

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 Chittrak and Athena Gallery of Fine Arts

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



Solo Exhibition

Title: Rokeya

Artist: Rokeya Sultana

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dharmdoli

Date: Nov 17-Dec 5

Time: 12-8pm





# MELODIES OF JOY AND GRACE

## Bengal Classical Music Festival sets sail



(Top) The young tabla students of Bengal Parampara present an impressive set; Pandit Kushal Das (left) and Vidushi Bombay Jayashri hold the audience captive with their performance.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON / SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**ZAHANGIR ALOM**

In a befitting ambiance, the fourth Bengal Classical Music Festival, dedicated to pioneering artist Qayyum Chowdhury, was set off at Dhaka's army stadium on November 27. On the opening day, several music maestros kept the Dhaka music lovers rapt with their pristine melodies.

The penultimate performer of the night Pt. Kushal Das, styling pristine melodies on his sitar, devotedly performed Raga Hemant, created by Baba Ustad Allauddin Khan. Kushal Das aptly selected Raga Hemant in the Bangla month of Agrahayan, representing one of the six seasons, Hemanta. The artiste elaborated the alap of the raga, as music connoisseurs, in love with Jibanananda Das' poems on bucolic beauty of Bangladesh, became nostalgic as the recital evoked such fantasies. Noted

tabla artiste Satyajit Talwalkar joined the Maihar maestro in his proceedings of gaut and jhala performance of high quality and an ode to the natural grace of motherland. Kushal Das later presented a melodic Pahadi dhun that generated the feelings of the onset of spring in the hills.

Vidushi Bombay Jayashri, the show-stopper for the day, earned accolades from the audience she started joyfully interacting with them rendering Raga Hamsadhvani, pertaining to Bilawal Thaata. The performance mesmerised all, thanks to the violin accompanist Srikant Venkataraman's sawal-jawab styled saat sangat. Showcasing ragam, thanam and pallavi of Carnatic music, the artiste next performed Raga Mayamalavagowla set on adi tala. Jayashri's dhrupad-styled presentation and meditative bandish "Parama Purush Shri Rama",

together with solo violin piece thoroughly enthralled all. She also inspired a taalbadya lahara where Mridangam artiste Delhi S Sairam and Ghatam artiste Krishna S took part. Elaborating the romance of Raga Shyam Kalyan, she wrapped up her performance with a Meera Bhajan "Gopal Govinda Radhe Krishna Murari".

Celebrated artiste Kaushiki Chakrabarty started off her performance with a melancholic Raga Malkauns. Although she said her performance may not have been flawless, she showcased a versatile melodic game and shades of ragas -- Megh, Bhupali and Bheem Palashree within the Malkauns' notes. Later, she performed a Bade Ghulam Ali Khan bandish "Aye Pee Morey Mandirawa", a dadra "Mosey Bharawe Gagariya" (originally recorded by Shipra Basu), and a medley of Rajasthani

folk "Sawra Mhari Preet Nibha" and a Tagore song "Bodhu Michhe Raag Koro Na".

Rahul Sharma played Raga Vachaspati on santoor. He beautifully presented alap, jod, jod alap, gaut, jhala and tehai of the raga. Dr. Jayaprada Ramamurthy earlier played ragas -- Hamsadhvani, Hindolam (Malkauns) and two Tagore songs including, "Esho Shyamal Sundoro" on the flute.

Artistes of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay captivated the audience with their breathtaking performance of a Tabla Kirtan, directed by their Guru Pt. Suresh Talwalkar. The artiste presented a Delhi Gharana peshkar, a rela-ang ladi kayda, a traditional kayda, beautifully styled by Pt. Suresh Talwalkar, and another Delhi Gharana kayda and rela.

Artistes of Rajshahi University Music Department, led by their guru Dr. Asit Roy, nicely performed a dhrupad set on Raga Malkauns.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

# Bharatanatyam in Bangladeshi essence

**APORAJITA MUSTAFA**

The fourth installment of the Bengal Classical Music Festival at the Army Stadium opened with a Bharatanatyam performance by the Bangladeshi dance company Pallavi Dance Center, led by renowned dancer-choreographer Minu Haque. The recital, titled "Desh", commenced with an intricately choreographed Vandana, followed by glimpses of technical pieces such as the Alarippu and Tillana, interlocked with verses from the patriotic songs "O Amar Desher Mati" and "Ekti Bangladesh Tumi Jagroto Jonotar" respectively. The dancers were not only visually striking in their exquisite attires and synchronised movements, but also struck a

chord with the members of the audience through the soulfulness of their performance.

During a short interview with The Daily Star after the show, Minu Haque, the artistic mind behind "Desh" said, 'My philosophy behind this production was to combine the pure classical elements of Bharatanatyam with the essence of our patriotism and devotion towards our homeland, Bangladesh. The idea was to portray a transformative piece that flows from one technical aspect of traditional Bharatanatyam to the next, with Bangladesh as the central theme of the production. There aren't many patrons of classical music and dance in this country today, and I feel humbled and delighted to have been given this opportunity by Bengal Foundation.'

# Naseeruddin Shah in talks to lead Tagore biopic

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**

Ace Argentine filmmaker Pablo Cesar he is set to direct a film based on the life of Rabindranath Tagore, and wants Naseeruddin Shah to play the poet's role.

Cesar, best known for his films "Banks", "Hunabku", "Blood" and "Unicorn, garden fruit", says he is very eager to cast Naseeruddin as he feels he will be able to do justice to it.

