

WHAT'S ON

Dhaka Lit Fest  
Producer: Jatrik  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Date: Nov 16-18  
Time: 9am-7pm

**Dhaka Lit Fest**

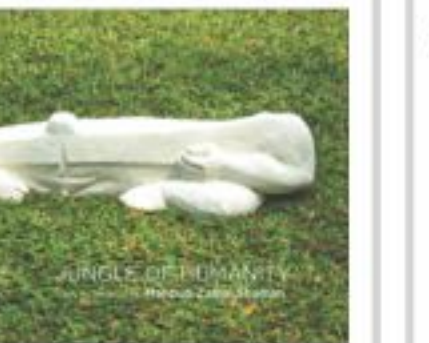
Group Print Exhibition  
Title: Nature Quest  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115,  
L-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali  
Date: Nov 10-23  
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Painting exhibition  
Title: Memories Beyond Time  
Artist: Syed Jahangir  
Venue: Abinta Gallery of fine arts  
Date: Nov 11-Dec 01  
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition  
Title: Jungle of Humanity by  
Mahbub Zamil Shamim  
Venue: Gallery-2, (2nd floor),  
National Art Gallery, BSA  
Date: Nov 10-24  
Time: 11am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition  
Layers  
Artist: Fahad Hasan Kazmee  
Venue: Kala Kendra  
Date: Oct 27-Nov 22  
Time: 5-8pm



## NEWSbytes

### SAM SMITH lands his first No. 1 album



Sam Smith's "The Thrill of It All" debuted at No. 1 in both the US and the UK, making it his first No. 1 album in the US. His debut, "In the Lonely Hour", peaked at No. 2 in July 2014, led by Lana Del Rey's "Ultraviolence" in its first week and by fellow Brit pop star Ed Sheeran's "x" in its second.

"The Thrill of It All" is the third album by an Englishman to reach No. 1 in both the US and the UK so far this year, following the footsteps of Sheeran and Harry Styles.

Smith's current hit, "Too Good at Goodbyes", rebounded from No. 10 to No. 4 in its ninth week on the Hot 100, making it his highest ranking to date.

Smith is a past Grammy winner for Best New Artist, as is Maroon 5, which enters the Billboard at No. 2 with "Red Blue Pills". Each of the group's last five albums has reached No. 1 or No. 2.

Source: **Billboard**

# Bengal Classical Music Festival back on course

## Preparations underway for rescheduled dates

FAHMIM FERDOUS

When Bengal Foundation announced last month that they had to cancel the sixth edition of the Bengal Classical Music Festival due to the unavailability of the venue, Army Stadium, it broke the hearts of thousands of ardent music lovers in the country. However, in a new development on Tuesday, the organisers said they are planning to make the festival happen next month, at a new venue.

According to a press note by Bengal Foundation sent Tuesday night, they have secured Dhanmondi's Abahani ground as the new venue for the festival, which will take place from December 26-30 provided all government quarters clear the necessary permissions.

Organisers' preparations have already begun. "We have been doing the festival at Army Stadium for five years and that is a very familiar ground to us. This is a new ground and we just got the clearance, so we are still planning and checking various things regarding the organisation," Farhadul Islam, CEO of the festival's event management company Blues Communications told The Daily Star. "We will have to secure the perimeter. To ensure that the festival's sound levels do not cause any problems to the residential area and hospitals, we will be using NoizCalc, a 'far field immission modelling software' tool with our sound system company d&b Audiotechnik."

About the audience capacity of the festival,



Since its 2012 inception, the festival has become Dhaka's most iconic musical event.

Farhadul Islam said "We are expecting the same kind of turnout like the previous years, and we can accommodate that number throughout the night."

Bengal Foundation has also begun communicating with the artistes for the festival. "We began contacting the artistes the moment we got the venue, and the response from them has been very positive," the foundation's DG Luva Nahid Choudhury told The Daily Star. "The artistes have a personal commitment to this festival; otherwise, this is a very busy time for them. It is too early to say if we can execute all our original plans for this year's festival, but we are trying," she added.

In the past five years, the Bengal Classical Music Festival has established itself as the biggest festival of classical music in the world in terms of performance duration and audience: since 2014, the festival duration was increased a day to five nights – running from evening to dawn. The total number of attendances at the 2016 edition of the festival was nearly 200,000.

An illustrious lineup of artistes were confirmed to perform at the festival on its original scheduled date of November 23-27, including Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Asia's first Grammy winner Vidwan Vikku Vinayakram, a Western Classical Symphonic

Orchestra (to perform with Pt. L Subramaniam), along with festival regulars Pt. Ajoy Chakravarty, Ustad Rashid Khan, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar, Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan and Kaushiki Chakravarty.

It was cancelled as the Army Sports Control Board (ASCB) denied allotment of the Army Stadium from November 20-28 to Bengal Foundation. The news of cancellation of the festival had caused uproar among music lovers, with cultural personalities lamenting the missed opportunity, and protests held in the capital and Mymensingh. In a way, the cancellation of the festival clearly brought out the extent of its popularity. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, however, had expressed optimism at the time while talking to The Daily Star, saying: "I am still optimistic that with the direct initiative of the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the festival may be re-scheduled," and turns out there was something to it.

