

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Solo Art Exhibition Artist: Alakesh Ghosh Organisers: BNM & Gallery Cosmos Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattachali Gallery, BNM Date: October 15-21 Time: 9:30am-5:30pm</p>	<p>Documentary Launching & Screening Documentary: Nazrul Jibon Parikroma Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum Date: Oct 17; Time: 10:30am</p>	<p>Fundraising Exhibition Phoenix of Langadu Organiser: Terracotta Creatives, Drik Venue: Drik Gallery Date: Oct 16-18 Time: 3pm-8pm</p>	<p>Theatre Festival Prangonem Theatre Week Venue: Music & Dance Theatre, BSA Date: Oct 12-18 Time: 7pm</p>	<p>Solo Painting Exhibition Title: Mittika Maya by Samar Majumder Venue: La Gallery, AFD Date: Oct 13-26 Time: 3-9pm</p>
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From Carol, with love

City of Mirrors: Songs of Lālan Sāi to launch in Washington

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

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There are very few literary undertakings as risky as translations, and cultural translations from an oriental language to one comprehensible in the West endure a shaky relationship pinned beneath the weight of troublesome, hegemonic histories. Mainstream Western translations of Rumi, Hafiz and other spiritual poets display the absence of their Islamic philosophical origins, leading to the erasure of the writer and the cultural roots shaping his world-views. Thirty years ago, a passionate Professor from the University of Washington's Department of Asian Languages and Literatures embarked on a unique journey to penetrate the little known spiritual syncretism of Bauls, seeking to undo the much lamented obfuscation of Lalon Shah's works caused by problematic translations, and little concerted efforts towards that direction. Aside from deep research, Dr. Carol Salomon, one of the only few non-Bangalees in the world with a PhD in Bangla, maintained close friendships with folk researchers and artists in Bangladesh in an endeavour to deliver a project that retained historical and con-

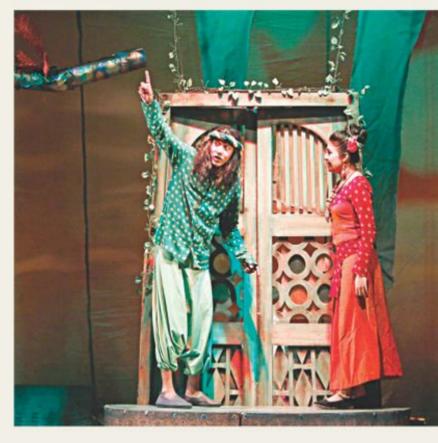


Saymon Zakaria with a copy of the book. PHOTO: STAR

textual authenticity, with annotated translations offering insight into a virtually unknown world. The work culminated in a volume titled *City of Mirrors: Songs of Lālan Sāi*, edited by noted folk researcher Saymon Zakaria and Keith E Cantú, published by Oxford University Press on August 17 this year. Carol's journey came to a tragic end in 2009, when she met her demise in a road

accident. Towards the end of her life, she corresponded with Saymon Zakaria, who sought an interview about her work. "We spoke over the phone during her last visit to Bangladesh in 2008," he reminisced, "but she had very little time, and said we would sit down for a proper chat during her next trip here. Fate determined otherwise." In 2012, Zakaria met Carol Salomon's family during his trip to the US, and her husband

Richard Salomon -- who has written the foreword to the book, requested him to finish what she had started, and let the material finally come to light. "I was stunned by the sheer amount of research she had done," Zakaria added. "Her notes were in Bangla to display the manifold layers of folklore orality before the translations. The staggering amount of Carol's research weighed about 140kgs, and I had to procure it all in three trips. As an editor I determined that the book must contain the Bangla scriptures, as well as the phonemic diction in addition to the translated segments." Saymon Zakaria informed the Daily Star that he is departing for the US on October 29 to deliver a series of lectures, as well as attend a publication ceremony on November 8 for *City of Mirror*, launched by the University of Washington. Despite such deep collaborative efforts between professors around the world, Saymon Zakaria notes a persistent lacking in Bangladesh. "It is a sad scenario that our nation does not seek out those who are contributing so much towards our literary and intellectual heritage. It is imperative that we develop our skills at home, and encourage learning of our own folk traditions."