"The film, to be titled 'Thinking of Him', will be based on the life and times of Rabindranath Tagore. It will also deal with Tagore's meeting with Argentinean writer Victoria

Ocampo. It will be shot in Santiniketan and Argentina from February next year. I am planning to go to Mumbai to meet Naseeruddin and discuss the prospects of getting him on board to play the role of Tagore," Cesar said in Goa, on the sidelines of International Film Festival of India.

The film will be partly in colour to depict the present times and partly in black and white to depict the flashbacks. Cesar says he derives inspiration to make movies from Indian cinema and has been attending film festivals in India for the last 20 years.



# NEWSbytes

## Zoolander 2 trailer breaks views record

While "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" broke viewing records with its trailer, another upcoming film recently did the same for its own genre: "Zoolander 2".

Despite the fact that the trailer premiered less than two weeks ago, Variety reports that it has already broken the record for most watched trailer for a comedy film ever. Since hitting the web on November 18,



the trailer went on to garner more than 52 million views in its first week on the Internet. The previous record holder was 2014's "Dumb and Dumber To", which was, similarly, a sequel to a long-dormant classic comedy franchise.

People have been clamoring for a Zoolander sequel ever since the original opened all the way back in 2001. Returning Derek Zoolander (Ben Stiller) and Hansel (Owen Wilson) to center stage, "Zoolander 2" revolves around Interpol's recruitment of the once iconic male models to investigate the murders of the world's most beautiful celebrities -- who all die giving Zoolander's signature look: Blue Steel.

Also starring Will Ferrell, Penelope Cruz and Kristen Wiig (plus a Benedict Cumberbatch cameo) and directed by Stiller himself, the Zoolander 2 will hit theatres on February 12, 2016.

Source: **Cinemablend**

# BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

## MAGIC ON MRIDANGAM

### GURU KARAIKUDI MANI

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

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Guru Karaikudi Mani, popularly known as 'Master Mani', is regarded as one of the greatest mridangam players in Carnatic music by the vast majority of connoisseurs and aficionados. Mani started learning Carnatic Music at the age of three with vocal training, but he soon parted with vocal and opted for percussion.

Guru Mani mastered mridangam underwent the tutelage of several high profile artistes including TR Harihara Sharma and KM Vaidyanathan, to name a few.

His first stage performance took place when he was eight. And at the age of 18, he made a mark in the world of Carnatic Music winning his first national award from the President of India. Through his dedication in the

art of music, he ushered in a new era in mridangam playing which later came to be known as Karaikudi Mani style.

His natural born flair and devotion to music have won him world many accolades and gave him worldwide recognition.

In addition to being one of the cultural ambassadors of India, Karaikudi Mani has founded a teaching institution, "Sruthi Laya Kendra Natarajalaya", with his niece Smt. Rajeswari Sainath, a leading Bharathanatyam exponent.

At last year's festival, Mani and his Carnatic percussion ensemble (featuring kanjira, ghatam and thalam) took the Army Stadium by a storm, and those who experienced that performance will be eagerly looking forward to the riveting performance this year as well.

PERFORMING TONIGHT AT THE FESTIVAL

Manipuri by **Warda Rihab and group**

Dhrupad vocals by **Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar**

Sarod by **Yousuf Khan**

Violin by **Dr. N Rajam**

Khayal vocals by **Vidushi Shruti Sadolikar**

Mridangam ensemble by **Guru Karaikudi Mani**

Khayal vocals by **Vidushi Shubha Mudgal**



Karaiikudi Mani

# A festival like none other

**SAURAV DEY**

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The fourth edition of Bengal Classical Music Festival is in Dhaka, and the city made no mistake in welcoming it with arms wide open.

A festival like none other, the festival has it all to take the audience on a melodic journey. Starting from a superb line-up of artistes -- combining both maestros and emerging talents -- to a state-of-the-art arrangement, Bengal Classical Music Fest is unmatched in its colour and grandeur.

around the venue.

The sound system was spot-on, with no difficulty in enjoying the strokes of instrumentals and vocals from the furthest corners of the ground.

The food court, offering a place for chit-chat and relaxing for the audience, had delicacies to cater to the diverse taste of the diverse audience. The prices are reasonable and there are options to choose from -- fuchka-chatapati, pitha, biryani, kebab, noodles, sweets, desserts, coffee and more.



The food court was full throughout the night.

PHOTO: STAR

Blues Communications, the event management partner of the festival, seem to be bettering their efforts with growing experience. Stringent safety measures were in place to avert any kind of untoward situation. But careful attention was given to ensure that nothing interrupts the enjoyment of the audience.

On the opening night, approximately a crowd of 30,000 attended the festival. The Army Stadium wore a new look with a brilliant stage, multi-coloured lights, statues and photos of performing artistes all

There were a number of handicraft shops and book stores in the stadium, while a designated smoking zone provided relief to many.

Like its previous editions, Bengal Classical Music Festival '15 brings together tens of thousands of likeminded people, who share a taste for good music, into one platform under the open sky.

One does not need to have proper understanding of classical music to attend the festival; what they need is willingness and an urge to be swayed by melodies.

# Farah Ruma in new miniseries

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**

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Popular TV actress Farah Ruma recently shot for a six-episode TV miniseries. Titled "Dumb", it is directed by Farhad Ahmed and also stars Sajal.

Farah plays a character (named Mona) who is raped by miscreants, and dies. A locket of hers is stolen and travels a few hands before it reaches Sajal. The locket haunts Sajal in the form of a ghost of Farah in different avatars.

"I play a dead person in the series, who keeps coming back to another person's imagination. It is the kind of play that is very satisfying to do,"

