

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



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Urban Sight
 Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi
 Date: Nov 18-Dec 3
 Time: 12Noon-8pm



Dhaka turns into Kalavati Nagar

THE MUSIC THAT BINDS US



Classical music legends Ustad Rashid Khan (L) and Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia (R) have been festival regulars, which has drawn an increasingly discerning crowd (below) over the years.



STAR FILE PHOTO

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

With the first sun rays gleaming through the thin layer of fog, Dhaka will spring to life. World class artistes - the "Kalavats" - will prepare their string, wind, percussion instruments and vocals and dance to demonstrate their mastery, to express their adulation towards their Creator. The stage is thus set at the Army stadium, playing host to the Indian luminaries for the fifth year to celebrate music and to celebrate the bonds that bind music lovers from across the sub-continent.

Inspired by the varied seasons and time, over 100 gifted artistes are set to grace the stage including the first timers to the festival, Dr. L Subramaniam with his spellbinding violin; Ustad Ashish Khan, son of Ustad Ali Akbar Khan; Dr. Prabha Atre, Carnatic mandolin player U Rajesh; 'Jasrangi' artistes Vidushi Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande and Pandit Sanjeev Abhyankar and famed Odissi dancer Vidushi Madhavi Mudgal. Along with the newcomers, are festival regulars Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty, Ustad Rashid Khan, Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumder and more.

"Each visit to this event feels like a pilgrimage," said Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. "The heritage of both Bangladeshi and Indian music is identical. Many Bangladeshi maestros have contributed significantly to the parampara of Hindustani classical music. It is a matter of great pride that such a star-studded festival organised by Bengal Foundation takes place in the birthplace of those maestros," said Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar.

While raga-based music imposes strict rules and restrictions it also ironically thrives in unfettered liberty. The same raga can be presented differently, according to the artiste's skills. The same artiste may even choose to sing the same raga differently at different times. Due to this characteristic, raga-based music to its lovers represent "life", an ever evolving, ever growing intrigue of pukar, notation,

rendition and maturity. The setting could not have been more apt. The wintry breeze gently blowing across the arena, the full moon casting a silvery blanket over the glistening dew all combine to suggest nature's way of announcing the end of a year and the beginning of something new. The maestros alive to the setting go about their audacious performances, straining every vocal cord, strumming every inch of their instruments, flexing every inconceivable muscle in their bodies to match the mood. The Khayal, Thumri, Kajri, Chaiti,

with a smile. As a child I remember tiptoeing into the radio studio, following the soft echoes of the musical performances. I watched the artiste carefully calibrating bowls of china with water to create a beautiful melody of music as she lightly tapped the bowls with a wooden mallet. The instrument called Jal Tarang, similar to a water bottle xylophone is also called the musical bowls of India. With a slight variation in water level she glided from Raga Bilawal with *shudh* (pure) notes to Raga Yaman with the *tibra madhyam* (sharp 'Ma').

Khan. Abul Khair, the Chairman of Bengal Foundation appears content with what he has achieved so far by single-handedly organising the festival from its inception. "If only I live that many years, I dream that my young students at Parampara would one day perform at the same platform with stalwarts such as Rashid Khan and more." The lesson from the festival is both simple and complex. Just like a visitor entering an exotic garden, it's easy to be swept away by the beauty of the flowers



Gamak, Meend, the lightening Taan, Tora, Alap, Jor and Jhala compete with each other to win the hearts and mind of the assembled thousands. Who can resist the festival's powerful aura? Octogenarian *sarodia* Pandit Buddhadev Das Gupta's advice was to initiate the children into music as early as four or five years of age. A minimum practice session of one hour a day would create a musical sense and affinity to nature. "Even Winston Churchill would learn a new poetry by heart every day while he would shave," he added

"Nature plays in mysterious ways which only true artistes can envisage," said Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty. This year will see a large number of Bangladeshi performers present their music and dance at the festival. Students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay 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 grand-daughter of prominent Bangladeshi esraj player, Ustad Fuljhuri

on display. Only a far-sighted observer would look for ways to replicate the magic, ways to unearth the roots of the beauty, so it can be sustained for the ages. Bangladesh is a melting pot of cultures; it has welcomed many into its fold. If Bangladesh culture is to survive and prosper, it too must pay attention to its roots, care for it and nourish it to its fulsome glory. Let us each in our own way find ways to not only appreciate the magic of the music, but plant the seeds of tomorrow to grow and protect the culture that forges our identity.