The 10-day Ganga-Jamuna Theatre and Cultural Festival concluded at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on October 15, with the staging of three plays -- Desh Natok's "Surgaon" (middle) at National Theatre Hall, Natyam Repertoire's "Damer Madar" (below) at Experimental Theatre Hall and jatra troupe Joyjatra's "Pritilata" (top) at Studio Theatre Hall of BSA. Artists of cultural organisations Swarachitra Abritti O Nikash Kendra, Shrutighar, Surtal, Sursagor, Nandanik Nritya Sangathan and Bhorer Pakhi Nrityakala Kendra also performed on the open stage earlier in the day.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Int'l Children's Film Festival opens Call for Entries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Children's Film Festival, that will see its 11th edition next year in Dhaka, has opened its call for entries. The deadline for films is October 31, according to the organisers' web site and Facebook page. The festival, organised by the Children's Film Society Bangladesh (CFSB) is one of the major film events of the country, and the only film festival in the country targeted towards children and young adults -- showcasing full-length features, shorts, and experimental films made for and by children from around the world. The festival began in 2008 and has been held annually, boasting a staggering 2,200 films screened over the years. Participants need to register their film on the CFSB web site, and send the package including DVD, proof of age and some other required documents to the designated address. One of the themes that the festival is inviting films is "Violence Against Girls" in its Social Film Section. The short films must be less than 20 minutes in duration, made by filmmakers aged 25 and less. The 11th International Children's Film Festival will be held across the country from January 27-February 2, and aims to screen some 200 films.



Youngsters at the 10th edition of the festival. STAR FILE PHOTO

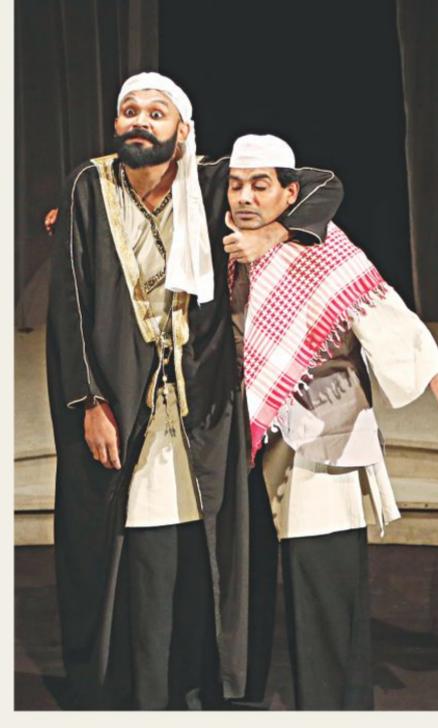


Classical fest concludes in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A mesmerising performance by classical artists at a two-day classical music festival enthralled a capacity audience at Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium. The festival organised by Zila Shilpalaka Academy and supported by Mymensingh district administration was held over the weekend. Eminent classical vocalists and instrumentalists of the country Professor Sumita Naha and Bijon Topder from Mymensingh; Professor Asit Roy of Music Department of Rajshahi University; Chandana Devi Hajong from Sunamganj; Taposh Dutt and Swarnamoy Chakraborty from Chittagong; Professor Asit Dey, head of Music Department of University of Development Alternative in Dhaka Sushanta Kumar Sarker and Ashik Sarker Tushar of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul

Islam University, Trishal, Mymensingh performed a diverse range of ragas at the programme. Artists of Zila Shilpakala Academy also performed at the inaugural ceremony. Ustad AKM Shahabuddin Khan of Mymensingh along with two disciples - Omar Ali and Saiduzzaman Sumon - imbued the event with a magical ambience with their flute performances. Performances of Ebadul Haque Saikat from Dhaka on sitar, Mahmudul Hasan of Rangpur on violin and Biswajit Notya from Barisal on tabla received accolades from the audience as well. Md Khalilur Rahman, DC Mymensingh inaugurated the festival as chief guest. The speakers pointed out that the first of its kind festival in Mymensingh was organised to promote classical music among the younger generation whose tastes run largely to western music and lifestyles.



GOHIN BALUCHOR pushed back to December

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badrul Anam Saud's upcoming debut film "Gohin Baluchor" has pushed its release back to December. A brief statement on the film's Facebook page from Saud and executive producer Suborna Mustafa made the announcement, citing unavailability of cinema halls and other circumstances. The film had announced release date of October 20 about a month ago, and also launched its promotional campaign including the release of its trailer and two songs.



According to the announcement, the film will now be released in cinemas on December 29, 2017. "We invite everyone to come watch our film in the halls. Your love and support is always appreciated," the Gohin Baluchor team stated in the announcement. Despite the news, the month of October is proving to be a hectic one for the film industry. Police

action thriller "Dhaka Attack" is going strong at cinemas all over the country in its third week, while Montajur Rahman Akbar's "Dulabhai Zindabad" starring Biya Sinha Mim, Moushumi and Dipjol is also appealing to its own demographic. Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's internationally-acclaimed Bangladesh-India joint production "Doob", starring Irrfan Khan in the central role, is also releasing on

October 27. A government grant-awarded film, "Gohin Baluchor" is a love story based in a riverine area. The film stars veteran actors Suborna Mustafa, Raisul Islam Asad, Afroza Banu, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Jitu Ahsan, Shahadat Hossain, and Runa Khan, along with three new faces on the silver screen - Abu Hurayra Tanvir, Jannatun Noor Moon, and Neelanjona Neela.

The Daily Star

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