

Ganga-Jamuna Theatre & Cultural Fest
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: October 21-30
 Time: 4pm

Musical Soiree
 In Memory of Atul Prasad Sen
 Artists: Laisa Ahmed Lisa & Sifatullah
 Venue: Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, The Daily Star Centre
 Date: October 27; Time: 6pm

Photography Exhibition
 Organiser: High Commission of India, Standard Chartered Bank & Le Meridien
 Venue: Le Meridien Dhaka
 Date: October 21-29
 Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Rooted in Soil
 Artist: Kamruzzaman Shadhin
 Venue: La Galerie, AFD
 Date: Oct 14-29
 Time: 3-9pm (Mon-Thurs), 9am-12 noon and 5-8pm (Fri-Sat)

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: METAMORPHIC - Naturally Transformed
 Artist: Rezaun Nabi
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos
 Date: October 14-28
 Time: 12-8pm



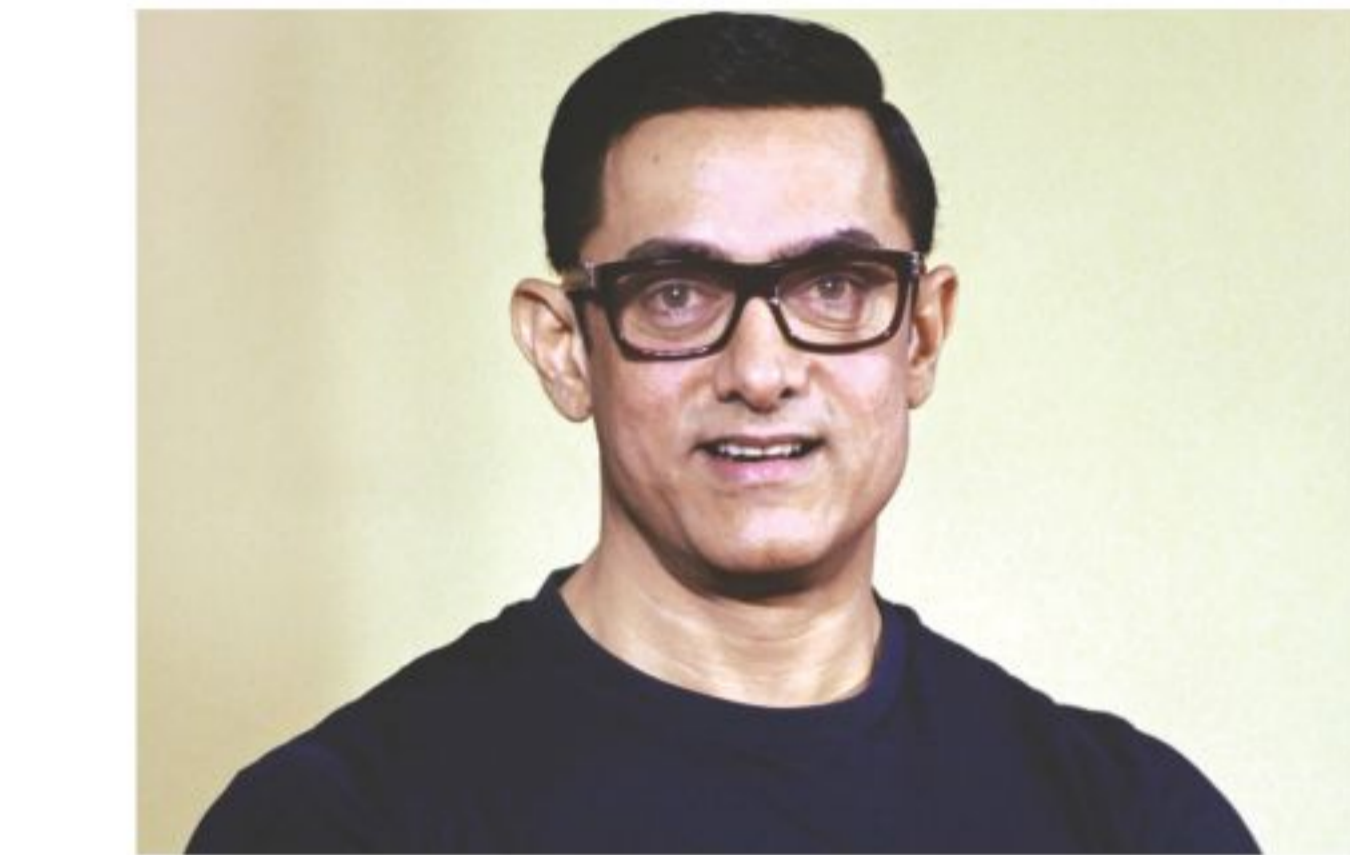
“My family didn't want me to be an actor”

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

In Bollywood blockbuster “3 Idiots”, superstar Aamir Khan enacted the role of a young and curious engineer. We do not know if he was reminded of the shape his own career graph shaped up – what he might have been and what he actually is today. For, as Aamir let the audience know during a panel discussion on the sideline of Mumbai International Film Festival on Friday night, that had his parents had their way, he could have ended up as a professional like chartered accountant, doctor or an engineer.

