

## 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, Drik Gallery, Bengali Gallery, AF, GIB, British Council, Asiatic Gallery, Kalpana Boro and Karwan 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 6pm on February 12



**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Plot Number Fifty Six  
Photographer: Kasef Mahboob Chowdhury  
Venue: Bengali Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275F, Rd 27 (old), Dharmadi  
Date: February 10-13  
Time: 12-6pm



## Ekushey book fair in Pabna

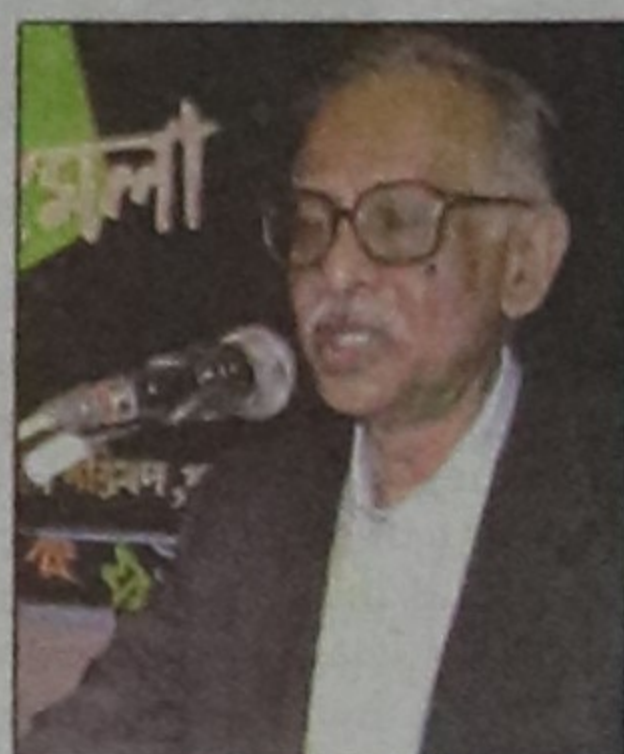
"Books are a storehouse of knowledge," --Justice Golam Rabbani

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR  
TOPU, Pabna

The two-week-long Ekushey book fair began on February 1 at the Pabna Town Hall premises. The organiser of the well attended event is the Ekushey Book Fair Celebration Committee, Pabna. Discussions and cultural programmes are the daily features of the fair. Meanwhile 25 new books were launched at the function.

Former Justice of the Supreme Court, Golam Rabbani was the chief guest at Monday's discussion. Prominent cultural personality of the district, Mohammad Abdul Aziz was in the chair.

"The Bangla language should be preserved at every step of the way. We should remember that our countrymen sacrificed their lives for our mother tongue. We are proud of our language and have to give it a prominent



Justice Golam Rabbani

place in nation building," said Rabbani.

In his speech, Rabbani went on to add: "Books are a storehouse of knowledge. We must give a boost to the book reading habit. Such fairs should be organised in every nook and cranny of Bangladesh so that more people can access books."

Prominent physician Dr. Ram Dulal Voumik and journalist ABM Fazlur Rahman, among others articulated their views in



Young dancers perform at the programme.

course of the discussion. Earlier, a discussion was conducted by Professor Bazlur Rahman and Mashiur Rahman on Sunday at the fair premises.

Meanwhile 25 new books were launched at the fair. Among the noteworthy new books by local writers are 'Nil Atonko', 'Asru', 'Aho Shadinota', 'Kolpita', 'Hemonte Godhuli Logone', 'Jhora Phul' and 'Path Harar Dairy Theke'. Poetry and prose were the predominant genres,

said sources. Meanwhile a colourful cultural programme was also held. Artists from Sangeet Biddya Bithi, a cultural organisation, entertained the audience with patriotic songs, dance and recitation. Shafigue Uddin Ahmed, head of the organisation, conducted the cultural programme while Saki Rezwana, Fahmida Jahan, Liton, Erika, Munmun, Jimi, Nishu and Antu were the performers.

PHOTO: STAR

## "Kathak Sandhya" by Nrityanchal on Friday

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Nrityanchal, a leading dance troupe of the country, is organising a recital, titled "Kathak Sandhya" on February 13 at the National Theatre Stage, BSA. Over 250 dance artistes, aged between four and thirty, will participate at the event. Noted dance artiste Shibli Mohammad is directing the dance recital.

Students of Nrityanchal, both from the Siddheswari and Rajdhani School branches, are participating in this grand function. The event is an opportunity for the students to give a demonstration of their training so far.

