

**WHAT'S ON**

**Nat'l Photography Festival**  
Organizer: DUPS  
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA  
Date: July 29-31  
Time: 11am-8pm

**4th Annual Photo Exhibition**  
Organizer: BSSP  
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA  
Date: August 4-6; Time: 6:30pm

**Musical Soiree**  
Song of Lalon and Karmaphuli  
Organizer: BSSP  
Venue: Music & Dance Auditorium, BSA  
Date: August 4; Time: 6:30pm

**National Art Exhibition 2017**  
Organizer: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA  
Date: Jul 26-Aug 14  
Time: 11am to 8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Another Axis  
Artist: Alomgir Hossain  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka  
Date: Jul 28-Aug 11  
Time: 3:30pm

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Charcoal  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20,  
Rd-16, Sector 4, Uttara  
Date: Jul 28-Aug 11  
Time: 11am-8pm

# Down the melodic lane of Bangla music

Hajar Bochhorer Bangla Gaan at BSA

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The journey of Bengali Literature started with music, as the psalms of Charayapada bear the testimony of ancient text of the Vedas. It was followed by literary texts and musical forms like Nath Sahitya, Sri Krishna Kirtan, Mongol Kavya, Vaishnav Padavali, Shakto Padavali, PuNihi Sahitya, Kobiagan, Baal Gaan, Bangla Tappa, Panchokhori Gaan, adhunik songs, inspirational songs of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, patriotic songs, film songs, opulent genres of folk songs band music and more. To revisit the rich heritage of Bangla music, Government Music College, Agargaon, together with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), organised a unique musical programme titled "Hajar Bochhorer Bangla Gaan" at National Theatre Hall auditorium of BSA on July 29.

Cultural Affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor graced the programme as chief guest while secretary to the ministry Md. Ibrahim Hossain Khan attended the event as special guest. Professor Kristie Hefaz, Principal of the Music College, delivered the welcome address. Aaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA, presided over the programme.

In his speech, the chief guest mentioned that almost half of Bangla music was composed by the mystic folk bands who were not literate.

"Though Government Music College is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, we, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, support it as the institution has a number of quality artistes. We also sent delegations from



Artistes of the Government Music College perform diverse melodies of Bangla songs, with presentations of dance and recitation at the event.

the college twice to India to represent Bangladeshi culture. Our ministry has also initiated a pilot project to start music education at various educational institutions in 10 districts. If successful, we would like to gradually expand the project. They may not all become artistes, but participation in cultural activities is imperative in helping them become well rounded individuals," said

Asaduzzaman Noor.

"Our endeavours were made possible because of the hard work the teachers of our institute have invested. It has taken intensive research to produce this outcome, and from my findings I have grown to realise that the history of music of a race, is the history of race itself. The oldest music in our tradition is Buddhist, and there you have the

Charayapada, following which we have the spiritual explorations within the Nathgeethika, which are very secular in nature. During our Liberation War we had inspirational songs, and today band music has become an established genre. History is very accessible through reading, but through this initiative I wanted to revive those eras, and show people how they really sounded," mentioned Kristi Hefaz about the programme.

The event set off with the presentation of a dance set on the Charaya songs based on Raga Patomonjri, Dev Gandhar and Basen. The proceedings were followed by a dramatic presentation of Leela (union of eternal and mortal souls of Shesh and Krishna), nognostikritan, puNijpath, kobiagan, Baal songs composed by Fakir Lalon Shah, Pranabokhori Gaan (arranged by Tagore, Nazrul, DL Roy, Atul Prasad and Manikanta), band music and more.

The artistes of the Department of Folk Music, Government Music College greatly entertained the audience with their rendition and representation of Lalon songs. Songs performed included "Ke Tomar E Besh Bhushan", "Nurikh Bandho Rey", "Boro Bishwas Koira Jaga Dilam", "Dekho Dekho Monorol" and "Ke Leno Amarey".

The event continued for three hours to represent a concise essence of Bangla music over a thousand years. Though the set and lights were aesthetically designed, the sound system fell short and hampered the quality of performances. In a nutshell, such an arrangement is highly appreciable though not impeccable on some fronts.

# Jaya Ahsan named "Shera Bangalee"



A CORRESPONDENT

Indian daily Anandabazar organizes a programme on an annual basis to celebrate Bangali of the year for outstanding achievements in film, sports and other categories. The event was televised live on ABP Ananda on July 29.

