

WHAT'S ON



Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Biren Shome
Title: Liberation War Bangabandhu
Bangladesh
Venue: Gallery Chitrag, H-4, Rd-6,
Dhanmondi
Date: Nov 15-26
Time: 10am-8pm



Architectural Exhibition
Title: Nogomama: The Future of Our
Habitats
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi 27
Date: November 2-30
Time: 12 noon-8 pm



Theatre Festival
Title: IDLC Theatre Festival
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: November 19 - November 23
Time: 5 Pm onwards



Art Exhibition
Title: The Traveller's Song
Artist: Kanak Champa Chakma
Venue: Edge Gallery, Gulshan-2
Date: November 9 - November 30
Time: 10 am- 8 pm



Concert
Title: Rockpeace
Date: Today
Time: 5 pm onwards
Venue: BICC

The daughter of folk to serenade DIFF today

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Born in the heart of Fakir Lalon Shai's akhrabari (shrine) at Kundubari, Kumarkhali in Kushtia, renowned folk singer Chandana Majumdar received pure taleem (training) of the mystic bard's songs from her father, Nirmal Chandra Majumdar, a fourth-generation disciple of Lalon.

The singer is set to perform today at the Dhaka International Folk Fest 2019. In a recent conversation with *The Daily Star*, Chandana, a teacher at Chhayanaut's Folk Music Department, talked about the essence of Bangladeshi folk music and her plans for the performance at the prestigious platform.

"Folk songs composed by the Bangladeshi bards remind us of the melody of this soil. They attract us spontaneously," says Chandana. "As I cannot forget my mother, I cannot forget my soil, the simplicity of people and my search for the soul.



Chandana Majumdar

Folk music represents these things."

"When I started realising the philosophical essence of Shaijee's (Lalon's) songs, they were deeply embedded in my heart. They constitute the core of our cultural heritage," said the singer, who will also sing the songs of Radharaman Dutta, Rajjab Ali Dewan, Shah Abdul Karim, along with a few Murshidi numbers at the festival.

Chandana has recently toured Canada, talking her magical folk performances thousands of miles away from her homeland. "My joys know no bound when I represent Bangladeshi folk music heritage abroad," said the artiste, who grew up in the realm of melody and rhythm, experiencing *Shadhusanga* (congregation of mystic bards) in her musical family. Bards like Khoda Box Shai, Moksed Ali Shai, Karim Shai, Jhoru Shai and others would regularly come and perform there.

According to her, number of unsung instrumentalists have been keeping our folk melodies alive through *Bangla dhol, dhak, dotara, banshi, ektara, tabla, bayan, khamak and khol*, among others. Many folk songs and instrumental practices are on the verge of extinction. Proper archival of the songs, research on the genre and patronage of folk instrumentalists are the demands of the time. "One person or a single organisation cannot do this alone. Our collective efforts and cooperation are required for this job", concluded Chandana Majumdar.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Singing for peace

A chat with Hina Nasrullah

SHABABA IQBAL

Hina Nasrullah is a promising Sufi singer from Lahore. She started as a *naat-khwan*, someone who recites hymns in praise of the Prophet. Since childhood, she performed on Pakistani television in programmes such as *Aangan Aangan Taaray, Music Room*, and others. She is an Urdu Literature graduate from Punjab University in Lahore. In her performances, she is usually accompanied by her brother, Hasan Nasrullah, and talented music students from her hometown. Hina captivated the audience with tracks based on the *Kalam* (melodic verses) of sufi poets, Bulleh Shah, Sultan Bahu and Shah Hossain, among others, at the Dhaka International Folk Fest, yesterday. She also performed covers of songs by renowned singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. Ahead of her performance, *The Daily Star* caught up with Hina to find out more about her music.

How does it feel to be in Bangladesh for the Dhaka International Folk Fest?
I came across a video of Shafqat Amanat Ali Khan's performance at the Dhaka International Folk Fest last year. I have been wanting to come here since then. I think the audience at the fest is absolutely incredible, and I am looking forward to a memorable night.

Who are some of your greatest inspirations in music?

