

**Fair**

# A pertinent arrangement

*Etcetera, a bookshop at Gulshan circle - 1 in the city has arranged book bazaar, a mini fair of publications to motivate and develop reading skills among the public*

AZIZ AMIRUL

**T**HE premises of Etcetera, a bookshop at Gulshan in the city wore a festive look as a book fair got underway, on the evening of February 15.

Scholastica Enterprises, a private group of companies, has arranged the fair, titled Ekushey Book Bazaar that is highlighting the spirit of Language Movement prior to the national occasion of the immortal 21st.

Among other distinguished guests, M. Shamsul Islam, Minister for Land, and Syed Marghoub Murshed, Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Information attended the opening ceremony. The Minister, in his inaugural speech thanked all concerned with the fair and urged the authorities and concerned sponsors to come forward with more such events for the betterment of the common society.

'We need to develop the interest of reading books among members of our future generation. Reading is a very good exercise for the mind as well as the body', mentioned the Minister. 'A huge pile of good books in one's personal library is certain to lead the person and his neighbours towards a positive destination. An initiative similar to the one of today has fulfilled a long-cherished dream of the sophisticated community. I, very much, believe that more entrepreneurs and philanthropists would come forward with open arms to organize such book bazaars and fairs', he added.

A total of approximately 4,000 books in both Bangla and English have been stacked up on the well-placed shelves and oblong tables. For access to easy browsing, a number of separate sections have been set up with books on subjects of children, computer, general, fiction, politics, economics and research based publications on lives of famous intellectuals.



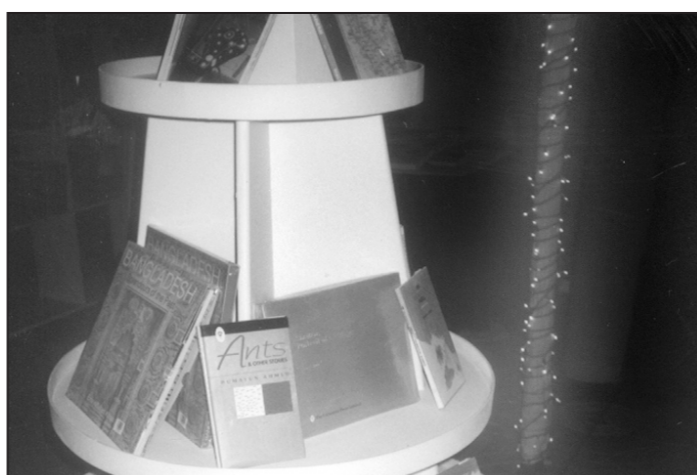
M. Shamsul Islam, Minister for Land, inaugurates Ekushey book bazaar

Large collections of Indian books have been imported with emphasis on children's topics. Shishutosh publications from Kolkata have published fairy tales of Walt Disney, in Bangla. In addition, almost the entire series have been brought to the book bazaar for display and sales along with the original English prints. Some of the important titles in Bangla include *Shingha Raaj, Jaadubari and Guha Manav*. English titles of the Walt Disney series include *Alice in Wonderland, Dumbo, Oliver Twist, Peter pan*.

Publications on general topics

include titles such as *Grameen Bank, Ayer Badha Shoriey Dao, Chotoder Zia, Manusher Adi Utsha*.

The mini book fair would also be a place of pleasure for the serious and witty reader of famous novels and fictions. A section has been allotted for books of the more celebrated Bengali authors like Rabindranath Tagore, Rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Sharat Chandra Chatterjee and Jibana Nanda Das. Complete sets of works by these and other famous writers and poets of Bengal have found place upon the shelves,



A well-displayed revolving shelf at the book bazaar

too.

All of the contemporary popular authors of Bangladesh including Humayun Ahmed, Jafar Iqbal, Imdadul Haq Milon, Humayun Azad and Lutfar Rahman Riton have also had a considerable share of the allotted space as their books have been displayed in the bazaar. In addition, novels and short fictions of a number of contemporary Indian authors are available.