Aamir, son of director Tahir Hussain and nephew of filmmaker Nasir Husain, says that despite being from a film family, his parents were against the idea of him joining Bollywood as they found it uncertain.

“At that time, almost everyone felt film industry was not a good place to be. My own family, Nasir sahab (Nasir Hussain) and papa jaan were telling me, ‘no, don't go in



Bengal Classical Music Festival 2016 announced

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The biggest classical music festival in the world is back. Anticipation had been in the air for a few weeks now with mid to late October being the expected time for the announcement for the Bengal Classical Music Festival, an extravaganza of classical music of highest quality that has been the highlight of Bangladesh's cultural calendar for the last four years. Bengal Foundation, the organisation that had been presenting the festival of colossal scale for, finally made it official yesterday at a press conference at The Westin hotel in the capital: The Bengal Classical Music Festival Bangladesh 2016 will be held from November 24-28 at the Army Stadium, and will be dedicated to eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq.

“Due to various unfavourable circumstances, there were concerns over organising the festival, but the government, in an inter-ministerial meeting last month cited the cultural impact and prestige of the international-level festival, and pledged all necessary assistance. Their support as well as people's interest has motivated us to hold this year's Bengal Classical Music Festival,” said Director General of Bengal Foundation, Luva Nahid Choudhury, who anchored the press conference. She also gave out the outline of the festival, including the major visiting artists and Bangladeshi artists, and Bengal Foundation's past, present and future activities surrounding the development of classical music.

Luva Nahid Choudhury also highlighted other supplementary initiatives of Bengal Foundation surrounding the festival, including an experimental workshop in Khulna, a seminar on “Music as Intangible Heritage” in association with Goethe-Institut, a series of simple lecture demonstrations in Bangla on classical music appreciation (which will be available for the audience at the festival) and a 10-day Bangla Cultural Festival in Sylhet in February 2017.

Dr. AK Abdul Momen, an advisor of Bengal Foundation, said the clarion call to eradicate militancy from the country can only be achieved by creating a strong cultural conscience, and this festival plays a big role in it.

Zara Mahbub, Chief Communication

tre, cinema and architecture, and a combination of all these efforts can bring about a revolution of culture to bring up better human beings.

This year's festival line-up will see celebrated legendary classical vocalist, the 87-year old Vidushi Girija Devi return to the festival. Violin virtuoso Dr. L Subramaniam will also be performing at this year's festival for the first time. Ustad Ashis Khan, son of the Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and grandson of the legendary Baba Alauddin Khan, will also be coming to Bangladesh for the first time. A special style of jugalbandi performance, named 'Jasrangi' after its inventor Pandit Jasraj, will be another attraction of the festival. In a Jasrangi, a male and a female vocal present two separate but similar ragas

Ranjini and Gayatri, established Carnatic flautist Shashank Subramaniam and khayal singer Artee Ankalikar, vocalists Jayatirtha Mevundi and Kumar Mardur are also on the festival bill.

This year will see a large number of Bangladeshi performers present their music and dance at the festival. Reputed dancer Sharmila Banerjee will lead a 60-member troupe in a presentation of Manipuri, Bharatanatyam, Odissi and Kathak set to Rabindranath's bhanga and other songs; Munmun Ahmed and her troupe will perform Kathak; one of the most talented classical vocalists of Bangladesh, Priyanka Gope will perform solo, while she will lead a group of Dhaka University's music department students in a group performance. Mohamamad Shoyeb will also direct an experimental classical vocal performance by Dhaka University students. Students of Bengal Parampara will have three group presentations at the festival – on tabla, sitar and sarod. The youngest performer at the festival at just seven years of age – Ishrat Fuljhuri Khan – will be a part of the sarod ensemble. She is the granddaughter of prominent Bangladeshi esraj player, Ustad Fuljhuri Khan.



(Top) Abul Khair (2-L) speaks at the press meet; young artistes of Parampara perform on sitar. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Officer of BRAC Bank -- one of the sponsors of the event -- also expressed their continued commitment to the grand event.

Anjan Chowdhury, Managing Director of Square Group, the major sponsor of the event, said Square Group termed the festival “An indicator of Bangladesh's cultural progress,” and said it was a matter of pride for them to be part of it.

