

WHAT'S ON

Art Exhibition
Title: Speed of Color by Khurshid Alam Saleem
Venue: Shilpangan, Lalmatia
Date: July 27 - August 7
Time: 3 pm - 8 pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Prologue 1
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, Banani
Date: Jul 13 - Aug 9
Time: 3 pm - 8 pm

WORLD FESTIVAL BANGLADESH GLOBAL AUDITION
27 July, 2019 / 4pm
English Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 27
Time: 4 pm - 6 pm

Musical Soiree
Title: Barsha Mangal by Rabi Rag
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy
Date: July 26
Time: 7 pm onwards

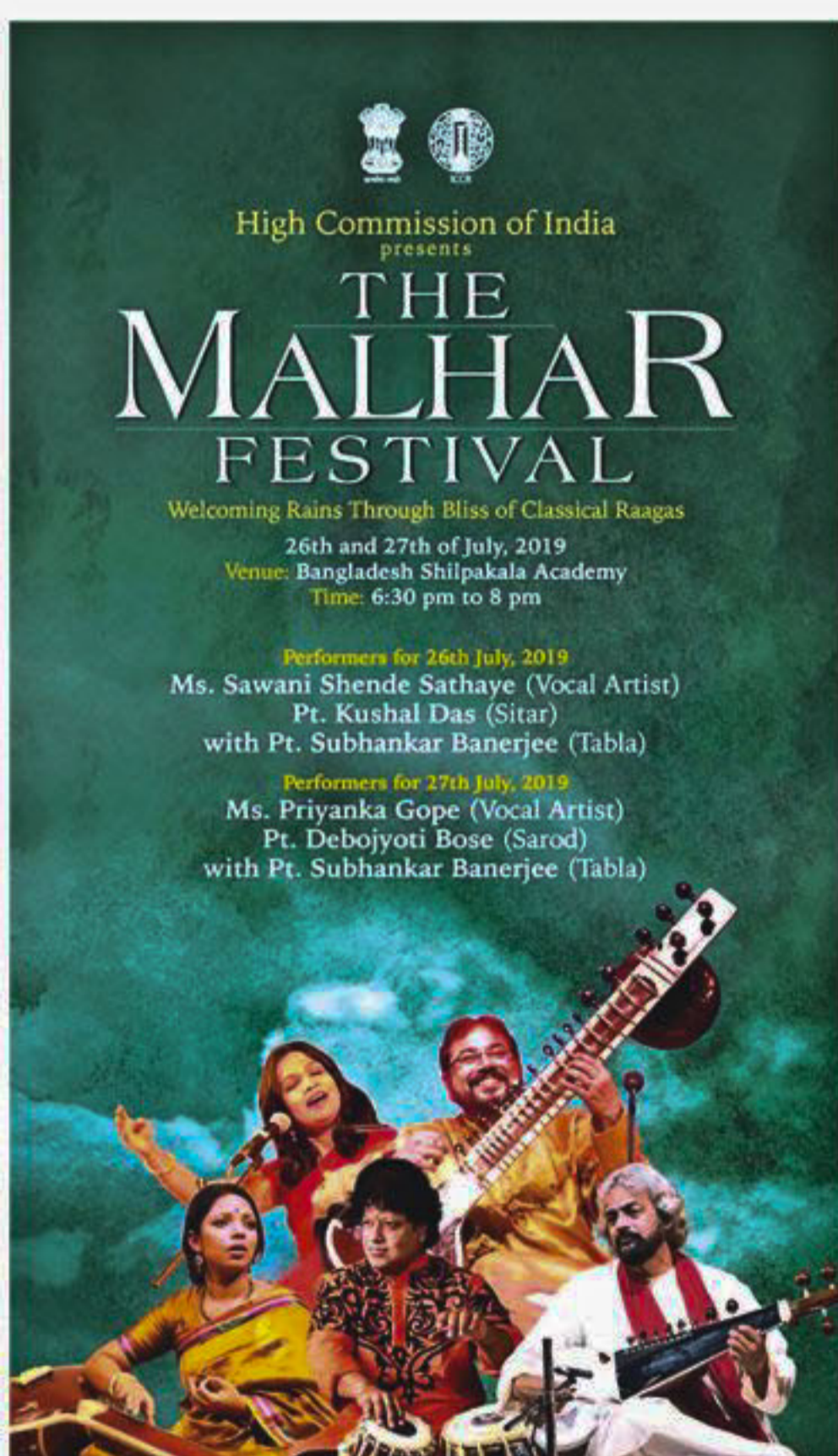
Art Exhibition
Title: Muhurtama solo art exhibition by Shamset Tabreje
Venue: Dwp Gallery, Lalmatia
Date: July 27 - August 22 (except Mondays)
Time: 5 pm - 9 pm

The Malhar Festival kicks off today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The High Commission of India, Dhaka, will host The Malhar Festival, an Indian classical music event, today and tomorrow, at the Main Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at 6:30 pm.

Eminent artistes from India, Smt Sawani Shende Sathaye, Pt Debojyoti Bose, Pt Subhankar Banerjee and Pt Kushal Das along with Priyanka Gope from Bangladesh will perform at the event. Entry at the festival is open to all and strictly available on a first-come first-serve basis.



