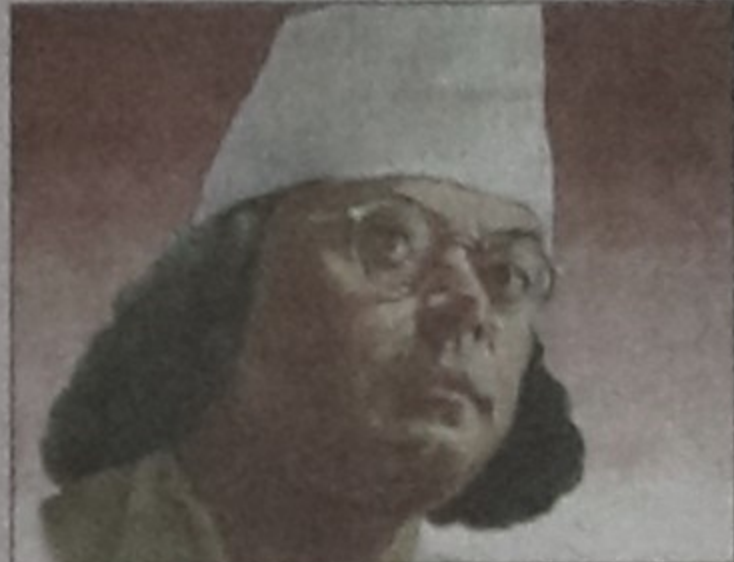


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

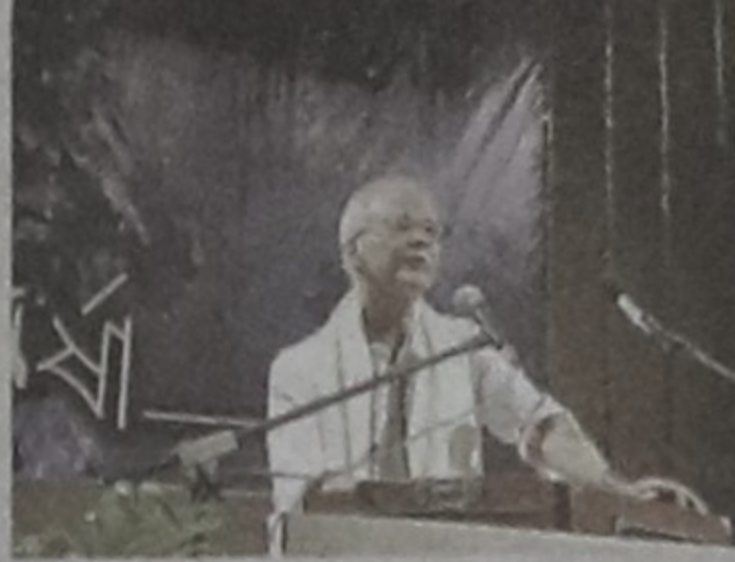
### Seminar and Cultural Programme

On Nazrul death anniversary  
Organiser: Bangla Academy  
Venue: Seminar room, Bangla Academy  
Date: August 28, Time: 4pm



### Solo Rabindra Sangeet Evening

Artiste: Md. Anisur Rahman  
Venue: National Theatre Stage, BSA  
Date: August 28  
Time: 7pm



### Theatre

Play: Raklokarobi  
Troupe: Nagorik Natyasampraday  
Venue: Mahila Shomili Auditorium, Natok Swaroni  
Date: August 28  
Time: 7pm



