

## Ekushey Book Fair

Venue: Bangla Academy  
Date: February 1-29  
Time: 4pm onwards  
11:00am onwards on weekly holidays



## International Art Exhibition

Organiser: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh  
Venue: Auditorium, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 5 Old Secretariat Road, Nirmal, Ramna  
Date: February 9-29  
Time: 2pm-7pm



## Film Screening

Title: Amaar Bhashar Chalachchitra  
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society  
Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU  
February 25  
10:00 am Dui Poishar Alta (Bangladesh)  
04:00pm Banshi (Bangladesh)



## Exhibition

Organiser: Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, British Council, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
Title: Transformer: Extra-Ordinary Worlds from everyday Materials  
Venue: Bengal Gallery, House 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: February 23-28



# "Sheeter Pangktimala" Love & despair in winter

Book launch at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

NADIA SARWAT

*Sheeter Pangktimala*, a collection of poems by 45 prominent and promising Bangladeshi poets, was published by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on February 23. Adviser to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Rasheda K. Chowdhury launched the book at the National Music and Dance Centre of the Academy.

Sharful Alam, secretary, Cultural Ministry, was present as the special guest and Kamrul Hasan, ndc, Director General of BSA presided over the event. The poets read out from their poems published in the book at the event.

Prior to the event, the Adviser attended a brief informal meeting with the Director General of BSA where she was informed about the recent achievements, drawbacks, organogram and policies of the Academy. Heads of different departments of BSA were present at the meeting. Shafi Kamal, head of the Drama Department, delivered a speech on the academic, creative and other activities of the academy at the meeting.

The guests also visited the art gallery of the academy, which is now closed to the general audience due to the ongoing restoration of the artworks.

According to the Director General, artworks worth millions of Taka are at risk of being damaged



Cover jacket of the book

due to the lack of proper management. The policy of the previous government prevented the academy authority to take necessary steps to preserve the artworks. The budget needed for the restoration and preservation had to be cut short, Rasheda K. Chowdhury assured consideration of these issues.

The book launch programme was opened with a chorus song rendered by the artistes of BSA. Two solo renditions by G.M. Zakir and Amit Kumar Karmakar followed.

Ashrafat Mosaddek, Secretary, Research and Publication Department of the Academy delivered the welcome speech.

In his speech, Sharful Alam announced that the government will restart the Training Project for the young poets and writers organised by Bangla Academy within this economic year.

Poets Abu Karim, Ashim Saha, Rabindra Gope, Rabiul Hussain, Tahmina Quraishi, Dilar Hafiz, Hasan Hafiz, Bimal Guha, Bulbul Mahalanbish, Arif Haidar, Dilraz Rahman, Lily Haque, Ashrafat Mosaddek and others read from their poems at the programme.

For years BSA has been publishing books on different aspects of arts, which are not often commercially viable. More than 500 such publications are available. However, *Sheeter Pangktimala* is the first publication on poetry by the Academy.

## 3rd Citycell-Channel i Music Awards today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The gala event of the 3rd Citycell-Channel i Music Awards will be held this evening at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre at 6:30 pm. It is the most elaborate award giving ceremony on music in Bangladesh, where singers and technicians will be awarded in twenty different categories.

The categories are -- Classical (instrumental), Classical (vocal), Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet, Folk Songs, Film Songs, Adhunik Band, Best Lyricist, Best Music Director, Best Upcoming Singer (male/female), Best Cover Design (album), Best Music Video, Best Sound Engineer, Best Underground Band and Lifetime Achievement Award.

At a press conference held at the Ball Room, Hotel Sheraton yesterday, the organisers briefed the media on the event. Faridur Reza Sagor, Managing Director of Impress Telefilms Limited; Dr. Anand Rajasingham, Head of Marketing, Citycell; Taslim Ahmed, Manager, Regulatory and External Affairs, Citycell; Syed Tanzin Huq, Manager, Media, Marketing and Communications, Citycell and Hasan Abidur Reza Jewel, Chief, Production and Event Management, Impress Telefilms Limited were present at the press conference.

The weekly *Ananda Alo*, *Bangladeshinfo.com*, the daily *Jugantor* and *Radio Today* are the media partners of the event.

# Amar Bhashar Cholochochitro '08



A scene from *Shilpo Shohor Shapnolok*, screened at the festival

MAINUL HASSAN

To observe 'Amar Ekushey', Dhaka University Film Society (DUFS) has organised a weeklong film screening session titled 'Amar Bhashar Cholochochitro 2008'. The festival is running from February 22 to 27 at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) Auditorium, University of Dhaka.

DUFS has been arranging special film screenings to mark Ekushey since 2001. Out of 24 Bangla films being screened at the festival, 14 are Bangladeshi and 10 Indian.

The event began with a short inauguration programme, which was held at the TSC Auditorium at 4:00 pm on February 22. Professor A.F.M. Yousuf Haider, Pro-Vice Chancellor, DU was the chief guest. Filmmaker Badal Rahman was the special guest. Among others AAMS Arefin Siddique, moderator, DUFS and filmmaker Shaheen Dill-Riaz were present at the programme. Imran Ferdous, president of DUFS, presided over the event.

Dill-Riaz's much talked about documentary *Shilpo Shohor*

*Shapnolok* was screened at the inaugural programme.

