

# Poush Mela '08 Celebrating the season of mist and harvest

**NADIA SARWAT**

TRADITIONALLY, after the harvest season, the rural people of Bangladesh celebrate winter with *mela* (village fair), *jatrapala*, along with varieties of *pitha* (rice cakes). With an aim to go back to the roots, Bangladesh Poush Mela Udjapon Parishad arranged a *Poush Mela* yesterday at Ramna Botomul.

Early morning, the mist was still intense as the artistes of cultural organisation 'Udichi' opened the daylong event with a rendition of the song *Poush elo, poush elo. Shankota dulchey*, a solo rendition by Rupa Chowdhury followed. Rezina Wali Lina recited Jibananda Das' poem *Nadi*.

Dancers of 'Spondon' then performed at the celebration. The programme also included Aditi Mohsin's rendition of the Tagore song *Kanna hashir dol dolano*. The festival was formally inaugurated with a rural ritual 'Poushali Porbo'.

Freedom fighter Abdul Jabbar Boyati inaugurated the *Poushali Porbo* by making a fire -- a symbolic move to break the winter mist. Professor Anisuzzaman, chairman of the Poush Mela Udjapon Parishad; co-chairmen Golam Kuddus and Mahub Selim were present.

"This year the Bengali month of *Poush* has come to us amidst a distressed situation. Just after the disastrous Sidr, we are in a state of socio-economic crisis. Still the



Sharing the delights of pitha

winter comes with the aroma of newly made *pitha*. We believe that, in the end, the sun will come out of the fog -- Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, convener of Bangladesh Poush Mela Udjapon Parishad, read the declaration of the festival.

Professor Anisuzzaman said, "We have been celebrating the festival in the city for last ten years. The festival is usually celebrated on the first day of *Poush*. However, the current situation of the country has caused a delay this year. If the festival can remind us of our cultural heritage in our hectic city lives, we will consider this event a success."

Following the speeches the cultural programme resumed with a solo performance by folk artiste Bipul Bhattacharya. After the performances by cultural organisations 'Nibedon' and 'Nriyam', eminent cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor recited a poem at the event.

The festival offered the urbanites a variety of delectable *pitha*. People from all age groups gathered at Ramna to enjoy their holiday with music, dance and *pitha*.

The programme ended in the evening with the *jatrapala*, *Alomoti Premkumar*, staged by Desh Opera.



Artistes sing at the Poush Mela

## CULTURALFEAST

### 10th Dhaka International Film Festival

Organiser: Rainbow Film Society  
Venues: Central Public Library auditorium, National Museum auditorium, Russian Centre for Science and Culture and Indian High Commission  
Date: January 10-18  
Time: 10:00 am onwards

### Sculpture Exhibition



Title: Ecology of Mind-2  
Sculptor: Alak Roy  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalaya, H 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi and British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka University  
Date: January 5-19  
Time: 12pm-8pm

### Group Art Exhibition

Title: 10+2 SOULS  
Venue: Shipangan Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi  
Date: January 3-12  
Time: 12pm-8pm

## Exhibition Nazir Hossain's soft and soothing rural images

FAYZA HAQ

Self-effacing but confident and clever Nazir Hossain exhibits every week at the Friday Art College fair. That and his numerous exhibits in his home district gives him the courage to teach and work at a commercial outlet and have solo exhibits like the recent one at the Zoom Gallery, Alliance Francaise.

Using acrylic and watercolour, Hossain has worked on his sketches, which he makes on route to his office and home as well as to his hometown. He depends on his massive collection of sketches with pencil and pen which are remarkable on their own and were accessible at the gallery. In his 26 entries Hossain has done simple and pristine paintings based on the farmers and fishermen of the villages whom he has been studying since his childhood.

Hossain has based his line and colour composition on the Bangladeshi master painters like Zainul Abedin, SM Sultan, Quamrul Hassan, Qayyum Chowdhury, Safiuddin Ahmed and

Rafiqun Nabi. He also has western geniuses like Van Gogh and Cezanne in mind while going about his work of unbridled passion and enormous hope. The young artist bases his paintings, which he does by night, after his day job, in his

simple study at home. Despite his preoccupation in making a living by freelance paintings, his professional work has the finesse of a dogged and die-hard student of idyllic paintings of the rural areas.

