

WHAT'S ON
Dhaka International Folk Fest
 Venue: Bangladesh Army Stadium, Banani
 Date: Nov 12-14
 Time: 5pm-12am



Group Exhibition
 Title: Drawings
 Venue: Gelleri Kaya
 Date: Nov 13-27
 Time: 11am-8pm

Drawings



Solo Exhibition
 Chromatic Delusions
 Artist: Maksuda Iqbal Nipa
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: Oct 31-Nov 21
 Time: 12-8pm

CHROMATIC DELUSIONS



Korean Film Festival
 Organiser: Embassy of The Republic of Korea
 Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: Nov 13-14
 Time: 3pm onwards



Solo Oriental Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Amit Nandi
 Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU
 Date: Nov 10-15
 Time: 10am-8pm




PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SEARCHING DIVINE WITHIN

Dhaka Int'l Folk Fest sets off today

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Curtains on the first Dhaka International Folk Festival rises today. The three-day grand folk fiesta is featuring maestros from five countries. Eminent Bangladeshi artistes -- Rob Fakir and Shofi Mondal, together with a talented folk artiste-instrumentalist Labik Kamal Gaurob is set to perform today at 9pm. Along with the trio -- who will predominantly perform Lalon songs at the event, Buno (guitars), Saad (guitars) Bart (bass), Jibon (drums), Nazrul (dhol) and Jalal (banshi) will accompany the performance.

Lalon critically re-appropriated various philosophical positions emanating from the conventional Hindu, Jain, Buddhist and Islamic traditions -- developing them into a coherent school of thought. His songs have attracted widespread attention for their mystical approach to humanism as well as their melodious tunes. A soft-spoken baul, Rob Fakir's soulful vocal gives him a definite edge over his peers. The artiste says that while singing, he immerses himself wholly in Lalon's realm. "It's not 'singing' unless one sings straight from the heart. The core aspect of Lalon's philosophy is the search for Divine within.

Lalon's songs evoke 'gyan' (knowledge) which ultimately generates 'bhaab' (union of souls)," said Rob Fakir. Seasoned Lalon singer and Guru Shofi Mondal's (born in Kushtia) father, the late Maolana Ahad Ali Mondal, was a fourth generation disciple of Fakir Lalon Shai. At 25, Shofi went to Krishnanagar, West Bengal (India) where he learnt classical music under Sadhon Mukherjee for four years. "Lalon Fakir popularised a preceptor-disciple oriented tradition; the core value of this is humanism. When I sing his verses, I feel as if Lalon himself is singing through me. I'm no more than a conduit. I mingle both folk and

classical music styles in my rendition of 'bhaab' or 'mahajani' sangeet," said Shofi Mondal. "I would like to get my audience immerse in the ecstasy of 'bhaab' sangeet rather than rocking them with rhythm. Keeping the main themes of the songs intact, we would like to represent our songs in a newer style, where there will be a balanced acoustic and electric combination. To display our opulent folk music heritage to the outside world, we must unanimously come forward to the great cause. Patronisation and dedicated practice are prerequisite to attain the goal," said Labik Kamal Gaurob.

PERFORMING TODAY

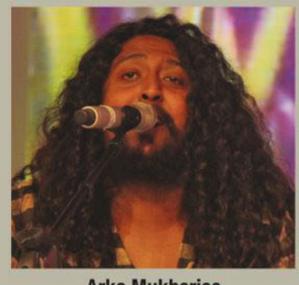
at Dhaka International Folk Festival

FARIDA PARVEEN (BANGLADESH)
 Considered by many as the empress of Lalon songs, Farida Parveen is one of the most recognisable voices of folk music from Bangladesh. Brought up in Lalon's home soil of Kushtia, her contributions to spreading Lalon's message are immense. An Ekushey Padak and Fukuoka Asian Cultural Prize laureate, she has performed all over the world, and continues to be vastly popular to folk music listeners.



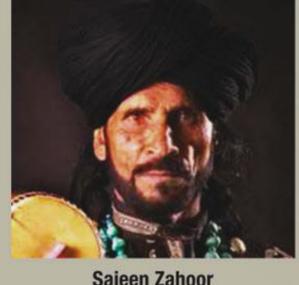
Farida Parveen

ARKO MUKHERJEE COLLECTIVE (INDIA)
 The free-spirited Arko Mukherjee draws no boundary to his inspirations. From the country music of Tennessee, USA to Indian classical, Brazilian, Irish or Middle-Eastern traditional music, he soaks it all in and then brings them all together in his own soulful, philosophical way. His music is refreshing and surprising and yet deeply contemplative. Arko will be performing with his group Fiddlers Green, and Satyaki Banerjee, another brilliant singer from Kolkata.



Arko Mukherjee

SAIEEN ZAHOR (PAKISTAN)
 Zahoor Ahmed, honorifically titled 'Saieen' Zahoor, is one of the most revered Sufi musicians of Pakistan. He began singing at shrines from the age of 10, and didn't produce a record till 2006 (at age 69) when he was nominated for BBC World Music Awards by word of mouth. Although not literate, he sings from memory the songs of major Sufi poets, and has a passionate, high-energy singing style, with his primary instrument being the Tumbi, his three-stringed adaptation of the ektara.



