

Bengal Classical Music Festival
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Army Stadium, Dhaka
Date: Nov 27-Dec 1
Time: 7pm-5am

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: How Do I Rent a Planet
Artist: Razib Datta
Venue: Kalakendra
Date: Nov 20-Dec 10
Time: 5-9pm

10th DU Theatre Festival
Venue: TSC
Organiser: Theatre & Performance Studies Dept
Date: December 3; Time: 6pm

5th Tone Int'l Art Biennale 2015
Organiser: Tone Art Society of Bangladesh
Venues: Galley Chitral 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

NEWSbytes

SGIFF opens with red carpet pageant



Taiwanese actress and model Sonia Sui Tang and Singapore actress Yeo Yann Yann were among the special guests who graced the gala opening of the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF), at Marina Bay Sands on November 26.

Sui and Yeo, together with Taiwanese director Lee Chung, both appear in the SGIFF's special presentation of "The Laundryman", Lee's feature-length debut which revolves around a hitman haunted by the ghosts of his victims.

Singer, Suming performed items from the film's soundtrack, including the one that won the best original song prize at last week's Golden Horse Awards, at the opening night after-party.

The festival runs from November 26 to December 6 at various venues, including Marina Bay Sands, the National Museum of Singapore, Shaw Theatres Lido, National Gallery Singapore, The Arts House, The Projector and The Substation.

Source: Variety

Five good reasons to not miss Bengal Classical Music Festival

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The Bengal Classical Music Festival 2015 is on in full swing, and if you have missed the first day, the good news is that there are four more days (including today) of the grandest event in Bangladesh's cultural calendar. Here are a few reasons the Dhaka Army Stadium is THE place to be for the next four nights.

UNFORGETTABLE MUSIC

The most revered names of Classical Music, from the North and South alike, congregate on this one stage for a festival unlike any other in grandeur. Nowhere in the world do this many maestros of Classical Music perform, for these many hours. And it's not just the most famous names, but the lesser-familiar artists who have taken the festival by storm and made a permanent place in the hearts of the audiences in the past, and this year should be no different.

THE PERFECT 'NIGHTLIFE'

There is virtually no 'nightlife' in Dhaka of any kind; there is no activity after 8pm except for eating out. Only during this festival can you stay out all night in a protected environment and enjoy yourself in the cleanest of entertainment. Be it friends, couples or family, everyone's welcome, and everyone is an equal part of it.

GREAT CONVERSATIONS

Because of the brand of the festival, Dhaka's most cultured people flock at the festival, and the stadium becomes a common platform for all of them. You are sure to run into people you know, specifically those who share your musical and cultural tastes. It's a great spot for surprise reunions, and the serene, musical ambiance means there is no hostility, no off-topic conversations and no unnecessary distractions.

GOOD FOOD

Just being up from dusk till dawn can be tiring, and strolling around the big stadium can be deceptively hunger-inducing. But have no fear, because food and beverages are aplenty at the festival in everyone's affordability range. Whether you're looking for a light snack, heavy dinner or late-night munchies, you have the option – and the seating arrangements for it.

SECURITY AND CONVENIENCE

Safety is always airtight for festival-goers, without hindering the festive fervour. Restrooms are ample, and there is even free drinking water all around the arena. A big number of sincere, well-mannered brand promoters and security personnel are on hand to answer any query. Worried about transportation at the end of the performances at 5am? Bengal Foundation has you covered, with double-decker buses taking you all across Dhaka, free of charge!



Come one, come all; the festival is upon us.

FILE PHOTO

Mithun Ahmed's "Self Distortion" at Gallery Twenty One

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gallery Twenty One is holding a two-week solo art exhibition titled "Self Distortion" by New York-based Bangladeshi artist Mithun Ahmed. The versatile artist displayed a performance art, following the inaugural ceremony graced by renowned cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar, noted artist Hashem Khan and poet-art critic Rabiul Husain on November 22.

Noted actor Afzal Hossain hosted the ceremony while Torun Ghosh is the curator of the exhibition.

Soon after the deliverance of speeches by the guests, two dhol artists set off the performance part of the event where Ebadul Huq Shaikat played sitar and two dancers performed with the melody. Mithun Ahmed, a visual artist, activist and poet, continued doing four acrylic paintings on canvases at the same time.

Since 90s, Ahmed has established



The artist 'performs' a painting.

himself as a man of many kinds here in Bangladesh and abroad. He has a natural liking to make something new and to draw attention of viewers with a creative impulse. The artist's line-based simple works delineate human feelings and deep observations which are explicit in colours.

He has written and directed a play "Bong Koinnyer Pala" and a musical narrative "Alibi Lullaby". The artist has exhibited two conceptual art installations: "Marching with Lamps", in solidarity with the slain Bangladeshi bloggers, and "Memory against Oblivion", about

Bangalee cultural history dating back to 1940. His current venture revolves around a documentary film "Tribunal for War Criminals". Mithun is also the current president of the Combined Cultural Alliance of North America.

The exhibition, open from 12pm to 8pm daily, concludes on December 5.

"Circus in Bangladesh" in Belgium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Naymuzzaman Prince was recently invited to Belgium with his photography documentary "Circus in Bangladesh". In every two years, an international circus festival "Theater op de Markt" is held in Neerpelt, Belgium. Circus artistes from all over Europe perform at the five-day festival. The performances are conceptual and experimental circus, with a high focus on technique but also aesthetic and choreography. This year, the ninth edition of the festival took place from October 30-November 3, with 24 different circus troupes performing for the 30,000 spectators.

