



Tagore Songs and Poems
Title: Hiron Kiron Chhobikhani
Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, BSA
Date: Sep 14
Time: 6:30 pm



Concert
Title: Arnob Live 2019
Venue: Jamuna Future Park
Date: September 20
Time: 5 pm



Exhibition
Title: Jamdani Festival 2019
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
Date: September 6 - October 12 (closed on Sundays)
Time: 12 noon - 8 pm



Theatre Festival
Title: Syed Mahidul Islam Smarom Utshab 2019
Organiser: Bhatikram Natya Gosthi
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Sep 14-18
Time: 6 pm - 9 pm



Live Performance
Title: An English Summer
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
Date: September 26
Time: 6 pm onwards
Tickets: BDT 300

Rendezvous with Chandra Shekhar Shah

The Jamdani Festival 2019 is jointly organised by National Crafts Council of Bangladesh and Bengal Foundation. As a part of the festival, a five-week long exhibition is currently taking place at Bengal Shilpalay at Dhanmondi. The Daily Star caught up with Chandra Shekhar Shah, the festival curator, for a candid conversation.



PHOTO: STAR

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

"We have dedicated an entire board to the weavers," says Shah. "I had told Motahar, the carpenter, that the alignment of the texts on the board is a little below eye level. Motahar explained to me that people should bend down to read the names of the craftsmen behind such remarkable work. I was at a loss for words, and decided to go with his idea. That is the kind of respect our weavers deserve."

The gallery on the ground floor of Bengal Shilpalay has a brilliant collection of traditional jamdani sarees, scarfs and *angrakha* kurta, among other things. The festival also includes the screening of four short films, exploring the designs and weaving process of Jamdani, and the life of a weaver. Shah mentioned that the gallery on the second floor will showcase 30 selected sarees from the event. As

we took a tour of the exhibition, he further explained how each installation has its own philosophy. "We have showcased different types of yarns in an installation to demonstrate the finesse behind the production of Jamdani," says Shah. "Beautiful jamdani cannot be produced without the communicative relationship between the weaver and the yarn."

Aarong, Aranya, Tangail Saree Kutir and Kumudini, the partner organisations of the festival, have sent their weavers to Bengal Shilpalay to present live demonstrations of how Jamdani is weaved. This, in turn, was also a confidence boost for the weavers. "We hope that through the festival, we can raise awareness about the revival of jamdani production, and with proper patronage, the weavers will be encouraged to continue their work," adds Shah.



PHOTO: COURTESY

SHUSMITA ANIS

releases new album

Known for her musical prowess, Shusmita Anis released her latest album, 'Chena Shohor', yesterday at a hotel in Kolkata. With a mixture of Bangladeshi and Indian artistes featured in her album, it was composed and directed by Joy Sarkar.

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Two lyricists from Bangladesh, Suhrul Sufian and Rakib Hasan Rahul contributed to *Chena Shohor*, while Srijato Bandyopadhyay wrote two songs himself. The album will be available across various digital platforms.

Taneem Rahman Anshu, in association with the production team from Kolkata, directed the music videos of the album. The music videos will later be released in Shusmita Anis' YouTube Channel.

"I like to explore new possibilities in creating modern Bengali songs. For this, it took almost a year to complete *Chena Shohor*," informed the artiste. "I hope the audience will appreciate our efforts."

The album encompasses a blend of creative artistic talent, hard work, dedication and mutual respect between artistes and technicians of Bangladesh and India.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Afzal-Aupee duo to perform on a stage show for the first time

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Afzal Hossain and Aupee Karim have worked together in numerous tele-fictions. For the first time, they have paired up for a stage show, which is to be held in Canada. The drama, titled *Jonoiko Obhiggyo Dompoti*, is scripted and directed by Masum Reza, who will also be playing a role in it.

Under the banner of "The Beats of Bangladesh", the show is organised by Toronto Dhaka Cultural Network, and will be staged today in Toronto.

In a conversation with The Daily Star over the phone, Masum Reza said, "Afzal and Aupee are popular actors of two different times. I am tensed and excited at the same time."

Afzal Hosain started his acting career with theatre in the mid-70s. He has also worked in a lot movies and tele-fictions. Later, he focused on directing television commercials, in which he found remarkable success.

Aupee, on the other hand, has been working with the *Nagrik Natty Shampradaya* since 2000. Her first appearance on stage was in *Roktokorobi*, which made her extremely popular.

The storyline of the drama portrays the witty relationship between a married couple, who often fight with each other. One day, they decide to make a "peace treaty", which they dangle on the wall, but interestingly, they fight on that day as well.

Masum Reza will be returning to the country after the first show. However, the second show will be staged on September 21, in Edmonton. Afzal and Aupee will return on September 27. They wish to stage the drama in Bangladesh as well.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Nipun's debut music video 'Rong' released

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Actor Nipun's first music video, *Rong*, was released recently. Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury attended the launching ceremony as chief guest.

Rong is sung by Nipun's sister Polin Nargis. She can also be seen in the video alongside Nipun. "I have been approached to work in music videos on several occasions, but never felt like doing so. However, with *Rong*, I have left no

stone unturned," said Nipun at the music launch.

Originally a doctor by profession, this is Polin's first song. She attributes Nipun to be her motivation behind this initiative.

The video is produced under the banner of CMV Music, and was released on their official YouTube channel. The music is composed by Shawkat Ali Emon and A Mizan has worked on its lyrics. Bob and Paban Shetty has choreographed the music video.

Imran Ahmed Trio tours Poland

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Imran Ahmed Trio embarked on their second international tour in Poland on August 20, marking their second international tour since the last, in Germany and Malaysia back in 2018.

The band consists of Imran Ahmed on guitar, Mohaimin Karim on bass, and Arjo Shrestho on drums. They have been performing actively in Bangladesh over the last five years, and are considered to be one of the pioneering jazz bands in the country.

The band partnered with the music channel, Gaan Bangla and the Embassy of Bangladesh in Poland for the tour, which was put together by Jazz Po Polsku, a Polish music label.

The trio's first stop was the capital city

of Warsaw. The hometown of their tour manager Jakub Krzeszowski, the CEO of Jazz Po Polsku, has been actively involved in designing tours between two Europe and Asia. They played their first show in a venue called Strefa in the vibrant touristy city Krakow, where the audience showed immense appreciation for their performance.

On the same night, they headed to Zory for the Voicingers festival. There, they conducted two workshops. One was held with singers, while another was with the instrumentalists at the Zory Music Institute. The band talked about the music scene in Bangladesh, as Imran explained some of his methods of composition. It was followed by a jam session with the musicians from the festival, many of whom were students of the top music school

in Poland. At the festival, Imran Ahmed Trio shared the stage with some of the biggest names in the European jazz scene, including David Lynx, Grzegorz Karnas, Bruno Amstad, Jakub Mizerak, Paweł Kaczmarczyk and many others.

Finally, the group headed back to Warsaw, and the next day, they performed at one of the most premium live music clubs in Warsaw, Bardzo Bardzo. The Bangladeshi ambassador to Poland attended the show as special guest.

On the final day, the band performed at a Polish National radio station, Trojka. Its amazing theater had hosted several musical legends like Sting and Diana Krall, among others. The tour was not only an incredible experience for the group, but also a big step into the future of Bangladeshi jazz music.



PHOTO: COURTESY