

WHAT'S ON

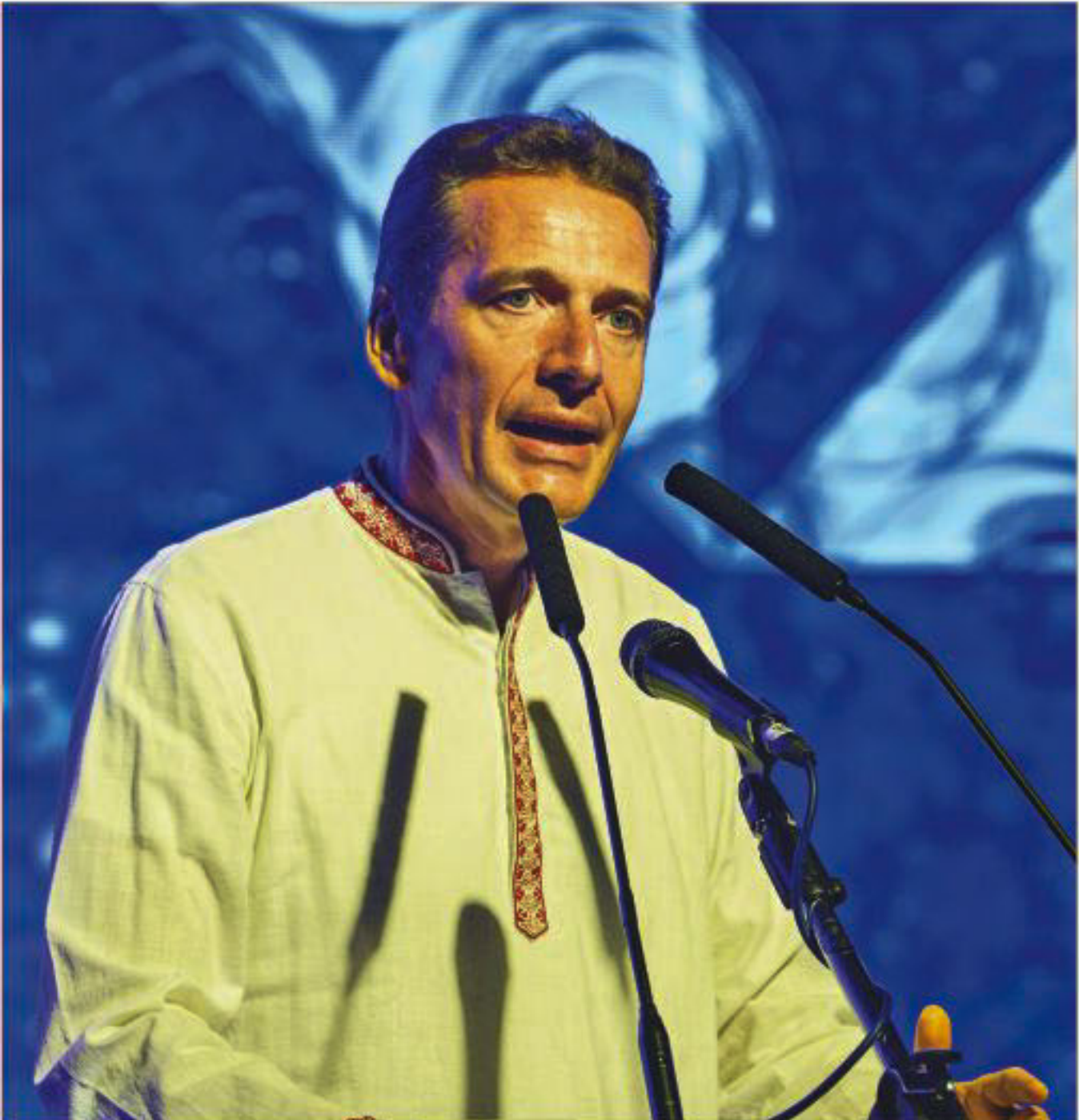
Art Exhibition
Title: Speed of Color by Khurshid Alam Saleem
Venue: Shilpangan, Lalmatia
Date: July 27 – August 7
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm

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

Photography & Poetry Exhibition
Title: ProjectDebi: Revolutionary Photography And Poetry Exhibition
Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
Date: August 26 - 28
Time: 10 am – 7 pm

Theatre
Title: Aleya Twist
Venue: British Council Bangladesh & BSA
Date: August 6 & 7
Time: Aug 6 at 7 pm at British Council, Fuller Road; Aug 7 at 7 pm at BSA

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



Francois de Maricourt, CEO, HSBC, Bangladesh speaks at the event.