Saieen Zahoor

OTHER PERFORMERS OF THE NIGHT ARE:
 CHANDONA MAJUMDAR & KIRAN CHANDRA ROY; ROB FAKIR AND SHAFI MONDAL, WITH LABIK KAMAL GAUROB; PAPON AND THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

I am not thinking of biopic

VIDYA BALAN



Bollywood actress Vidya Balan may have featured in biopic "The Dirty Picture", but the National Award-winning actress says she wants to stay away from the genre at the moment. Since then, the 37-year-old actress has been offered quite a few biopic films, including on former Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi, slain former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, late actress Suchitra Sen and Bharat Ratna awardee vocalist MS Subbulakshmi. "Even I keep hearing, I am not thinking of biopic films. Once I confirm it, I will let you all know," Vidya told PTI. The actress will be seen in a special performance in Marathi "Ek Albeli". "I am not doing any preparation for the film... It's a special appearance. It will release in January," she said. The actress thinks the perception towards small budget films is gradually changing. "And slowly we are seeing small films in theatres and with festivals like MAMI, things are going to get better. But this won't change overnight. We have come a long way. It is refreshing to see new kind of films coming up," she said. Vidya was there at the closing ceremony of the recently concluded MAMI film festival in Mumbai.

Source: TOI

Evening of Chamber Music

Russian musicians play in Dhaka

FAYZA HAQ

Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation and Alexander A. Nikolaev, the Russian Ambassador, together opened an evening of Chamber Music on November 10 at the capital's Krishibid Institution Complex Auditorium. Luva Nahid Choudhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, presented the evening's programme, which featured a duo from Saint Petersburg, Russia performing on the piano and trumpet. The event was a joint initiative of Bengal Foundation and the Russian Embassy. The capacity audience was enthralled by the mellow tinkle of Vladislav Fedorov's piano and the blast of the trumpet by Nikolay Stranatkovskii. Together, the duo presented Hummel, Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, Chopin, Glazunov, Schumann and their original compositions. Vladislav was born in Saint Petersburg in 1997. He began his musical education at the age of five. He entered Saint Petersburg School of Arts for Children followed up by musical studies at Secondary Special Music School at Rimsky. He studied with Olga Kurnavina



The duo performs at the concert.

PHOTO: STAR

at Korsakov, Saint Petersburg state Conservatory. Next he was a student of Professor Aleksander Sandler. Vladislav is an international laureate, winning the Feredric Chopin 1st prize in 2010 (Estonia), Franz List International Competition 2011 (Germany) and 3rd prize in the 2012 Young Pianists (Netherlands). He played with an orchestra for the first time at the age of 10. He is well known in France, Germany and Italy.

Since 2014 Vladislav has participated in the Saint Petersburg Music House Programme. Nikolay Stranatkovskii was born in Sochi City in 1992. He studied in Music School No. 19 in Saint Petersburg and continued his studies at Rimsky-Korsakov Music School under Gennady Kuteev. The hour of concert music was enjoyable, and added a refreshing touch to the mundane weekday evening of Dhaka.

Masud Ahmed takes centre stage at IGCC

Indira Gandhi Culture Centre is organising an evening of Bengali Songs of bygone days by Masud Ahmed at 6 PM on Friday, November 13 at the IGCC Gulshan-1, Dhaka.



Ahmed is the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh. Due to professional engagements, Ahmed could not take music professionally. However he has been making renditions regularly for the last 12 years through BTV, Shilpakala Academy, National Museum, Chhayanaut etc. A member of musical several organizations, he received "Fulkoli" gold medal, Manna Dey Award and Bangabandhu Academy Award for his contribution to modern Bangla and Nazrul songs.

A life member of Bangla Academy, Ahmed has written 107 short stories and seven novels. Ten tele-films and series dramas have been prepared and cast in TV channels, based on his literary creations. His English fiction (on the liberation struggle of Bangladesh) "Dusk Dawn and Liberation" has been published by Author House, London.

MOHAKAL to stage "Neelakhyan" today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohakal Natya Sampraday will stage their latest theatrical production "Neelakhyan" at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today at 7pm. The play has been adapted by Anan Zaman from National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's short story "Shapurey", while Yousuf Hasan Arko has directed it. "Neelakhyan", the 36th production of Mohakal, has been patronised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The play narrates the story of a snake-charmer whose dilemma over the desires for physical love and spiritual attainment takes the centre stage. Traditional narrative styles have been used in describing the story. The play casts Poly Biswas, Monami Islam Kanak, Litu Mondal, Jerin Tasneem Esha, Sonia Islam, Tonu Ghosh, Nirjhor Odhikary and others. Yousuf Hasan Arko has also designed the set and directed music for the play, while Thandu Rayhan and Zerine Tasneem Esha have done the light design and choreography respectively.



NEWS bytes

SCARJO, WITHERSPOON JOIN "SING"

Scarlett Johansson, Reese Witherspoon and Seth MacFarlane and have joined Matthew McConaughey as voice actors in the animated comedy "Sing" from Universal and Illumination Entertainment. Taron Egerton and Tori Kelly also star in "Sing", which will be released on December 21, 2016. The studio had staked out the date but not disclosed any details until Tuesday. McConaughey will play a koala who presides over a once-grand theatre that has fallen on hard times. He decides to regain the glory by producing the world's greatest singing competition.



Contestants are a mouse (MacFarlane), a timid teenage elephant (Kelly) with a case of stage fright, an overtaxed mother (Witherspoon) tending a litter of 25 piglets, a young gangster gorilla (Egerton) and a punk-rock porcupine (Johansson) struggling to shed her arrogant boyfriend. The film features more than 85 songs and is directed by Garth Jennings from his own script. Producers are Chris Meledandri and Janet Healy.

Source: Variety