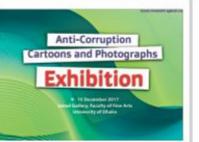


Group Painting Exhibition Title: Musings in Watercolor Venue: Edge Galleries, Gulshan-2 Date: Nov 26-Dec 15 Time: 10am-8pm		Shital Pati Exhibition Organiser: Bangladesh National Museum Venue: Nalinikantha Bhattasali Gallery, BNM Date: December 5-11 Time: 10am-5pm		Cartoon and Photograph Exhibition Organiser: TIB Venue: Zaimul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts (DU) Date: Dec 9-15 Time: 12-7pm		Solo Art Exhibition Title: Peace Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha Venue: Gallery Cosmos Date: Dec 08-17 Time: 12am-8pm		Solo Art Exhibition Title: Projection of Identity Artist: A. H. Dhali Tomal Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi Date: Dec 08-21 Time: 3pm-8pm	
---	--	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Bengal Classical Music Fest '17 from December 26-30

Organisers announce details, Abahani Field new venue

FAHMIM FERDOUS
 The sixth edition of the Bengal Classical Music Festival is finally happening, from December 26-30 at the capital's Abahani Field, organisers Bengal Foundation announced at a press conference yesterday.

The 2017 Bengal Classical Music Festival, which has grown to be known as the "biggest classical music festival in the world" in the past five years, was called off earlier on October 22, when Bengal Foundation announced that they had not received the venue, Army Stadium, for the grand event this year. The following month, the organisers informed that they had received the Abahani Field in Dhanmondi as an alternate venue, and were working towards holding the festival at the end of December.

Jasraj (khyal), Grammy-winning musician Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Mohan Veena), Vidushi Kala Ramnath (violin), South Asia's first Grammy winner Vidwan Vikku Vinayakram (ghatam), Pandit Buddhaditya Mukherjee (sitar), Pandit Debojyoti Bose (sitar), Pandit Kaivalya Kumar Gurav (khyal), Dr. Mysore Manjunath (violin) Dutch-born Saskia Rao-de Haas (cello) and for the first time, a dance company titled Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company. Apart from them, Sujata Mohapatra (Odissi dance), Vidushi Padma Talwalkar (khyal), Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar (sarod), Pandit Ronu Mazumdar (flute), Pandit Kushal Das (sitar), Rakesh

Yogesh Samsi on tabla, and Sabir Khan on sarangi.

The Bangladeshi performers at the festival will include five promising young dancers - Sweety Das, Amit Chowdhury, Snata Shahrin, Sudeshna Swayamprabha and Mehraz Haque Tushar, students of the government music college, students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay (in group recitals of tabla, sitar and sarod), Supriya Das (khyal), Abhijit Kundu (dhrupad) and noted Bangladeshi classical music exponents Firoz Khan (sitar) and Gazi Abdul Hakim (flute).

Entry to the festival, like previous years, is free but subject to registration.

won't happen at any other time." He thanked the government, and the Army for providing the venue for the festival in the last five years. "I want to say on record that without their support, this festival could not have achieved the status it has, and I am thankful to them. Maybe this year they could not allocate the venue for us but I hope in the future they can again." He also assured journalists that the venue will not be too small. "At the Army Stadium, we had 2,60,000 square feet to work with, here we have 3,60,000 square feet, so it is in fact bigger."

Anjan Chowdhury, Chairman of Square Group who have been a sponsor



Raktakarabi launches "Raag-e Robiraag-e"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Chittagong-based music organisation Raktakarabi launched a special music album "Raag-e Robiraag-e" at The Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct at The Daily Star Centre on December 9. The album features a demonstrative presentation of Hindustani Classical Ragas along with Tagore songs based on the related ragas.

Special guest of the programme Pt. Vijay Kichlu unveiled the album while Agra Gharana music exponent Vidushi Subhra Guha, Tagore exponent ABM Nurul Anwar and Bengal Foundation DG Luva Nahid Choudhury attended the programme as distinguished guests.

"To understand and render Bangla songs well, knowledge and practice of classical music is needed. Those who have enriched Bangla songs for hundreds of years have done the job with precise understanding of raga music. I sincerely thank the organisers for presenting us Tagore songs together with rendition of Indian classical ragas," said Luva Nahid Choudhury.

"I had assumed that Bangladesh was ready for classical music. The artistes of this land perform Bangla songs very well. I was overwhelmed when I saw that around 60,000 people were listening to classical music in pin-drop silence for five nights in a row. I am gratified that my assessment has proved to be true. Bangladesh is an outstanding example as its people show love for music -- be it classical or Tagore song. This album is a proof of that," said Pt. Vijay Kichlu.

The event started off with a choral performance of Tagore song "Aji E Ananda Sondhya" by the artistes of Raktakarabi. The organiser and prime music trainer of the organisation, Shila Momen - who planned and researched for the album, elaborated on the stories behind the album. Pt. Vijay Kichlu has illustrated 42 ragas while Vidushi Subhra Guha has rendered them. The 12 Tagore songs along with the related ragas have been recorded for the maiden album. Other tracks will be published in the next albums.

Later, Shila Momen performed Raga Yaman and Kedar with Tagore songs -- "Ke Go Antoroto Se" and "Probhhu Amar Priyo Amar" while Vidushi Subhra Guha performed khyal at the programme.



(L-R) Luva Nahid Choudhury, Abul Khair, Anjan Chowdhury and Zara Mahub speak at the press meet.

