



WHAT'S ON


Bengal Classical Music Festival
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Abahani Field
Date: December 26-30
Time: 6pm onwards



Kathak Dance Festival
Organiser: Kathak Dance Community
Venue: Main Auditorium, Chayanaut
Date: Dec 24-26
Time: 6:05pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Beyond the Insignificant
Artist: Tasadduk Hossain Dulu
Venue: Kala Kendra
Date: dec 15-Jan 6
Time: 5-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Code of Conduct
Artist: Mohammad Hasanur Rahman (Reaz)
Venue: La Galerie, AFD
Date: Dec 19-Jan 2
Time: Mon-Thurs (3-9pm), Fri-Sat (9am-12noon & 5-8pm)



National Cultural Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Uddichi Shilpighoshthi
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka
Date: Dec 28-30; Time: 3pm






PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

RINGING IN CHRISTMAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Going to the Cooper's bakery early morning, one found the first Christmas tree. "One has to work even on Christmas ma'am," the serving girl complained.

All the malls and hotels looked spruced up with winking fairy lights this Christmas. The whole city appears garlanded, wearing a festive look for the occasion.

Every year on this day, one can expect to be soothed by the notes of "Silent Night, Holy Night" floating through the lobby of

Sonargaon Hotel. Father Christmas will appear later with his round belly and red cap with people jostling around him to be photographed. They too will don Christmas caps, whether they are wearing the festive gown or the sari to go with it. There are likely to be some yummy beef tacos to feast on earlier. The fridge at home usually has some lemon flavoured iced cakes as well as nut-filled chocolate cakes for guests that would come by in the evening. One would feel that the meal at night is from "Pillars of Wisdom" with the table laden

with stuffed peacock and a sumptuous pig with an apple in its mouth.

There would be snow-capped trees of Christmas for the main decoration, with a reindeer flying atop Christmas tree tops. Also there are golden coloured balls, a snowman donning a red cap, muffler, and a red stick with a golden star. Beneath the tree are enormous green, red and mauve gift packages tied with ribbons. The golden balls go in hand with the blue ones. Father Christmas would soon be there flying in with his collection of reindeer

and sleigh in black. Nestled in the corner is a small kiosk with an embroidered Muslin table cloth with brow and white motifs on the edge and a threadwork of a penguin and its young. Predictably, people crowding about would be selling tickets for more merriment on New Year's Day. Couples and children will be dressed in their Christmas best, having their pictures taken by camera and mobile phones. At the poolside a party is arranged for the children for Christmas, their cries and laughter ringing in the air.

'Tis the season to be jolly, and much more

In the cold winter months Christmas is a cozy time of the year, bringing families together. For popular small screen actor Kalyan Corraya, the festive season has much in store. Aside from looking forward to new projects being aired next year, the actor is also tying the knot just two days after Christmas. In a recent conversation the actor opens up about this new phase in life, and his plans for Christmas. Excerpts:



PHOTO: STAR

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

"We have plans to go to Gazipur for a big family reunion after breakfast on Christmas morning. Before the big day, everyone chips in to decorate the courtyard with fresh flowers. The house is decked with lights, new curtains are put out, and at the heart of it all is the Christmas tree, beautifully decked and proud. The best part is that schools are closed for the year during this season, and so nobody misses out. Christmas is also the season of giving, and everyone rushes to buy presents for family and friends, which is very exciting and fulfilling. December is also the wedding season in Bangladesh, and for at least a fortnight I will be stuffed with pulao and korma."

"Right after Christmas Day I plan to return to prepare for my wedding, which will be held on the 27th. I met my bride-to-be among family friends, after which we became very good friends. She lives in the USA, and we stayed in constant touch and met whenever I traveled there for work. Over time we fell in love, and decided to get married. I hope my fans will wish me the very best in my new life."

"For next year, I am awaiting the release of a new drama series on Deepto TV titled "New York Theke Bolchi", which was filmed in USA, as well as "Idiots" by Sumon Anwar, for which I had to spend some time in Sreemongol. There is an ntv production titled "Jokhon Kokhono", directed by Rahmatullah Karim, as well as a few others to be aired on different TV channels."

Contemporary Indian print exhibit at BSA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fortnight-long group print exhibition showcasing works by 65 Indian noted printmakers beings today at National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). This is a permanent collection of Indian prints at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh.

