

WHAT'S ON

Bengal Classical Music Festival
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: Rajarajendra
 Date: December 26-30
 Time: 8pm onwards

Contemporary Indian Print Exhibition
 Venue: Gallery No. 8, National Art Gallery, DDA
 Date: Dec 25-Jan 6
 Time: 11am-6pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Beyond the Imagination
 Artist: Tanabhai Hossain Datta
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: Dec 15-Jan 6
 Time: 5-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Code of Conduct
 Artist: Ananta Bhattacharya
 Venue: La Galerie, 40B
 Date: Dec 19-Jan 2
 Time: 10am-7pm (10-4pm), 11-5pm (Even: 5pm-8pm)

National Cultural Festival
 Organiser: Bangladesh National Cultural Centre
 Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka
 Date: Dec 28-30, Time: 8pm



- PERFORMING TODAY AT BENGAL CLASSICAL MUSIC FEST**
- Students of Bengal Parampara Sangeetalya (sitar)
- Vidwan Vikku Vinayakram & Selvaganesh Vinayakram (ghatam & kanjeera)
- Govt Music College (khyal vocals)
- Abir Hossain (sard)
- Gazi Abdul Hakim (flute)
- Pt. Uday Bhawalkar (dhrupad vocals)
- Vidushi Kala Ramnath (violin)
- Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty (khyal vocals)

Rakesh Chaurasia and Purabayan Chatterjee present a brilliant jugalbandi recital; Rajrupa Chowdhury (right) and Supriya Das (below) perform solos at the festival.

A reunion of musical souls

Bengal Classical Music Fest opens with fervor

ZAHANGIR ALDM

Connecting musical souls together, the sixth edition of Bengal Classical Music Festival, organised by Bengal Foundation opened on December 26 evening at the Abhanari ground in Dhaka.

The five-night long festival, dedicating to eminent educationist, researcher and cultural exponent Professor Emerita Dr. Anisuzzaman, set off with a relaxing performance of Raga Alahugi by Dr. L. Subramaniam on the violin, with accompaniment by Siram Murthy on mridangam, Pandit Tannay Bose on tabla and Sathya Sai Chantasala on morsing.

Kazakhstan's Astana Symphony Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Boris Boytskian, took the music lovers to a state of bliss as they performed a composition by Tles Kazhalya and later performed parts of Py Tchaikovsky's ballet composition 'Swan Lake'.

Making a musical bridge between sub-continental and western classical music, Dr. Subramaniam took the stage again to offer his self-composed piece "Shanti Priya" along with the orchestra. As he led with his violin, Berik conducted the Astana Symphony Philharmonic Orchestra creating a rare melodic sync that the Dhaka audience experienced for the first time.

Following the formal inaugural ceremony, reputed sarodini Rajrupa Chowdhury took the stage to play Raga Anil Madhyam, created by her guru Pt. Sanjoy Banerjee. Rajrupa fondly depicted the picture of the raga through her recital of alap. It was elevated during her jod and jhala performance as a gentle breeze blowing across the ground as she showcased the musical notes, frequently touching the note 'Sharp Ma'. Pt. Avijit Banerjee beautifully styled the torrents of beats on tabla to embellish the recital. The artiste later performed

a sweet Raga Shadma to soothe the audience. A veduti Padma Talabalka was the next performer of the night. Anika Deole lent vocal support during the performance, while Sanjay Adhikary was on tabla and Rupashree Bhattacharya on harmonium. The renowned vocalist performed Raga Kedar. She later rendered a tarana set on Raga Desh, a Meera Bhajan and a chhoto khayal based on Raga Rageshree.



Bangladeshi sarodini Firoz Khan Zakir an Hossain inspired Raga Jhinjhoti and a dhan. Zaker an Hossain performing, Bengal Parampara artiste of khyal, was the penultimate performer of the night. She rendered a melancholic Raga Malkauns and a thumri set on Raga Desh. Supriya's style of murki and raagidari was fascinating. She captivated the music lovers with her dab-

oration of the raga especially in the vistar part and taan performance. Prashanta Bhowmik accompanied her on tabla and Gourab Chatterjee was on harmonium.

The Dhaka audience will lovingly remember the rare jugalbandi performance by two prodigious instrumentalists - Rakesh Chaurasia on flute and Purabayan Chatterjee on sitar. Pt. Abhijit Banerjee accompanied them on tabla. They performed Raga Lalit, elaborating alap, jod, gaut and jhala. Though their musical flight, they thoroughly mesmerised the audience with instantly improvised musical phraseology. They also performed a Bhairavi Dhun to conclude the day's performance.

