

WHAT'S ON

17th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh
 Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: December 1-31
 Time: 11am-8pm



Int'l Group Art Exhibit
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos, New DOHS, Mohakhali
 Date: Nov 27-Dec 26
 Time: 12noon-8pm



Group Exhibition
 Title: Terracotta Plaque
 Venue: Zainul Gallery -1, FFA, DU
 Date: Nov 28-Dec 3
 Time: 11am-8pm daily



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: 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



THE MAESTROS POUR MUSICAL BLESSINGS

Bengal Classical Music Fest ends on a high note



Living legend Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia in a riveting performance.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ALOKE KUMAR SEN & ZAHANGIR ALOM

Padma Vibhushan Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia hailed as the Lord Krishna of our time, was warmly received with rounds of applause while he took the magnificent stage. The living legend returns the love Bangladeshis have for him by fondly performing for them onstage every year at the Bengal Classical Music Festival. The flute maestro once said that the flute belongs to Bangladesh. The factual claim alludes to Bangladeshi legend Pt. Pannalal Ghosh, who transformed the flute from folk to a classical instrument.

Pt. Chaurasia set off his flute recital playing a morning Raga "Prabhati" on Rupaktaal and Teentaal. When he began to play the bansuri, the notes coursed through the instrument rather like the sighs of a soul; his fingers caressed the stops, his eyes shut in meditation and the music took all along to a world of ecstasy.

The master of flute started off with an extremely sweet alap, set on the raga. He offered rare musical phraseology amongst the ardent Dhaka music lovers as a token of his love and blessings. He moved thousands in the audience to tears with his "komal rishava" that portrayed love, melancholia and unfulfilled desire.

Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia was euphoric in his recital of another morning Raga Jait on teentaal. Rounds of joyous applause swayed the audience as Pandit Chaurasia styled the pukar of Kirttan. He evoked the mythical nuance of Radha-Krishna in the blissful ambience of Brindaban.

Pandit Shubhankar Banerjee on tabla and Pandit Bhawani Shankar on pakhawaj produced torrents of beats with beautiful *tehai* while accompanying the maestro. In the Kirttan part, the marvel of *tehai* mingled with magical beats of dadra and Kaharba. The maestro's disciples -- Debopriya Chatterjee and Vivek Sonar were masterful in their support within the performance.

Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, one of the most influential artistes of Indian Classical Music of the 20th century, performed on the concluding night's musical proceedings.

One of the biggest ambassadors of classical music festivals, conferences and concerts worldwide, the forerunner of the classical santoor began his recital with the Raga "Jog". His vilambit composition was set on Rupaktaal (seven beats) and drut composition was on Teentaal (16 beats). Tabla artiste Pandit Yogesh Samsi accompanied the evocative recital producing sweet melodies and rhythms. The maestro later performed a *Pahadi dhun* that swayed the audience blissfully.

Pt. Kushal Das, styling immaculate melo-

another khayal based on Raga Puria Kalyan. He also rendered a Kabir Bhajan at the event. The concluding night's proceedings also included group sitar recital by the promising artistes of the Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay, led by Pt. Kushal Das. Upcoming vocalists of the Department of Music, Dhaka University, also performed in chorus at the festival.

It was a mesmerising game of melodies incorporating ragas and rhythms taal and laya, gamak and meend, pukar and murki, taan and behelawa that world's finest music maestros presented in the five-day Bengal Classical



Pt. Kushal Das weaves melodic harmony on the sitar.

dies on his sitar, devotedly performed Raga "Kaunshi Kanada". The music connoisseurs walked down the memory lane as they experienced great emotions in the recital. The Maihar gharana maestro in his proceedings of gaut and jhala performance generated a *mahol* of high quality music, accompanied by Pt. Subhankar Banerjee.

Vocalist Arati Ankalikar rendered a khayal set on Raga "Jogkauns" (intermingling of Raga Jog and Raga Chandrakauns). The artiste also performed a Khamaj thumri at the event. Talented vocalist Kumar Mardur performed

Music Festival, which wrapped up on a high note early morning yesterday.

