

Dhaka Int'l Folk Fest opens today

Melodies of Assam, Brazil and Tibet on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The third edition of the Dhaka International Folk Festival opens today at the capital's Army Stadium, amid much anticipation and fanfare. Assamese (India) singer Papon, a fan favourite of the festival, will perform on the opening day, along with Brazilian composer-musician Mauricio Tizumba and Australia-based Tibetan folk musician Tenzin Choegyul. Upcoming Bangladeshi folk band Baula will open the festival, while noted folk singer Fakir Shahabuddin will also enthrall the audiences today. The concert is set to begin at 6pm and continue till 1:30am into the night.

The festival, presented by Meril and powered by Dhaka Bank, is being organised by Sun Events. Attendance to the festival is free but is only through an online registration process that ran from November 1-5. The extent of the festival's popularity was apparent when registration numbers had to be limited per day, and many people have said they failed to register for the festival, often due to the web site being unresponsive possibly due to the high network traffic in the registration window (from 12pm until the daily quota was completed).

Angarag Mohanta, known best by his stage name Papon, grew in popularity through his Bollywood playback songs like "Jiyein Kyun", "Moh Moh Ke Dhaage" and "Kyon", as well as his performance on the Indian edition of Coke Studio through songs like "Dinae Dinae", "Jhumoor" and more. His music contains the soothing melodies of the northeastern Indian folk and combines that with contemporary arrangements.

Mauricio Tizumba hails from Belo Horizonte in Brazil, and has a career spanning four decades in which he has established himself as a singer, instrumentalist, composer, actor and cultural entrepreneur. He is highly regarded in Latin America for his relevance for Afro-Brazilian art and founding of important artistic movements of the cultural scene of the Southeastern Brazilian state of Minas. At the festival, he is set to perform with his sextet, a six-piece band.

Tenzin Choegyul is a Tibetan artist, composer, activist, musical director and cultural ambassador currently based in Australia. Tenzin



The festival sees tens of thousands in attendance, mostly the youth.

STAR FILE PHOTO

has a successful international career as a musician, playing at such prestigious events as WOMAD and composing music for films and prestigious film and cultural festival. His brand of music containing the essence of the nomadic Tibetan people and their culture, focusing on humanistic values.

Fakir Shahabuddin is a veteran folk artist of the country, who has performed in the country and abroad. His musical style is energetic, keeping the authentic tonality of Bangla folk songs from various regions, be it of Sylhet or Chittagong.

Baula is a Bangladeshi folk trio of Prakash

Banik, Joy Sinha and Mainuddin Khan Sayonto, that began their journey in 2013, and has gained popularity among listeners. Their simplistic musical arrangements often consisting only of a flute, a guitar and a banjo, bring out the flavours of Bangladesh's folk music.

Organisers have set some rules for festival-goers with concerns to security; no bags are allowed inside, except for small purses for women within a certain size limit. The registration passes are not transferrable and one must present their photo ID for verification while entering the festival.



Participants of the workshop pose for a group photo.

Printmaking workshop and exhibition by Cosmos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cosmos Atelier71 Printmaking Studio and Gallery Cosmos arranged a six-day (November 3-8) printmaking (etching/intaglio) workshop titled "Nature Quest" at Cosmos Centre, Malibagh in the capital. Renowned artist Rokeya Sultana, Professor at the Department of Printmaking, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka and Noted artist Uttam Kumar Bashak, Professor at the Visva-Bharati University of India conducted the workshop.

From all over Bangladesh, twelve noted and emerging artists -- Rashid Amin, Anisuzzaman Anis, Nagarbasi Barman, Ashraf Hossain, Sujit Sarker, Boni Adam, Palash Baran Bishwash, Farzana Rahman Boby, Sourav Chowdhury, Nadia Yeasmin, Juton Chandra Roy and SM Ehsan -- participated in the workshop. The studio also intends to publish a portfolio with selected artworks of every participant derived from the workshop. Eminent artists Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Shahid Kabir, Biren Shome, Alakesh Ghosh, Cosmos Group Chairman Amanullah Khan, and Gallery Cosmos Director Tehmina Enayet were present at the inaugural ceremony of the workshop.

Cosmos Atelier71 Studio, set up in 2009, has made a significant contribution towards printmaking medium more popular. As part of their vision to elevate art, the studio contains state-of-the-art facilities, which are exceptional in Bangladesh. It aims to break new grounds by acting as an incubator for the emergence of graphic art in Bangladesh. To that end, it focuses on the encouraging young printmakers to develop their craft before presenting them with pathways for a future in printmaking.

