

Bengal Classical Music Festival
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: Army Stadium
 Date: November 24-28
 Time: 7pm-5am everyday

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 Art Exhibition
 Soul to Soul
 Artist: Tarshito
 Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
 Date: November 19-30
 Time: 9:30am-4:30pm

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



BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FEST '16

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Munmun Ahmed and her visual poetry of Kathak

ZAHANGIR ALOM
 Renowned Kathak artiste Munmun Ahmed and her students of Rewaz Performers' School are all set to showcase their performance on the fourth night (November 27) of the fifth Bengal Classical Music Festival 2016. The Bangladeshi diva is hoped to set off the night's performance through displaying her visual poetry or dance. For the best display of their Kathak production, Munmun Ahmed has been directing rehearsal for the last three months at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct. This correspondent caught up with Munmun Ahmed who has earned fame both at home and abroad performing on stage. Excerpts: "First of all I am so delighted that I, along with my students, am going to perform in

such a grand scale classical music festival. My accomplished students, who are learning under my tutelage for 12 to 18 years, will accompany me. I hope to showcase my solo dance recitals together with group performances with them and they will also perform in separate performance segments so that they can get the exposure of the big stage individually. Renowned Indian musicians – Sunanda Mukherjee, a student of Amjad Ali Khan, will play Sarod and Subir Thakur will play Tabla with us. Along with them, Bangladeshi artistes Asit Biswas on esraj and Moniruzzaman on flute will accompany us. Tanjina Karim Swaralipi will render *thumri* with our live performances."
 "It is a complete Kathak production, where I have planned to incorporate the *abhinaya*

ang with my performance. The connotation of romance between Radha and Krishna has been depicted in the featured *thumri* 'Mori gagariya kahe ko phori'. Parimita, Aporajita, Aishwarya, Uzma, Anisha, Reesha, Sharmishtha, Avantika, Maahima, Shamim, Paridhi, Nandini, Shishir, Maisha, Masum, Scally, Nusrat, Shoma, Rupakalpa and Tanisha will take part in the production."
 "My Bangladeshi audience has an expectation from me as I am leading my troupe at the festival. I want blessings from all. The dance artistes who are going to perform with me are my students, except Fifa Chakma and Asha Hossain. I have made them learn every aspects of Kathak. It's going to be a proud moment for me to be sharing the prestigious stage with them."

CELEBRATING LIFE

In conversation with Bitopi Das

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN
 Together with Celebrating Life Festival Director and The Daily Star's Editor of Showbiz – Rafi Hossain, Bitopi Das – Head of Corporate Affairs at Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, has directed Celebrating Life contest and festival. It has provided a platform to young talents in three categories – photography, film, and lyric. Each time, the competition brings forth a theme for participants to express themselves within, and since its inception nine years ago, it has met great success and recognition for being the only national platform that offers a lucrative prize to winning contestants, as well as showcasing categories of art that do not receive much attention. Today, Bitopi Das, Head of Corporate Affairs, Standard Chartered Bank Ltd, shares her insight on Celebrating Life with The Daily Star.



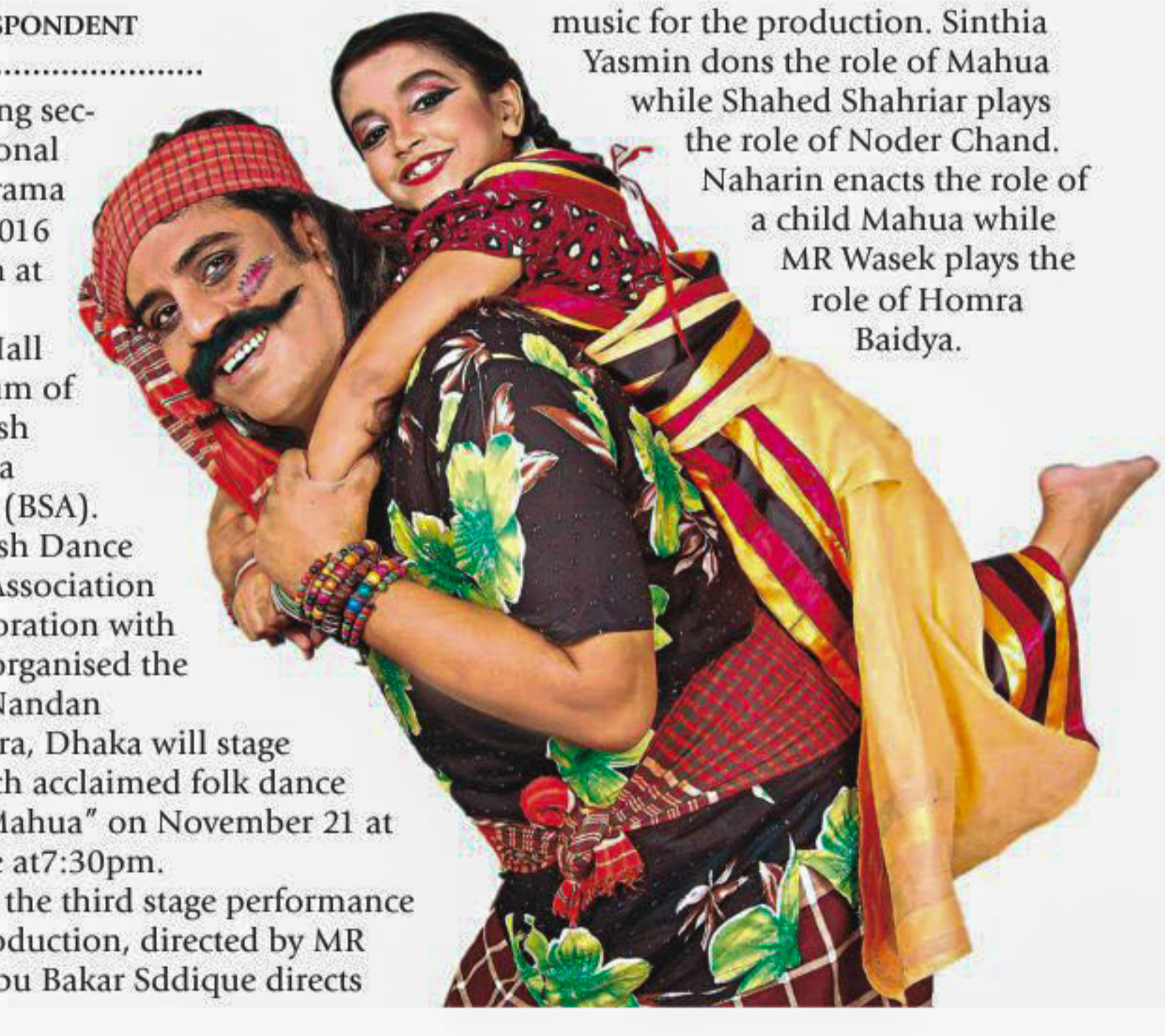
How has the journey been so far for Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Celebrating Life?
Bitopi Das: This has been an inspiring journey for us. The ability of Celebrating Life to identify and nurture talents from the furthest corners of the country has given us great encouragement and joy. Going forward we hope these talents will go on to contribute to the enrichment of our cultural sphere.
What motivated Standard Chartered Bank to partner in this endeavour?
Bitopi Das: We knew that Bangladesh is full of talents and that provided with proper exposure, can really match

