

Jazz & Blues Fest Dhaka
Organiser: Blues Communications
Venue: Infinity Rooftop, Le Meridien Hotel
Date: Jan 29-31
Time: 6pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Beautiful Bengal
Artist: Mokhegur Rahman
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 28-Feb 10
Time: 3-8pm



Solo Sculpture Exhibition
Title: Rhythm of Form by AAM
Organiser: Amra Surjamukhi
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, DU
Date: Jan 25-31
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Kaderi Kibria
Organiser: Amra Surjamukhi
Venue: Poet Surfia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: Jan 31, Time: 5:30pm



Musical Soiree
Title: Praner Khela
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Chyanaut
Date: Jan 31, Time: 6:30pm



Deepak Pandit enralls the audience; (below) Oz Noy performs at the festival. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

FAHMIM FERDOUS
The second edition of the Jazz & Blues Fest Dhaka opened in Dhaka on Sunday night, with an enthralling set of performances to a moderate crowd at the rooftop of La Meridien Hotel. After Armeen Musa, Gary Husband and Oz Noy Group set the festival in fluid motion, Indian composer-violinist Deepak Pandit brought an unlikely instrument to the festival's genre and proved that genres are not limited to instruments, nor are instruments constrained by genre.

Armeen, the Berklee-graduate Bangladeshi singer-songwriter opened the festival with her jazzy repertoire – original tracks like “Simultaneously” and “Frost” and the Bangla number “Jokhon Chole Jao”, and covering Simply Red’s ‘80s hit “Holding Back the Years” and the Hoagy Carmichael jazz standard “Nearness of You”. Gary Husband, the masterful keyboardist-pianist from UK, had performed in the first edition of the Jazz & Blues Fest in November 2015, but he was somewhat in the background, playing a more supporting role to the legendary John McLaughlin. This year, he played a solo set on the keys, demonstrating both technical dexterity and immense feel. The three-piece Oz Noy Group was the third act on stage, with their performance exploring the diversity of the genre. Oz Noy, the Israel-born guitarist known for breaking the mold of instrumental guitar music, has played with artistes ranging from Harry Belafonte to Jordin Sparks, and his range was on full display. He seamlessly blended



funk, blues, jazz and rock, controlling the energy of the space, with superb backing from organ-style keys and drums – and made a strong first impression, be it with the grooving slide-styled solos or slow, ballad-like compositions. Mumbai-based violinist and composer Deepak Pandit, the final act of the evening, took the audience by a bit of a surprise as he took stage in a white Punjabi, but he brought along two other musicians who have played to this crowd before – drummer Gino Banks and bassist Sheldon D'Silva – both part of the 2015 festival. Deepak explored the entire dramatic range of the violin, intertwining Eastern and Western playing styles, and created whirlpools of melodies that sucked

AN UNLIKELY CENTERPIECE AT JAZZ & BLUES FEST

Deepak Pandit's violin steals opening night

“Poriborton” on BTV tonight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BTV will air an entertainment magazine show “Poriborton” tonight, after the 10pm English news. Conceptualised, directed and hosted by Anzham Masud, the show will feature four song performances, one dance, drama skits, and audience-participated competitive games. Among the performers, Ankhi Alamgir will sing a number directed by Arefin Rumi, while the band Chomok will render the popular Lalou song “Milon Hobe Kotodine.” Khondokar Ismail will perform “Ami Banglai Gaan Gai.” Shirin Bokul will perform skits along with 20 actors, while Mim Chowdhury and Asad will perform dance numbers to four songs of the yesteryears of Bangla cinema. Evan Shahriar is behind the choreography of the dance performances.