For the first time, a Bangladeshi artist was included in the festival. The photo documentary of Naymuzzaman Prince was exhibited in the main foyer Domein Dommelhof, where the festival took place. Prince has worked for a long time on circus artistes in Bangladesh, and the exhibit features 45 delicate photos depicting their lives.

The photos exhibition was received with a lot of applause by both the audience and the other participating artistes. The colourful images showed another side of circus life. The work of Prince was highlighted in the local media for the intimacy and the sensitivity that he captured.



Amra Surjomukhi to celebrate 40th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking its 40th anniversary, cultural organisation Amra Surjomukhi, will hold a special programme at the auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum today (November 28). The programme will reunite popular singers Shammi Aktar and Ikramul Islam on stage after seven years. In addition, Mahidul Islam will give a recitation at the programme.

Shammi Aktar said, "I am very excited about the programme. Many renowned artistes have performed at Surjomukhi's programme. I hope to give my best performance."

Shammi Aktar will present her popular songs at the event including "Ei Banglar Matitey", "Ami Jemon Achhi temon Robo", "Mone Boro Asha Chhilo", "Bidesh Giya Bondu", "Bhalobashle Sobar Sathe Ghor Badha Jayna", "Ami Tomar Bodhu" and more.

Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister, Dr. Gowher Rizvi will grace the occasion as chief guest, while Dhaka University Vice Chancellor, Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique will inaugurate the event.



(R-L) Pt. Kushal Das, Kaushiki Chakrabarty, Warda Rihab, Jayaprada Ramamoorthy and her disciple at the press meet.

The flute returns home

In conversations with maestros

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia once said the flute is an instrument belonging to Bangladesh. True, Bangladeshi legend Pt. Pannalal Ghosh transformed flute from folk to classical instrument. Bengal Classical Music Festival 2015 is offering this year the first female flautist Jayaprada Ramamoorthy, the magically versatile music maestro Pt. Ronu Majumdar, having his ancestral roots in Faridpur, Bangladesh, and of course the Lord Krishna of our time, Pt. Chaurasia.

With a generous call to delving into the realm of melody, the fourth Bengal Classical Music Festival, presented by Square, set off yesterday at Dhaka's Army Stadium. Ahead of their featured performances, several music stalwarts candidly shared their feelings and diverse melodic contemplations with journalists at a press meet at Le Meridian hotel.

Dr. Jayaprada Ramamoorthy, Pt. Ronu Majumdar, Pt. Kushal Das, Kaushiki Chakrabarty and Bangladeshi dancer-choreographer Warda Rihab took part in separate interactive ses-

sions.

Jayaprada Ramamoorthy introduced an eight finger-hole Carnatic flute (venu) and elaborated on the both North Indian and Carnatic flute and music, while Ronu Majumdar, in almost an-hour long exclusive interview, shared his luminous musical journey. "Blossoming melodic bliss at the altar of soul is my utmost altruistic aesthetic happiness!" he expressed.

Kaushiki Chakrabarty said that she felt like returning home. "I would like to visit Bangladesh time and again. With your melodic invitations, I would like to perform here in Bangladesh with my newborn baby 'Sakhi' (the first all women's classical band, formed by Kaushiki)."

Kushal Das, who is currently teaching at Bengal Parampara Sangeetalyay, mentioned "The joy knows no bound when an artiste perfectly touches apt melody in their recital. That rarely happens in an artiste's life, when soulful dedication, perseverance, continual practice and a blessing from above culminates into an artiste elevates from the performing aura and connects with the ultimate."

PERFORMING TONIGHT AT THE FESTIVAL

Dhrupad vocals by **Ajivik Kundu**
Saraswati Veena by **Jayanthi Kumaresh**
Khayal vocals by **Susmita Debnath Suchi**
Dhrupad vocals by **Pt. Uday Bhawalkar**
Tabla by **Pt. Suresh Talwalkar**
Jugalbandi – Carnatic vocals by **Dr. Balamuralikrishna** and flute by **Pt. Ronu Majumdar**
Esraj by **Shubhayu Sen Majumdar**
Khayal vocals by **Pt. Ajoy Chakrabarty**



Pt. Ajoy Chakrabarty

ADELE announces European tour

It's a big week for Adele, on both sides of the pond. The British singer has now sold over 3 million copies of third album "25" in the US, according to Nielsen Music, breaking the previous record set by NSYNC with 2000's "No Strings Attached", which sold 2.42 million copies in its first week of release. There's still time for Adele to add to that tally, as Nielsen sales tracking will be counted, with the official first week sales of "25" to be announced by Nielsen on Sunday, reports Billboard.

In the UK, the Grammy winner has sold 737,000 copies of "25" as of Thursday, surpassing the record achieved by Oasis in 1997 with "Be Here Now".

Capitalising on the momentum of "25", Adele also announced Thursday that she will embark on her first tour in four years

in early 2016. The singer broke the news with a humorous social media post, beginning the video with "Hello, it's me," before bursting into laughter and admitting, "I can't even say that anymore" — referencing the success of her new single, "Hello", which is currently dominating the pop culture conversation.

Adele's British and European tour will begin in Belfast in February and travel through cities including Stockholm, Berlin, Lisbon, Verona, Amsterdam and Paris before ending in Antwerp in June. No details of a US tour have yet been announced, but given the album's runaway success, a North American visit seems inevitable.

Source: Variety



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