Etching/Intaglio is traditionally the process of using strong acid or mordant to cut into the unprotected parts of a metal surface to create a design in intaglio (incised) in the metal. As a method of printmaking, it is, along with engraving, the most important technique for old master prints, and remains in wide use today.

The outcomes of the workshop will be displayed at the exhibition titled "Nature Quest" by 14 artists at Gallery Cosmos, New DOHS, Mohakhali from 10 to 23 November.



PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Kornia

rocks out in new music videos

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

Singer Kornia's claim to fame has gotten bigger since making her debut in the music reality TV show "Power Voice", and is working diligently to produce new music every year. The singer recently released a new single along with a music video titled "Tomaye" on October 26, and has another new music video on the cards. "Tomaye" was composed and tuned by Setu Chowdhury and was released under the banner of Dhruva Music Station. The video, directed by Tanveer Khan, was filmed at Coke Studio and Channel 9, and featured the singer rocking out with a guitar along with band mates.

In December, the singer will release another single along with a

music video titled "Lagbhelki". The song is an upbeat pop number, for which the singer will put her dancing shoes on. The song is composed and tuned by Studio Dockyard, and the video is helmed by Farhad Ahmed.

It seems as though the versatile singer is comfortable in a variety of genres, but the singer has stated she has a fond preference for rock music. "Bangladesh has very few mainstream female rock musicians, and the genre also appeals to a niche audience. So it was a very risky move for me to choose this image. I may have more popularity in Dhaka than in other regions of Bangladesh, but I love rock music, and I am doing my best to include more rock songs in my repertoire," she said.

Kornia is also currently busy with stage shows, and has performed at a show for BPL on November 4. She has more shows scheduled in Dhaka, and is slated to perform in Cox's Bazaar soon.



Vidya balan

opts out of Meena Kumari biopic

Bollywood star Vidya Balan was in talks to essay the role of legendary Indian actress Meena Kumari in the Tigmanshu Dhulia-directed biopic since a long time, but looks like after the actor's family issued a press statement about them not being happy with Vidya's casting, she chose to opt out of the project, reports Indian Express.

Confirming the news, she told DNA, "No, I'm not doing the Meena Kumari biopic anymore. It didn't quite work out. I love Meena Kumari. If I had a girl crush on somebody, it would be her. If she was alive, I'd probably land up to see her all the time. I am that fascinated by her. I always wanted to play her." Earlier, reports of Kangana Ranaut starring in the film were making the rounds. But due to Kangana's tight schedule, the film came to Balan.

Telling more about her reasons that made her walk away, Vidya said, "The script has to do justice. It can't just be a sensational account of her life, even if she is not around. It has to present different episodes of her life and not just the ones that will grab eyeballs. So, I decided not to do it."

On the film front, Vidya is looking forward to her upcoming film "Tumhari Sulu". Directed by Suresh Tiwari, the story of the film revolves around a middle-aged housewife. For Vidya, "Tumhari Sulu" is a happy film. "People are saying that it is a slice of life film and tells story of a middle class family... Sulu is a very energetic woman who wants to try everything once. After watching the film, people will leave the theatre with a smile," she said.

"Tumhari Sulu" releases November 17.

Source: Indian Express

Journalists fight government in "The Post"

First trailer out for Spielberg's latest film

20th Century Fox has released a new "The Post" trailer, which follows the country's first female newspaper publisher of The Washington Post, Kay Graham (played by Meryl Streep) and its hard-driving editor, Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks) as they fight to publish the Pentagon Papers, which proved the government has systematically lied about the scope of the Vietnam War.

Steven Spielberg's latest film has had a rather quiet promotional run, with the first look still released only recently. Both Streep and Hanks look to be delivering first rate work, the supporting cast sports some of the most talented performers in the industry, and as the first collaboration between Meryl Streep and Steven Spielberg, it's a safe bet "The Post" is going to garner its fair share of acting contenders.

The film opens December 22 and also stars Alison Brie, Sarah Paulson, Carrie Coon, David Cross, Bruce Greenwood, Tracy Letts, Bob Odenkirk, Jesse Plemons, Michael Stuhlborg, Zach Woods, and Bradley Whitford.

The official synopsis for the film terms it "a thrilling drama about the



unlikely partnership between The Washington Post's Katharine Graham, the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, and editor Ben Bradlee, as they race to catch up with The New York Times to expose a massive cover-up of government secrets that

spanned three decades and four US Presidents. The two must overcome their differences as they risk their careers – and their very freedom – to help bring long-buried truths to light.

The Post marks the first time Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg

have collaborated on a project. In addition to directing, Spielberg produces along with Amy Pascal and Kristie Macosko Krieger. The script was written by Liz Hannah and Josh Singer.

Source: Collider