international standards. For almost a decade, we have been a platform that nurtures budding artistes, promotes their talents and helps them shine brightly on the national stage. It has been our mission to be a positive force for good in society, by fostering the potential of our youth in spreading the influence of the arts.
What are your upcoming plans?
Bitopi Das: Our goal has always been to take Celebrating Life to the farthest corners of this country. We will continue to expand the reach of this platform. We shall also continue to do all we can to support the growth of the talents discovered through Celebrating Life.

Folk Dance Drama MAHUA at Shilpakala

A CORRESPONDENT
 A weeklong second National Dance Drama Festival 2016 is now on at National Theatre Hall Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association in collaboration with BSA has organised the festival. Nandan Kalakendra, Dhaka will stage their much acclaimed folk dance drama "Mahua" on November 21 at the venue at 7:30pm.
 This is the third stage performance of the production, directed by MR Wasek. Abu Bakar Siddique directs

music for the production. Sinthia Yasmin dons the role of Mahua while Shahed Shahriar plays the role of Noder Chand. Naharin enacts the role of a child Mahua while MR Wasek plays the role of Homra Baidya.



"MONIR" launched at Dhaka Lit Fest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 A publication titled "MONIR", focusing on the unique and significant aspects of the work of Bangladeshi-Spanish artist Monirul Islam: Selected Works from 1966 to 2016 was launched on November 19 at Dhaka Lit Fest 2016.



Asaduzzaman Noor, Cultural Affairs Minister and artist Monirul Islam took part in a dialogue session on the book, moderated by Mustafa Zaman, Editor of Depart magazine and a contributor to the book. Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Minister for Water Resources; Anwar Hossain Manju, Minister for Environment; Luis Tejada Chacon, Ambassador of Spain and Javed

Hosein, Managing Director of Energis Limited attended the event.
 The English-language volume is an invaluable introductory reference for students of art and art history and curators of South Asian Modern Art as well as for general readers aiming to gain insight into the essential features of this notable artist's work. Commissioned by Energis Limited, published by Nokta Publishers and designed by Head Office Communications, the 150-page illustrated publication is the first of its kind dedicated to looking at all periods and aspects of Monirul Islam's practice, along with reproductions of his works, his biography and a collection of personal photographs.

Weavers festival ends in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The first International Weavers Festival closed on Saturday night at the capital's Army Museum field, with a display of indigenous taaNt (handloom) and Mirpuri Benarasi fabrics.
 The three-day festival that



Arko Mukherjee performs at the festival. PHOTO: STAR

aimed at showcasing and boosting our traditional fabrics and weaves had earlier showcased traditional fabrics Khadi, Jamdani, Gamchha and Muslin, with the participation of a number of fashion brands from home and abroad. Some 25 designers from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka took part in the festival.
 A total of 12 taaNt artisans were honoured on the closing day. They came on the stage on rickshaws, and were received by models. Artisan Sharat Mala Chakma was accorded the Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to the craft. A mock village, where crafts-

men and artisans demonstrated their craft of weaving Khadi, Gamchha and Jamdani materials, also drew audience interest.
 Like the previous two days, the event closed with a concert, featuring Indian singer Arko Mukherjee and Bangladesh's James.

FANTASTIC BEASTS QUIZ CONTEST
10 WINNERS EVERYDAY!
2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER
 The Daily Star | STAR Cineplex
 Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winner of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email.
QUIZ - 03
 Who did the music of Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them?
Winners list of QUIZ-02
 1. Iqbal Hasan, Kazipara
 2. Maliha Khan, Uttara
 3. Azwa Alam, Lalmatia
 4. Md. Altap Hossen, FBCCI
 5. Farah Ahmed, Dhanmondi
 6. Munia Rahman Chandni, West Malibag
 7. Ahmed Asif Enam, Dhanmondi-15
 8. Muminur Rahsad, Bashundhara R/A
 9. Arafat Hossain, Dhaka Cantonment
 10. Nahian Sakib, Rajarbag