Chaurasia (flute), Purbayan Chatterjee (sitar), Rajrupa Chowdhury (sarod) and Abir Hossain (sarod) will also be returning to the grand stage. The spotlight, however, will be on the icons of Indian classical music - Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma (santoor), Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia (flute), Pandit Ajoy Chakravarty (khyal), Ustad Rashid Khan (khyal), Pandit Ulhas Kashalkar (dhrupad) and Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan (sitar). They will be joined by noted accompanists - among whom are Pandit Abhijit Banerjee, Pandit Shubhankar Banerjee and Pandit

Online registration will begin later this month (tentatively December 18) and will continue for a short period of time. Offline registration will also be possible at the booth set up at the Gyantapas Abdur Razaque Bidyapeeth in Dhanmondi. There will be no registration facilities on-site during the festival.

Speaking at the press conference, Bengal Foundation chairman Abul Khair said "I was heartbroken when I had to call the festival off, but I had a sliver of hope. Our Prime Minister is a culturally-aware person. If this festival cannot happen under her government it

of the festival since its second edition, said "There was never any doubt that we would be part of this festival. As long as this festival will be there, our support will continue."

The festival is being presented by Square and supported by Brac Bank. Channel i is the broadcast partner, medical partner Square Hospitals, event management by Blues Communications, associate partner Index Group, Bengal Digital, Bengal Boi and Bengal Parampara Sangeetalay. Perfect Harmony, Singapore is giving overall support to the festival.



Nusraat Faria returns to anchoring

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
 Popular film actor Nusraat Faria is known best for her big screen performances, but the movie star began her showbiz career as a TV presenter for the Rtv programme "Thik Bolechen Toh." Faria went onto become a popular anchor for a number of programmes, while establishing a modeling and acting career on the side. And now after two years, the actor is slated to return to her hosting roots, in a new programme titled "Ma Versus Bou."

Directed by Tanim Rahman Angshu, filming is said to begin from December 17-22 at FDC. "I was drawn to the premise of the show, due to its unconventional format. As a performer I want to be recognised for good work, and I am preparing to make the show a success," Faria told The Daily Star.

Each episode of the programme features a mother and her daughter-in-law, and is expected to have 15 minutes airtime.

Nusraat Faria's last film was "Boss 2", a Bangladesh-India joint venture directed by Baba Yadav.

Mustafa Zaman Abbasi's 80th birthday celebrated at BNM

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN
 Ekushey Padak-winning musicologist Mustafa Zaman Abbasi celebrated his 80th birthday on December 8. To mark the occasion, Kathencil Shahitya Sangsad organised an event at Bangladesh National Museum's Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium on the day. The evening saw an impressive audience turnout where distinguished guests came forward to pay their respects to the celebrated artiste. The event also launched an anthological publication of his works, titled "Urilo Shonar Payra".

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed was invited as chief guest while Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam presided over the event. The auditorium became home to a jovial and lively atmosphere as notable members of the country came forward to greet Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, bearing bouquets and gifts. Welcome addresses were delivered by Ali Imam, Al Mujahidi, Faridur Reza Sagar, Asma Abbasi, Shaheen Samad and Sharmini Abbasi.



Abbasi's daughter Sharmini Abbasi delivered a poignant speech on the values instilled within her life because of her father, and regaled the audience with stories of growing up in the Abbasi household. "My aunt, Ferdousi Rahman, who is unable to be here today due to health reasons, always told me her best friend was her father, Abbasuddin Ahmed. And now I can proudly state that my father is my best

friend and confidante," she said.

Managing Director of Channel i and Impress Telefilm Faridur Reza Sagar stated, "It is unbelievable to me that we are here together celebrating my dear acquaintance's 80th birthday. Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and I are close friends, and I see him on a regular basis, and it is difficult to fathom how quickly time has passed by."

Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam stated, "This family is one of a kind. Abbasuddin Ahmed began an important musical tradition among Bengalee Muslims, a legacy that has been carried forward for generations by his family. There is no other family in the country where such heights of greatness have been achieved across generations."

Chief guest Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed rounded off the event with a humorous speech saying, "I liken Mustafa Zaman Abbasi to a tree with strong roots, weathering through many events over the years and prevailing. There are not many who have been able to reach his height."

The programme was followed by musical performances by renowned and popular singers including Shaheen Samad, Fatema Tuz Zohra, Indramohon Rajbongshi, Nasheed Kamal, Kiron Chandra Roy, Abu Bakr Siddique, Zahir Alim, Nurjahan Alim and Azgar Alim. A huge birthday cake was brought out and cut during the programme's conclusion.

DU Annual Central Theatre Fest opens today



A CORRESPONDENT
 Dhaka University's (DU) Theatre & Performance Studies department is all set to hold the 12th Dhaka University Central Annual Theatre Festival from today at its TSC Auditorium.

Vice Chancellor of the university, Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman will inaugurate the festival at 6pm. Cultural Affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor will be present as chief guest at the ceremony, along with DU pro-VC (education) Dr. Nasreen Ahmad and arts faculty dean Professor Dr. Abu Md. Delwar Hossain. Theatre & Performance Studies department chairman Ahmedul Kabir will chair the session.

At this year's festival, plays by literary stalwarts Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi

Nazrul Islam, Syed Waliullah, Ahmed Safa, Akhtaruzzaman Ilias, Selim Al Deen, Abdullah Al Mamun, Badal Sarkar and Abmatuzzuddin Ahmed will be staged.

The festival will open with Tagore's "Chandalika" directed by Sadia Mahub Sara, followed by Syed Shamsul Haq's "Neel Dangshan" (directed by Moniruzzaman Ripon). Some other of the 17 plays of the festival include "Moronbilash", "Bagh Uddokta", "Ujane Mrityu", "Miss Julie". Shahman Maishan and Ashiq Rahman Leon are in charge of overall coordination of the plays that have been produced by students of the department.

The festival will also honour eminent thespian Aly Zaker with a special award for his lifelong contribution to Bangladeshi theatre.