Yasmeen Murshed, Chairman of the group of companies, gave her opinion on habits of reading and pointed out several reasons in support of holding such a

promotional book fair. 'This is a promotional fair of books through which a new generation of readers would be born. As there are no large bookshops in Dhaka, therefore this outlet would surely be a comfortable and tidy location from where book lovers of all ages would receive benefits of international standard', said Yasmeen, who is also the Principal of Scholastica, a top English medium school of the country.

She further mentioned that stock of Bengali books is gradually being increased and in near future there would be an equal balance between the number of



A large collection of publications from home and abroad find place at the fair

Bangla and English book in Etcetera.

'We must keep in mind that Bangla is our first language, hence it should be given the first priority in all levels with equal importance to the international language of English. We have decided to increase the collection of books on South Asian topics. This particular region is fast developing to match up with rest of the world. A strong knowledge of ours on issues of South Asia will certainly help the community to develop in a better way'.

'We need to read more as we have no other option to develop

our intellect. One should always remember that a golden future of Bangladesh solely lies in the strong basis of its intellectual properties. Our ancestors had a strong liking for books and knowledge, hence were much more developed in wit. The glorious intellectual properties of our past generation can be injected among our brains if we can gain more knowledge through reading', rounded off a confident Yasmeen Murshed.

The book bazaar remains open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. everyday until February 22.



A partial view of the book bazaar



A good collection of research based books on international personalities



A section on the upper shelves house complete volumes of Tagore

RECOMMENDATIONS

**Book Fair**

Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a three-week long book fair at the premises of Bangla Academy is in progress. The fair is open everyday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Ghazal evening**

A Ghazal evening will be held today at the Best Western La Vinci Hotel at Kawran Bazar in the city with solo live performance of Ghazal exponent Mesbah. The show will start at 7 p.m. and will end at 10:00 p.m.

**Boutique exhibition**

An exhibition of boutique items titled *Ghorawa Poshak Prodorshoni* is being held at Ali's Knitwear Bangladesh at Hse-49, Rd-15/A, Dhanmondi. The display includes items of traditionally designed saree, punjabi, shalwar kameez, indigenous apparels and hand-made wax candle. The exhibition remains open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday till February 22.

**Group art exhibition**

Nine contemporary artists are displaying their works in a group exhibition that is being held at the Zainul Art Gallery of Fine Arts Institute in the city. The show will continue till February 21 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

**Drama Festival**

Nattyto Utsav 2002, the national festival of drama is going on at the Mahila Samity auditorium in the city. A drama of a particular group is staged everyday at 6:30 p.m. The festival will continue till February 20 organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation.

**Art Exhibition**

A 12-day painting exhibition by renowned artist Maruf Ahmed started at the Shilpangan Art Gallery in the city from February 7, 2002. The show will remain open for all till February 18, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

**Dance**

## Dhaka to relish Indian cultural flavour

*High Commission of India to host an event of Bharatnatyam dances*

TAWFIQUE ALI

**T**HE High Commission of India will present Bharatnatyam dance, to be performed by trainees of Prof. C.V. Chandrasekhar, on February 18 at 6:30 p.m. at its Cultural Center at Satmasjid Road of Dhanmondi in the city.

