The Baily Star

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ekushey Book Fair Organiser: Bangla Academy Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan Date: February 1-28



Bengal Sangskriti Utshab Organiser: Bengal Foundation Venue: AMA Muhith Sports Complex, Sylhet







Theatre Festival 3rd Ekushey Natyotshab Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan Date: Feb 1-28 Time: 4pm

DHAKA **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2017, FALGUN 14, 1423 BS**





Krishnokoli performs at the Hason Raja Mancha.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Culture to cleanse the soul

Crowds swell on first weekend of Bengal Sangskriti Utshab

FAHMIM FERDOUS, back from Sylhet

"Militant and extremist activities cannot halt the flow of culture in our country; this evening in Sylhet stands testament to that," Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu summed up the power of culture and arts in one sentence during an impassioned address on the third evening of the Bengal Sangskriti Utshab Sylhet, as audiences swelled on the first weekend of the 10-day festival.

A ceremonial session began the evening proceedings at the main stage, the Hason Raja Mancha, where Bengal Foundation Chair Abul Khair, former Privatization Commission Chairman Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, Indian High commissioner Harshvardhan Shringla and Hasanul Haq Inu spoke.

"This kind of festivals should slowly spread to other parts of the country, and in a way, the entire Bangladesh has become a stage for Bengal Foundation," said Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, hailing the initiative.

Inu, in his address, also said: "cultural activists never stumble because they speak from the pulse of the general people. Political activists sometimes make wrong steps because they don't understand the people. We urge the cultural activists and organisers - to cleanse our souls of the dust that settles on it." He concluded by saying "We have to become good human beings. And that is why we need cultural festivals."

Barnali Chatterjee was the first featured artiste of the night, performing Raga-based

Bangla songs. Her set-list included Begum Akhter records "Phire Jao Bone Kalo Bulbul" and "Jochona Koreche Ari", "Kholo Kholo Mondiro Dwar" (originally by Tarapada Chakraborty), and "Mohan BaNshi Baaje" (originally by Jatileshwar Mukherjee and popularised by Ajoy Chakravarty).

Jhuma Khandaker and Subir Nandi came on stage next. Jhuma Khandaker performed her set first, going the popular songs route with "Gaaner Khatay Swaralipi Likhe", "Tumi Cheyechhile Shudhu Jante", "Sagorer Teer Theke", "Osru Diye Lekha E Gaan", and closing with a Hason Raja song "Ami Na Loilam Allah'r Naam". Subir Nandi, a Sylhet local, took the audience on a musical journey with his illustrious repertoire of original songs "Amar E Du'ti Chokh Pathor Toh Noy", "Shey Kotha Tumi Jodi Jante", "Din Jaye Kotha Thake", "Ami Brishti'r Kach Theke KaNdte Shikhechi", a Sylheti folk song "Kare Dekhabo Moner Dukkho Go" (by Radharaman Dutta), an SD Burman song "Shono Go Dokhino Hawa", and the everpopular film track "Ekta Chhilo Shona'r Koinna".

The Subir Chowdhury Art Camp, set up right next to the Hason Raja stage, also saw the visual artists taking the music in and letting it drive their artistic souls. Noted artists used their paint brushes and spray cans to express on canvas what the music made them

Gaaner Dol O Krishnokoli was the final featured artiste of the day. "I have done the most number of shows in Sylhet," Krishnokoli said, before breaking into her song "Boshekhete Rong Makhibi Ke Ke Aye". She followed it up with her other original numbers "Hothat Ekta Roud Hoye Jao", "Icchemoton" and an unreleased number "Ratridin Songiheen". As her band-mate Arko Sumon broke into the sari gaan "Samal Samal Samal Ore Samne Tori Baiyo", this correspondent had to head out to catch the bus back to Dhaka, but the music echoed on from the AMA Muhith Sports Complex, as it will continue to do so until March 3.