"Even though dance is practiced in our country, few major events featuring classical dance are held. This is an endeavour to provide Kathak with much needed exposure," said Shibli.

The event will feature most of the traditional Kathak elements, including "Saraswati Bandana," "Bhajan," "Thumri," "Taraana" and more. A special segment, titled "Protibimbo," mirror image of the artiste's movements, has also been included in the list. "Pathshala," another special segment, will feature all 250 students on the stage.



Students of Nrityanchal during a training session.

## Birth anniversary of Professor Shahtab observed

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

To mark the birth anniversary of eminent painter and educationist, late Professor Shahtab a discussion and cultural function were held at Shyamganj Railway grounds on February 7. The Shyamganj Public Library and Aamra Surjomukhi were the organisers of the function.

Editor of the Daily Ittefaq, Rahat Khan, was the chief guest, while eminent artiste Fatema-tuz-Zohra spoke on the occasion as a special guest. Among others, internationally reputed photographer, Nayeab Uddin Ahmed, Abu Sayeed Ahmed Khokon (Dada bhai), Aporna Khan, Professor GM Haider, Sadat Hossain Bulbul, Salahuddin Ahmed and Motiur Rahman were the participants in the discussion on the life and works of Shahtab. Professor Amjad Hossain presided over the discussion.

The speakers at the discussion said that like many other talented artistes, the achievements of Shahtab are rapidly going into oblivion. However creative spirits like Shahtab are much needed today. "Freedom Fighter Shahtab had a deep commitment to his art and depicted reality," they said. "A man of stature of Shahtab with a deep concern for society is an inspiration for us to get through these turbulent times. However, his premature departure is a great loss for the country," they added.

Close-Up 1 finalists Sania Sultana Liza, Ferdous Ahmed Leena, Shahnaz Babu, Sheikh Milon, Mukta Majumder, Rokshana Lucky, Arif Rahman and Baul artiste Jahanara Bikrampur enthrall the audience with their performances. Poet Farid Ahmed Dulal took part in the poetry recitation to the delight of the guests.

## Dhrupad recital by Dagar Brothers

NADIA SARWAT

Noted Indian classical vocalists of the "Dagarvani Dhrupad Gharana," the Dagar Brothers -- Aneesuddin Dagar and Nafeesuddin Dagar -- performed at a Dhrupad recital at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 10. Jointly organised by the High Commission of India and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the evening was crowned with a turnout of several eminent personalities including diplomats, intellectuals and artists.

Information Minister Azad Abul Kalam was present as the chief guest while Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni was present as special guest. Dipak Mittal, first secretary, Indian High Commission, welcomed the audience. Indian High Commissioner, Pinak Ranjan Chakrabarty, also spoke at the event.

Most members of the celebrated Dagar family have performed in Dhaka. Aneesuddin and Nafeesuddin Dagar represent the twentieth generation of the family, which has kept the Dagarvani tradition of Dhrupad alive. The brothers are worthy heirs of the tradition -- the oldest form of Hindustani classical music. Dhrupad reached its zenith in the 16th century, during the reign of Mughal emperor Akbar, considered one of the most generous patrons of art. At that time there were four schools of Dhrupad, representing this art in all its diversity. Brij Chand Rajput was of Dagar lineage, so the school of Dhrupad that he headed was called Dagarvani. The Dagar family's contribution to the perpetuation and enrich-



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

The Dagar Brothers -- Aneesuddin and Nafeesuddin Dagar -- are worthy heirs of the Dagarvani tradition of Dhrupad.

ment of this art, while preserving its original purity, has been precious, and the history of this family can be traced back for 20 generations without a break.

Traditionally this family has always performed Dhrupad as 'jugalbandi' (duet). Born in Delhi, the Dagar brothers began their initial training under the guidance of their father Ustad Sayeeduddin Dagar and their illustrious uncles Ustad N Zahiruddin Dagar and Ustad N Faizuddin Dagar. The brothers have performed throughout India and several major cities of Europe.

The performance opened with an 'alaap,' an extended melodic improvisation without lyrics or rhythmic accompaniment, setting the mood and

personality of a 'raag.' The 'alaap' was divided into three tiers and was followed by a composition. In Dagarvani, the 'alaap' is a refined application of ten types of vocal executions -- 'Akar,' 'Gamak,' 'Lehak,' 'Dagar,' 'Dhuran,' 'Muran,' 'Kampit,' 'Andol,' 'Sphurt' and 'Hudak.'