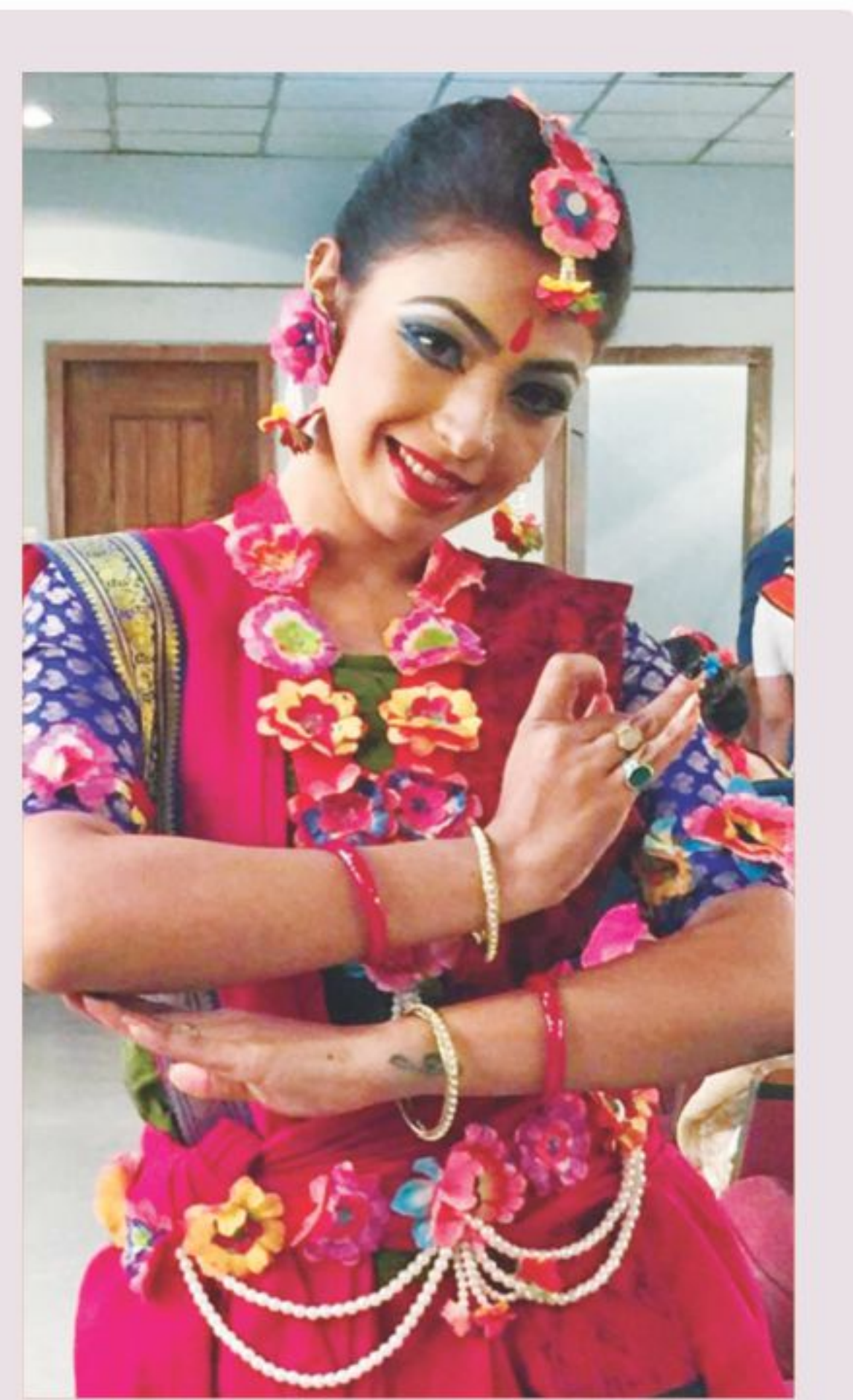
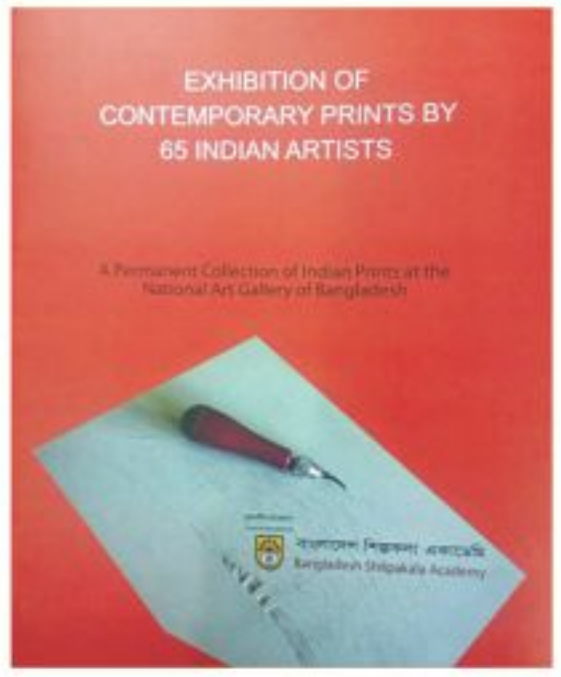
HT Imam, political adviser to the Prime Minister, will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest at 10am. Adwaita Charan Gadanayak, Director General of National Gallery of Modern Art, India, and renowned artist Monirul Islam will attend the ceremony as special guests.