I come from a musical family, and their support has always been an inspiration for me. My brother, Hasan, plays an integral role in my success as an artiste. Other than that, I have grown up listening to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, and reading the works of poet and scholar, Allama Iqbal. I am inspired by both of them.

What do you hope to communicate to the audience through your music?

Sufism promotes the message of love, beauty, harmony, tolerance and worship - which are the core values of my music as well. I want my audience to stay happy and healthy, and I hope to bring peace in their lives through my music.

What are your comments on fusions of Sufi music with other genres?

As a Sufi singer myself, I have carried out extensive research on the genre, because making the music accessible to people and presenting it in simple terms is important to me. I believe that fusion artistes and bands are helping Sufi music to reach a much wider audience, which is excellent.

Have you listened to any folk artistes from Bangladesh?

Of course! In fact, I have been listening to the participating Bangladeshi folk artistes ever since the teasers for the Dhaka International Folk Fest came out. Their music is beautiful.

Fazlur Rahman Babu to star in 'Payrar Chithi'



The National Award-winning actor Fazlur Rahman Babu will be featured in the film, *Payrar Chithi*, directed by independent filmmaker Nishith Surjo. The film is based on a true event. *Payrar Chithi* is a government granted project, plotted around river Payra in Potuakhali.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Shirshendu Biswas, a then fourth grader at Patuakhali Government Jubilee High School, wrote a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2016, requesting her to have a bridge built on the river in Patuakhali's Mirzaganj Upazila.

The Prime Minister in her reply said that she was delighted to receive the letter from him. She praised the boy for his awareness regarding his family's

safety while crossing the river.

Fazlur Rahman Babu will be playing a negative role in this film. "At the moment, I am focusing on films only," said the actor. He is set to shoot for three other movies titled, *Jam, Nondini* and *Orjon 71*. He has also worked in *Bisua Shundori*, a film directed by Chayanika Chowdhury, which will release on December 6.

The actor is set to receive the National Award for the second time this year, for the film *Gohin Baluchor*.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Runa Laila's latest track releases today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrated singer Runa Laila's latest single, *Pheratey Paari Ni*, produced and distributed under the banner of Dhruva Music Station, releases today. Composed by the singer herself, the lyrics of the song are written by Kabir Bakul, and the music is arranged by Raja Kasheef. The music video, featuring Niloy Alamgir and Sallha Khanam Nadia, is directed by Shahrear Polock.



Macbeth



Amar Mukher Anchalkhani

PHOTOS: COURTESY

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FEST

'BotTala Ranga Mela 2019' kicks off today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The eleven-day international theatre festival, *BotTala Ranga Mela 2019*, organised by BotTala—a performance space, begins today. This is the third edition of the festival, which will take place at the premises of Liberation War Museum, Agargaon.

The opening programme will be inaugurated by renowned theatre personality Aatur Rahman, and Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Dr Md Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal, NDC, will be present the chief guest. Playwrights Sadhana Ahmed, Ruma Modak and Shubhashish Sinha will attend the opening ceremony as special guests.

Noted playwright, director and actor Mamunur Rashid will be conferred with the lifetime achievement award on the concluding ceremony of the festival, on November 26.

A total of 10 troupes from five countries are



Shluk

performing in this year's festival, including Bangladesh. The other countries are India, Iran, Nepal and Spain. Two troupes from Bangladesh, including the host troupe BotTala and eight others from abroad will stage their plays every day at 7:30 pm during the festival.

BotTala Ranga Mela 2019 will present the plays, *Crutch-er Colonel* (Bangladesh), *Amar Mukher Anchalkhani* (India), *Dilemmas Witch My Flamenco Tailcoat* (Spain), *Mysterious Gift* (Iran), *4.48 Psychosis* (Nepal), *Bisua Mangal* (India), *Macbeth* (Bangladesh), *Shluk* (India), *Blackhole* (India), *Acharya Profulla Chandra* (India) and *Khona* (Bangladesh).

The event will also feature screenings of documentaries, discussions, songs, dances and recitations.

Like the previous years, eight theatre activists from eight divisions, who have been working diligently to promote theatre in the country, will be awarded at the festival.