

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan & Bangla Academy Premises
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3-9pm (Sun-Thurs), 11am-9pm (Fri-Sat)



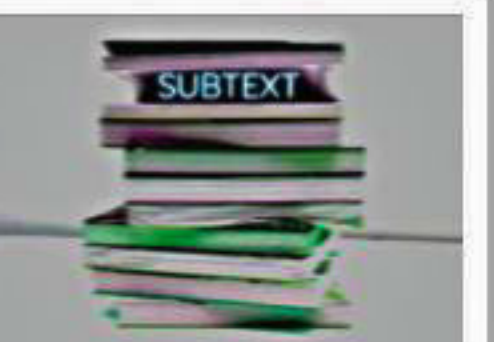
Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Antorjatra
Artist: Karu Titas
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 16-Mar 2; Time: 3-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Bondhu
Venue: EMK Center, Plot-5, Rd-16, Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 10-22
Time: 9:30am-8pm



Subtext
Organiser: Bengal Foundation Arts Programme
Venue: Gyantapas Abur Razzak Bidyapeeth
Date: Feb 4-24
Time: 11am-7pm



Solo Painting and Craft Exhibition
Title: Beautiful Anger
Artist: Rubina Akhter
Venue: Gallery Twenty One
Date: Feb 7-23; Time: 12pm-8pm

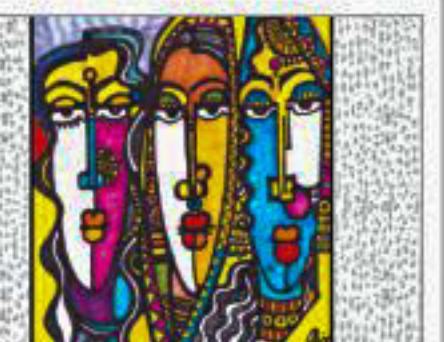


PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Going strong on the sitar

In conversation with Alif Laila

A CORRESPONDENT

Noted sitarist Alif Laila has been tirelessly working for years in promoting classical music, at home and abroad. Currently based in Washington DC, USA, the instrumentalist often travels to her home country to perform in soirees and concerts, as well as in other parts of the world. When she is not trekking the globe with her sitar, the artiste runs her own institution in Washington, called Sitar Niketan, teaching students across all ages how to play to perfection. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the artiste elaborates on her various ventures, and more.

"I return to Bangladesh once a year, and during my stay I often perform in a few shows. Recently I performed a raag abhogi at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at a programme organised by Shattiya Sangeet Sammelan, a dance and music committee, and I truly enjoyed my time on stage that day. It is definitely more challenging to present a raag to the audience in a short time, because ragas have endless forms and can go on for hours. I am truly grateful for the many initiatives

taken here to encourage classical music among young students, and to educate the public."

"I live in Maryland, Washington. I love painting, and my house is dedicated to music and art. My major performances are around Bangladesh, India, and during the summer I perform in Europe, a continent which I visit also for family. This spring I performed in the Women in Music Festival in London. But when I am not traveling, I focus all my energies on teaching music at Sitar Niketan."

"The number of sitar players is very rare, and the number of women that play the instrument is even less. My students come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including non-Asians, and it gives me great pleasure and encouragement to take the instrument forward across all cultural backgrounds. Classical music practice is not about performing, it's about being mindful of our inner selves and the rest of the world. Classical music is meditative, and requires devotion, both of which are lacking in the fast paced lives of today's youth. At the end of the day, I am proud to be able to represent my country in different parts of the world."

International Sufi Festival in the offing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second International Sufi Festival 2017 is to commence soon. Organised by Allama Rumi Society of Bangladesh and Hatkhola Foundation in association with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), the festival will kick off at Nandan Mancha, BSA.

The three day (February 23-25) festival, themed on "Music for Unity", will start at 3:30pm on February 23 through a presentation of Bangladeshi folk dance. Noted and promising Sufi and folk singers from Bangladesh, India, Turkey and Iran will perform at the festival.

In this regard a press conference was held yesterday at the seminar room of BSA where Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky, former secretary and NBR Chairman Dr. Md. Abdul Mazid, also the treasurer of Allama Rumi Society of Bangladesh, and member-secretary of the festival organising council Yusuf Muhammad spoke.

Bangladeshi artistes --Pervez, Samir



PHOTO: STAR

Qaawal, Sahriar Rafat, SI Tutul, Shafi Mondal and Maizbhandari Moromi Goshthi together with a Delhi (India) based troupe Sufi Bawra will perform music on the opening day.

A seminar on Sufism will take place at 3pm on the second day (February 24) while Bangladeshi singers --Pulak, Shirin and Razzaq, Kiran Chandra Roy and Chandana Majumdar and Tuntun Baul and Hanif Baul will perform on the day. A 22-member troupe from Turkey

will also perform.

The featured singers for the concluding day on February 25 include Hyder and Haroon, Iqbal Hyder, Siraj Baul and Joler Gaan from Bangladesh; Roohani Sisters (India) and an Iranian troupe.

The festival is open for all. Sufism is a spiritual path that has served humanity for many centuries in the East and Middle East. It is also a living tradition, taking new forms even in the West, but remaining true to its essence.



A CORRESPONDENT

In commemoration of International Mother Language Day, Maasranga Television is offering daylong special segments highlighting various aspects of the events leading up to our Independence.

The first programme of the day is "Amader Ekush" at 9am, which features poetry recitations. This will be followed by a film titled "Alo'r Michhil" at 9:30am. At 1pm a single episode play

directed by Gautam Kouri titled "Phuler Rong Lal" will be aired, starring Bijori Barkatullah, Arman Parvez Murad and more. This will be followed by a telefilm titled "Shaheed Minar", helmed by Tuhin Hossain, at 3pm. The tele-film's main cast includes Fazlur Rahman Babu, Tajin Ahmed and Kazi Raju.

At 5:30pm a documentary titled "Matribhasha" will be screened, after which a live segment titled "Ekushey'r Deep Jele", showcasing the lighting of candles in Narail in remembrance of

Maasranga TV gears up for Ekushey

Mother Language Day will be aired. This will be followed by a screening of another documentary titled "Smriti'r Minar" at 7:30pm. At 8pm, a single episode play directed by Taufiq E. Elahi titled "Borno Byanjon" will be aired. Sohana Saba, Maznun Mizan, Nabila Islam, and more will play starring roles.

The evening will wrap up with a special programme titled "Moder Gorob Moder Bhasha" at 9pm, followed by a musical programme titled "Ami Bangla e Gaan Gai" at 11pm.

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