Hossain's choice of colours



An artwork by Nazir Hossain

## 10th Dhaka International Film Festival inaugurated

### Dutch film "Duska" screened

ERSHAD KAMOL

Tenth Dhaka International Film Festival began on January 10 at the Main Auditorium, National Museum. Over 100 full-length films, short films and documentaries from 40 countries are participating at the festival arranged by Rainbow Film Society in association with European Union, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Royal Norwegian Embassy, SIGNIS, Religion Today Film Festival and GMG Airlines.

Entrepreneur Geeteera Safiya Chowdhury was the chief guest at the inaugural programme. Director of the Festival Committee, Ahmed Muztaba Zamal delivered the welcome speech. Ambassador of the European Commission, Dr Stefan Frowein; Charge d'Affaires of Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Fritz Meijndert; Vice-chairman of the Festival Committee, Badal Rahman; Managing Director of Channel-i, Faridur Reza Shagor, General Manager (Sales and Marketing) of GMG Airlines, Quazi N Shahriar also spoke at the programme. President of Rain-



Geeteera Safiya Chowdhury speaks at the inauguration

bow Film Society, Kishuar Kamal thanked everyone at the programme. The opening ceremony was presided over by the Chairman of the Festival Committee, Syed Margub Morshed.

The festival opened with the Dutch tragic-comedy *Duska* (Russian for 'cherub') by renowned European director Jos Stelling. Stelling won the Dutch National Award in Art and has been nominated and awarded at most prestigious international film festivals: Cannes, Venice, Moscow and others. *Duska* will represent Netherlands at the Academy Awards in February this year in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

*Duska* features the story of a middle-aged film critic Bob (Gene Bervoets), who is in love with the pretty ticket seller at the local movie theatre (Sylvia Hoeks). She is involved in her own complicated relationships, but eventually their paths cross.

On the very day when the object of Bob's affection comes to his house the comedy takes a new turn upon the arrival of a Russian, named Duska (Sergei Makovetsky), whom Bob met at a film festival in the then USSR and gave his address in Netherlands to meet him. Duska's intentions to stay with Bob appears as annoying to the host.

*Duska* tries his very best to be nice, but Bob becomes increasingly irritated. The tension

between Bob and Duska eventually leads to a violent climax. But when Duska is gone, Bob deeply misses his true friend.

The titular character Duska only speaks Russian while the other major characters speak Dutch. Director Jos Stelling's handling of this exchange of languages is interesting. There are very few dialogues but a lot of action, which develop the storyline of *Duska*. Glances and music are more revealing than words.

However, it is not clear how exactly Duska made it to the Netherlands and where he disappears in the end.

The film is replete with symbolism and can be interpreted in several ways. The tea and coffee glasses in their plastic holders look melancholic. The surrounding streets are mostly dark.

Perhaps the film is a satire of the materialistic social structure where every individual is self-centred and lonely and this condition prompts a kind of instinctual interdependence. It speaks of differences between two contrasting worlds (the Eastern and Western Europe), and an enigmatic conclusion suggests that neither is better than the other. Or may be the film is about friendship between the two worlds and a total rejection of established laws and institutions.



A scene from Duska

## Poetry recitation on humanity and peace 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

JAMIL MAHMUD

To observe 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, recitation organisation Meghdut along with United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Dhaka and Goethe-Institut, Bangladesh arranged a recitation programme titled *Poetry for Humanity and Peace* at Goethe-Institut on January 10. The programme featured rendition of poems on humanity by poets from

different decades.

Eminent poet and writer Syed Shamsul Haq was the chief guest at the programme. In his speech Haq appreciated the endeavour of Meghdut. Among others Mosud Mannan, chief organiser of Meghdut; Kazi Ali Reza, officer-in-charge of UNIC and Torsten Oertel, director of Goethe Institut, Bangladesh spoke at the programme.

The recitation session started with a rendition of excerpts from Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah's

*Ishtehar* rendered by Farhad Hossain, a member of Meghdut.

Noted poets Samudra Gupta, Sajjad Kadir, Arunav Sarkar and Rubi Rahman rendered their own poems. Syed Shamsul Haq rendered excerpts from his poem *Ambush*. The programme wrapped up with the recitation by veteran poet Kazi Rozy. Her poem highlighted the indigenous people.

The organisers informed that a compilation of the poems recited during the programme -- translated in English -- will be published later.

On December 10, 1948 the United Nations adopted "the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" at its General Assembly at Palais de Chaillot, Paris. The Guinness Book of Records describes the declaration as the "Most Translated Document" in the world.

