

WHAT'S ON

Bengal Classical Music Festival

Organiser: Bengal Foundation

Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka

Date: Nov 27-Dec 1

Time: 7pm-5am

BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

2015

Organised by: Bengal Foundation

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: How Do I Rent a Planet

Artist: Razib Datta

Venue: Kalakendra

Date: Nov 20- Dec 10

Time: 5-9pm

1st International Indigenous Theatre Fest

Organiser: Sampreeti Natyotsab Parshad

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Date: Nov 19-26, Time: 4:30pm

5th Tone Int'l Art Biennale

2015

Organiser: Tone Art Society of Bangladesh

Venues: Galley Chittrak and Athena Gallery of Fine Arts

Date: Nov 13-30; Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Exhibition

Title: Rokeya

Artist: Rokeya Sultana

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi

Date: Nov 17-Dec 5

Time: 12-8pm

NEWS

bytes

"Wonder Woman" reveals full cast

While all attention seems to be aimed towards the impending release of "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice", new developments have slowly been released regarding the third element of the DC trinity: "Wonder Woman". Production on the iconic female superhero's solo film has begun under the direction of Patty Jenkins and Wonder Woman is the first DC solo film expected to hit theaters in 2017.

It is no news that Gal Gadot is playing the titular character, which she will also be portraying in Batman V Superman. Chris Pine's inclusion as her love interest: Captain Steve



Trevor is also old news. Robin Wright of "House of Cards" fame will also be starring, possibly in the role of Diana Prince's mother Hippolyta.

Danny Huston ("X-Men Origins"), David Thewlis (famous as professor Remus Lupin in the Harry Potter movies), Ewen Bremner ("Black Hawk Down", "Pearl Harbor", "Trainspotting"), Said Taghmaoui, Spanish actress Elena Anaya and Lucy Davis ("Shaun of the Dead").

"Wonder Woman" is expected to hit theatres sometime in 2017.

Source: Cinemablend



A scene from "Gadhar Haat".

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"BONDUKJUDDHO" AND "GADHAR HAAT" STAGED AT BSA

SAURAV DEY

Natyakendra, one of the leading theatre troupes in the country, staged their latest productions "Bondukjuddho" and "Gadhar Haat" at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Sunday evening.

"Bondukjuddho"--based on Egyptian playwright Alfred Farag's "The Trap" and "Gadhar Haat", based on Egyptian playwright Tawfiq al-Hakim's "The Donkey Market"--have been adapted and directed by Tariq

Anam Khan.

Both plays --with a 30-minute run time each -- deliver strong social messages. The storytelling is as lucid as possible with no ambiguity in catching up with what is going on the stage.

"Bondukjuddho" takes place on a dimly-lit stage where the lead actor and his accomplice bring forth the plot through their conversation. It is a story of betrayal, murder and greed. Ariq Anam Khan aptly plays a cunning chairman, while other actors on the stage are Emon and Nirzash.

"Gadharhaat" on the other hand takes a light-hearted look at materialism in society. The satire left the audience spellbound with its instinctive humour. Saif Ahmed, Sangeeta Chowdhury, Noman Ahmed and Khan Atik were flawless on the stage.

Nasirul Huq Khokon has designed lights for both the plays, while Khandakar Sazia Afreen Lubna has done the costume design.

Not so many theatre productions can entertain the audience nowadays, but watching these two plays will give the audience a short break from everyday chaos.

Pallavi Dance Center to open BCMF15

In conversation with Minu Haque

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Pallavi Dance Center is a reputed dance school of the country, under the leadership and training of noted dancer-choreographer Minu Haque. The troupe will be the first performers of this year's Bengal Classical Music Festival 2015 (BCMF15), presenting Bharatanatyam. The veteran artiste spoke to The Daily Star about their preparation and excitement:

"We feel extremely fortunate that our performance will open this year's edition of BCMF15. At the same time, we are anxious to give our best, and rehearsals have been going on non-stop for a month and a half.

"We have 23 performers, some of them are even coming from outside Dhaka to practice, and all of them are incredibly motivated. Through our performance, I want to show the large audience in Dhaka that the practice of Bharatanatyam is well and alive, and we have very talented dancers. There aren't many platforms to showcase the art, and this is the biggest of them all, so I'm looking forward eagerly so that we can make ourselves proud, and at the same time promote the practice of classical dance. Although it is strictly a Bharatanatyam production, we are calling it 'Desh', and you will find elements of Bangladesh in it."

"Our sincere thanks go to Bengal Foundation for the honour. Their initiative to nurture classical music and dance is truly remarkable, and we are thrilled to have got the opportunity."