Dhrupad compositions feature poetic lyrics and are accompanied with 'pakhawaj.' Prabir Kumar Arya provided 'sangat' (accompaniment) with the performance. Pratima Kulkarni and Purnima Kulkarni were on 'tanpura.' Essentially a form of meditation through vocal execution, the performance is a blend of continuity, sparkle, sweep and depth.

## Alta Sundari on Rtv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Alta Sundari" will be aired tonight on Rtv at 9 pm. Written by Brindaban Das, the serial is directed by Salahuddin Lavlu.

The serial revolves around a 'pala gaan' troupe. Lachher alias Alta Sundari is a troupe member who plays the role of an actress due to the paucity of female actors. Rahim Badshah falls in love with Alta, without realising "she" is actually a man.

Another character, nicknamed "Juari" because of his gambling addiction, deliberately quarrels with Lachher and blames him for unlawful activities. As a result, the troupe is forced to sack Lachher aka Alta, despite the objection of troupe leader Phelu Gayen.

The story takes a twist when the troupe replaces Alta Sundari with a mediocre film actress from Dhaka.

Shamim Zaman, Chanchal Chowdhury, AKM Hasan, Joyraj, Rahamat Ali, Lara Lotus, Momo and Putul play the lead roles in the serial.



Shamim Zaman and Chanchal Chowdhury in a scene from the serial.

TV Watch

## Tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain wins Grammy

India's tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain has won Grammy Award. Ustad was presented the award in the heart of Bollywood, Los Angeles in a gala ceremony.

The news about Zakir Hussain comes on the heels of another Indian making wave in Bafta. Just a day ago Allah Rakkha Rahman, aka AR Rahman won Bafta award for his music in the celebrated movie Slumdog Millionaire.

Zakir Hussain is a name that is admired across the globe. He is appreciated both in the field of percussion and in the music world at large as an international phenomenon. A classical tabla virtuoso of the highest order, his consistently brilliant and exciting performances have not only established him as a

national treasure in his own country, India, but gained him worldwide fame. His playing is marked by uncanny intuition and masterful improvisational dexterity, founded in formidable knowledge and study. The favorite accompanist for many of India's greatest classical musicians and dancers, he has not let his genius rest there.

Ustad Zakir Hussain's contribution to world music has been unique, with many historic collaborations, including Shakti, which he founded with John McLaughlin and L. Shankar, the Diga Rhythm Band, Making Music, Planet Drum with Mickey Hart, Tabla Beat Science, Sangam with Charles Lloyd and Eric Harland and recordings and performances with artists as diverse as

George Harrison, Joe Henderson, Van Morrison, Airta Moreira, Giovanni Hidalgo, Pharoah Sanders, Billy Cobham, Rennie Harris, and the Kodo drummers.

Before Ustaad three other Indians have won Grammys till date. Ravi Shankar (sitar) Zakir Hussain (tabla) and Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (mohan veena). Ravi Shankar has won it on three occasions, the last time being in 2001 for his album Full Circle. Carnegie Hall 2000 in the Best World Music Album category. He was also the first Indian to win a Grammy in 1967 for his performance, West Meets East with violinist Yehudi Menuhin in the Best Chamber Music Performance category.

Source: Internet



Zakir Hussain

## German Bosnia film takes critical view of tribunal

REUTERS, Berlin

A German-made drama about the inconclusive trial of a fictional Serb war criminal may help keep the judicial spotlight on the 1992-95 war in Bosnia, its director Hans-Christian Schmid.

"Storm," an English-language thriller, features New Zealand's Kerry Fox as a determined prosecutor at the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) struggling against time pressure and Serb nationalists.

"There has been enormous time pressure on the judges, prosecutors and defence since the U.N. decided to conclude the tribunals by 2010," Schmid told a news conference after the film's well-received world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival.

"I would hope that, if nothing else, this film might make a contribution so that they don't have to conclude by 2009 or 2010. In all the interviews we did for it, that was what we kept hearing: no one wants to be under this deadline pressure."

The drama follows a similar theme to "Grbavica" which won the festival's Golden Bear award for best film in 2006. It is set against a tense backdrop in Bosnia with a suspected Serb war criminal on trial after three years in detention.

In "Storm," the prosecutor's investigation of rape and murder charges is hindered by a powerful network of nationalist Serbs and then foiled by her own poorly prepared case. But just before it collapses, a witness to the rapes comes forward.