

WHAT'S ON

Theatre Festival
Commemorating Munier Chowdhury & Selim Al Deen
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: November 13-17
Time: 7pm




Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Into the Valley of Beauty
Artists: Suman Sarkar & Zahangir Alom
Venue: Zainul Gallery-2, FFA, DU
Date: Nov 18-24
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Sands of Time by Jamal Ahmed
Venue: Edge Gallery, Bay's Edgewater, Gulshan-2
Date: Nov 12-25
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
November in Paris
Photographer: Sumon Yusuf
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: Nov 4-15; Time: 2:30-9pm



National Dance Drama Fest 2016
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Nov 14-22
Time: 6pm daily



DHAKA INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL CONCLUDES

SOUR ENDING OVERSHADOWS MAGICAL MOMENTS

ZAHANGIR ALOM and FAHMIM FERDOUS

The second Dhaka International Folk Fest 2016 concluded on November 12, with the last evening producing some of the best and worst moments of the grand-scale event.



(L-R) Paban Das Baul, Islamuddin Kissakar and the Sam Mills-Susheela Raman duo perform at the festival.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Nooran Sisters produced arguably the most memorable debut of the festival's two-year history, despite frustrating issues with the sound. Beginning with a Bulleh Shah Kalam "Allah Hu", Jyoti Nooran displayed an unbridled, uninhibited approach to the music true to the Sufi roots, and with her sister Sultana's powerful support, took the audience on a spiritual journey. Be it in the rendition of the qawwali "Akhiyan Udeek Diya" or the more upbeat "Tung Tung Baje", the duo remained in another realm, oblivious to their surroundings in a hypnotic performance. Even after they bowed out with the Sufi number "Damadam Mast Qalandar", their aura loomed on the stage and the capacity-packed audience.

Before the duo, though, Bari Siddiqui delivered a superb performance to get the audience on their feet. Opening with a little flute piece, he promptly moved into his hit "Pubali Batashe", and mixed his set-list with unreleased songs like "Malik Chara Kono Goti Nai" and crowd favourites "Aj Nishithe Ashte

Pare Bondhu Kalachan" and the inevitable "Shuachan Pakhi". The flute remained a large part of his performance, and a beautiful sargam put forth his vocal dexterity to the audience.

The evening, however began with Sunil Karmakar performing songs of noted mystic bard Jalal Khan, followed by an energetic, authentic display of jatra-pala by Islamuddin Kissakar – in an abruptly-cut-short performance of "Uthula Sundori". A closing ceremony followed, where Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Bengal Foundation Chair Abul Khair, Dhaka South Mayor Sayeed Khokon and prominent singer Ferdousi Rahman spoke, along with Sun Events MD and Chairperson Anjan Chowdhury on behalf of organisers.

Taposh and Friends were already at a major disadvantage of following up Nooran sisters, and Taposh's tactic to piece through verses of popular folk numbers as a crowd-pleasing shortcut instead of an actual, sincere musical

performance, crashed and burned. The audience saw through the gimmicky move of have them sing more parts of the songs than the singer on stage, and even the supremely skilled musicians failed to elevate it. He overstayed his welcome and was on the receiving end of boos – a rarity for such an event, and even guest singers Oyshee, Chishti Baul and Kuddus Boyati failed to salvage the mess.

Revered British guitarist Sam Mills featured his compatriot singer Susheela Raman in the next act, who rendered melodic songs in an engaging, theatrical performance. Susheela's stage presence and candid dance moves were complemented brilliantly by Sam and the other accompanists in songs – "Come on Down Together", "Sajna", "Ghost" and "Main Sharabi".

Paban Das Baul, one of the most-anticipated performers of the festival, was the closing act. The folk legend opened with the soulful rendition of "Guru Doyal Botey" after a quintessential down-to-earth greeting. The vast

horizon of humanity and their mutual support for each-other was the theme of his next song "Manush". His superb performance of a Jhumur song "Khejur Gachh-e Handi Bandho" was a poetic portrayal of the romantic philosophy of life. The untainted devotion for mothers was depicted his rendition of a Bhoba Pagla song "Jonom Dukhi Ma".

It was Paban Das' 1997 collaboration with Sam Mills in the album "Real Sugar" that brought him to notice of many urban listeners, and the much-anticipated duets of the two were cut short by a rather uncouth host, Bonankur Mustafa. Eventually, the dejected duo performed just one song together, the ever-so-familiar "Dil Ki Doya".

On a night that was largely memorable (except for the Taposh & Friends fiasco), the closing left a bad taste in the mouth for the audience, and a lot of management and organising blunders for the organisers to look back to, if they are to keep their promise of taking this festival to greater heights in coming years.

NEWS bytes

"Doctor Strange" dominates BO

"Doctor Strange" continues to dominate the box office after earning \$14.9 million on Friday en route to \$45 million in its second week.

The film, from Marvel and Disney, is only challenged by Fox's "Trolls" which earned \$12.2 million.