SAG AWARDS: “Hidden Figures”, “Stranger Things” take top prizes



Cast of “Stranger Things” rejoice their win.
Fox’s historical drama “Hidden Figures” won the SAG Award for top ensemble cast on Sunday in an awards show that also saw “Fences”, “Moonlight”, and “La La Land” receiving recognition. “This film is about unity; this is what happens when we put our differences aside,” said Taraji P. Henson — who plays mathematician Katherine Johnson — in accepting for “Hidden Figures”. The film won over “Manchester by the Sea”, “Captain Fantastic”, “Fences”, and “Moonlight”. Awards season frontrunner “La La Land” was shut out of the category as voters apparently considered it more of a two-hander than ensemble piece. The winner of the SAG ensemble trophy has matched the Oscar best picture winner 11 times in 21 years. Denzel Washington won the best actor award for “Fences” and castmate Viola Davis took the supporting award. Emma Stone took the best actress award for her role as a struggling actress in “La La Land” and Mahershala Ali took the supporting actor trophy for “Moonlight”. Netflix’s freshman series “Stranger Things” won the drama series trophy, repeating Saturday’s triumph at the Producers Guild of America Awards. It topped the final season of “Downton Abbey”, which had won the past two years. Lily Tomlin received the SAG Life Achievement Award, presented by Dolly Parton. John Lithgow and Claire Foy won the drama series actor awards for Netflix’s “The Crown” for their portrayals of Winston Churchill and Queen Elizabeth, respectively. “Orange Is the New Black” won the comedy ensemble trophy for the third straight year. The evening was punctuated with an array of verbal attacks on President Donald Trump’s ban on refugees and citizens from seven predominately Muslim countries from entering the United States. “This immigrant ban is a blemish and it is un-American,” said Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who won the actress trophy for comedy series for “Veep” for the second time. William H. Macy won the actor in a comedy series for “Shameless”, winning the trophy a second time after taking the award in 2015. Sarah Paulson won the best actress for TV movie or limited series for “The People vs. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story.” Bryan Cranston took the best actor award in the TV movie or limited series category for his portrayal of Lyndon Baines Johnson in “All the Way”.

Kali O Kalam awards young poets and writers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Kali O Kalam, a reputed literary magazine, recognised five young wordsmiths with the Young Poet and Writer Award 2016, held on January 29 at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum. The winners are – Naushad Jamil in poetry (“Dhe-er Bhetor Dabanol”); Rafique Hariri in fiction (“Fulbanu O Ononnya Golpo”); Tushar Kabir in essay and research (“Kuthurir Swar”); Hasan Iqbal in Liberation War-based literature (“Bhatkobitai Muktijuddho”) and Shariful Hasan in the children’s and young adult literature section (“Odbhature Boighor”). Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Rashed Khan Menon attended the event as chief guest, while eminent academician and former VC of Rabindra Bharati University Professor Chinmoy Guha, and distinguished litterateur Imdadul Haque Milon were present as special guests. Chief Director of Bangla Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan chaired the event. Representatives of the jury board for the Young Poet and Writer Award 2016 Biswajit Ghosh and Mahub Sadiq delivered



speeches on the occasion. Other members of the jury board included Chairman of the Bangla Department of Dhaka University and Dean of Arts Faculty Begum Akhtar Kamal and Professor Khaled Hossain from Jahangirnagar University. In her welcome address, director general of Bengal Foundation Luva Nahid Choudhury stated, “Compared to previous years, 2016 has witnessed a rise in the number of young writers. Next Phalgun also marks the 14 year anniversary of Kali O Kalam, for which we will publish a special edition of our magazine.” Guests at the programme also praised the magazine’s initiative and hailed it as a crucial cultural landmark. Professor Chinmoy Guha said, “This year’s ceremony has surpassed all the events organised by Bengal Foundation. I thank you for taking such a wonderful initiative, for which Bengal is creating poets and writers.” Chief guest Rashed Khan Menon praised the young awardees, saying “There is nothing the youth can’t do, and our country has been built by the hands of the youth. However the literary scene has been lacking in young writers and poets, and I hope this initiative will encourage them to take up their pens and let their imaginations flow.” The programme concluded with a lyrical play performed by Ferdousi and Tropa Majumdar, composed by Subhashis Sinha. Monthly literary magazine “Kali O Kalam” initiated the award in 2008.

International sculpture exhibition opens in Chittagong

MD. ABBAS, CU
A weeklong sculpture exhibition titled “International Celebration of Contemporary Sculpture” featuring works of country’s sculpture artists started at Artist Rashid Chowdhury Art Gallery of Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University (CU) on Sunday. With the theme of ‘Art in Public Spaces’, Germany-based ‘Sculpture Network’ is organising the exhibition at 70 venues of 21 countries. In Bangladesh, the exhibition is being held at two venues -- one at the Artist Rashid Chowdhury Art Gallery of Institute of Fine Arts of CU, and the other is Alliance Francaise de Chittagong Gallery. A total of 50 sculptures by 47 artists are being exhibited in the exhibition, where the artists have used metal rods, metal pipes, ceramic, fiberglass, cloths, metal sheet, wood, paper, sawdust, stone, terracotta, glass, sand, coal and re-



ycled material to produce the sculptures with unique shapes and colours. Bangladesh’s venue coordinator and CU Fine Arts Institute’s Associate Prof Pranab Mitra said sculpture is a three-dimensional art which draws quick attention. He said it is the largest platform for contemporary sculpture artists where the participants at the 70 locations are connected with each other virtu-

ally, and can communicate their impressions live over social networks. “Every year, the exhibition is organised worldwide to support, encourage and promote the three-dimensional art throughout the world at the end of January to celebrate international contemporary sculpture,” added Pranab. “I tried to express the eternal bond with mother and child