Two telefilms titled #metoo coming this Eid

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The #metoo movement has been quite a revelation, with women finding courage to expose their harassers through the power of social media. A lot of debate had also sparked regarding well-known people in the society.

To some extent, the movement has helped victims of harassment in Bangladesh as well, as well as spread awareness about the actual gravity of the situation. Two telefilms, both titled #metoo, will be released this Eid, attempting to portray the struggles

of women who are victims of harassment by the least likely perpetrators.

The first, directed by Imraul Rafat, stars Mehazabien Chowdhury as the lead character. The film will star Mehazabien as a young student. "We have a series planned on the subject," says Rafat. "It will not just revolve around sexual harassment. We will also talk about the injustice and violence that women of all walks face in the society." This telefilm will be broadcast on Channel i this Eid.

The latter #metoo, directed by Sazzad Shuman stars Nusrat Imrose Tisha as the

lead character. "My story revolves around a university student, who faces a rather adverse situation," says Shuman. Very few people believe her complaint, as Tisha's character fights an uphill battle for justice.

When asked about the similar names of both telefilms, Shuman told *The Daily Star* that it was completely coincidental. "#metoo is a huge movement, and I am sure many other directors wanted to work on it," he says. "I did not know about Rafat's endeavour at the time of filming."

Imraul Rafat, on the other hand, said that he was informed of the other telefilm

much later. "We wanted to sit with the team of the other telefilm and discuss what could be done, but it ultimately did not happen. I guess the two projects will end up having the same titles." Incidentally, veteran actor Shahiduzzaman Selim features in important roles in both telefilms.

Only time will tell which Eid special will capture the essence of the very sensitive #metoo movement, and do justice to the struggles of the victim fighting for justice in a difficult environment. Ultimately, it will be up to the viewers to decide on the better telefilm.

Jon Favreau's 'The Lion King' is strikingly realistic

SHABABA IQBAL

This year's *The Lion King* is Disney's latest effort in its quest to remake many of its animated classics. I was able to catch the film in a theatre at Bangkok, on the day of its premiere.

Directed by Jon Favreau, *The Lion King* features James Earl Jones returning as Mufasa. Donald Glover as Simba is joined by Beyoncé Knowles-Carter as Nala, Chiwetel Ejiofor as Scar and Alfre Woodard as Sarabi, while JD McCrary voices Young Simba. John Oliver plays Mufasa's loyal confidant Zazu, with Billy Eichner and Seth Rogen taking on the iconic roles of Timon and Pumbaa respectively. The film also sees the return of legendary musician Sir Elton John and his original collaborator Tim Rice to work on some new music for the project.

Favreau, who also brought Disney's *The Jungle Book* live-action remake to life in 2016, revealed in an interview that

Sir David Attenborough's BBC nature documentaries were a big influence on the remake of *The Lion King*. He succeeds in making the animals in the film look as realistic as possible, but he does it too well. In fact, the creatures and their environment feel so real and the lion roars feel so spine-chilling that it becomes difficult for you to emotionally connect with the animals when they talk. For instance, when Simba and Nala romp around and Simba sings, *I Just Can't Wait to be King*, the innocence and wonder that the animated version generated is absent. In the original film when Scar sings, *Be Prepared*, whilst surrounded by laughing, mean-looking hyenas and bright, green smoke, it is easy for children to realise that Scar is a villainous character. The 2019 film, in contrast, presents a more intense, militaristic spoken-word version of the song, making it a little difficult for the younger audience to understand Scar and

his convictions. The remake is charming, but darker and more Shakespearean than the original film.

On the other hand, a way that the new version improves upon the original is by giving the female lions more agency, which is actually more accurate. Lion societies are matriarchal in nature, directly opposite from what the original film would have you believe. In the remake, Nala chooses to escape Scar's tyrannical rule at Pride Rock to seek out help in overthrowing him and bringing order back to the desolate and starving Pride Lands. The female lions are more proactive this time around.

All in all, the team behind the film does a marvelous job in recreating a masterpiece, aiming not to top it, but to expand it for the new generation of advanced filmmaking technology. Watch it for the story, the music and the scenery. *The Lion King* hits Star Cineplex today.



A still from the film.

1 MINUTE PLEASE



PHOTO: COURTESY

Ahnaf Khan Anik

SHABABA IQBAL

Ahnaf Khan Anik, a promising guitarist, is a part of Leemonade, Bangla Five and The Armeen Musa Band. Bangla Five released their debut album, *Confusion*, this year, while Leemonade and The Armeen Musa Band are known for their excellent musicianship. Anik takes out a minute for us to answer some quick-fire questions.

What was the last song that you listened to?
The Last Refuge by Roger Waters
What is your favourite comfort food?
Burger
Tea or Coffee?
Tea
Which instrument would you like to learn to play?
Piano.
Name a musician that you look up to.
Roger Waters.



TV WATCH

Comedy Hour, directed by Syed Tareque, will be broadcast today at 11 pm on ATN Bangla.