Srikanto Acharya and Aditi Mohsin serenading the audience.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

A GARLAND OF MONSOON MELODIES

HSBC, Bangladesh hosts 'Jhoro Jhoro Boroshey Baridhara'

ZAHANGIR ALOM

It was an aesthetically designed musical soiree that HSBC, Bangladesh hosted at the Grand Ballroom of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, on July 26. The monsoon-filled evening turned to be a confluence of melody and rhythm, that is evocative of many regards.

The exclusive soiree titled, *Jhoro Jhoro Boroshey Baridhara*, implies the celebration of Tagore's creations; but in reality, it offered a medley of monsoon melodies, composed by other bards and the appeal of the songs evokes eternal nostalgia. Paying musical tribute to Subir Nandi, talented singer Alope Sen started off the event, performing one of his classics *Ami Brishtir Kachh Theke Kandte Shikhechhi* while promising singer Sanjida Mahmud Nandita rendered a popular Chitra Singh record *Akash Megh-e Dhaka*.

Alope Sen mesmerised the audience with his rendition of Nazrul Sangeet, *Shawono Raat-e Jodi*. Melancholia reigned supreme, as it kept the packed audience rapt while Sen was performing the number. Nandita too, beautifully sang the popular Haimanti Sukla number *Ogo Brishti Amar Chokher Pata*. Later, the duo rendered the song *Hoi Hoi Rangila Rangila Rey* from the Bangla movie *Rangbaz*. The visual projection of the song lip-synched by Nayak Raj Razzaq and Kobori added a dimension to the live performance.

"This is, for the first time, that we have organised a musical programme on monsoon. Your unprecedented response to our invitation has truly inspired us," said music connoisseur Mahbub-ur Rahman, the Deputy CEO and Country Head of Wholesale Banking, HSBC Bangladesh. "Our passion for good music and art is perennial. I hope that you will enjoy the soiree, and I am thankful to all of you."

Francois de Maricourt, CEO of HSBC Bangladesh said, "We always celebrate the valued partnership of not only Bangladesh's growth but also the country's rich musical and cultural heritage with our clients." Maricourt's recitation of the excerpts *Megher Pore Megh Jomechhe* (clouds heap upon



Mahbub-ur-Rahman, Deputy CEO, HSBC, Bangladesh speaks at the programme.



Sanjida Mahmud Nandita and Alope Sen during the performance of the duet song.

clouds) from the Nobel winning piece *Gitanjali*, clearly indicates the CEO's great penchant for learning the Bangla language. Rabindranath Tagore had a particular affinity with the monsoon season, when the bountiful nature unfolds her beauty. Tagore's familiarity with the Bengal monsoon intensified during his trips to the family estate at Shilaidaha. The vast landscapes and the swirling rivers seemed to foster a sense of liberated creativity in close proximity with nature. Celebrated singer Aditi Mohsin captivated

the audience with her performance of several Tagore songs. Starting off her rendition with the song *Abar Eshechhe Ashar*, Aditi, who is the only Bangladeshi singer to secure first class with first position in both her B Mus and M Mus at Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan, continued to stun the music connoisseurs with her repertoire – *Bojromanuik Diye Gantha*, *Jhoro Jhoro Boroshey Baridhara*, *Aji Jhoro Jhoro Mukhoro Badoro Din-e*, *Aji Jhorer Raat-e* and *Badolo Dinero Prothomo Kodom Phul*, that blended the sense of romance and melancholia with

a profound sense of restlessness.

The highlight of the programme was the performance by Srikanto Acharya, who spoke highly of Aditi Mohsin and Alope Sen. The singer captivated the audience with his rendition of the Tagore song *Emona Din-e Tarey Bola Jaye*. The *adhunik* numbers he rendered at the programme were mellifluous and inspired from the music of pitter-pattering. The audience thoroughly enjoyed his performance of the Hemanta Mukherjee records -- *Ei Meghla Din-e Ekla* and *Tumi Ele Anek Diner Porey* together with ghazal-ang melody *Nijeke Se Aj Emni Bhejabe Brishti Ele*, *Tomar Kachhe Brishti Din* and *Amar Sarata Din Megh Akash*. The duet performance of the song *Aji Toamye Abar Chai Shonabare* by Srikanto and Aditi was a fantastic treat for the music aficionados.