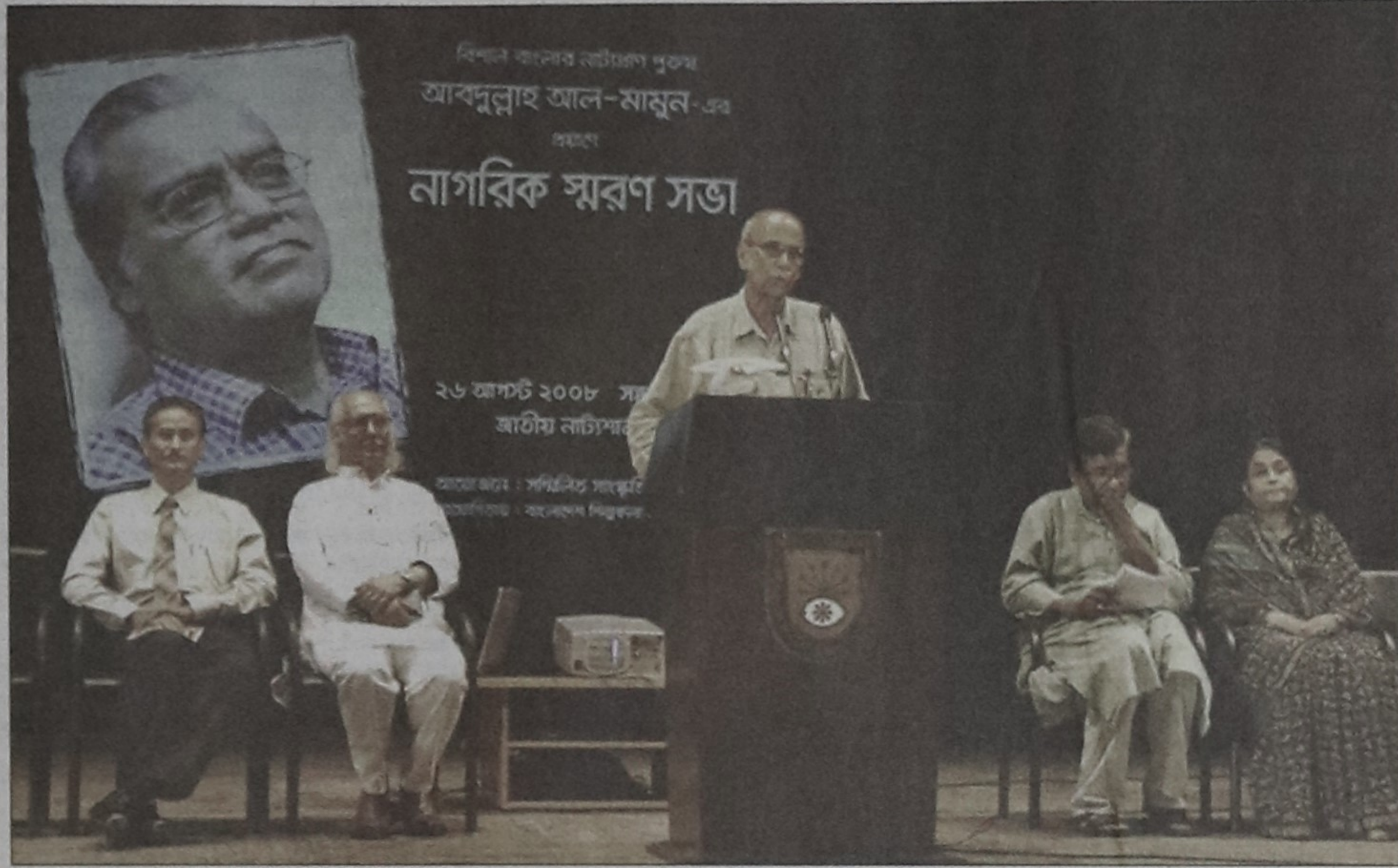
### CD Launch

Title: Radha Ramon-er Gaan  
Artiste: Biswajit Roy  
Organiser: Nibedan  
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag  
Date: August 29  
Time: 7pm



## Homage to Abdullah Al Mamun

Condolence meeting at Shilpakala



Syed Shamsul Haque speaks at the condolence meeting, (from left) Bhuyian Shafiqul Islam, Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Golam Quddus and Ferdousi Majumder also seen in the photo.

### ERSHAD KAMOL

A condolence meeting in honour of Abdullah Al Mamun was organised by Shammilito Sanskritik Jote in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) at the National Theatre Stage, BSA on August 26.

Renowned playwright-director-actor-filmmaker Abdullah Al Mamun died on August 21 at the age of 65.