Muniruzzaman, Director, Department of Fine Art, BSA, will deliver the

welcome address while Liaquat Ali Lucky, Director General of BSA, will preside over the programme.

The famous Indian artists who donated their prints to our National Art Gallery include Anupam Sud, Arpana Caur, Sarojpal Gogi, Jai Zharotia, Jyoti Bhatt, Paramjeet Singh, Rini Dhupal, Sanat Kar, Somnath Hore, Ved Nayar, Walter D Souza, Yusuf, Shukla Sawant, Paaula Sengupta, Kavita Nayar and Kanchan Chander.

On the other hand, Kibria Printmaking Studio arranged a conversation with a presentation by Ananda Moy Banerjee from New Delhi on contemporary Indian print at contemporary art gallery Kala Kendra in Dhaka on December 23.



Dancer Borna Brishti CHEERS FOR CHRISTMAS

A CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Bharatnatyam dancer Anisul Islam Hero is also a noted mentor in the country, and has performed extensively at home and abroad with his troupe Srishti Cultural Center. Among his students is Borna Brishti, who began dancing at the tender age of 3. Her initial training took place at BAFA and Shishu Academy where she practiced the basics for 11 years. She first took up Bharatnatyam in 1999, under the tutelage of Hero, which was followed by her first tour in Japan. For Christmas this year, the artiste is looking forward to an entire week of festivities and holiday cheer, which she speaks about in a recent conversation with The Daily Star. Excerpts:

"Christmas is the most anticipated day of the year. The celebrations stretch from December 25 until New Year's, and the days are filled with meeting relatives and exchanging gifts with them. There is the ritual of decorating the house and the Christmas tree, and in my house we bake a cake to commemorate the birth of Christ every year. Our specialties are the fruit cake, wine cake, and a plain pound cake. After cutting the cake we go to the church, after which we come home to a feast that lasts all day. During the evenings there are events to attend, which brings the whole community together."

TV WATCH

"Upohaar" on ntv

A CORRESPONDENT

Ringing in the Christmas Holidays is the single episode play "Upohaar", which will air tonight at 9:05pm on ntv. "Upohaar" is aired on this day every year, with 3 episodes released so far.

Screenwriter Apel Mahmud adapted the script from a story by David Pranab Das. Directed by Jayanta Rozario, Intekhab Dinar, Moutushi Biswas, Shadhinota, Chomok Tara, Dilip Gomez and more form the main cast. The narrative revolves around a young girl named Mouri, who commits to doing good deeds everyday, in order to inspire others around her.



ASK ME ANYTHING

Suborna and Saud

coming to Facebook Live at The Daily Star today

Today is the day! Eminent actor Suborna Mustafa and director Badrul Anam Saud are coming to The Daily Star's Facebook Live Show Ask Me Anything at 4pm today.

The duo is gearing up for the release of their film "Gohin Baluchor", which is Saud's debut directorial venture for the big screen. The riverine romantic drama will see Suborna Mustafa return to the big screen in a central role after a long time, and also casts seasoned actors Raisul Islam Asad, Fazlur Rahman Babu and Jeetu Ahsan, Runa Khan and Shahadat Hossain. It also marks the film debut for three newcomers – Moon, Neela and Tanvir. The film releases countrywide on December 29.

Any subscriber to The Daily Star's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/dailystarnews>) can join the Facebook Live session, and pour in their love, adulation and questions to Suborna Mustafa and Saud, who will be on hand to answer all your queries, live!



PHOTO: STAR



JUMANJI
WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

JACK BLACK, WAYNE JOHNSON, KEVIN HART, KAREN GILLAN

QUIZ CONTEST
The Daily Star | STAR CINEMAX

10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER

Email your answer to starquiz@outlook.com by 4.00 pm today with your name, DOB, mobile number and address. The winners of the quiz will be announced tomorrow in this newspaper and through email.

Winners are requested to follow the instructions given in email.

QUIZ - 03
Who became a brawny adventurer?

Winners list of QUIZ-02

1. Minhazur Rahman, Mirpur DOHS
2. Muhammad Mahdi Hasan, Khilgaon
3. Rubayet Sadequr Rahman, Siddeswari
4. Mira Mallick, Gulshan-1
5. Deea Roy, Agargaon
6. Munnaf Sarker, Hajaribag
7. Saad Ahmed, Green Road
8. Fahima Mahfuz, Kallyanpur
9. Abdullah Rashed, Mirpur - 02
10. Hasina Akter, Dhanmondi