

## 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, Bengal Gallery, AF, GIB, British Council, Asiatic Gallery, Kalpana Bazar and Karwan Bazar underpass  
Date: Jan 30-Feb 20



**Solo Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Kalo Teep  
Photographer: Shah Sazzad  
Venue: Chhobir Haat, opposite of Charukala, DU  
Date: February 13-20



**Film Screening**  
Film: Ratatouille  
Organiser: Children's Film Society, Bangladesh and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi  
Date: February 26  
Time: 5pm



## Seeing through letters

Nazia Jabeen's poetry for the blind and visually impaired

KARIM WAHEED

An accident introduced Nazia Jabeen to the disadvantages blind and visually impaired in our country face. One of her family members became visually impaired and while accompanying him to a clinic, she noticed a child with special needs toying with a magazine. After failed attempts to read, the child got frustrated and tossed it away. This inspired Jabeen to bring out books for the blind and visually impaired. Two books by the poet -- one in Braille and the other in enhanced letters -- were launched at National Music and Dance Centre auditorium, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 15. The book of rhymes in Braille, titled "Chhorar Taal-e-Monta Doley," is the first of its kind in Bangladesh. Launch of the publications marked the Louis Braille bicentennial (January 4, 2009). The books published by Bangladesh Blind Mission and Shahitya Prakash are available at the ongoing Ekushey Boi Mela.

The event, organised jointly by Prerona and Child Sight Foundation (CSF), began with a chorus by children. Rendition of the Rabindra Sangeet, "Alo amar alo," was metaphoric as children sang, "...alo bhuvan bhora, alo nayan dhowa amar, alo hriday hora..." As the programme slogan suggested, not being able to see is not "blindness," but being ignorant is.

A brief intro to CSF: Child Sight Foundation is a non-government and non-profit organisation working to eliminate avoidable blindness and to establish a right-based enabling environment for visually impaired and blind children in Bangladesh, leading to goals of Vision 2020 and Millennium Development Goals. CSF services include detection and referral of visually impaired and blind children for cataract surgeries and treatment, primary eye care, rehabilitation, inclusive education, advocacy and training. The organisation works through public health approach and a unique community outreach process, maintaining ties with eye hospitals, paediatric ophthalmologists, disability-specific service providers etc.

At the programme organisers also honoured Prof. MA Matin and Monsur



Visually impaired students sing at the book launch.

PHOTO: MUMIT M



From left: Nazia Jabeen, Ali Reza Iftekhar, Matur Rahman, Prof. MA Matin and Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury.

Ahmed Chowdhury. Prof. MA Matin was honoured for his contribution to ophthalmology in our country; Monsur Ahmed was lauded for his ongoing initiatives for the betterment of the blind and visually impaired.

Matur Rahman, editor of the daily Prothom Alo, and Ali Reza Iftekhar, CEO of Eastern Bank Ltd. were special guests at the event. Both made a pledge that through their respective organisations they would assist CSF's projects for the blind and visually impaired.

The book launch also featured renditions by differently-abled children. A special treat was performances by artiste Samina Chowdhury. Sitting in the front rows, children -- not blessed with vision -- seemed keen on what was going on. Steps -- big or small -- towards this cause are a necessity to turn 40,000 blind and visually impaired Bangladeshi children into assets.

## Little magazine Chinho celebrates 10th anniversary at RU

ABU KALAM RATAN, RU

The 10th founding anniversary of Bangla literature-based little magazine "Chinho" was celebrated on Rajshahi University campus recently.

"Chinho" is published from the Bangla Department of Rajshahi University.

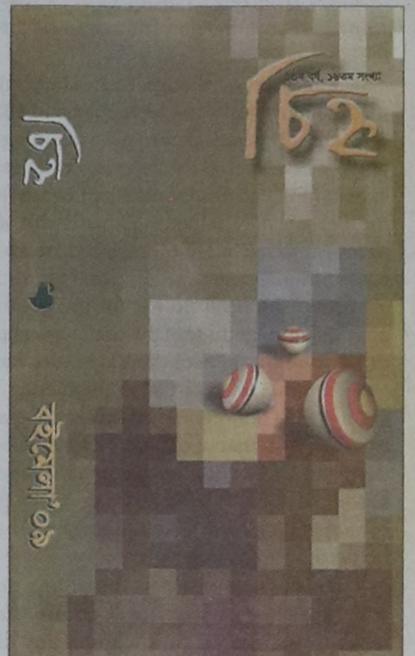
On the occasion, discussions, poetry recitation and an exhibition on books were held at the Bangla Department premises.

Khondoker Asraf Hossain, chairman of English department, Dhaka University inaugurated the anniversary programme.

Speakers at a seminar held at the Bangla Department urged teachers and students to be more involved in studying and researching on Bangla language and literature.

A discussion was also held at Ismail Hossain Siraji building where around 100 campus-based little magazine editors and writers took part.