The condolence meeting was presided over by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and attended by eminent cultural, theatre and media

personalities such as Atiqul Haque Chowdhury, Kamal Lohani, Ramendu Majumder, Syed Shamsul Haque, Mamunur Rashid, Ferdousi Majumder, Aly Zaker, Asaduzzaman Nur, Nasiruddin Yousuff, M. Hamid, Keramat Moulana, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Mannan Heera and S.M. Mohsin.

Discussions at the programme focused on the creativity of the multifaceted talent Abdullah Al Mamun, whose contributions to our theatre, TV and Radio drama as well as filmmaking are immense. Discussions also talked about their rapport with Mamun and went over

his frustrations, in particular during the last days of his life.

Labelling Mamun as a 'pioneer of neo-theatre movement' after the Independence on Bangladesh, the discussants said that the eminent playwright had written many popular plays, which gave momentum to the theatre movement. He was also a very talented director and actor on stage.

Mamun also made a big impact on TV and radio plays at the initial stage of both mediums in our country, at a time when people were unsure of the structures of these types of plays. It would be difficult to calculate the numbers of TV plays

Mamun had written, expressed the speakers.

As a director Mamun had not only directed TV plays but had also groomed a good number of talented actors, most of whom are still leading the media world, commented the discussants.

Mamun's contribution to the mainstream cinema in Bangladesh was also highlighted at the programme.

During his illustrious career, Mamun won many awards including the prestigious Ekushey Padak and Bangla Academy Literature Award.

## Roundtable on intellectual property and copyright law

### JAMIL MAHMUD

Popular Bangla newspaper the daily Prothom Alo arranged a roundtable on the topic "Intellectual Property and Copyright Law" at its conference room on August 24. Renowned singers, lyricists and composers discussed on the present state of copyright law and its implementation in the audio industry.

Rasheda K. Chowdhury, advisor to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, was present as the chief guest, while Motiur Rahman, editor of the daily Prothom Alo was the moderator of the roundtable.

Speakers claimed at the roundtable that at present, several TV channels, FM radio stations, cell phone companies and web sites are using songs for their benefit without notifying the proper "owners" (lyricists, composers and artists) of the songs. As a result, respective parties are being cheated of their royalties.

Lyricist Gazi Mazharul Anwar said, "In our country, when a song is aired on the TV or radio, most often only the singer's name is mentioned. In most cases, lyricists and composers remain anonymous to the audience, which is unfortunate."

Prominent composer Alam Khan said, "Every week, several TV channels air lots of musical programmes based on film soundtracks. But in most of the cases they mention only the name of films and filmmakers. Several times I made suggestions that they should also mention the lyricists and composers but in vain. My composition Orey neel dariya (sung by Mohammad Abdul Jabbar in Sareng Bou) has been downloaded over ten million times so far without any legal permission."

Renowned singer Runa Laila said, "Several years ago I went to United States to perform at concerts. At one programme, I rendered a song of noted American artiste Joan Baez. But

before performing the song I had to take proper authorisation from her."

Runa Laila also stressed on giving the artistes proper honour. She said, "Every year, several artistes receive different national awards. But after getting the awards, they are overlooked."

Popular singer-musician Ayub Bachchu said, "It is unfortunate that we had to arrange a fundraiser concert for an artiste like Abdur Rahman Boyati. If the artistes received their due royalty they wouldn't have to be in situations like this."

In her speech Rasheda K. Chowdhury said, "The government has taken several short and long term plans to implement the copyright law. Within September this year, a new copyright office will be allotted." She also said, "We have to renew few rules from the present copyright law."

The present copyright law was made in 2000 and renewed

in 2005.

Among others, singers -- Khurshid Alam, Syed Abdul Hadi, Kumar Bishwajit, Rafiqul Alam, Abida Sultana, Andrew Kishor, Shuvro Dev, Samina Chowdhury, Fahmida Nabi, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna, Farida Parvin, Momtaz and Bappa Majumder; lyricists -- Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, Kawsar Ahmed Chowdhury, Moniruzzaman Monir and Prince Mahmud; composers -- Alauddin Ali, Sheikh Sadi Khan and Lucky Akhand spoke at the programme.

