

## RECOMMENDATIONS

## Exhibition

February 20-March 2  
A sculpture exhibition by Ferdousi Priabashini titled 'Aronner Dhratri' is going on at the Shilpangan gallery. The display will remain open for all from 10 am to 9 pm.

## February 16-March 1

The Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts holds a solo exhibition of Monsur ul Karim. Venue: 275/F Rd. 27, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

## February 18-28

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy holds a solo painting exhibition by Ryu, Kwang-il from the Republic of Korea at the National Art Gallery of the academy. The display will remain open for all from 11 am to 7 pm on weekdays and 3 pm to 7 pm on Friday.

## February 23-March 2

Goethe Institut is holding a photographic exhibition titled 'Auro Folk-belief: Utopia of a Pilgrim by Shameem Hasan at the institut's premises, beginning from February 23. The display will remain open from Sunday through Thursday, 2:00 pm-8:00 pm.

## Classical programme

February 23-25  
Classical musical evenings are being held in the Art Gallery, 2nd floor, Shilpakala Academy from 6:00 p.m. every evening, till February 25. Eminent cultural personalities are performing in the programme.

## The best films of 2002-2003

February 22-26  
Zahir Raihan Film Society is screening 17 critically acclaimed films of 2002-2003 from around the world at the Goethe Institut Dhaka at Road no. 9, Dhanmondi.

Wednesday, 25th February 2004:

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## Concer



PHOTO: AFP  
Music director AR Rahman performs at a concert entitled 'I believe...a better world is possible' for the children of India in Bombay recently.

## Event

# Bangladesh-Bharat Moitree Samity observes Ekushey

## HARUN UR RASHID

21st February is regarded as a day of mourning for the brave language martyrs Rafique, Salam, Barkat, Shafur and countless others. The month is regarded as one of sorrow. But we should consider it as a month of protest', said eminent dramatist-actor-director Professor Mamta Uddin Ahmad. He was speaking at a programme organised by Bangladesh-Bharat Moitree Samity (BBMS).

BBMS held the programme at the Biswa Shahitya Kendro on February 22 in observance of Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day. Professor Mamta Uddin spoke at the event as the chief guest. Indian Deputy High

Commissioner in Bangladesh Dilip Sinha, noted dramatist Begum Mamta Hossain, BBMS general secretary Aminul Haque Faruque and BBMS presidential board member Aminul Islam Bedu also spoke on the occasion.

Mamta Uddin narrated about his acquaintance with the language martyrs and their families. 'Rafique was killed just a few days before his marriage. He used to carry a Raja pen-a popular brand of the time-which helped in identifying his dead body,' Mamta informed. 'Later Rafique's brotether was wedded to his younger brother Rashid.' Mamta Uddin very passionately upheld the rich treasure of Bangla language to the audience. About 28 crore people all over the world

speak in Bangla-including the 14 crores in our country and the rest in the neighbouring West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and other places,' he said. At present there are about 4.5 lac words in Bangla, he added. 'But if the demography is conducted properly including all regional dialects, slang words etc, the number would rise up to 8 lac.'

Mamta Uddin termed February as a month of protest; for, 'still people have to sacrifice lives for good causes.' He said that only two years ago a youth named Jamal Uddin was killed because he named his library after Tajuddin Ahmad.'

Deputy High Commissioner Dilip Sinha asked the audience's apology for his inability to speak in Bangla. He informed that a big auditorium is

opening soon in Gulshan where BBMS would be able to hold such programmes.

BBMS's Aminul Islam Bedu expressed his protest against those who think that Bangla is being abused by the influences of Hinduism. He said that those who had sacrificed their lives for Bangla language in 1952 were neither Hindu nor Muslim. 'All of them were Bangalees-Bangla speakers'.

After the discussion, Mamta Uddin presented the Indian dramatist Dr. Minakshi Sinha Ghosh an 'Uttaryo' (scarf) and a Rajshahi silk sari. Professor at Rabindra Bharati University, Minakshi Sinha Ghosh performed solo acting at the programme. Besides, poet Nahida Rokhsana recited poems.

## Cultural exchan

## Bangla speech contest by foreign nationals

On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day, Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh (JUAB) in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, organised a Bangla speech contest for the foreign nationals living in Bangladesh, at 4 pm at the TSC auditorium last Sunday, says a press release.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Matsushiro Horiguchi attended the programme as chief guest while Director General of Bangla Academy Professor Monsur Musa was the special guest. It was presided over by JUAB President Professor M Moazzamul Hoq.

A total of 10 foreign nationals including Japanese, Jordanian, Korean, Nepalese and Iranian, participated in the Bangla speech contest. The participants beautifully described their experiences of daily

life, their impressions and thoughts in Bangla. The participants were awarded with JUAB crest and certificates for their excellent speeches.

The speech contest was held in two separate categories. In one category, only the Japanese nationals took part in the contest. Among them, first, second and third prizes were given to -- Hiroki Watanabe, Hiroki Watanabe (another contestant) and Nahoko Okada respectively.

In the other category, the speech contest was held among the nationals of all other countries except the Japanese. The first, second and third prizes were given to Izu Shrestha of Nepal, Iman Ibrahim Al Sharif of Jordan and Lee Hyun A of Korea respectively. The programme was followed by a cultural soiree.

It can be mentioned that JUAB

is an organization of Bangladeshi nationals who are engaged in various professions in Bangladesh after completing their higher education in Japan. JUAB started its activities from the beginning of 2000 under the direct support of the

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## Expatriates expressing their impressions and thoughts in Bangla

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