Bangla Department teacher, Dr. Shaheed Iqbal and Rahman Raju were elected chief editor and executive editor of "Chinho" this year.



"Chinho" is published from the Bangla Department of Rajshahi University.

## TV Watch

### Hetmundu Urdhapad on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Third episode of TV serial "Hetmundu Urdhapad" will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 8:40pm. The serial is written and directed by Manik Manabik.

The story features a former fine arts student Sajal. Sajal is a perfectionist by nature. His take on beauty is different. A pair of beautiful feet is on top of his list; and this defines his ideal beautiful woman. He is still a bachelor, though all his friends are happily married.

Sajal's fate seemingly smiles on him, when one day he meets Shahana. But eventually Shahana disappoints him. Finally, he comes across Sharmin. She seems to be the perfect match for Sajal. Does Sajal win the heart of his dreamgirl?

Iresh Zaker, Tisha and Mithila play the lead roles.



Iresh Zaker and Tisha is a scene from the serial.

## Exhibition

### Four young artists display their creativity



The exhibition features artworks by Rajkumar Paul, Rahman Dewan Sayed, Palash Ranjan Loha and Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain Bhuiyan, all final year students of Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A weeklong group exhibition featuring works of four young artists began recently at Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala (art gallery) in the town.

The exhibition, titled "Searching Beauty...Starts" will continue till February 19. The artists -- Rajkumar Paul from Rajbari, Rahman Dewan Sayed from Habiganj, Palash Ranjan Loha from Mymensingh and Mohammad Shakhawat

Hossain Bhuiyan from Comilla, are final year students of Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology in Dhaka.

Seventy paintings were on display at the exhibit. The paintings, realistic and experimental, were mainly landscapes. In watercolours, the artists depicted the scenic beauty of the country.

Talking to this correspondent, Palash Ranjan Loha said, "This is a breakthrough for the four of us. Under the banner of 'Creative Circle,' this is the first group exhibition for us in

Mymensingh. Earlier I participated in group exhibitions with other artists. However, an exhibition at the birthplace of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin is a remarkable experience for upcoming artists. We hope that art enthusiasts will appreciate our works."

Artiste Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, dean, Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology, inaugurated the exhibition. A discussion was held with Dr. Bijoy Krishna Banik, deputy keeper of the Sangrahashala, in the chair. Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Ziaur Rahman Khan was the chief guest. Dr. Bidyut Joyti Sen Sharma and Professor Mohammad Yunus also took part in the discussion. Assistant keeper of the Sangrahashala, Dulal Chandra Gain conducted the discussion.

The speakers exchanged notes on the various facets of art, both its glorious past as well as the likely future in Bangladesh. They said that the artistic journey of the four young talents is praiseworthy.

The young artists are all set to make waves on the cultural circuit.

## Nirob's new venture



The film is likely to pair Nirob with film actress Nipun (left).

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Model-turned-actor Nirob has signed on for another commercial film recently. The film, "Tumi Ashbey Boley Bhalobashbey Boley," is Nirob's fifth venture in mainstream cinema. Nirob has so far worked on "Mon Jekhane Hridoy Shekhaney," "Koshto Keno Bhalobashay," "Shaheb Namer Golam" and "Guru Bhai."

Ashrafur Rahman will direct the romantic film, "Tumi Ashbey Boley Bhalobashbey Boley," which circles around ambition and hope of a young musician.

Nirob, one of the brand ambassadors of Banglalink, will play the role of the musician. The musician completes higher degree in music from abroad and wants to make a career in Bangladesh. Later he gets involved with a female singer and falls in love with her.

According to Nirob, the shooting for the film will start soon and will take place in different locations of Dhaka, Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Bangkok. Among others, Nipun, Mizu Ahmed and Dr. Ejaz are the expected lead actors of the film.

Nirob also informed that his other films are in the pipeline.

## Peter Gabriel not performing at Oscars out of protest

This year's Academy Awards took a big risk by only nominating three songs in the Best Original Song category, and it looks as though it has backfired: Peter Gabriel, who was nominated for "Down To Earth" from Wall-E, will not perform at the ceremony. Gabriel is protesting the producers' decision to only allow

Gabriel is likely the favourite to win the award, having won the Best Song From a Motion Picture trophy at last weekend's Grammy Awards. The other nominees for Best Song at the Oscars are a pair of "Slumdog Millionaire" songs, "Jai Ho" and "O Saya," featuring M.I.A. Given that M.I.A. will most

likely have given birth to her child by the February 22nd ceremony, her presence at the Oscars is not guaranteed either. Thus, the Academy Awards may be faced with the absence of two of three Best Song nominees.

The Oscars have relied on other artists to perform songs in place of the original singer in years past. Think Robin Williams singing "Blame Canada" from that South Park movie. But it'll be awkward to get a replacement for Gabriel when the former Genesis singer is sitting in the crowd.

Source: Rolling Stone