HSBC, Bangladesh and especially its Deputy CEO Mahbub-ur Rahman, deserves immense recognition for arranging such a wonderful programme. With aesthetic visual projection, the ballroom resonated with the pitter-patter of the rain, droning sounds of the wind, thrumming sounds of thunder and lightning, swaying branches and coconut trees and other sounds that formed an integral part of the season. Recitation of poems composed by Tagore, Joy Goswami and Srijato, by the beautiful emcee duo Syed Apon Ahsan and Tropa Majumdar, was the icing on the cake for the programme.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Shusmita Anis's album re-released in memory of Kamal Das Gupta and Firoza Begum

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The album titled *Smritir Uddeshshe* was released in 1998 by Kamal Das Gupta and Pranab Roy, with 10 modern songs sung by Shusmita Anis.

All songs on this album were composed by Kamal Das Gupta, and written by Pranab Roy. It was directed by one of the greatest musical exponents of Bangladesh, Firoza Begum. The Gramophone Company of India Limited released the album, under the banner of Raga Music.

On July 26, the release ceremony of the new edition of this album was held in Kolkata.

"Instead of re-recording, I tried to bring this album to the audience in its

original version as it has an archival value," says Shusmita, "Transferring the songs from cassette to CD was a big challenge. I got the digital right two years ago from Raga and worked on restoring the original sound, while keeping my voice intact. It took a whole year to process this."

Kamal Das Gupta and Firoza Begum are both legendary musicians of the Indian subcontinent. Today marks both of the maestros' birthday.

"She (Firoza Begum) taught me to sing those songs properly before recording. I am grateful to the creator for giving me the opportunity to sing these songs. I am very happy that I can release the album again on this auspicious occasion," says Shusmita Anis.



The original album.



Firoza Begum



Kamal Das Gupta

PHOTO: COURTESY

TV WATCH

BACHSAS elects new committee

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The results for the recently held Bangladesh Choloচিত্রা Sangbadik Samity (BACHSAS) elections are out. Winning with 365 votes, Falguni Hamid is the newly appointed President of BACHSAS, while Kamruzzaman Babu was elected as the General Secretary with 161 votes.

After the day-long polling held at the Jatiya Press Club on Friday, the final outcome was declared early morning, yesterday. Chief Election Commissioner and senior journalist, Alimuzzaman announced the results in the presence of other vital members of the organisation.

The list of the newly elected members include Vice Presidents, Badol Ahmed and Showkat Salauddin; Assistant General Secretary, Rimon Mahfuz; Finance Secretary, Moeen Abdullah; Organising Secretary, Rahat Saiful; among many others.

The newly appointed members are set to serve the organisation for the next two years.

Established in 1968, the organisation was then called Pakistan Choloচিত্রা Sangbadik Samity. Later, after the Liberation War, it was named Bangladesh Choloচিত্রা Sangbadik Samity.



'Life Partner Dot Com' will be broadcast on ATN Bangla at 11 pm today. Directed by Saeed Tareque, the all-new tele-fiction will star ATM Shamsuzzaman, Dr Enamul Haque, Rawnak Hasan, Tanjika Amin and AKM Hasan, among others.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Joy Shahriar launches 'Lapatta'

LALON MAHMUD

Popular singer of recent times, Joy Shahriar, launched his fourth studio album titled *Lapatta* at Teachers-Students Center (TSC) of Dhaka University (DU) recently. Aajob Karkhana, in Association with Aajob Records & Dhaka University Band Society (DUBS), organised the event.

Besides Joy Shahriar, some other bands, including Sina Hasan and Bangla Five, ARJAN, Mahaan Fahim, GaanKobi, Suhrid, DUBS and The Miliputs from Kolkata performed at the programme, hailing the new album.

Joy told *The Daily Star* that the new album was

released from his own production Aajob Records and will feature a total of eight songs written and composed by himself.

"A lot of things are missing from the city. There is no greenery, no playgrounds as before, no true love," expressed Joy. "All around, there is chaos and complexity, and thus, I feel life is going to disappear from the city. Due to this, I have selected the name *Lapatta* (missing) for my album."

Joy Shahriar burst into the music scene a decade back, with his hit *Shotti Bolchi Tomaakey Ar Bhalobashi Na* from the album *Shotti Bolchi* in 2009. *Ekhon-e* (2011) and *Thik Ebhabei* (2014) are among his other albums.



PHOTO: COURTESY