

BANGABANDHU REVISITED THROUGH ARTS
Marking National Mourning Day on August 15, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy held a monthlong programme showcasing the Father of the Nation on diverse art media. BSA director general Liaquat Ali Lucky and other officials inaugurated the exhibition titled "Shilper Aloye Bangabandhu." The event featured 150 artworks by 148 noted artists including, Biren Shome, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Sheikh Afzal, Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash, Mohammad Alaptagin Tushar, Md. Kamaluddin and Abul Kalam Azad.

SHILPKALA'S HOMAGE TO TAGORE

Marking the 75th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy arranged a programme on August 6 at its National Theatre Hall. Cultural Affairs Secretary Akhtari Momtaz attended the event as chief guest while Dr. Akhtar Kamal and Dr. Binayak Sen discussed the life and works of Tagore. The event featured recitation, song renditions, dance recitals and a dance-drama "Bhanushiling Padabali."

NAZRUL AWARD 2015 ACCORDED

The Nazrul Award 2015 was conferred on eminent Nazrul Sangeet exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick and Prof Abu Hena Abdul Awal. Nazrul Institute organised the ceremony at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum marking the 40th death anniversary of our National Poet.

MUSTAFA MONWAR'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

As September 1 marked the 81st birth anniversary of eminent artist Mustafa Monwar, Director's Guild, an organisation of Television Drama Directors, befittingly paid homage to the living legend in celebration of his birth anniversary through a programme at the National Theatre Hall auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy. Dance school Nrityanchal performed at the event while a number of noted cultural personalities shared memories of the artist's life and work.

FAROOKI APPOINTED BUSAN JURY

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, one of the forerunning filmmakers taking Bangladeshi films to an international audience, has had a long-standing connection with the Busan Film Festival. Farooki was invited to join this year's festival (held October 6-15) as a jury in the Sonje Award – for short films. Bangladeshi director Golam Rabbani Biplob also joined the festival as a NETPAC Award jury.

TAUQIR BAGS BEST DIRECTOR AT DCSAFF

Tauqir Ahmed added another accolade in the international film festival scene with "Oggayonoma", bagging the Best Director Award at the South Asian Film Festival held at Washington DC. Previously, the director had also won awards for best director at Kosovo's film festival "The Goddess on the Throne" and the Gulf of Naples Film Festival. The film was also named Bangladesh's entry to the Academy Awards.

NATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL HELD

With an anti-militancy theme "E Mati Noy Jongibaad-er, E Mati Manobotar", Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTIF) together with Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) organised an 18-day National Theatre Festival at four venues: National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall of BSA, along with Mahila Samity Mancha in Dhaka. A total of 60 theatre troupes and organisations including 33 from Dhaka Metropolitan and 27 for eight divisions of Bangladesh took part in the festival with their popular productions.

BHABNA PREMIERES DANCE-DRAMA "SHAKUNTALA"

Bhabna, one of the most promising dance companies of Bangladesh, premiered their latest production "Shakuntala", directed by renowned Manipuri dancer Samina Husain Prema, at the National Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy. The story, which was based on great poet Kalidasa's 5th century literary masterpiece "Abhigyan Shakuntalam", was depicted through a careful combination of Kazi Nazrul Islam's songs which played precisely into the narrative.

SYED SHAMSUL HAQ PASSES AWAY

Eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq passed away at United Hospitals in Dhaka on September 27, at age 81. He was undergoing treatment at Oncology department. Earlier on April 15, Haq was flown to UK for treatment at Royal Marsden Hospital as he had been suffering from critical lungs disease. Haq was a seminal short-story writer, novelist, playwright and a very popular poet. He was the recipient of the Bangla Academy Award in 1966, Ekushey Padak in 1984 and Swadhinata Padak in 2000 for his contributions to Bangla literature.

BANGLADESH SHORT AND DOCUMENTARY FILM FEST HELD

The weeklong "Bangladesh Short and Documentary Film Festival 2016 began on September 2 at all 64 District Shilpkala Academies. Organised by Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, the Federation of Film Societies of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Short Film Forum and Bangladesh Documentary Council assisted the festival. This year, the festival featured 84 films. A five-member selection committee chose 35 short films and 29 documentaries for screening from 200 submissions. Besides, 11 previous documentaries with nine short films were selected for screening at the festival.

"AYNABAJI" CREATES RIPPLES ON RELEASE

Amitabh Reza's directorial debut "Aynabaji" became the epicenter of the Bangladeshi showbiz in the first week of its release, with a torrential flow of people rushing to the cinema halls. Backed by strong endorsement from the film and media fraternity, it has generated largely positive reviews among the

Bangladesh Dance Artists' Association (BDAA) arranged a nationwide dance competition on the basis of age and theme. The programme for the final competition opened on October 23. This was the third consecutive year BDAA in association with BSA organised the competition at National Music, Dance and Recitation Centre auditorium of BSA.

BLACK RELEASE "UN-MANUSH"

After a five-year hiatus since their self-titled album in 2011, alternative rock band Black released their fifth studio album, titled "Un-Manush" through a concert at the Russian Cultural Centre. The album was released under the banner of G-Series.