Major General (rtd) Manzurul Alam, chairman, BTRC; M.A. Shah Mahmud Hasan, registrar of Copyright Office; WIPO consultant and member of Copyright Board, poet Nurul Huda; Barrister Modassir Hossain, Sanaullah Lavlu of ABC radio and Mahmudur Rahman, Rashek Rahman -- both from Software Solution and Logistic Enterprise (SSLE) -- were also present at the roundtable.

## Seminar on Shakespeare and Rabindranath at Jagannath University

A seminar on William Shakespeare and Rabindranath Tagore was organised by the English Department of Jagannath University recently, says a press release. Prior to the seminar, a one-minute-silence was

observed in memory of the recently deceased eminent theatre personality, Abdullah Al Mamun.

Md. Jahangir Hossain, Chairman of the English Department; Professor Akteruzzaman, Dean,

Faculty of Arts and Professor Md. Mofizur Rahman, former Chairman of the Department spoke at the seminar. The speakers highlighted the works of the two litterateurs and expressed that the seminar was intended to generate

interest in literature and language among the students.

The seminar concluded with a question-answer session, where the main speaker, Md. Abdur Razzak, answered the queries of the students and teachers.

## The art of sound recording

In conversation with Md. Salahuddin



Md. Salahuddin at work.

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

While watching a TV show in the comfort of home or a movie in the theatre, we are keen to notice the works of the director, actors, music composer, singer, script-writer and so on. Seldom do we acknowledge the endeavours of the sound recordist, without whom we might still be in the era of silent films.

In a recent interview with Mohammad Salahuddin, a sound recordist working for Bangladesh Television (BTV), The Daily Star was updated on the various techniques used in recording and about Salahuddin's career graph.

The Daily Star (TDS): When did you join BTV as a sound recordist?

Salahuddin: My official date of appointment is March 15, 1983. This year marks 25 years of my career as a sound recordist.

TDS: Have you worked at any studio other than BTV?

Salahuddin: Back when I

started out as a recordist in BTV, I used to work mostly at night. During the day, when I had free time, I used to try out various studios and learn different techniques. However, now I do not work in any other studio.

TDS: Tell us about your first experience in recording?

Salahuddin: The first programme I worked for was most probably "Sur Bitan" or Sur Sagar. Eminent music composer, Abdul Ahad was the music director of the show.

TDS: How and where did you acquire the basic training in sound recording?

Salahuddin: After joining BTV, I learnt mostly at work. I also trained under TV engineer Abdul Qayyum and later from my guru, sound recordist H. Francis.

TDS: You have worked for two international events -- the 2nd SAAF Games and SAARC Conference. How did you feel being a part of these huge events?

Salahuddin: I was given the responsibility of recording the music and songs for the two events, which included the recording of the inaugural and closing ceremonies of SAAF Games and the SAARC Conference. The music was recorded at the Radio Auditorium at Agargaon and at BTV station. Under the guidance of noted music composer Samar Das for SAAF Games, and noted artist Mostafa Monwar for SAARC Conference, I executed my duties with utmost dedication. It was a great opportunity for me, and I want to thank BTV for that.

TDS: What would you say are the differences between mono recording used in the 1980s and the more recent track recording?

Salahuddin: In the '80s, the mono tape recorder was used, which basically required a good coordination between the singer and the orchestra. Even if there was any minor mistake, the whole song had to be recorded again from scratch. At present, the technique of track recording enables the song to be recorded bit by bit. This technique is definitely more convenient for everyone.

TDS: What about the use of acoustic instruments?

Salahuddin: Radio and TV still seem to use acoustic instruments. However, the use of acoustic instruments has gone down significantly in film music and audio albums. I think this is mainly done to cut production costs.

TDS: What are your hobbies?

Salahuddin: I like to spend leisure time with my wife and two sons. I am also fond of writing plays and songs for TV and radio. One of my plays for children, "Projapoti Shoi", has already been aired on BTV.