If all goes according to plan, the Bengal Classical Music Festival will welcome their faithful audience at a new home in just over a month, and that may not be the worst thing to happen. One of the greatest signs of strength and resolve for any entity is in its ability to overcome obstacles; Bengal Foundation already did that once by holding the festival during a particularly tumultuous political and social time in 2013, and looks like they are on course to conquer something bigger this year.

STAR FILE PHOTO



## Romance blooms in new "Haldaa" song Mosharraf-Tisha are the centerpiece of "Gom Gom Laar"

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Tauquir Ahmed's upcoming riverine drama "Haldaa" has been building up anticipation ahead of its December release, and the latest in line is a sweet love song with a mellifluous melody, catchy chorus and gorgeous landscapes.

The second song of the film, titled "Gom Gom Laar" (which is in Chittagonian dialect) was released Tuesday on YouTube, and has been met with good response. The song moves

away from the melancholy of the first song "Nona Jol" and is a song of a blooming love, between the two central characters played by Mosharraf Karim and Nusrat Imrose Tisha. The two take leisurely boat rides across calm river pathways and spend quality times in fields of mustard plants, holding hands lovingly gazing into each other's eyes as the chorus, "Sona Gom Gom Laar, Khoto Gom Gom Laar" ("Gom Laar" translating to "feeling good") plays in the background.

The lyrics, by former Chirkutt member Pinto

Ghosh, is simple and beautiful as a love song for two villagers should be, and the use of a Chittagonian chorus to make it stand out is really clever. The musical arrangement also complements the overall tone of the film, and sung in duet by Pinto Ghosh and his real-life wife Shukonna Mazumder Ghosh adds to the chemistry of the song.

Also starring Zahid Hasan, Dilara Zaman, Fazlur Rahman Babu and Runa Khan, "Haldaa" is set to release across the country on December 1.

## Nabanno Utshab celebrated in Chittagong

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Chittagong

On a sunny afternoon of Kartik (seventh month of Bengali calendar), a Nabanno Utshob 1424 was held with colourful festivity and a cultural programme organised by Shishumela at Enayet Bazar Women's College premises on Tuesday.

Three farmers inaugurated the festival by releasing balloons. The farmers who inaugurated the event in earlier years were also invited at the festival.

Shishumela has been arranging the programme since 2015. It was held at DC Hill open stage in the city in previous years, but this year the administration could not spare the venue for the programme, the director of the organi-

sation Rubel Das Prince said. "Our aim is to let the younger generation connect with the traditional festivity of our culture. They only read about Nabanno Utshab in books," said Rubel.

A stall selling local and traditional Bengali Pithas (cakes) was set beside the stage.

Group dancing with folk songs and poetry recitation were performed by youths of the city in the programme.

Ratnakar Das Tunu, member secretary of the organisation said that they try to keep in touch with the farmers in the district as they have little scope for entertainment in their lives.

The programme continued till night with folk singer Fakir Shahabuddin as the last performer of the day.



Young artistes present a group dance.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Jatiyo Nabanno Utshab Udjapan Parshad organised a vibrant Nabanno Utshab yesterday at the Bakultola of Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, celebrating the traditional festival of new harvest. Noted artistes Shaheen Samad and Farida Parveen sang songs at the programme, which also featured group dance performances and a pitha utshab.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## "Ekjon Kobi'r Mrittyu" gets rave reviews at KIFF

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, Kolkata

The audience and critical response to Bangladeshi director Abu Sayeed's latest work "Ekjon Kobi'r Mrittyu", competing in the Innovation in Moving Image category of the ongoing Kolkata International Film Festival, has "overwhelmed" him.

"I was overwhelmed by the audience response after the film's first screening at the Nandan complex on November 12, a day after the Festival was inaugurated," the director told The Daily Star.

"For about five hours after the screening, I had to hold two separate media interactions to cater to their growing demand and received a tremendous response from the audience," Sayeed said.

The film, featuring Jayanta Chattopadhyay and Irene Sultana among others, had its world premiere at the festival. German film critic Rudiger Tomczak writes in his review of the film that Sayeed's "admirable" film "is a 'wise and exciting essay on cinema.'"

"The collision of reality and fiction gives the film a nearly

dream-like quality," he adds.

Reviewing the movie, leading Indian Bangla daily Anandabazar Patrika commented that the traditional filmmaking method is absent in this "highly experimental" work by Sayeed. "There is an amazing simplicity and honesty in the film's story-telling," it adds.

The review says that Sayeed's film shows a "new path" as to how simplicity in story-telling and experimental way can be successfully blended.

"Innovation and simplicity are seldom seen in Bangla cinema and honesty is another trait that is almost lost. But Sayeed's film has shown us a new path, given us courage and proved that a how a film can be made this way," the review in the newspaper says.

Pointing out that Sayeed has crowd-funded the film, the daily says that such an initiative is commendable because the director is no longer dependent on the producer. "One hopes that films can be made through crowd-funding in this part of Bengal."