Stringent security to be in place for BCMF15



File Photo: The Army stadium is gearing up for the grand festival.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the Bengal Classical Music Festival 2015 (BCMF15) just three days away, festival organisers are going all out to get logistics right. Security is a major concern for the organisers, with tens of thousands of music lovers every night at concerts that extend till the morning.

Several security instructions have been put in place on organiser Bengal Foundation's website, in accordance with directives from Dhaka Metropolitan Police

(DMP). For one, bags and cameras are prohibited at the venue.

Camera-phones are quite naturally an exception. Men are requested only to carry phones, wallets and keys with them, while women are requested to bring purses no larger than 10 inches by six inches, as bigger bags will not be allowed inside the premises. As previous years, no food or drinks will be allowed, and tobacco is strictly taboo. Re-entry more than once has also been strongly discouraged in the notice message. It also says entry of cars will be restricted, with drop-offs on the main road (spe-

cial consideration will be made for senior citizens/).

Luva Nahid Choudhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, says that security is top of mind for the organisers. She says that measures like closing entry gates after 1am are meant to ensure public safety, while informing that the entire festival area will be under CCTV surveillance. She however asserts that care will be taken so that there is no hindrance to the audience's enjoyment at the festival.

Jlo performs dazzling dance medley at AMA 1D, Swift, Minaj big winners

Jennifer Lopez blew the audience away with an amazing opening number to kick off the 2015 American Music Awards. She danced along to samples of some of the night's nominated songs, before going on to host the show.

Wearing a glittery catsuit in multicoloured Native American patterns, she opened with lines from her hit "Waiting For Tonight", before going on to perform pieces from Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk", "Feel Myself" by Beyonce and Nicki Minaj, Little Big Town's "Girl Crush" to Taylor Swift's "Bad Blood", Beyonce's "7/11", The Weeknd's "Can't Feel My Face" and Drake's "Hotline Bling" -- which got the biggest applause from the crowd as it's sample came on, and softer numbers like Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud", before finally closing with Rihanna's "B*B*ch Better Have My Money".

While Justin Bieber danced along in the audience with J-Lo's on-stage performance of his song "Where Are U Now", Nicki

Minaj looked very uncomfortable as Jennifer grooved to a section of her hit "Anaconda".

She continued to surprise throughout the evening, going through a whopping 10 wardrobe changes.



One Direction won Artist of the Year (and Favorite Duo or Group -- rock/pop); aaylor Swift took Song of the Year (for "Blank Space"), Favorite Album ("1989") and Favorite Artist -- Adult Contemporary. Nicki Minaj was named Favorite Artist -- rap/hip-hop and also won Favorite Album -- rap/hip-hop (for "The Pinkprint"). The Weeknd took two awards, for Favorite Male Artist and Favorite Album in the soul/RnB subcategory. Justin Bieber won Collaboration with the Year for "Where Are U Now" with

Diplo and Skrillex, Ed Sheeran and Ariana Grande won Favorite Artists in rock/pop, while "Pith Perfect 2" was adjudged to have the Top Soundtrack album.

Source: Internet

Anima Roy launches 'Praner Majhe Aye'

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular Tagore singer Anima Roy's latest album "Praner Majhe Aye" hit the audio market on November 21. The album was launched at a programme held at Spectra Convention Centre in the capital.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu attended the launching ceremony as chief guest, while noted singer Sadi Mohammad, Laser Vision chairman AKM Arifur Rahman, politician

Hussain Muhammad Ershad, and former Inspector General of Police, Nur Mohammad were among the special guests.

The album features 12 songs including "Amar Praner Manush", "Pran Chay Chokkhu Na Chaye", "Amar Praner Majhe", "Jodi Baron Koro" and "Ami Jeneshuney Bish Korechhi Paan".

Kolkata-based music director Prottyush Bandyopadhyay has directed music for the album.



Madhusudan Dutt remembered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Jessore district council recently held a program at Sufia Kamal auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka, in remembrance of Poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended the event as chief guest, while Dr. Mohammad Humayun Kabir, District Commissioner of Jessore, pres-

ided over the programme. State Minister for Local Government Ministry, Ismat Ara Sadeq; senior secretary Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury; Cultural Affairs Secretary, Begum Aktari Momtaz; BNM director general Faizul Latif Chowdhury and Poet Nirmalendu Goon attended the event as special guests.

The programme included a cultural performance featuring artistes from various reputed cultural organisations from Jessore.



QUOTES



"Music is my love. And because it is my love, music has become my religion. When I play music, that is my best yoga, the best meditation, the best prayer."

PANDIT HARIPRASAD CHAURASIA ON MUSIC