The festival, held at Bangladesh Army Stadium in the city, was aimed at promoting, nurturing and disseminating the essence of classical music to every nook and cranny of Bangladesh. This year's festival, managed by Blues Communications, was dedicated to the memory of ambidextrous litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq. Organised by Bengal Foundation and presented by Square, the fifth edition of the festival was partnered with BRAC Bank and Maasranga Television.



Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor speaks at the press meet.

17TH ASIAN ART BIENNALE 2016

Press meet at Shilpakala Academy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is to organise the month long 17th Asian Art Biennale 2016 at National Art Gallery of BSA. Finance minister AMA Muhiit will inaugurate the biennale as chief guest at the National Theatre Hall auditorium of BSA at 11am on December 1.

Apart from artists of Asia and Asia-Pacific countries, painters, sculptors, photographers and artists from other artistic branches from 54 countries are taking part in the art fiesta. One hundred and fifty four artworks by 148 Bangladeshi artists have been selected for display. Besides, 53 artworks by 54 notable artists of Bangladesh will be on display at the grand art show. For the first time, the organisers have declared an open call for online artworks submission worldwide. Asian Art Biennale is the pioneering art biennale of Asia and one of the forerunning art biennales of the world. Two hundred and sixty artworks by 150 artists from 53 other countries will be on display at the biennale.

Besides, 145 foreign artists, art

critics and museum curators will attend the grand art event. Apart from the month long exhibition, a seminar on the title "Art and the City," performance art show, international art camp and cultural programmes will be held simultaneously.

A press conference was held at BSA where Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Cultural Affairs Secretary Begum Akhrtari Momtaz, director general of BSA Liaquat Ali Lucky and director of the Department of Fine Arts, BSA Md. Muniruzzaman elaborated on various aspects of the biennale, on Sunday.

Like previous years, the organisers will confer nine awards including three grand and six honourable mention-awards worth Taka eight lakhs. A five-member international jury board from five countries -- Bangladesh, Poland, South Korea, Indonesia and Japan--have selected the best works for awards.

The month long (December 1-31) biennale will exclusive showcase the time-honoured artistic and cultural heritage of Bangladesh and the exhibition is open from 11am to 8pm daily.



Abul Khair (L), Chairman, Bengal Foundation and Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty (5-R) with family members at the festival.

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

Returning to their home away from home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fourth night of Bengal Classical Music Fest '16 saw Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty on stage. During his interaction with the audience the musical maestro said, "We are from this land, and today two of my paternal uncles and my aunt are here at the festival for the first time. After so many years, we will finally be able to visit our ancestral home in Mymensingh." On that night his uncles, Dinendra Kumar Goswami, Surajit Kumar Chakraborty and

his aunt Minati Mukherjee sat through the enthralling performance of their nephew, after which he descended from the stage to pay his respects to them.

On April 1948, after the Partition of India, the Chakraborty family made their way to Kolkata from Mymensingh, where they remained. "When I close my eyes," said Surajit, "I can still envision our family home as clearly as if I am right there."

"I am simply spellbound by the performances tonight," said Dinendra, "I am 85 years old, and my brother is 78, and with

our ailments we are not able to travel as much as we would like. When I was healthier, I would visit my ancestral home every year. But now, thanks to my nephew Ajoy, I am visiting after 10 years." The maestro's aunt however, described this as her first visit: "This is my first time here, although I was born in Mymensingh, and I am looking forward to finally revisiting my roots." Surajit Kumar Chakraborty expressed his love for Bangladesh saying, "Bangladesh is still my country, despite the division it went through during the Partition."

Organized by **Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy** **54** Participating Countries

LARGEST SHOWCASE OF INTERNATIONAL ART IN BANGLADESH

17th ASIAN ART BIENNALE BANGLADESH 2016

1 - 31 December 2016, National Art Gallery
11 am - 8 pm Everyday Bangladesh

Creative Bangladesh

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Shegunbagicha, Dhaka
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Supported by

Ministry of Cultural Affairs

You are Cordially Invited

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