RUPCHANDA-THE DAILY STAR SUPER CHEF

Episode 7: The Irony of Munim

OSAMA RAHMAN

Ummah Mostafa's Super Chef Class had prepared the participants for a variety of continental cuisine. A prodigious talent and a master craftsman of 28 different cuisine, Ummah Mostafa had a lot to teach the 15 remaining participants. The Valentine's Day special had already seen Waziba off and the rest knew that mistakes would no longer go

unnoticed. A mystery challenge and a cook-off, which followed the Super Chef class, saw the elimination of Munim. On the surface this seemed like an inevitability of the contest but a lot more was left unspoken. It served to show that while the Super Chef classes had much to teach, it all boiled down to whether a participant had the

mettle to do their best each time they stepped onto the Super Chef kitchen. Munim, a 25 year old intern doctor from Barisal had come this far with a lot of hope. He was up against the odds though. In all these years, Super Chef had yet to see a male participant crowned the champion so far and Munim wanted to be the first. "I was very interested in cooking from a very early age. I would not claim to be great because I never had time to practice enough but I always tried hard," Munim says. "This was a wonderful experience for me and

I learned a lot," he added. Munim explained that there were things we did to secure our future and things we did out of love and passion; this was a sentiment that rings true with a lot of people. Munim cooked

because he loved to and thus this competition

was the perfect place for him. "My only regret is that I qualified by preparing a sea fish and I was eliminated when I did not prepare another sea fish well enough," he concluded,

the ghost of a smile glancing across his lips. Munim's departure signals that only 14 more participants remain. These 14 will now fight it out in the second team challenge to be held today. Two former Super Chefs will be joining the kitchen to oversee the next team challenge and will set the task according to what they think best. Tonight, one more participant will be eliminated. Who will it be? What will be the reason? Tune in to NTV tonight sharp at 9:00 to find out. Or check out the Youtube page to catch up on any missed past episodes. Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef is aired every Saturday and



Munim deep in concentration on his sea fish dish.

Shusmita Anis' music video set for release

Apurbo-Mehzabien team up for romantic song

A CORRESPONDENT

Shusmita Anis, a well-known singer, is about to release a romantic song "Keu Januk Ar Nai Januk". This song is composed, tuned and arranged by popular music director Adit Rahman.

The co-singer of this song is Mohammad Shoeb. The duet will be released online with a music video today. The music video features popular actor

Apurba and model and actress Mehazabien Chowdhury under the direction of Tanim Rahman Aungshu. The special music video was shot on February 19-20 in Jahangirnagar University and in a picturesque location in Gazipur.

"I truly enjoyed singing my part because of the beautiful tune and the lyrics by Adit

Rahman. I hope it will be well-liked by the young generation," said popular singer Shusmita Anis. Apurba said, "This is my first music

special after listening to the song 'Keu Januk Ar Nai Januk'. That allured me to perform the music video." Mehazabin said, "I am very excited about performing in this special music

video in my career and I felt something

video after a long time. The song itself is really very touching and I hope everybody would love watching the music video." "A romantic anticipatory love song is

a song for all seasons. Keeping the listeners' taste in mind, Adit did a fabulous job in bringing out the feel of anticipatory love in the song," added Shusmita Anis.



GUTHRIE GOVAN

to rock Dhaka today

For the first time, guitarist Guthrie Govan will be performing live in Bangladesh at a concert titled "Guthrie in Dhaka" at KIB Convention Hall today, says a press release. Guthrie will be accompanied by Gino Banks on drums and Mohini Dey on bass guitars, and the event will also feature Bangladeshi performers Ershad Zaman, Niaz Kamran Abir, Shourov Chowdhury, Saad Hasan Hemel, Iqbal Asif Jewel, Manam Ahmed, Raef Al Hasan Rafa, Aldnane Alam, Samir Hafiz, Wasiun Khan and Quanta Band. Apart from the concert, guitar enthusiasts will have the opportunity to learn from Guthrie Govan himself. The session named 'Exclusive Guitar Clinic by Guthrie Govan' will be held tomorrow at Gulshan Shooting Club. Guthrie Govan is considered one of the best modern guitarists. Guthrie is currently on the World Tour with legendary composer Hans Zimmer. Fellow event performer Gino Banks is the son of famed jazz musician Louis Banks, famously referred to as the "Godfather of Indian Jazz", and Mohini Dey has been making waves in music as a bassist, having worked with prominent musicians such as AR Rahman and Steve Vai. The event is organised by Limitless Entertainment Ltd. with technical support of The Rock Project. Brand partners of the event include Closeup, with ABC Radio, Radio Dhol as radio partners and Gaan as audio streaming partner. Platinum Hotels is participating as hospitality partner, Core Artlab,

partners, respectively.

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