Keeping in mind about the immense urge among the people to witness the festival, Bengal Foundation opened online registration again from yesterday.

The music lovers must be grateful to the organiser of the world's largest classical music festival returning this year; it is better late than never, as an uncertainty appeared regarding holding the festival. The patience, resilience, indomitable spirit and a visionary leadership by Abul Khair (chairman of Bengal Foundation) and Luva Nahid Chowdhury (DG of the organisation) eventually kept the hope uplifted to hold the festival in the month of December.

The gigantic task, smartly executed by Blues Communications in handling the event management part of the festival within a few days deserves heartfelt thanks. Apart from listening to music from the world famous accomplished maestros, the audience can enjoy quality food and beverages at the venue. A pictorial exhibition, featuring the lives of legendary music exponents of Bangladesh, is set up at the venue; another exhibition featuring works of Bengal Institute of Architecture, Landscape and Settlement is also there.

PHOTO: SHEHAN MEREDD HORSHEED



Tirjak Natyamela concludes in port city



A scene from "Oedipus". PHOTO: STAR

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Tirjak Natyadal, a theatre group of Chittagong, organised a four-day theatre festival on the occasion of its 44-year anniversary at Theatre Institute Chittagong on the 14th.

The festival, titled Tirjak Natyamela, started on Friday and concluded on Monday night.

Poet and Journalist Anun Dasgupta inaugurated the festival while theatre director and researcher Dr. Syed Jamil Ahmed and Assistant Commissioner of Deputy High Commission of India in Chittagong Anindyo Banerjee were present in the inaugural ceremony as guests.

The four-day festival featured commemoration of the troupe's 44 years' activities on stage, music, recitation, dance and Chittagong folk songs performances at the open stage every day.

In the auditorium, four plays were staged in the evening throughout the festival. On Friday evening, the troupe staged the Rabindranath Tagore's "Bishonur" directed by Ahmed Iqbal Haider, also the chief of Tirjak. On Saturday evening, the group staged the renowned Greek Tragedy "Oedipus" written by Sophocles. It was also directed by Ahmed Iqbal Haider. On Sunday, the play "Lorongho Bhong" written by Syed Waliullah was staged, directed by Haider. On the closing day, the troupe staged "Buro Shaliker Chare Ro", a play of Michel Madhusudan Dutta, on direction of Haider.

Earlier, the group also organised Tirjak Natyamela 2017 at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Dhaka from November 17-19 on the occasion.

Trailer, songs of Jaya-Ferdous starrer "Putro" released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first trailer of Jaya Ahsan and Ferdous-starrer film "Putro" was released online on Tuesday, giving a glimpse into the Saiful Islam Mannu-directed story about an autistic child.

The film, which has been produced by the Film and Publications department of the information ministry and co-produced by Ingress telefilm, chronicles the story of a special-needs child, his parents' struggles, and the social stigma about autism. Aside from the lead cast, a strong supporting cast including Dolly Zahur, Azial Hakim, Shams Suman and Homayya Himm can be seen in the trailer, which also features songs by Bipras Mazumdar and Mehreen.

Two songs from the film, titled "Ai Kichu Bolona Amay" and "Jodi Dukkho Chahney Dekkho" were also released as part of the film's promotional campaign yesterday on YouTube. Both the songs show the child actor who is the epicenter of the film, singing at a singing competition.

"Putro" is set for release countrywide on January 5, making it the first release of 2018. According to distributors Janaz Multimedia, proceeds from the film will go to welfare of autistic children.



NEWS bytes

"Phantom Thread" makes big debut

Daniel Day-Lewis' fashion drama "Phantom Thread" performed impressively on its Christmas Day launch, earning \$127,272 at four theatres for an average of \$31,818 per screen.

The awards contender is expected to be Day-Lewis' final film. The movie — set in 1950s post-war London — follows Day-Lewis, a renowned dressmaker, who, with his sister (Lesley Manville) is at the centre of British fashion.

His life is disrupted by a strong-willed woman (Vicky Krieps) who soon becomes his muse and lover.

"Phantom Thread" featured Paul Thomas Anderson's National Board of Review's best screenplay award and Day-Lewis a Golden Globe nomination. It marks director Anderson's eighth movie, and his second collaboration with Day-Lewis.

"Phantom Thread" debuted three days after Steven Spielberg's "The Post", which finished the four-day weekend with \$830,000 at nine sites. The film, starring Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep, will go wide on January 12.



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