This year, the award was conferred on Jaya Ahsan, marking her as the first Bangladeshi actor to receive the title. Popular Bollywood actor Prosenjit Chatterjee handed the award to her. Following the event, the actress took a Facebook post to comment, "I deeply feel a Bangladeshi and to be named 'Shera Bangalee' by ABP Ananda is indeed a huge honour. I don't believe I am deserving enough, and as an actor I am still at the learning stage. But these recognitions give me the assurance that I am doing the right thing with my life, and it is a huge honour to be among the greats who have been accorded the award previously."

The newspaper also recognised Bangladesh cricket team captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza with the award.



## Bengal launches DEKHO RE CHITTOKOMOLE

Bengal Foundation launched a CD of Rabindranath Tagore's songs, titled "Dekho Re Chittokomole", at Chhayanaut in Dharmendor on July 29, as press release. The songs were presented by young Tagore singer Shemonty Monjari. The album was launched by noted musicologist Dr. Sanjida Khatun. Eminent Tagore singer Mita Haq was also present at the event.

After the launch, Shemonty Monjari took to the stage and performed Rabindranath's songs of the Prem and Puja parajayas, along with songs that complemented the season. Some of the songs available on the CD are "Ami Jokhon Tar Duware", "Bahir Pothe Bibagi Hiya", "Ami Tare KhuNje Berai", "Lukhi Aash Adhar Raate", along with others.

Shemonty Monjari is a thriving Rabindra Sangeet singer of her generation. Hailing from a musical household, she is related to Mita Haq from whom she has been learning music since the age of four. Monjari is currently a teacher at Chhayanaut.



## DOT launching programme at NSU

A large number of architecture students and teachers along with reputed educationists, architects and intellectuals got together at North South University auditorium on July 20 for the launch of "DOT" volume-2 issue-4.

The quarterly DOT is an Art and Architecture magazine published since September 2015 by Devl Vistaan

Foundation. Renowned architect and painter Mustapha Khalid Palash is editor of the magazine. Other members of the DOT editorial panel are Ar. Mustasim M Khan, Ar. Shahzia Islam, Ar. Reza Rahaman and Ar. M Kayesh Tanim, along with assistant editors Asif Salman and Khan Norit Mustapha. Besides Art and Architectural content, the

current issue incorporates the Shah Cement-DOT Student Design Awards" in three categories. In the second part of the programme, the "Shah Cement-DOT Student Design Awards" 7th cycle was announced and distributed the award money, a crest and a certificate to the awardees from different universities.



## Nurjahan Alim performs at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 86th birth anniversary of legendary singer Abdul Alim, IGCC organised an evening of songs by Nurjahan Alim at Kobi Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh, Dhaka on July 29. Her co-singer was Youkher Ahmed.

Nurjahan Alim was inspired to learn music by her father, the late Abdul Alim. Alim's first solo album titled "Majfir" was released in 2014 and her second solo album "Jare Chhore" a tribute to Abdul Alim, was released in February this year. The recipient of several prestigious awards, Nurjahan has performed at many stage shows at home and abroad like Boishakhi Utshob in UAE, AEBA conference in Malaysia, Singapore and India and International Folk Fest in Dhaka.

## Priyanka Chopra to produce American comedy series on Madhuri Dixit's life

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra, who has found a foothold in Hollywood, is reportedly executive producing a comedy series about Bollywood's dancing diva Madhuri Dixit's life.

According to reports, the yet untitled series is based on the real life of Madhuri, who will also executive produce the project.

The story will follow how Madhuri settles down in the suburbs of the US with her cultural family and tries to bring her colourful lifestyle to an otherwise dull town.

In reality, Madhuri had taken a break from showbiz when she married Sriram Nene, who

was based in US back then and shifted to Denver from Mumbai to start a family. The mother of two sons returned to showbiz around five years ago, and continues to be one of the most charming beauties in the Hindi film industry.

Just last month, Madhuri had teased something new and exciting was going to be announced.

"Loving downtime in the US. Back up soon with announcements. Till then enjoy," she had tweeted.

Source: TOI

W. A. HILL/GETTY



Prominent theatre troupe Dhaka Theatre celebrated their 44th anniversary on July 29, at Dhaka Theatre's Himu mancha, in Purana Paltan. Former and current members of the troupe gathered together on the occasion in a lively, informal event.