Prior to the proclamation of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights", several countries had proclaimed comparable documents. Examples include the Bill of Rights of England, the Bill of Rights in the United States, and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizens in France.



Mosud Mannan speaks at the event

## ON AIR

### PICK OF THE DAY



3:30  
On Rtv at 8:00 pm  
Single Episode TV play  
Cast: Tinni, Hillol



X-Men: The Last Stand  
On Star Movies at 7:00 pm  
Genre: Action/Thriller  
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

### News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

**CHANNEL-i**  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.

**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

**CHANNEL 1**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am.

**BANGLAVISION**  
News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.  
News (English) at 6:00pm.

**Rtv**  
News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am.

**ntv**  
News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am.

**ETV**  
News (Bangla) 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm.

**BTV**  
08:45 Esho Gaan Shikhi  
11:15 Selected Programme  
11:30 Shukhi Poribar  
12:05 Protham Ontora  
12:30 Talk Show  
01:30 Mati O Manush  
02:15 Sisimpur  
02:40 Bangla Feature Film  
05:25 Debate  
06:25 Selected Programme  
07:05 Talk Show  
08:30 Documentary  
Programme: Amar Bangladesh  
09:00 Drama  
10:30 Selected Programme  
11:00 Talk Show: Date Line  
Dhaka

**ATN BANGLA**  
08:15 Aiker Shangbadpotro  
08:30 Nupurer Chhondhey  
09:15 Drama Serial: Amader Nurul Huda  
10:30 Talk Show: Onyodish  
11:05 Musical Programme: Shesh Okhkor  
12:15 Documentary  
Programme: Prapok  
02:30 Bangla Feature Film  
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor  
06:20 Documentary  
Programme  
08:00 Drama Serial: Alokogor  
08:40 Drama Serial: Chor Kuthuri  
09:20 Drama Serial: Ek Janorney  
11:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House  
12:00 Gramnephone  
Lead News

**CHANNEL i**  
08:30 Shokaaler Gaan  
09:30 Shangbadpotro  
Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Gramnephone  
Tritiomatra  
11:05 Talk Show: Amader Aaina  
12:05 Mukto Bazar  
12:30 Citycell Taroka  
Kathan  
01:05 Ebong Cinema  
Gaan  
01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma  
Hindoyer Gaan  
04:05 Educational  
Programme: F M Method  
04:50 Shotyer Shonhaney  
05:30 Tomar Shurer Dhara  
06:30 Debate Programme: Odito  
07:50 Mega Serial: Ghar Kutum  
08:20 Drama Serial: Nourkadubi  
09:35 Hindoye Matio O Manush  
10:00 Drama Serial: Phiro Dekha  
11:30 Live Drama Serial: Astey Astey Astey  
12:00 Gramnephone  
Aiker Shangbadpotro

**ntv**  
08:55 Drama Serial: Swapno Jaal  
09:30 Chhonder Dondoy  
10:05 Tifin-er Phakey  
10:30 Apar Jigyasha  
12:10 One-Eleven  
Sharkar-er EK Bochor

01:05 Japan Video Topic  
02:30 Drama Serial: Swapno Jaal  
03:15 Music Jam  
04:25 Taroka Alap  
04:50 Alokpat  
06:20 Shubho Shondha  
06:45 Shangkriti Ei Shoptaho  
08:15 Drama Serial: Shanilo Kutir  
09:00 Medhabi Bangair Golpo  
11:35 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy

**Rtv**  
08:15 Gaanchil Ei Din  
09:05 Drama Serial: Ebong

10:00 Rohoshyer Golpo  
Children's Programme: Jingley Phurer Deshey  
11:00 Taroka Alap  
12:15 Drama Serial: Briddyashram  
01:00 Gaanchil Ei Din  
01:30 Dhallywood Beats  
02:30 Bangla Feature Film  
06:00 Profidin  
06:35 Jono Prottyasha O Sharkar-er Ek Bochor  
08:00 Drama: 3:30  
09:20 Special Programme  
11:00 Drama Serial: Neel Nijon-ey  
11:30 News Watch

12:00 Rtv Exclusiva  
**CHANNEL 1**  
08:40 Shuprobhaat  
Bangladesh  
09:30 Cartoon  
10:30 Bagan Bilash  
11:00 Drama: Tutul O Sinaam Ghash Phoring  
12:05 Tele Film: Swamyoti  
02:00 Shoptaho Sheshey  
03:30 Shomoy-er Ainay Rajhiti  
05:15 Shukhtara  
06:00 Saaj Bela  
06:45 Shomoy-er Swad  
08:15 Selected Programme