Prior to the official inauguration of the event, two films -- *Abirhab* directed by Soovas Datta and *Bariwali* by Rituparno Ghosh were screened at the venue. The last film of the day was *Iri Srikanto*.

Everyday four films will be screened -- at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm.

Today four films -- *Dui Poishar Aalta*, *Neel Akasher Nichey*, *Banshi* and *Herbert* -- will be screened at the event.

## Competition on language for students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A daylong competition on language among students was held at Tangail on February 22.

HSBC and *The Daily Prothom Alo* jointly organised the competition at the Bindubasini Boys' High School in the town to mark the International Mother Language Day.

A total of 700 students from five districts of the greater Mymensingh region including Tangail took part in the competition in the primary, lower secondary, secondary and higher secondary categories.

The programme included question-answer, open discussions, prize distribution and a cultural function.

Headmaster of Bindubasini Govt Boys' High School Abdul Karim inaugurated the competition while Tangail Deputy Commissioner (DC) Akhter Ali Sarkar was the chief guest.

Among others, teacher of Bangla department, DU, Professor Biswajit Ghosh; Dr Saurav Sikder, teacher of Philology, DU; poet Mahmud Kamal and Sami Hafiz, Corporate Responsibility and Communication



Participants at the competition

Manager of HSBC spoke at the event. Prizes were later given away among the winners of the competition.

Anita Basak Ria of Bindubasini Govt Primary School won the first prize in primary category; Deboshri Datta Nijhum of Bindubasini Govt Girls' High School in lower secondary category; Khandakar Zahid Hossain of Bindubasini Boys'

High School in secondary category and Mashroor Siam of Mymensingh Shaheed Nazrul Islam College won the first prize in higher secondary category.

Artists of the local Sonar Tori Cultural School performed songs at the programme. The competition was dedicated to the late local Language Veteran Sufia Khan.

## Art camp in aid of Sidr-affected children

A group of twelve artists from Dhaka have come together in aid of children traumatised by the Cyclone Sidr in Kuakata. Working for Better Life (WBL), a local organisation has coordinated an art camp with the help of the artists including Alokesh Ghosh, Tarun Kumar Ghosh, Ranjit Das, Mohammad Eunus, Kazi Salauddin Ahmed, Tayba Begum Lipi, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Mahbubur Rahman, Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumder, Kazi Sayeed Ahmed and Nahid Niaz Nipu, says a press release.

The art camp is expected to produce a good number of paintings, which will be exhibited in Dhaka. Proceeds from the sale will be utilised to support the project *Mamar Bari*, a project providing food and education to more than 300 children (between the ages of four to fourteen) affected by Sidr in Kuakata.

## Ustad Captain Azizul Islam performs in Chennai

Ustad Captain Azizul Islam performed at the Chennai Seafarers' Club in Chennai, India recently, says a press release. The programme jointly organised by Chennai Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, Institute Of Marine Engineers and Company of Master Mariners was a solo flute recital by Ustad Captain Azizul Islam.

At the programme Azizul Islam presented *Raga Sri*, *Raga Emon*, *Raga Misra Khamaj Dhuon* and more. He was accompanied on the *tabla* by Rajat Behera.



Ustad Captain Azizul Islam performs at the programme in Chennai

# BIT's Silver Jubilee celebration

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT) inaugurated the three-day long cultural programme on the occasion of its Silver Jubilee at The Red Brick School Auditorium of its Uttara branch on February 23. Fazle Hasan Abed, founder-chairman of BRAC was present as the chief guest.

After recitations from the Holy Books, the audience was welcomed with a group dance and choral rendition of Rabindranath Tagore's *Ananda loke* by the students of BIT. This was followed by the main performance of the evening, a theatrical production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by the students.

Two scenes from the dance drama *Chandalika* were staged next on special request from the parents. The musicians are all students of the school. The dances and plays were directed by Md. Saiful Islam, drama and art teacher, and Anik

Bose, dance teacher.

The lighting was well synchronised with the music. The costumes were impressive. The cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* includes Tashfia Shabnam, Mehnaz Kamal Khan, Zarrin Tasnim, Afsheen Zaman Khan, Asif Reza Raj, Tahia Kulsum Azia, Shakur Rezaat, Nusrat Hossain, Bushra Rahman, Rashida Rahim, Anika Nusrat, Samantha Saif Kristy, Maisha Mubasharia, Ayesha Abedin, Farabe Wahab, Khandaker Sajid Mahmood, Taseen Uj Imam and Shehzad Noor Taus. The cast of *Chandalika* includes Detepriya Roy Chowdhury, Farah Nasreen Chowdhury, Medha Dewan, Fabiha Atiq, Sanjida Ali, Maliyat

Students of BIT in *Chandalika*

Tarannum and others.

Nafees Ahsan Chowdhury, alumni officer of BIT, delivered the opening speech, followed by Mueyed Chowdhury, former executive director and alumni of BRAC; Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University; Barrister Mainul Hossain; Professor Bazul Mobin Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of IUB; Saidur Rahman, country director of Edexcel; and others.

The cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was called back on stage to be awarded by Fazle Hasan Abed. The programme concluded with a speech by Lubna Chowdhury, founder Principal of BIT. According to her, when BIT opened in 1982 there was a government mandate that all English medium schools had to include the word 'tutorial' in their title.

*Chandalika* was performed yesterday and will again be staged tomorrow (February 26). *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be repeated today. The event concludes tomorrow.

