

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

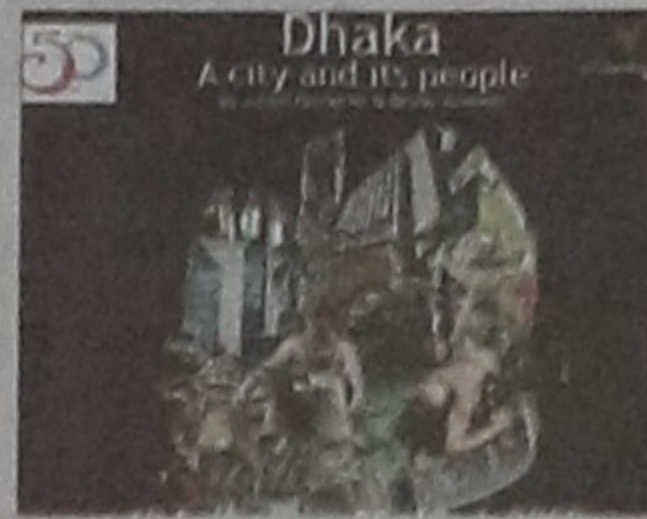
Ekushey Boi Mela '09
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 01-28



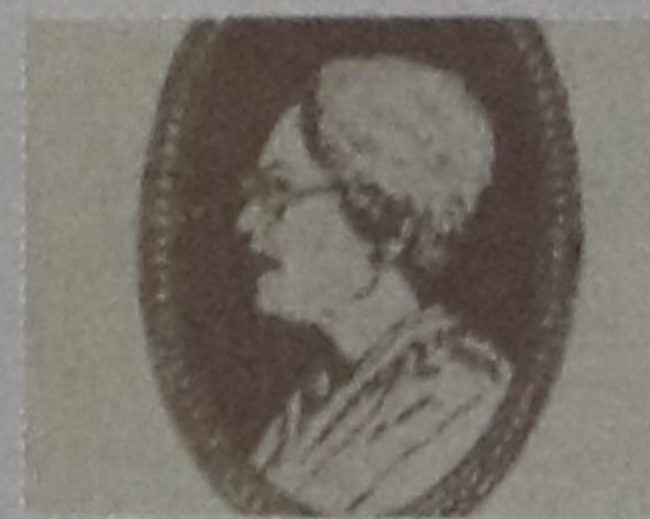
Exhibition
On February 21
Title: Dali & Others
Organiser: Bangladesh Heritage Foundation & Bangladesh Research and Publications
Venue: Billa Auditorium, H 22, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: February 20-28
Time: 10am-8pm



Photography Exhibition
By Julien Pannetier and Bruno Valentin
Title: Dhaka, a City and its People
Venue: AFD, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
Date: February 19-March 5
Time: 9am-12pm, 5-8pm (Saturdays 5-8pm)



Award
Title: Shilu Abed Master Craftsperson Award '09
Organiser: National Crafts Council of Bangladesh
Venue: BRAC Inn Centre Auditorium, 75, Mohakhali
Date: March 5
Time: 6pm



Padatik Natya Sangshad celebrates Ekushey with fervour



MAINUL HASSAN

To observe Amar Ekushey, cultural organisation Padatik Natya Sangshad (PNS) organised a day-long event at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises, yesterday.

Titled, "Padatik Ekushey Ekadash Shangskritik Sammelan 2009", this was the eleventh such event by the organisation. PNS has been holding special programmes to observe Ekushey since 1998. The first programme was held at Bakultala, Institute of Fine Arts (IFA), DU. Though IFA was a regular venue for the programmes since 2008, PNS was compelled to move to the BSA premises by the authorities.

The event kicked off with members of Padatik Sangeet Sangshad singing the National Anthem. Next the artistes performed the song of Ekushey - "Amar bhaiyer rokter raangano", followed by "Salam shaheed bhaiyera salam" and "Jago



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Ekushey images: Artistes in various stages of performance at Shilpakala.

pathikey". A solo recitation by Kazi Arif followed.

The day-long event featured songs on Ekushey, solo and group performances by noted and upcoming singers, poetry recitals, dance perfor-

mances and more.

One of the prime attractions of the event was the colourful cultural performance by the indigenous community. Members of Rangamati Sangskritik Sangathon performed a

traditional Chakma song "Ama ejagaan ranga mattey" (my Rangamati is as beautiful as heaven) which was followed by the staging of the traditional "Bottle dance" of the Tripura community.

Other dance performances were presented by Nriyanchal (choreographed by Shamim Ara Nipa), Shukonya Nriyangan, Nriyam and Spondon.

Solo songs were performed by Shaheen Samad, Sadya Afreen Mallick, Timir Nandi, Enayet E Maola, Ferdous Ara, Anisur Rahman Tuhin, Nargis Chowdhury, Prokasha Banik and others.