After finishing in the top two slots last weekend as well, the two films greet newcomer "Arrival", which is posting numbers that exceed expectations. The Paramount film is looking at a \$24 million opening weekend at 2,317 locations.

"Arrival" has received strong critical support with a 93% "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The film, which centres on a dozen mysterious alien ships touching down on Earth, is directed by Denis Villeneuve and stars Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker, Michael Stuhlbarg and Tzi Ma.

Source: Variety



SARIKA

Back on the grind

After a two-month hiatus, Sarika is back on screen. The actor currently wrapped up shooting for a single-episode TV play titled "Amontron", directed by Shakhawat Manik.

Shooting for the play took place in Cox's Bazaar, and actor Emon will be seen opposite her as co-star in it. Also joining the cast is Fair and Handsome contestant Azad.

Sarika will be seen playing the role of a popular celebrity who takes off for Cox's Bazaar for a short vacation along with her personal secretary. She begins to strike up a friendship over Facebook with a man, a character played by Emon, who wishes to meet her. However, the star evades his advances and the story progresses from there.

Sarika stated, "The story is a very good one, and I enjoyed working for it. Since I am also part of the showbiz industry, I was able to relate to my character closely."

The actor also revealed her desire to begin working regularly, "I took a two-month sabbatical to give more time to my child, but now I am back on track."

"Ami Malaun Bolchhi" performed at DU

A bold message against communal violence

A CORRESPONDENT

Students of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies performed a bold, processional drama, "Ami Malaun Bolchhi", at the Dhaka University campus on Thursday, against communal violence and ethnic oppression in many localities of Bangladesh.

The performance was initiated by the talented playwright and director Shahman Moishan, who also devised and directed the play "Ami Malaun Bolchhi".

A huge audience, including teachers and students from various departments of university, witnessed the phases of the

performance.

Shahman Moishan, Assistant Professor of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, said that when evil darkness rises university teachers and students should come out from classrooms to enlighten society in the interests of welfare of humanity.

The street performance demonstrated that "malaun" is not a derogatory slang, but the identification mark of the oppressed. The performance highlighted that the spirit of Liberation War is to ensure the equilibrium of all people belonging multiple religions and ethnicities.



Kolkata Int'l Film Festival underway



Sanjay Dutt, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh, Jaya Bachchan, Kajol and Parineeti with Mamata Banerjee at the inauguration.

A CORRESPONDENT

November 11 marked a star-studded affair at the opening of the 22nd Kolkata International Film Festival, held at Netaji Indoor Stadium. The arena buzzed with prominent Bollywood and Tollywood actors and directors.

The ceremony kicked off with the lighting of a clay lamp – a symbol of auspicious beginnings, by Amitabh Bachchan. Other guests present at the event were Shah Rukh Khan, Jaya Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Kajol, Parineeti Chopra as well as director Gautam Ghose, Haranath Chakraborty, Koyel Mallick, Soham and many more.

This was Amitabh Bachchan's fourth

appearance at the festival; he highly praised the potential of Kolkata cinema and the strides they have taken forward.

Shah Rukh Khan delivered his opening speech in Bangla, and Jaya Bachchan stated, "I am native to Kolkata, and it is better that you hear my husband's speech over mine as he is your son-in-law."

For the first time, the festival screened a Bangla movie during the inauguration event, titled "Bechey Thakar Gaan", directed by Avijit Guha and Sudeshna Rai. The event brought in 156 film submissions from 65 nations across the globe, to be screened across 13 cinema halls around Kolkata. Tauquir Ahmed is participating at the event with the film "Oggatonama".

Sting reopens Bataclan with tributes to Bowie, Prince, Cohen

A day shy of the anniversary of the Paris attacks, Sting reopened Paris' Bataclan theatre with a minute of silence for the 90 killed.

Coming on stage to a subdued crowd, the British rocker began with remarks honouring the victims that were killed when terrorists stormed the theater last November 13.

"We've got two important things to do tonight," he said in French. "First, to remember and honor those who lost their lives in the attacks a year ago and to celebrate the life and the music of this historic venue."

"We shall not forget them," he said before launching into 1988's "Fragile", whose lyrics read: "Nothing comes from violence and nothing ever could".

He then began a list of those musicians lost his year. "David

Bowie, Prince, Glenn Frey, Lemmy..." he said before the crowd shouted "Leonard Cohen!"

"And Leonard," he added. "This is for them." He dedicated "Fifty Thousand" from his new album "57th & 9th" to the late musicians.

His "Inshallah" was next, which might have proved more controversial. He explained the Arabic word as a "word of hope," however, noting the current migrant crisis that is plaguing Europe.

He dedicated the last song, "Empty Chair", to journalist Jim Foley and HBO doc made about him, "Jim: The James Foley Story". He projected a photo of Foley behind the stage as he pulled out his acoustic guitar for an emotional rendition.

Source: Billboard

