

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



Kathak Dance Festival 2016
Organiser: Kathak Dance Community
Venue: Chhayanaout Auditorium, Dhanmondi
Date: December 24-26
Time: 6:05pm daily



Solo Photography Exhibition
The Beauty of 18th
Photographer: ATL Aakash
Venue: Drik Gallery
Date: Dec 26-28; Time: 3pm-8pm



Group Painting Exhibition
Title: Joloi - 2
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: December 17-29
Time: 3pm-8pm



The stage is a vast canvas

...Pt. Birju Maharaj

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Legendary Kathak maestro Pt. Birju Maharaj is a name revered and acclaimed all over the world. A leading exponent and torchbearer of the Kalka-Bindadin Gharana of Lucknow, he is the only son and disciple of Achhan Maharaj. The living legend is now in Dhaka to inaugurate a three-day Kathak Dance Festival, organised by Kathak Nritya Sampradaya. This correspondent caught up with the maestro yesterday at the end of a seminar. Pt. Birju Maharaj will be on Chhayanaout stage today with his senior-most disciple Saswati Sen for a jugalbandi performance.

Your dance is said to transcend mathematical aspects of rhythm and become visual poetry. What is your secret to that?

Birju Maharaj: It depends on the pure heart. It creates in your eyes and every part of the body. And when we think of switching on the light, the flow starts working in the body. The *rangmanch* (stage) is a vast canvas and we depict paintings on stage, using all types of colours. The expression of your eyes will create those colours. It also depends on how you involve your heart to think of your art. I am myself, I am there on stage. No disturbance will tilt me.

You are a poet, a singer, musician, painter and above all a legendary dance artiste. How do you connect all these arts forms?

Birju Maharaj: First of all, I learned dance and this is the big light for me. I perform all the things which are related to music and dance. I can play tabla, pakhawaj, sarod, and flute. Art is vast. If you can catch it, you will find no difference in you and the art.

What comes first to you when composing a new piece? Is it a mathematical combination of rhythms or your emotions and your instant artistic thoughts?

Birju Maharaj: Both aspects are required for doing the job. I am a singer and painter as well. As a visual poet and painter, I can make people happy and cry through displaying my arts.

How will you evaluate the practice of classical dance and your students in Bangladesh?

Pt. Birju Maharaj: I think they are doing great. I do not only teach dance, but also make them learn how one can keep one's heart beautiful through loving thyself and others. If you just love yourself, everything will come to you.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanaout's annual Shuddha Sangeet Utshab begins on December 29 at its main auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The two-day classical music festival, comprising two sessions, will end on December 31 morning.

The 10th edition of the festival, featuring both vocal and instrumental music, will be formally inaugurated by noted music guru Ustad Saimud Ali Khan (Dinajpur).

The programme will begin at 5:30pm on December 29 with the lighting of candles as a symbol of diffusing knowledge; followed by a welcome address by the organisers along with speech by the inaugurator and a choral performance by the artistes of

Chhayanaout.

The festival aims to fulfil the desire of music lovers for events dedicated to classical music and to inspire the practice of the genre in Bangladesh.

Besides group performances by Chhayanaout artistes, Satindranath Haldar (vocal), Yakub Ali Khan (vocal), Salahuddin Ahmed (vocal), Rajrupa Chowdhury (sarod), Latifun Julio (vocal), will perform at the first session (5:30pm-10pm) on the inaugural day.

The nightlong second session of the festival will start at 6pm and continue till the next morning. Apart from group flute recital by the artistes of Chhayanaout, several noted and promising vocalists – Sumon Chowdhury, Khairul Anam Shakil, Asit Kumar Dey, Shekhar

Mondol, Priyanka Gope, Alope Kumar Sen, Salok Hossain (Rajshahi), Liton Das (Chittagong), Tinku Sheel, Sanjiban Sanyal Shubho, Sushmita Debnath Suchi and Abhijit Kundu will perform classical vocal music while Murtaza Kabir Murad (flute), Asit Biswas (Esraj) and Ebadul Huq Shaikat (sitar) will present instrumental recitals at the nightlong session.