08:00 Ekusher Shokal  
02:30 Bangla Feature Film  
05:15 Prokhruti  
05:45 Ekusher Shondha  
06:15 Sms Mania  
06:30 Shoptaho Ghurey Desh Juray  
07:30 Explosive  
08:30 Total Music  
09:30 Ekusher Shomoy  
10:30 Binodon Bishwa  
11:45 Reporter's File  
12:00 Ekusher Raat  
08:00 Ekusher Raat  
09:05 Children's Programme  
09:30 Sports Vision  
10:10 Aganir Kontho

11:35 Media Bhubon  
02:40 Drama Serial: Shuryo Pata  
03:05 Apar Agami  
05:30 Sports Vision  
06:05 Din-er Sheshey  
08:25 Drama Serial: Pinkal Akash  
09:05 Talk Show: Amar Ami  
09:45 Drama Serial: Shomokulir  
12:00 Shangbad Potridin  
07:25 Teen Wolf  
09:00 Cinderella Man  
11:30 Domino  
01:30 Vip Access: National Treasure 2  
02:00 Transporter 2  
03:30 Crank  
05:00 Eight Below  
07:00 X-Men: The Last Stand  
08:45 Date Movie  
10:05 Roll-Bounce!  
12:00 Aliens

**STAR PLUS**  
09:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
09:55 Bolly V  
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus  
10:30 Saibaba  
11:25 Bolly V  
11:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
11:55 Bolly V  
12:00 V Trailers - Star Plus  
12:25 Bolly V  
12:30 Sonpata  
01:00 Saibaba  
02:00 Jai Maa Durga  
03:00 Bidai  
05:00 Kunwara  
08:00 Aek Chhabhi Hal Padoss Mein  
08:30 Jai Maa Durga  
09:30 Pritviraj Chauhan

10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby  
10:30 Star Voi Chhota Ustaad  
12:00 Santaan  
12:30 Bolly V  
**STAR WORLD**  
09:30 Who Wants To Be A Superhero?  
10:30 J.A.G.  
11:30 Ncis  
12:30 Cops  
01:30 Heroes  
04:30 Bones  
05:30 Cnss Angel Mindfreak  
06:30 Most Shocking  
07:30 Tna Wrestling  
08:30 Kyle Xy  
09:30 Bones  
10:30 Tna Xplosion  
11:30 Bloopers  
12:30 Kyle Xy

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
09:30 Deadly Summer  
10:30 India's Geniuses  
11:30 My Brilliant Brain  
12:30 Ferrar  
01:30 Engineering for Terror  
02:30 Excellent Adventure  
03:30 Mad Labs  
04:30 I Didn't Know That  
05:00 Chimp Diaries  
05:30 Big Bang  
06:00 Pilot Whales  
06:30 Apollo 13  
07:30 The White Elephant  
08:30 Bombay Calling  
10:30 My Brilliant Brain  
11:30 Lockdown  
12:30 Bhutan

**HISTORY CHANNEL**  
09:30 Jules Verne

**Radio Foorti 88.0 FM**  
07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)  
11:00am Amar 88.0 (Nusrat)  
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)  
07:00pm Fuad Live (Fuad)  
11:30am Back to Back music  
**Radio Today 89.6 FM**  
07:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob)  
07:45am Today's Happy Moments  
08:45am Shokaler Khabor  
12:00pm Fatataf Adda (Nudrat & Sayfi)  
01:45pm Dupurer Khabor  
04:00pm U-tum (Tania)  
06:45pm Shondher Khabor  
08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok (Sayem)  
09:45pm Raater Khabor  
11:45pm Moddho Raater Khabor  
12:00am Today's Happy Moments  
12:10am Raat Vor Gan (Nirob)

10:30 Benjamin Franklin  
11:30 The Real Partnership  
12:00 Mystery of Missing Comet  
12:30 A Crooked Man  
01:30 Saturn: Lord of the Rings  
02:30 Cleopatra  
03:30 Aluminium  
04:30 Ground Zero  
05:30 Che Guevara  
06:30 Dash & Lily  
08:30 Casanova  
10:30 Leo Tolstoy  
12:30 Dash & Lily