

## Ekushey Book Fair

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



## Solo Exhibition

Title: Epitaph To My Soul  
Artist: Biplob Biprodas  
Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue.  
Date: February 29-March 15



## Film Screening

Title: Aamar Bhashar Chalachchitra  
Organiser: DU Film Society  
Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU  
Date: February 27  
10:00am Lathial (Bangladesh)  
01:00pm Sriman Prithiraj (India)  
04:00pm Mahul Bonir Sheronj (India)  
06:30pm Taka Ana Pai (Bangladesh)



## Sculpture Exhibition

Organiser: IFA, DU, British Council, Bengal Gallery  
Title: Transformer: Extra-Ordinary Worlds from everyday Materials  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 27/F, Road 27 (old), Dharmdini R/A,  
Date: February 23-26  
Time: 12pm-6pm



## 3rd Citycell-Channel i Music Awards

# Sabina Yasmin receives lifetime achievement award

JAMIL MAHMUD

The 3rd Citycell-Channel i Music Awards was held at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre on February 25. Renowned and upcoming artists as well as other distinguished guests were presented at the programme to enjoy the most elaborate award giving ceremony in music.

The evening started with a dazzling fusion instrumental performance by Ayub Bachchu.

Managing Director of Impress Telefilm Limited, Faridur Reza Sagor and CEO of Citycell, Michael Seymour gave a brief speech in the programme.

The evening started with the announcement of Lifetime Achievement Award. This year, the seasoned diva Sabina Yasmin received the award amidst cheers and a standing ovation. Faridur Reza Sagor and Michael Seymour handed over the crest and certificate to Sabina.

The next announcement surprised the audience as the MC Farzana Brownia requested Runa Laila to take the stage and perform with Sabina. Together Runa and Sabina rendered *Esho pran khuley gaan gai ekshathey*, written and composed by Shafiq Tuhin and Bappa Majumdar respectively.

A one-minute-silence was observed to honour the deceased artists and cultural personalities including Wahidul Haque, Shafiq Ghosh, Sanjib Chowdhury and Pranab Ghosh.

Noted Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna announced the names of the winners in the Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet, Classical (instrumental) and Classical (vocal) categories. Aditi Mohsin, Yasmin Mushtari, Ustad Captain Azizul Islam and Anil Kumar Shaha won in the categories



Sabina Yasmin and Runa Laila sing together at the Citycell-Channel i Music Awards

respectively.

In the Folk Song, Modern Song and Best Newcomer categories Bari Siddiqui, Khalid and Ishrat Mitu received the awards respectively from Nazrul exponent Sudhin Das.

In the Best Motion Picture Sound Track, Best Music Video, and Best Cover Design categories Bhalobashbo (Hridoyer Kotha), Ramya Khan for Pakhi (Shironamhin) and Arnob for Hok Kolorob received the awards.

Masudul Hasan for the album *Paper*, Prince Mahmud for the album *Bandana* and Asif Iqbal for the song *Baruna Sunil* won in the Best Sound Engi-

neer, Best Music Director and Best Song Writer categories respectively.

Prayer Hall was selected as the Best Band for their debut album *Bujchho*, while the organisers decided not to confer an award in the Best Underground Band category as no band or album fulfilled the criterion.

This year the organisers introduced the 'Citycell-Channel i Music Awards by Popular Choice' in four new categories; the winners were selected by SMS votes. The winners in the four categories are -- Artcell (Best Band), T.W. Shynik (Best Newcomer), Mahadi

(Best Modern Song) and Bhalobashbo (Hridoyer Kotha) by Habib as the Best Motion Picture Soundtrack.

Highlights of the programme included performances by noted artistes Samina Chowdhury, Bappa Majumdar, Mehrin, Shakila Zafar and S.I. Tutul. Abita Sultana, Mita Haque and Shaheen Samad performed a group rendition of the patriotic song *Bangladesher mati*.

The programme wrapped up with performances by Nakib Khan, Fakir Alamgir, Ferdous Wahid and Miles.

# An oasis under the Bahera tree

The Little Magazine Corner at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela

NADIA SARWAT

The Bangla Academy authority has officially recognised the 'Little Magazine Corner', popularly known as the 'Bahera Tola', at the 'Amar Ekushey Granthamela'. Any little magazine publisher with at least three publications can have a stall (if it would be called so) at this corner under the aged Bahera tree.

With the sponsorship of BRAC Bank, Bangla Academy has also offered screen-printed banners to the stall owners.

Right under the Bahera tree next to the extended building of the Academy, the 'Little Magazine Corner' at the book fair is like an oasis for those who refuse to let the establishment rule over literature. The alternative literary groups with all their individualistic approaches draw a frontier here, differentiating themselves from the commercial publishers.