## Boat race to generate awareness in fish farming

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A traditional boat race was organised at Gaznar Beel (swamp) in Sujannagar upazila under the district on Monday to generate awareness on fish farming. On the occasion, a discussion was held at Raninagar Beel Gazna High School and College premises. The Department of Fisheries organised the event.

The boat race kicked off at 'Poradanga' point at noon. Around 15-20 boats took part in the race. After going through several areas of the water body, the race ended at Raninagar point, under Sujannagar upazila. Thousands of villagers observed the race.

Sujannagar upazila Fishery Officer, Mahabubur Rahman, chaired the discussion while Sujannagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Saiful Islam, spoke as the chief guest. Among others, Upazila Agriculture Officer, Rahmatullah

Sarkar; Major (retd) Liakat Ali Khan; Ahmedpur UP Chairman, Jalal Uddin and Raninagar UP Chairman, A.B.M. Toufique spoke on the occasion.

The speakers stressed the need to enhance fish farming as Bangladesh is a riverine country. Boat race used to be a popular rural sport. However, with the passage of time the water sources are drying up so this tradition is on the verge of becoming extinct, they expressed.

Stressing the need to enhance fish farming, the speakers said that thanks to the huge number of rivers, canals, lakes, beel and haor in our country, Bangladesh has never seen a shortage in fish. However, irrational fishing practices are becoming prevalent. Catching of fries should be stopped.

The speakers reiterated that Gaznar Beel is one of the largest water bodies in the district and is in urgent need of conservation.



A rally was brought out prior to the race.

PHOTO: STAR

## Venice Film Festival opens with Coen bros' satire



George Clooney and Frances McDormand in "Burn After Reading".

### REUTERS, Venice

Brad Pitt and George Clooney hit the red carpet on yesterday with their latest movie "Burn After Reading", a satirical comedy by Oscar winners the Coen brothers which opened this year's Venice film festival.

The actors brought A-list star power to the 11-day event which features everything from obscure Asian art house cinema to Hollywood heavyweights.

Although there are five US films in the main competition line-up of 21, they all represent lower-budget, "independent" cinema as opposed to the big studios, which are not in Venice this time around.

Festival director Marco Mueller brushed aside concerns that Venice, which faces stiff competition from the Toronto film festival starting next month and the Rome film festival in October, was struggling to secure top titles and talent.

Mueller, who with his team saw around 3,000 films, which were whittled down to 55 in the official

selection, said the lighter Hollywood studio presence was partly down to the 14-week writers' strike that ended in February.

"We have five American films in competition and most of these are films with stars, so in a way the strike only meant that some of the bigger studio films will only be released late December or January," he told Reuters.

"Burn After Reading" is not in competition, but reaction in Venice will indicate whether Joel and Ethan Coen can repeat their success of 2008 when "No Country for Old Men" won four Academy Awards including best picture and director.

The festival, held on the Lido Island just across the water from the canal city, is increasingly seen as an early barometer of Oscar glory, and recently helped launch the award campaigns of films such as "The Queen" and "Brokeback Mountain."

"Burn After Reading" is a dark comedy that follows two gym employees seeking to sell a computer disc containing memoirs of a sacked CIA analyst, but events quickly spiral out of control.

US films in competition in Venice include "Rachel Getting Married," directed by Oscar-winner Jonathan Demme and starring Anne Hathaway and Debra Winger, who has been nominated three times for an Academy Award.

Kathryn Bigelow directs Iraqi drama "The Hurt Locker," a year after Brian De Palma's "Redacted" stunned audiences in Venice with its brutal reconstruction of real-life events from the war.

Japan has three main competition entries, led by revered animation director Hayao Miyazaki whose "Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea" is already storming the box office at home.

Joining it will be Mamoru Oshii's animated "The Sky Crawlers," while Takeshi Kitano, who won the Golden Lion in 1997, presents "Achilles and the Tortoise."

Out of competition, Matt Tyrnauer brings his documentary of Italian fashion designer Valentino called "Valentino: The Last Emperor."