

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Ekushey Boi Mela '09
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 01-28



Chobi Mela V
Int'l Festival of Photography, Bangladesh '09
Theme: Freedom
Venues: National Museum, BSA, Onk Gallery, Bengal Gallery, AF, GIB, British Council, Asiatic Gallery, Kalpana Bhowmik and Narayan Bazar underpass
Date: Jan 30-Feb 20



4th Asian Film Festival
Organiser: Centre for Asian Arts and Culture
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, H 62, Science Laboratory road
Date: February 12-17
Time: Inauguration at 5pm on February 12



Photography Exhibition
Title: Plot Number Fifty Six
Photographer: Kashaf Mahboob Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: February 10-13
Time: 12-8pm



Lifting the veil of non-familiarity

Recitation programme by K'jona featuring 14 adivasi languages



PHOTO COURTESY: NAZRUL ISLAM

K'jona organised the programme titled "Ma Aojhar Arok" featuring poems in 14 adivasi languages.

NADIA SARWAT

Imagine a quiet, sunny day by the bank of the river Karnaphuli; people going to the Shaheed Minar to offer flowers, honouring Language Movement martyrs. Suddenly from tattered bags of Loknath Baidya, Bhagaban Baidya and several others, alphabets rush out shyly. Inspired by those who sacrificed their lives to ensure the right to speak in mother language, the alphabets speak out, as the crowd remains silent.

Shishir Chakma's poem "Ma Aaojhar Arok" or "Amar Praan-er Barnomala" passionately composes this image. Poems in Chakma, Mandi, Santal, Hajong, Tripura and other adivasi languages spoke of their heritage, and of the relentless struggles to maintain their ways of life. K'jona, an organisation of reciters, held the programme titled "Ma Aojhar Arok," featuring poems in 14 adivasi languages. Bengali translations of the poems were also provided. The programme was held at TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University on February 8.

Prior to the recitation programme, a brief discussion on "Problems and Possibilities in Developing Adivasi Literature in Bangladesh" was

held. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Professor AAMS Arefin Siddiqui, was present as the chief guest. Poet Shishir Chakma, Manipuri poet AK Sheram, poet Asad Chowdhury and Professor Bishwajit Ghosh, Dhaka University were the discussants. Ahmed Badruddoza Mushtak, president of K'jona presided over the event.

"Except three or four, most of the adivasi communities don't have written alphabets. Their oral literatures, however, are no less opulent. It's a matter of regret the Bengalis know very little about the adivasi literature. We cannot accept this attitude from a nation that has a history of making the ultimate sacrifice for its language, to be indifferent to someone else's mother tongue," said Shishir Chakma in his speech.

"Like the beautiful diversity in our nature, the indigenous communities of this country enrich the collective Bangladeshi culture. According to Adivasi Forum, there are more than 45 adivasi communities in our country. Bengalis and we are living side by side in the same land for centuries, yet we're distanced with a veil of non-familiarity. This event provides us an opportunity to know each other through sharing our literatures," AK Sheram noted.

Poet Asad Chowdhury pointed out that it is

because our lack of devotion for our own language that we are indifferent to someone else's language. He appreciated K'jona's effort, saying it's a national responsibility to arrange such events.

Calling the programme "historic," Professor Siddiqui in his speech demanded the government's attention to initiate activities of International Mother Language Institute soon to preserve and develop the languages of different adivasi communities in the country.

Members of the adivasi communities, Chakma, Mandi, Santal, Hajong, Marma, Chak, Ora(n), Tanchangya, Tripura, Manipuri (Bishnupriya and Maiteih), Mro, Malo (Sadri language) and Koch presented poems in their languages at the event. Bengali translations were recited by artistes of K'jona. Nimai Mandal compiled the poems and directed the production.

"Very few books on adivasi literature are available in the market. Though there are many organisations working with the adivasis, their literatures are always ignored. The event was organised with a view to share our respective literatures. We hope our endeavour will set an example in promoting adivasi poetry," Nimai Mandal said.

Musical talent hunt resumes in Khagrachhari

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Third round of Khagrachhari Talent Hunt (music) resumed at Town Hall here on February 8. The programme came to a stop about three months back due to financial crisis.

Resumption of the programme has created much enthusiasm among the contestants. A total of 40 contestants are competing in 3rd round and 20 would be selected for the next round, sources confirmed.

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) and District Shilpakala Academy jointly started the first talent hunt programme in the district on June 24 last year. The competition continued till October 29, 2008 at nine venues in Khagrachhari.

The talent hunt came to a standstill, as necessary funds were not available, sources said.

KHDC and the Shilpakala Academy have taken this initiative to discover promising singers in the hilly district. Monindra Lal Tripura, the then chairman of KHDC, played a key role in initiating this programme, said Shilpakala Secretary and Coordinator of the programme, Jiten Barua.

Mongsathowai Chowdhury, Abul Kashem, Kajol Chowdhury, Jibon Roaza, Ratan Tripura and Erina Chakma evaluated the contestants.

Tk 4 lakh has been allocated for the programme. A 21-member committee has been formed to oversee the competition, sources said.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Theatre troupe Prachyanat staged its latest production "Kinu Kaharer Thetar" at Mahila Samity Auditorium on February 8. The play has been written by Manoj Mitra and directed by Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon. "Kinu Kaharer Thetar" presents an imaginary country called Puttna, ruled by a deceitful king. The satire progresses with several humorous incidents that ultimately lead to a crucial truth.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Sangbrita Abrutti Charcha O Bikash Kendra, an organisation of reciters, arranged a programme at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library on February 8. The programme featured Sangbrita's production "Mouno Mukhar Shabdabali" -- tribute to the Language Movement martyrs. The programme was directed by Mahidul Islam and compiled by Arif Ahmed.