Abul Khair, Chairman of Bengal Foundation, spoke last. He remembered Syed Shamsul Haq, who was the first Director General of Bengal Foundation and was involved with the foundation until his death; and Fahim Munaim, the deceased CEO of Maasranga TV, who was an avid patron of the festival. He said Bengal Foundation has been working in all forms of art – visual art, music, thea-

simultaneously on stage, and Vidushi Ashwini Bhide and Pandit Sanjeev Abhayankar will perform Jasrangi at the festival. Famed Odissi dancer Vidushi Madhavi Mudgal and her student Arushi Mudgal are also among first-time performers. A number of duet performances will also feature at this year's festival, the most noted of them being Pandit Ronu Majumdar (flute) and the first Carnatic mandolin player U Rajesh (brother of the eminent mandolin exponent U Srinivas). Other duets will include flautist Praveen Godkhindi and violinist Ratish Tagde and two revered tabla players, Pandit Yogesh Shamsi and Pandit Shubhankar Banerjee will perform together. Celebrated sitarist Pandit Purvayan Chatterjee will return to the festival after a hiatus; Carnatic singers

Festival regulars Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pandit Ajoy Charkraborty, Ustad Rashid Khan and Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumder will be performing at the festival, along with a number of old and new faces. The full list of performers is available on the festival web site.

Registration for the festival, which is free of cost, is expected to begin in the first week on November online on the newly launched festival web site, bengalclassicalmusicfest.com. Offline registration will also open at various outlets of Bengal Foundation. This year, off-site registration will continue on the first two days of the festival, and no on-site registration facilities will be available.

Transport buses from the festival venue will be provided like previous years.

Square Group is presenting the festival, with support from BRAC Bank. Maasranga TV is the broadcast partner; Ice Business Times is the media partner; Radisson Hotel Dhaka will be hospitality partner and Square Hospital is the medical partner. Blues Communications, as usual, will be the event management company, with cooperation from Perfect Harmony, Singapore. Bengal Digital, Mango and Bengal Parampara Sangetalay are also partners of the event.

films.' Both filmmakers were telling me not to go to make a career in cinema. Chacha jaan (Nasir), abba and ammi felt it was such a volatile profession,” 51-year-old Aamir said, adding his family wanted him to do something which was more 'stable'.

“One minute you are up there, one minute you are not. There is no certainty or security. They wanted us to be more stable in life, to go into a profession which is more stable. Engineer, doctor, chartered accountant. I wouldn't have managed to do any of these things. They wanted me to get into a good professional course.”

“They didn't want me to go through the uncertainties and the traumas, in the volatile business that we are in,” he said.

Aamir said nevertheless he undertook a course at Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), though clandestinely, and the rest is history.

“Torun Turki” begins on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

Ntv will bring viewers a new TV play titled “Torun Turki.” Directed and scripted by Imraul Rafat, the play will be aired at 11.30pm every Monday and Wednesday. Cast members include FS Nayeem, Nova, Toisif Mahbub, Elan Shuvro, Sporshia, Siyam Ahmed, Jovan, and more. The story revolves around a social club at a private university that brings together students from different social and academic backgrounds. The play progresses through different revolutionary timelines as it describes the students' involvement in the 1952 Language Movement, all the way to the Liberation war.



Purnima to work in a TVC

A CORRESPONDENT

In the run up to Eid ul Azha, actress Purnima was slated to work in two new TVCs. Only one got completed due to her packed schedule. Recently, the actress has started shooting for the second TVC project.

Purnima said, “The concept of the TVC is very interesting and innovative. I hope it will receive positive reviews.”

Directed by Sanbim Ashraf, the TVC will soon be telecast by all the TV channels. Talking about Purnima's upcoming projects, she said, “There are a lot of offers for tele-films, but I am taking time to decide. I will only work if the storyline is appealing.”

“Aynabaji” bags best film award at Seattle

A CORRESPONDENT

The recent craze of Dhallywood, Amitabh Reza Chowdhury's “Aynabaji” has won the award of best film at the USA's 11th Seattle South Asian Film Festival. The producer of the film, Ziauddin Adil received the award.

On October 14, the film was screened at Seattle Art Museum.

During the screening, the lead actor of the film Chanchal Chowdhury was present as chief guest. The festival ran till October 22, at which cast and crew of the screened films were present.

Talking about the award, director Amitabh Reza Chowdhury said, “Every award is a source of inspiration and

this is no different. However, for me the best award of them all was the smile on viewers' faces. I dedicate this award to all movie lovers out there in Bangladesh.”

“Aynabaji” was released on September 30 with Chanchal Chowdhury, Nabila and Partha Barua in the central roles.