PERFORMING TONIGHT AT BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FEST

- Dance by Sharmila Banerjee and troupe
- Duet by Pravin Godhkindi (flute) & Ratish Tagde (violin)
- Khayal vocals by Vidushi Girija Devi
- Sarod by Ustad Aashish Khan
- Jasrangi duet vocal by Vidushi Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande and Pt. Sanjay Abhyankar
- Violin by Dr. L Subramaniam



Carnatic music legend BALAMURALIKRISHNA passes away

Legendary Carnatic music vocalist Dr. Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna passed away at age 86 on November 22, his family confirmed. According to reports, he was not keeping well for a while.

Balamuralikrishna was a Carnatic vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, playback singer, composer and actor. He was a recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honour, apart from several honours for his contribution towards Indian Art - especially for his work in music.

Born in Andhra Pradesh in 1930, he began singing at the age of six and was also good at playing the flute, viola and violin. Bala was made Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government in 2005.

Balamuralikrishna performed over 25,000 concerts worldwide. His best collaborations were with legends like Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Hariprasad Chaurasia and Kishori Amonkar. Balamuralikrishna has also penned over 400 compositions in Telugu, Sanskrit, Kannada and Tamil.

He was considered as child prodigy. At the age of 15, he had mastered all the 72 melakartha ragas and had composed krithis in the same. His compositions range from Devotional to Varnams, Krithis, Javalis and Thillans, in all the fundamental 72 melakartha ragas to film music.

The maestro performed in Bengal Classical Music Festival in 2015 as the senior-most artiste of the festival with noted flautist Pt. Ronu Majumdar.

Source: The Indian Express

Busy times for Apurbo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular TV actor Apurbo is busy with acting assignments. He is currently starring in six drama series, as well as single episode TV plays. The celebrity is seen in "Maya", aired on ntv. Directed by Ferdous Hasan, Apurbo plays a delivery man. Ntv is also airing another TV play starring the actor titled "Sunflower". Directed by Nazrul Islam Raju, the actor enacts the role of a young man who has recently returned from abroad.



The actor has also wrapped up shooting for two series yet to be aired. One is titled "Lipstick", directed by Shihab Shaheen where the star will be seen playing an Indian spy. The other series, titled "Ek Pa Dui Pa", is directed by Ferdous Hasan and Apurbo will be playing the role of a Mafia don.

The actor has also completed shooting for single episode TV plays - "Pashapashi", directed by Sagor Jahan and "Future App" directed by Moyukh Bari. Another TV play starring the actor is "Thik Na Howa", directed by Topu Khan. Here the star performs a most challenging feat, appearing in three different character guises.

The actor remarked, "I have done a lot of work so far, but each character is different from the next in the series and TV plays which viewers will enjoy."

Adrenaline-pumping first look of "Dhaka Attack" released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's first cop thriller, "Dhaka Attack", has been in the making for quite a while now, and film lovers of the country have had it in their radar, not just because of the genre, but the heavyweight cast it boasts. The film, starring Adifin Shuvo, Mahi, Nawshaba, Afzal Hossain and Shatabdi Wadud - among others, released its 'first look' on Tuesday.

The fast-paced teaser doesn't have any dialogues, but the rapid-cut sequences promise an edge-of-the-seat thriller. Action and chase sequences galore, and a bit of mystery thrown in helps add to the excitement that "Dhaka Attack" is looking to deliver. Shuvo is at the centre of the action at most times, while a lot of police and SWAT special force operations are also given glimpses of.

Afzal Hossain, returning to the big screen after a long time, plays a Police Commissioner, while Shatabdi Wadud portrays another police high-up. Shuvo plays a daredevil cop with the bomb disposal unit, while Mahi essays the role of a journalist.

The film began production in 2014, under the direction of Dipangkar Dipon based on a Sunny Sarwar script. Dhaka Metropolitan Police assisted in the film, which is being produced by Three Wheelers Limited with funding from Bangladesh Police Welfare Trust.