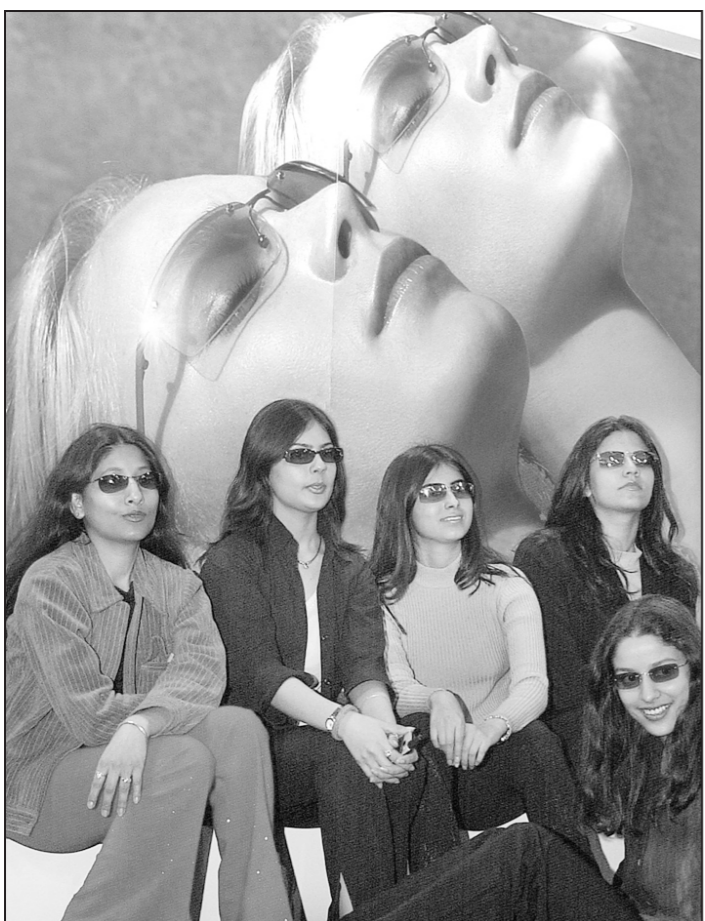
Prof. Chandrasekhar is one of the illustrious prodigies of the internationally renowned Academy of Fine Arts, the *Kalkshetra* at Chennai in India. He is recognised as one of the best instructors of Bharatnatyam and has been teaching for almost half a century. He has been the Dean of Performing Arts at the M.S.

University, Baroda. He has also been in the faculty of Banaras Hindu University. Prof. Chandrasekhar is regularly visiting Bangladesh, on invitation of the High Commission, to impart advanced training to Bharatnatyam dancers here since January 2000. The forthcoming program is an outcome

of the intensive training conducted by Prof. Chandrasekhar to the trainees.

Complimentary entry cards can be collected from the Information & Culture Wing, High Commission of India, House No. 2, Road No. 142, Gulshan-I and House No. 120, Road No. 2, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

**International**



Models display sunglasses during the International Optics 2002 exhibition in New Delhi on February 16, 2002. More than 60 International and Indian optics companies displayed items

**Schedule of National Drama Festival**

Venue: Mahila Samity auditorium, Dhaka			
17 Feb	6:30 p.m.	Bogra Theater, Bogra	Makorsha
18 Feb	6:30 p.m.	Dhaka Theater, Dhaka	Na Noiramoni
19 Feb	6:30 p.m.	Drishwapat, Dhaka	Chop, Adalat Cholchey
20 Feb	6:30 p.m.	Monchomukut Natya Sham	Shingkranti

**Movies**

## Gesture of friendship

*Bangladeshi feature film goes as gift to Australian National Film Archive*

CULTURE DESK

**A** reception was held on February 11, 2002 at the Australian High Commission Recreation Center in the city, in honour of several local star performers of the media and entertainment arena. The High Commissioner of Australia in Bangladesh hosted the reception.

A well-known film producer, Mr Amirul Islam Khan Bulbul, presented a copy of one of his productions *Er E Naam Dosti* (The Friendship) to the National Film Archive of Australia. This presentation of the film was an attempt to strengthen the bond of ongoing friendship between the people of Bangladesh and Australia. This is the first ever presentation of a Bangladeshi film to Australia.

'Accepting this Bengali feature film is part of the Australian commitment to respect languages and the ethnic identity of Australian citizens who originate from Bangladesh. The

Australian government recognises the important role played by Bangladeshi Australians in its multicultural society', mentioned Robert Flynn while speaking on the occasion.

The High Commissioner also announced that his office would host an Australian Film Festival in Dhaka in August this year. He hoped that the film festival would enable filmmakers, artists and the audience of Bangladesh to enjoy and appreciate a selection of contemporary Australian films.

Renowned producers, directors, actors, actresses, singers, film critics and activists attended the reception, from film and television industry. The Honourable State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Reaz Rahman, was the Special Guest at the reception, which was also attended by diplomats, senior government officials, dignitaries and journalists.