Lots of readers and literature enthusiasts, mostly the young, gather here in search of the little magazines and their publications. This year, 22 stalls, not more than twelve feet in length, in two circles have their publications in the corner. The registration fee for these stalls is Tk 500 each, the amount being Tk 5000 for the commercial publishers.

Sudhyo Shwar, Gandeep, Protishlo, Shaluk, Shobdopad, Drostoboy, Ogrobey, Amtrakhar, Lok, Drostoboy, Shindara, Danrakak, Nishorgo, Megh, Bratyo, Charbaak, Ullekh, Godoy, Ekobingsho, Kadakhoncha, Amtrakhar and many more, some of them being active for almost two decades, have their stalls at the fair, featuring their recent and previous publications.

"Over all, the little magazine community welcomed the initiative taken by Bangla Academy, though the rule of having at least three publications has barred many little magazines like Agrobey to apply for a stall here," said the visiting Toronto-based writer Saad Kamali, editor of the little magazine Agrobey which has brought out two publications so far.

"The genre of little magazine became inevitable for the committed young and creative writers whose fresh, innovative ideas and honest expressions cannot be

country in the '80s particularly, with a socialist point of view. The political change; new stream in the literature and intentions of including the thoughts of the marginal-

ries by Tapan Barua; *Bagher Ghorey Ghog*, a fiction by Selim Morshed; *Ghasher Restora* and *Shiter Prokar* by Obaid Akash; *Phoenix Janam* by Bipasha



The Little Magazine Corner at this year's Amar Ekushey Granthamela

published in the commercial media for their strategic limitations. From the mid '60s, the little magazine movement found its ground in Bangladesh through the works of Abdullah Abu Sayed, Jyotiprakash Dutta, Hayat Mamud and others," added Saad Kamali.

Ahmed Nakib, editor of Gandeep, one of the pioneering little magazines of the country said, "Bangla Academy's new regulation has set an order of sorts in the 'Little Magazine Corner', but as we could sit here before at the previous fairs without any charge," he said.

"The little magazine movement carved a niche for itself in the

ised people (not only in the rural community but also in the urban social hemisphere) are very much present in the little magazine writings.

"A common misconception is that the little magazine community is averse to publicity. Obviously we want to reach a wider readership, but not through compromising with the profit-hungry commercial publishers," Nakib continued.

Some books from the little magazine publishers at this year's book fair are *Japani Shishu*, *Shohojatri*, *Ebong Jolbhora Kontho*, a collection of short sto-

ries by Murtala Ramat; *Bhut, Bhoishyho*, *Chabuker Bhasha* by Abu Taher Sarfaraz; *Bhaap O Shurjomukhi* by Delwar Hossain Monju and *Shoishober Daag* by Barkatullah Manuf.

*Sakkhatkar Chotusto*, a collection of interviews of four renowned film personalities including Writwick Ghatak, by Mohammad Khasru, a pioneer in the Film Society movement in Bangladesh, is also available at the Little Magazine Corner.

More books and magazines are yet to be published in the last week of the 'Boimela'.

## Art competition at Liberation War Museum

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With much gusto and anticipation, began the art competition on February 25 at the Liberation War Museum. The programme was organised by Sargam Lalitokala Academy.

For the past five years, this institute has been organising cultural events with an aim to generate awareness on our history among the youngsters, said Shahin Sardar, director of the organisation.

"When a child makes a sketch of the Shaheed Minar, he/she contemplates its importance, and tries to learn more about it," he added. The art competition started off after the young singers of the academy sang in chorus *Amar bhaiyer rokerangano*.

The children were given an hour to draw pictures of Shaheed Minar,



Young artists sing at the Liberation War Museum

while the singers rendered solo and chorus songs on stage. The young artists were accompanied by their parents. Among others, cultural personality Shankor Sawjal and noted poets Asad Chowdhury,

Samudro Gupto spoke at the programme.

Nine prizes were given away to the winners from different age groups (*Ka, Kha and Ga* sections).

## Discussion on Wahidul Haque

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking the first death anniversary of noted Tagore exponent and cultural activist Wahidul Haque, a discussion was held at the Muslim Institute in Mymensingh recently. Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad's (JRSP) local unit organised the daylong programme.

The programme was presided over by Tagore artist Professor Sumita Naha, president of JRSP. Cultural personality Mamunur Rashid was the chief guest. Among others, Professor A.B.M. Nurul Anwar and Sabbir Reza, secretary of JRSP spoke on the occasion.