AK Azad Pradhan, Ratan Kumar Das, Shekhar Mondol, Gautam Sarker, Surajit Mukherjee, Bizon Chandra Mistry, Iftekhar Alam Pradhan, Swarup Hossain, Sabuj Ahmed, Tinku Sheel, Sanjiban Sanyal Shubho, Prashanta Bhowmik, Al-Ikram Raju will accompany the performances on tabla and harmonium.



Artistes perform a chorus rendition at the 2015 edition of the festival.

STAR FILE PHOTO



A special series of concerts celebrating the 43rd anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Republic of Korea and the Bangladesh were held over the weekend at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Some seven Korean musicians performed in the concert titled "Charm of Korea VIII", which was inaugurated by Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor. Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Ahn Seong-doo was also present.

AAKASH'S solo photography exhibit opens today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solo photography exhibition by ATL Aakash, titled "The Beauty of 18th", opens today in the capital's Drik Gallery. The three-day exhibition is a celebration of 18 years of 'Aakash Photography', the studio of the photographer that began its journey in December 1998.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest, while celebrated artist Mustafa Monwar will also be present.

Fashion and glamour photographer ATL Aakash began his career a couple of decades ago, with freelance work of stills for TV plays, and eventually focused on studio-based glamour photography. He has also worked for Anandadhara magazine and briefly with The Daily Star's Arts & Entertainment section. He has also worked as a freelancer for other publications, and displayed his works in group photography exhibitions. This is his first solo exhibition.

"Dangal" gets off to flying start

Christmas is surely Aamir Khan's lucky charm, as the actor's latest film "Dangal" collected Rs 64 crores in two days in India alone upon release. Aamir's film opened in theatres on December 23 in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu, and on the second day collected Rs 34.82 Crores, to add to the 29Cr debut.

Trade analyst Taran Adarsh said after "Taare Zameen Par", "Ghajini", "3 Idiots", "Dhoom: 3" and "PK", with Dangal, "Aamir Khan's success ratio during Christmas remains per cent."

The film also made a strong start in the US and UK.

"Dangal" chronicles the story of Mahavir Singh Phogat who hoped to win a gold medal for India in wrestling. He coached his daughters

Geeta and Babita Phogat to fulfill his dream. The film charts Mahavir Phogat and Geeta and Babita journey in the sport of wrestling and their success story - Geeta fulfilled her father's dream in 2010 Commonwealth Games. Babita won silver at the same event.

Fatima Sana Sahikh plays Geeta while Sanya Malhotra portrays the role of Babita. Aamir plays Mahavir Phogat both young and old version. Television star Sakshi Tanwar was cast as Mahavir Phogat's wife Daya.

Co-produced by Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao and Siddharth Roy Kapur, the film also received rave reviews from critics.

Source: NDTV Movies



NABANNO FESTIVAL in Chapainawabganj



RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

It was a different day for women including girl and children of Baburghone village under Rohonpur municipal area in Gomostapur upazila of Chapainawabganj district, as they arranged a Nabanno festival with pitha and 'meyeli geet' to preserve rural culture and heritage. Rural women arranged the Nabanno Utsab (Festival of Harvest) on Saturday.

Women and girls of all ages passed a busy day, crushing paddy by 'dheki' and also crushing rice by 'jata', and collecting water from Punorbhaba River, singing traditional songs called 'meyeli geet'. After completing the arrangements, they sat around a clay oven, making pitha (traditional cakes and sweets).

Baburghone village is situated on the bank of Punorbhaba River. Momtaj Begum, a teacher of Uttar Rohonpur Government Primary School arranged all the programmes with the help of local women. She took the initiative five years ago to celebrate the rural culture.

The songs they sang have been traditionally passed on from generations orally, and sung during this festival. There are specific songs for crushing the rice into flour (dhan bhangar geet) or for bringing water from the river (jol anar geet).

Once upon a time, women sang these songs in their leisurely hours, to express their feelings and emotions, said Momtaj Begum.

The pitha made at the festival were distributed among people.