High Commissioner of Australia(R) receives copy of Bangla feature film

**Exhibition**

## In honour of Language Martyrs

*Handicraft trading house holds exhibition of traditional apparels printed with motif of Bangla alphabets*

CULTURAL DESK

**A** unique exhibition in tribute of our Mother Language started at Karika Sales Emporium, opposite to Hotel Sheraton, on February 12.

Artists have expressed the theme of 'Ekushey February' in a variety of ways on graceful sarees, doputtas, punjabis and T-shirts. The designs came from the conceptual plan of Abu Sufyan, a freelance journalist. The idea of commemoration to honour the martyrs of the Language Movement of 1952 are focussed in the stylish art work in brush paint, block print and tie and dye media on fine cottons. Three enterprising artists Nusrat Jehan Lakh, Naeema Islam and Sultana Khan came forward to implement the designs. The organisers of the exhibition believe that the immortal Ekushey is not just a short term remembrance of the unique attachment of the Bengali people for their mother tongue, but is a tribute to the extraordinary sacrifices the nation made for recognition of Bangla, worldwide. Abu Sufyan explains that the younger generation will be served by this presentation on fabrics and textiles as a fine means



Bangla alphabet becomes a vital motif of the special Ekushey saree

to express their feelings for language. He says when people use and own a certain motif on their clothes and garments it takes on a

special meaning. It becomes a loved motif, a personalised link with the broader theme, in this case language and above all it becomes a

thing to be valued. Sufyan had been trying with the idea of projecting the 'Ekushey' message upon clothes so that people could reflect their respect and devotion for the mother tongue in an explicit way. He further says that the Bangla alphabets are beautiful in shape and the universally accepted symbol of the Shahid Minar is etched in the minds of the public.

The familiar design of Central Shahid Minar by late painter Hamidur Rahman, symbolising the mother and child image through abstract columns, the red sun of a new nation and the eye of the Bengali mass, are brought under focus through these lovely fabric images.

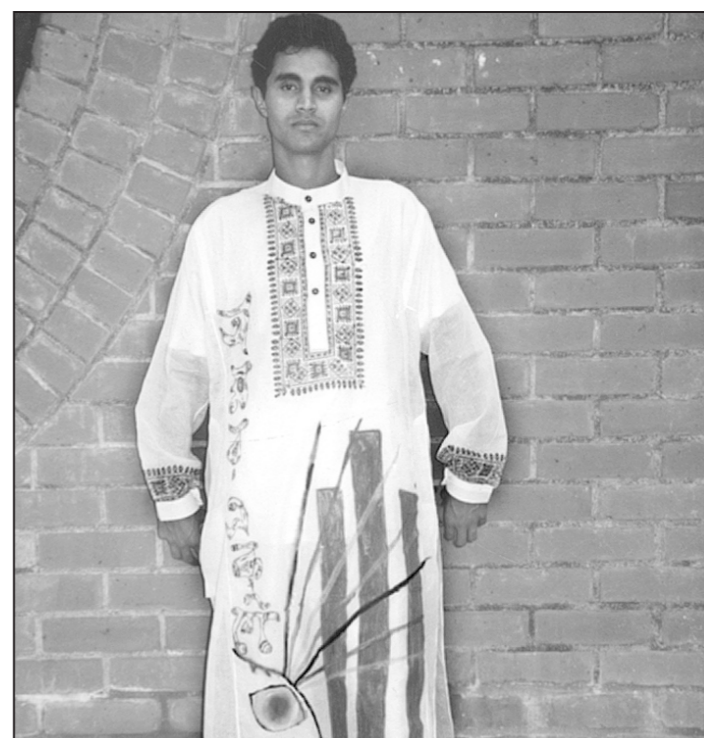
Abu Sufyan says, the designs speak a language, a language of love for motherland and for the mother tongue.

This year's 'Ekushey February' programmes have taken a new step forward. The Central Shahid Minar, the Bangla alphabets, the red sun of national hope and the eyes of proved Bangladeshis, come together on a new canvas.

The exhibition in Karika at Sakura market will continue till March 12.



Hand inscribed Bangla alphabets on a pure cotton kurta



Columns of Shaheed Minar and the Eye motif on a white cotton punjabi