, values and customs connected to them. Festivals manage to bring people physically and emotionally together and add a lot of colour and interest to life. Every festival has a symbolism and the entire proceedings are centered around themes. In our part of the world, activities around festivals play an important role to build structure to our social lives, and connect us with our families and backgrounds to rejoice special moments and emotions in our lives with our loved ones. They are also the disruption in our day-to-day exhausting realities of life, and give us some inspiration to live. Festivals also pass the legends, knowledge and traditions onto the next generation. We celebrate through religious, national and seasonal festivals along with some international days.

Our religious festivals across cast and creed help us learn equality. This has been practiced over the years to influence people in the society to make them more compassionate. While beliefs are on individual's discretion, the celebrations of festivals are experienced by mass irrespective of religions. All religious festivals offer the same message of love, tolerance and understanding. In general, spirit of festivals, be it Eid or Durgapuja or even Christmas, is felt by everybody. These religious festivals play a very important role in our economy too, as major purchases happen during this particular period of time which is almost 40% of any retail's yearly sales. Seasonal festivals reflect attitude of

people towards nature. These festivals are important because they are related to seasons attribute to lifestyle, fruits and food supply. Human beings should adore the nature and acknowledge its beneficence before partaking any of its gifts. Bangla New Year -- or Pôhela Boishakh -- connects all Bangalees, irrespective of religious and regional differences. Bangalees across the world and from all walks of life unite to celebrate this universal festival of Bangalees; it's the occasion to welcome the New Year with new hopes of peace, prosperity and goodwill. The magnitude of this celebration is no less than any religious festival; hence its economic impact is also mention worthy.

National Festivals connect us as a people of a nation. National festivals connect citizens to important moments of a nation's history: the Victory Day of a nation, our Independence Day or Mother Language Day. They solidify patriotic spirits in the society. Having said that, we also observe people in our country are celebration English New Year, Valentine's Day that shows the world is slowly becoming more connected in terms of values and humanity.

Universally, all festivals are related to harmony, peace and happiness. To make celebrations sustainable for future generations, this is the high time to think about green festivals, by observing occasions like noise-free day by every car on the street, clean your community week every locality, sow a sapling by every citizen of the country to get higher score on corporate citizenship etc.

The writer is a communication professional working with an advertising company.

QUOTES



"We're held to a different standard than men. Some guy said to me, 'Don't you think you're too old to sing Rock 'n' Roll?' I said, 'You'd better check with Mick Jagger.'"

CHER  
 THE 69-YEAR OLD SINGER-ACTRESS-FASHION ICON NICKNAMED 'GODDESS OF POP', IS NOT AMUSED BY AGEIST REMARKS AGAINST HER.



HRITHIK to teach children 'The World's Largest Lesson'

Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan has been announced as India's ambassador for 'The World's Largest Lesson', an initiative launched by the Global Goals campaign and UNICEF.

Hrithik joins international public figures like Freida Pinto, Dani Alves, Kolo Toure, Neymar Jr, Nobel peace prize laureate Malala Yousafzai, UNICEF ambassadors Nancy Ajram, Serena Williams and eminent advocate for UNICEF, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan.

'The World's Largest Lesson' aims to teach children in over 100 countries about the new Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Goals include ending extreme poverty for all people everywhere, to tackling climate change, and giving all children the opportunity to gain a quality primary and secondary education.

Specially created lesson plans include an animated film by author and education expert Ken Robinson that introduces the Global Goals, and a downloadable comic book by Josh Elder and Karl Kesel. Hrithik is passionate about Goal 3 - Good Health & Well-being.

"As a father, I believe that all children should have access to good education and through this education they learn how to take care of their health," Hrithik said in a statement.

Source: NDTV



Karam festival celebrated in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Indigenous people of Joypurhat celebrated the traditional autumnal Karam festival on Wednesday by holding cultural programmes.

Bangladesh Adivasi Sangha, a body of Indigenous people, organised the festival at

Shaheed Dr. Abul Kashem ground in Joypurhat town.

They also organised a reunion programme.

Kartik Chandra Singh President of Bangladesh Adivasi Sangha presided over a discussion.

At the discussion, speakers prayed for

global peace.

The indigenous people, gathered from different places of the district, entertained the crowd with their traditional dances, song and plays. A cultural competition among teams followed.

Shamsul Haque Dudu lawmaker of Joypurhat as chief guest distributed the prizes.