ZAINUL ABEDIN GALLERY GETS NEW LEASE OF LIFE

The Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Gallery at the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) got a new lease of life, thanks to the initiative of BNM and financial support of IFIC Bank Limited. Drik provided technical assistance to the makeover. The interior, background, fram-

ORIENTAL PAINTING EXHIBITION HELD

The 6th Oriental Painting Exhibition 2016, organised by Oriental Painting Study Group (OPSG) in association with The Daily Star and the Department of Oriental Art, University of Dhaka, was held at the Zainul Gallery. A total of 83 artworks by 77 artists, including 37 Bangladeshi and 14 Indian artists were on display.

DHAKA INT'L FOLK FEST HELD

The Dhaka International Folk Festival opened on November 10. Pallavi Dance Centre, Abdul Rahman Baul, Tuntun Baul, Scottish guitarist Simon Thacker's Swara Kanti (featuring Raju Das Baul and Farida Yasmin), Pakistani quwwal Javed Bashir, and Bangladeshi's own Momtaz, enthralled tens of thousands on the first day. Jalal, Latif Sarkar, Canadian multi-instrumentalist Prosad, Indian band Indian Ocean, Labik Kamal Gaurob and Baul Shafi Mondol, Spanish artistes Karen Lugo and Ricardo Moro, and Indian folk-pop sensation Kailash Kher were the attractions of the second night while on the concluding night, the

Chirkutt.

BENGAL CLASSICAL FEST DRAWS THOUSANDS OF MUSIC LOVERS

The fifth edition of the Bengal Classical Music Festival opened in the capital on November 24, as Dhaka braced itself for unforgettable performances by the world's biggest stars of Indian Classical Music. The five-day festival, like previous years, created numerous musical moments to cherish for tens of thousands of audience enjoying it all night at the Army Stadium. Aside from festival's familiar performers Vidushi Girija Devi, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Pt. Ajoy Chakravarty, Ustad Rashid Khan, Pt. Yogesh Samsi, Pt. Tejendra Narayan Majumdar, Purbayan Chatterjee and Rahul Sharma, a number of first-time performers shone, including violin legend Dr. L Subramaniam, Dr. Prabha Atre, Anindo Chatterjee, U Rajesh, Ranjani-Gayatri and Shashank Subramanyam.

BOTTALA RONGOMELA THEATRE FEST HELD

BotTala's 10-day theatre festival, BotTala Rongomela, was held in December at the capital's Mohila Samity. Some seven groups of Bangladesh, two from India and one troupe from Iran presented their plays at the festival, along with host of other activities. The festival also conferred honours on theatre activists from outside the capital, and a Lifetime Achievement Award to Aly Zaker.

ASIAN ART BIENNALE IN CAPITAL

The 17th edition of the Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh, one of the oldest of its kind in the continent, was held throughout the month of December at the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy's National Art Gallery. This year's event showcased 154 artworks by 148 Bangladeshi artists and 277 artworks by 127 foreign artists from 54 countries. A total of 146 foreign artists, art critic and museum curators took part in the art biennale. It also honoured Bangladeshi and foreign awards in various categories, and had a host of events including art camp, artist talks and seminars.

INT'L SHORT AND INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL HELD

The fourteenth International Short and Independent Film Festival Bangladesh took place in six venues in the capital in early December. The festival was organised by Bangladesh Short Film Forum (BSFF), where more than 500 films from 109 participating countries were selected. There were also awards given in four categories.

LRB PLAYS AT SILVER JUBILEE CONCERT

LRB, one of the most iconic names in the country's music industry, celebrated their 25th anniversary, with a grand silver jubilee concert in the capital. Music streaming app Robi Yonder Music was the title sponsor for the concert. The concert was held at the Naboratri Hall of the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB).

MONO-DRAMA FEST HELD AT BSA

The weeklong second Mono-drama Festival was held at the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA). The festival, jointly organised by the Bangladesh Chapter of International Theatre Institute and BSA, saw staging of solo plays by artistes from Bangladesh, India, Vietnam and China.

CHHAYANAUT AND DU HOLD VICTORY DAY PROGRAMME

The Victory Day of Bangladesh was celebrated jointly by pioneering cultural school Chhayanaut in collaboration with Dhaka University. The programme was held at the central playground of Dhaka University, where students of a number of educational institutes, from universities to English medium schools, joined in chorus songs, along with performance from reputed artistes.

KATHAK DANCE FESTIVAL AT CHHAYANAUT

For the fifth consecutive year, a three-day Kathak Dance Festival was organised at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban. Organised by the Kathak Dance Community, Kathak legend Pt. Birju Maharaj inaugurated the festival. The organisers conferred Zeenat Zahan Memorial Award this year to Vidushi Saswati Sen, a leading Indian exponent of Kathak.

CHHAYANAUT HOLDS SHUDDHA SANGEET UTSHAB

Chhayanaut's annual Shuddha Sangeet Utshab is being held at its main auditorium in Dhanmondi. The two-day classical music festival comprises two sessions, with performances from Bangladeshi and Indian artistes, including Yakub Ali Khan, Rajrupa Chowdhury, Sumon Chowdhury, Khairul Anam Shakil, Asit Kumar Dey, Priyanka Gope, Alok Kumar Sen, Murtaza Kabir Murad and Ebadul Huq Shaikat, among others.