Eco Pathshala Saptaha'09 held in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A week-long Eco Pathshala Saptaha was held in Thakurgaon. The curtains recently came down on the event with a concluding and prize giving ceremony at Thakurgaon Shilpakala Academy Auditorium.

Sports and cultural activities such as recitation, singing, painting and story telling competitions were held in the school premises, organised by Eco Pathshala, a junior high school in Thakurgaon.

First came a discussion in the Thakurgaon Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Deputy commissioner of Thakurgaon, Miah Abdullah Mamun was chief guest while renowned cultural personality and educationist Professor Montosh Kumar De, an expatriate from London, Dr. Jorzasur Rahman was special guest. Founder of Eco Pathshala and



PHOTO: STAR

Students perform at Thakurgaon Shilpakala Academy.

also executive director of Eco-Social Development Organisation (ESDO), Muhammad Shahid Uz Zaman presided over the meeting. Then followed a vibrant inauguration of the cultural programme. The packed auditorium resonated with the song 'Alo amar alo ogo aloye bhuban bhara', while the guests lit the prodeeps and the children danced to the music.

The programme concluded with a play titled 'Ek Diner Raja'.

Plant & Krauss, Lil Wayne, Coldplay win big at 2009 Grammys

Robert Plant & Alison Krauss, Lil Wayne and Coldplay were the big winners at the 51st Annual Grammy Awards on a night of all-star performances, big surprises and some pre-ceremony drama. Plant & Krauss grabbed five Grammys, including the night's biggest award, Album of the Year for "Raising Sand."

"In the old days we would have called this selling out, but it's a good way to spend a Sunday," Plant said while accepting the show's final honour. The Led Zeppelin frontman and bluegrass singer also won Record of the Year for "Please Read the Letter" and Best Pop Collaboration for "Rich Woman," both tracks from the Best Contemporary Folk/Americana-winning album "Raising Sand." Coldplay scooped up three awards, including Best Rock Album and Song of the Year for "Viva La Vida." During their Song acceptance speech, the band half-joked, "Thank you and sorry to Paul McCartney for blatantly recycling the Sgt. Pepper outfits."

The man with the most nominations, Lil Wayne, took home four awards, most notably (and predictably) Best Rap Album for "Tha Carter III," but also Best Rap Song for "Lollipop," Best Rap Solo Performance for "A Milli" and his verse on "Swagga Like Us" scored him Best Rap Performance By A Group. Radiohead took home the prize for Best Alternative Album for "In Rainbows," which also won for Best Deluxe Packaging.

Aside from blink-182's announcement that they are indeed reuniting, the show's performances were the night's biggest stories, and there were plenty of them. U2 kicked off the show with their new "Get On Your Boots," which strangely segued into Whitney Houston's introduction for Best R&B Album (won by Jennifer Hudson). After Chris Brown and Rihanna dropped out of the show, the next performers were their emergency fill-ins: Al Green, Justin Timberlake, Boyz II Men and Keith Urban. Coldplay's Chris Martin performed "Lost!" with a cameo by Jay-Z before the rest of the band joined in for "Viva La Vida." Other performers included Carrie Underwood, who rocked out "Last Name," Jennifer Hudson, Kid Rock -- who broke out a medley of "Amen" and "All Summer Long" (dedicated to Lynyrd Skynyrd keyboardist Billy Powell) -- Katy Perry, who emerged from a banana with "I Kissed A Girl" and Kenny Chesney.



Coldplay took best rock album for "Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends."



Justin Timberlake, left, and Al Green performed "Let's Stay Together."

The night was stocked with A-list collaborations, and none was bigger than Paul McCartney and Dave Grohl taking on the Beatles' "I Saw Her Standing There." Taylor Swift and Miley Cyrus sang the former's "Fifteen," the Jonas Brothers

and Stevie Wonder teamed for "Burnin' Up" and "Superstition," Kanye West and Estelle duetted on "American Boy," while John Mayer, B.B. King, Buddy Guy and Keith Urban paid tribute to Bo Diddley. Robert Plant & Alison Krauss rounded out the performances with "Rich Woman" and "Gone Gone Gone (Done Moved On)."

T.I. also took part in the night's huge rap showcase as Tip, Jay-Z, Kanye West, Lil Wayne and M.I.A. performed an extended "Swagga Like Us." The legacy of the Four Tops was honoured as Jamie Foxx, Ne-Yo, Smokey Robinson and original member Duke Fakir sang a medley of the quartet's hits, including "Reach Out! I'll Be There" and "I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch)." Radiohead's Thom Yorke and Jonny Greenwood then had the Staples Center jaws dropping with their rousing performance of "15 Step" with a huge assist from the USC Marching Band.

Wrapping up the all-star night of performances was MusiCares Person of the Year Neil Diamond as he strolled deep into the audience for "Sweet Caroline," while John Mayer, B.B. King, Buddy Guy and Keith Urban paid tribute to Bo Diddley. Robert Plant & Alison Krauss rounded out the performances with "Rich Woman" and "Gone Gone Gone (Done Moved On)."

Source: Rolling Stone