The speakers recalled Wahidul Haque's contribution to our cultural activities and movements. He led a modest life, untouched by vanity. Wahidul Haque believed that people from all walks of life should embrace Tagore's message of humanity and tirelessly worked to take Rabindra Sangeet at the grassroots level in the country, they added.

Earlier a competition on patriotic songs ('Swadesh Premer Gaan' of Pancho Kabi - Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, D.L. Roy, Atul Parashad Sen and Rajani Kanta Sen) for children was organised on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day. Upama Singh, Arunima Dutt, Faisal Chowdhury Shaon and Anadita Dutt were among the winners at the competition.

A musical soiree was also a part of the programme. Singers Mansura Begum, Aditi Mohsin and artistes of Alokdhara Shilpi Goshthi performed at the programme.

# Groundbreaking Manjari holds sway with Sufi Kathak

KAVITA CHARANJI, New Delhi

"I dance in surrender to Him, To His Glory, to His Love, to His World With a lilting melody and a strong rhythm... A dance of separation and union... of hope... A pattern of light and shade... The fire of the eternal dance of moths."

It was a magical evening in Delhi the other day as danseuse Manjari Chaturvedi did just that. The aptly titled 'Raqs-e-Ruh' (dance of the soul) showcased her dazzling presentation of 'Sufi Kathak'. In a departure from the run of the mill Kathak concert, Manjari performed to the music of the Qawwals from Awadh, Manganiars from Rajasthan and classical musicians from Lucknow.

Right from the word go, Manjari captured the imagination of the audience. The curtains went up with her dance to the flute and the composition of Halka, halka saroor, rendered by the Qawwals. Later came the piece *Rang hai re*, a composition of Hazrat Amir Khusro, which represents his love for the beloved (a metaphor for the Almighty). Other popular dance items were *Tere ishq ne nachaya*, a verse of *Baba Bulle Shah* presented by the Rajasthani Manganiars and the magnificent finale *Mast Kalander*, also with the Rajasthani troupe. Throughout the show she blended her Kathak repertoire with the mystic elements of Sufism such as whirling dervishes and its characteristic intensity.

The concert was truly a sampler of Manjari's beautiful language of the body. All through the spiritual element was in evidence and the



Manjari Chaturvedi during a performance

danseuse's fluidity and grace held the audience in thrall. Often one got the feeling that one had touched eternity.

"Sufi Kathak brings out the folk and ancient sounds and spirits of

poetry," says a press release.

Manjari is clearly an eclectic artiste. She attempts to build an interface with varied forms such as the Sufi music of Rajasthan, Kashmir, Qawwali of Awadh, poetry of Punjab's Bulleh Shah and Hazrat Amir Khusro along with the folk music of Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. She has also danced to the compositions of Rumi, Kabir and Laloo and the Bauls.

A danseuse of the Lucknow gharana of Kathak and a post graduate in environmental sciences, Manjari has made waves with her unique style which incorporates subtle innovations while preserving the pristine classical style. Trained in classical Kathak by Guru Pandit Arjun Mishra, she refined the detailing of 'abhinaya' (expressions) under the aegis of Kalanidhi Narayan and Priyadarshini Govind. She has also worked at Nrityagram in conjunction with the late Guru Protima Bedi and Guru Kumudini Lakshmi.

Manjari's latest concert was held to mark a decade of Sufi Kathak and the launch of the first Sufi Kathak Foundation in India. The Foundation has ambitious aims, including 'holding dance and music workshops and developing artistes into performers and providing impetus to their economic self-reliance'; financially assisting needy students and artistes, especially small town residents and retired artistes, along with providing employment and social support; incorporating genres such as Awadhi Qawwali in the initial stages and at a later stage art forms such as Kashmiri Sufi singing and creating centres for spiritual dance and music along with folk and classical dance.

## Album of patriotic songs by Abdul Mannan Rana



ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD, Ctg

As a tribute to the Language Movement of 1952, a music album of patriotic songs by popular artiste Abdul Mannan Rana was released on February 21. Titled *Deshor Jonnye*, the album produced by Laser Vision includes 13 patriotic songs.

Eleven new songs have been featured in the album, including *Ami aaj bolley pari*, *Kono ek pathiker*, *Oi dekho Shaheed Minar*, *Deshor jonneye* and *Ogo Bangla bhasha*. Familiar songs *Barnamalar shathey* and *Taar kono naam nei* have also been included in the album.

Rana said that the completion of the album has a cherished dream. "It is unfortunate that patriotic songs are not considered commercially viable and hence recording houses are not that interested in this genre," said the singer.

"My next album, titled *Chatgalyan*, will contain mostly *Maibhandari* songs, and will feature some of the talented artistes of the Chittagong region," said Rana.