PHOTO: STAR

audience as well. The story of Sharafat Karim Ayna (played by Chanchal Chowdhury) continued a dominant runs in cinemas for months, drawing cinema-goers at an unprecedented level.

CHHAYANAUT HOLDS AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Ushering in the season of autumn, the country's leading cultural school Chhayanaut held a 'Sharat Utshab' (Autumn Festival) at Bakultola, Faculty of Fine Art, Dhaka University. Teachers and students of the school welcomed the season with songs, dances and recitations. A number of promising artistes rendered solos and chorus songs, along with group dance performances.

GANGA-JAMUNA FEST HELD

The Ganga-Jamuna Theatre and Cultural Festival, one of the major cultural festivals of the country, saw its curtains rise at the Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) on October 21. The ten-day festival, in its fifth edition this year, featured a staggering 82 cultural troupes from Bangladesh and India performing stage plays, music, dance, recitation and street theatre at the three theatre halls of BSA, and the open stage. The festival was dedicated to Syed Shamsul Haq.

NAZRUL MELA AT BANGLA ACADEMY

Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad (NSSP) organised a three-day Nazrul Mela at the Bangla Academy premises from October 27-29. The three days' programmes were dedicated to Abbasuddin Ahmed Feroza Begum and Sohrab Hossain. A number of eminent Nazrul artistes performed at the festival, which also featured discussions, poetry recitation and songs by representatives of 61 branches of the NSSP from all over Bangladesh, and had book and CD stalls.

BDAA HOLDS NATIONWIDE DANCE COMPETITION

ing of the works, lighting and digital display of more than 100 paintings were praiseworthy, but there were some issues with the design and curation of the gallery.

STAR MELODIES PAY HOMAGE TO GREATS OF BANGLA MUSIC

Commemorating 25 years of The Daily Star, Star Melodies held a two-part special musical programme, paying tribute to 25 noted composers of Bangla Nagorik songs. The first segment featured songs of Tagore, DL Ray, Atulprasad Sen, Rajanikanta Sen, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Raichand Boral, Saireesh Dutta Gupta, Sachin Dev Burman, Himangshu Dutta, and Kamal Dasgupta on November 5 at the AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre. The second episode on December 17 at the same venue featured songs of Subal Dasgupta, Robin Chattopadhyay, Abdul Ahad, Manna Dey, Hemanta Mukhopadhyay, Salil Chowdhury, Nachiketa Ghosh, Satinath Mukhopadhyay, Khan Ataur Rahman, Sudhin Dasgupta, Shyamal Mitra, Satya Saha, Robin Ghosh, Khandaker Nurul Alam and Alauddin Ali.

CITI BANK HONOURS RUNA LAILA

Runa Laila, a living legend of the Bangladeshi music industry, was conferred the "Gaane-e Gaan-e Gunijon Shongbordhona" conferred by Citi Bank, marking the Golden Jubilee of her career. Runa Laila has recorded more than 10,000 songs in different languages, and is a popular figure all across the sub-continent.

"DOOB" GETS INTO CONTROVERSY

"Doob", Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's latest big screen venture starring major international film star Irrfan Khan, was reported in an Indian newspaper to be based on the iconic Bangladeshi novelist Humayun Ahmed's life. With the social media exploding with reaction over the news, Farooki clarified that it was a work of fiction and not a biopic.

festival saw performances from Sunil Karmakar, Bari Siddiqui, Nooran Sisters from India, Taposh and Friends, British guitarist Sam Mills and vocalist Susheela Raman, and Paban Das Baul.

"SHILPI'R PASHE FOUNDATION" LAUNCHED

In a bid to offer support to ailing or terminally ill artistes, the Shilpi'r Pashey Foundation was launched in the capital. The initiative was taken by DNCC Mayor Annisul Huq. The venue witnessed a big turnout of distinguished artistes and other esteemed guests who expressed their solidarity with the cause. Eminent musical personalities Alauddin Ali and Lucky Akhand were the first recipients of the foundation's monetary aid, along with yesteryears playback singer Shammi Akher.

FIRST WEAVERS FESTIVAL HELD

The first International Weavers Festival took place at the capital's Army Museum field, with a display of indigenous Asian fabrics and designs. The three-day festival was aimed at showcasing and boosting our traditional fabrics and weaves with participation of 25 fashion brands from home and abroad. It also included mock village and concerts.

CELEBRATING LIFE HONOURS CULTURAL ICONS

The Daily Star-Standard Chartered Celebrating Life competition held its 2016 gala in October, where three eminent personalities of the cultural fraternity -- composer Alam Khan, thespian Ferdausi Majumdar and veteran cinematographer Reza Latif were honoured with lifetime achievement awards. Winners of the competition in film, photography and lyrics categories on the theme "Youth in Change" were also handed their awards. The gala featured performance of songs by noted artistes and a concert by popular singers and bands Arnob, Tahsan, Joler Gaan and