Shurtirtha, Nibedon, Khelaghor, Shurshaptaak and other organisations staged group performances.

Muktohdara Abritti Shangathon, Konthoshilon and others presented group recitations.

Two Language Movement veterans -- Rawshan Ara Bachchu and Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam were accorded a reception by Padatik.

Ekushey observed in Sirajganj

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, Sirajganj

Sammilita Sanskritik Jote, Sirajganj district unit, chalked out a three-day programme to mark the International Mother Language Day (yesterday). The event included discussion, procession, recitation and cultural programmes.

Abu Mohammad Golam Kibria, chairman of Sirajganj Upazila Parishad, inaugurated the event last Thursday evening at Independence Square in Sirajganj town, while Asaduddin Pablu, president of Sammilita Sanskritik Jote, local unit, presided over the programme.

Among others, Advocate Hedayetullah Islam; Natya Federation President Anu Islam; Professor Rezaul Karim and Mahbub-e-Khuda Tutul spoke on the occasion.

Speakers at the programme said that many heroes sacrificed their lives in 1952 to



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes perform at the programme.

ensure the right to speak Bangla, and our mother tongue should receive its due honour.

They went on to say that it's not enough to remember the martyrs in February each year, and forget about them for the remainder of the year. We should familiarise our children with the history of Language Movement so that they can understand the importance of this day.

They also urged the govern-

ment to include more information on the Language Movement and the martyrs in the school curriculum.

Vice president of Bangla, Pratik Mahmud and joint secretary Jasmine Shikder took part in recitation at the cultural programme. Artistes of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi rendered patriotic songs. Actors of Tarun Samproday staged a play on the Language Movement.

Pabna commemorates Ekushey

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Local cultural organisations held several programmes marking The International Mother Language Day (yesterday) in Pabna. The day began with offering wreaths at alter of the central Shaheed Minar. Programmes included discussion, music, dance and recitation.

Sammilita Sanskritik Jote, Pabna; Annoda Gobinda Public Library; 'Ekushey Book Fair Celebration Committee, Pabna; Pabna Drama Circle; Udichi Shilpi Goshthi; Lalita Kala Kendra; AFA Institute; Ganoshilpi Sangstha and others chalked out different programmes marking the occasion.

Sammilita Sanskritik Jote, Pabna, organised a two week-long programme marking February 21. The event started on February 16. As part of the International Mother Language

Day programmes, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi held a musical programme yesterday morning at Pabna Muktojodha Sangsad. Artistes performed patriotic songs on the occasion.

Annoda Gobinda Public Library organised a discussion and cultural programme at the library premises yesterday morning. Vice president of the library, Rabiul Islam chaired the programme. Veteran politician, Advocate Amjad Hossain and secretary of the library, Abdul Matin Khan, among others, spoke at the discussion.

Speakers, on the occasion, focused on the history of Language Movement. They also went over what was happening in Pabna during the movement in 1952. The movement was at the centre of the Bengali national spirit, speakers conveyed. Later, local artistes performed songs and poetry recitation at the programme.

Int'l Mother Language Day observed in Paris



Artworks on display.

UNESCO Headquarters hosted celebrations on the occasion of International Mother Language Day this year, says a press release. The Director-General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, opened the celebrations. Enamul Kabir, Ambassador of Bangladesh to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO, participated in the opening session.

As part of the celebration of Inter-

national Mother Language Day, UNESCO presented a special exhibition of paintings, "Reflection/Narration: Where Are We Going?", by Bangladeshi artists Monica Jahan Bose and Imtiaz Shohag.

Monica Jahan Bose is an artist and activist from Bangladesh who lives and works in Paris. Her paintings often incorporate passages of Bengali

writing, in part as an expression of her intense attachment to her mother tongue. Many of her works navigate the confusion and complexity inherent in our multicultural world, and seek to question what is "home" and our conscious or unconscious longing for that place. Her "Mother Tongue" paintings explore her relationship with the Bangla (Bengali) language, as well as women's literacy and political

issues in connection with the language. Though she was born in England and spent most of her life outside Bangladesh, she learned her mother tongue from her parents. She has also taught her mother tongue to her children. Her parents were involved in the struggle to make Bangla an official language in East Pakistan, which later became the independent nation of Bangladesh. The paintings include images of the Shaheed Minar, the symbol of Bangladesh's mother language movement. Her "Water" series also includes Bangla writing and comments on global warming in Bangladesh.

Imtiaz Shohag is a painter from Barisal, who currently resides in Paris. He received his BFA from the Institute of Fine Arts in Dhaka. He was awarded a scholarship to the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris and completed his MFA there. Many of his paintings reflect his roots in Bangladesh. His recent works focus on global warming and its impact on Bangladesh.

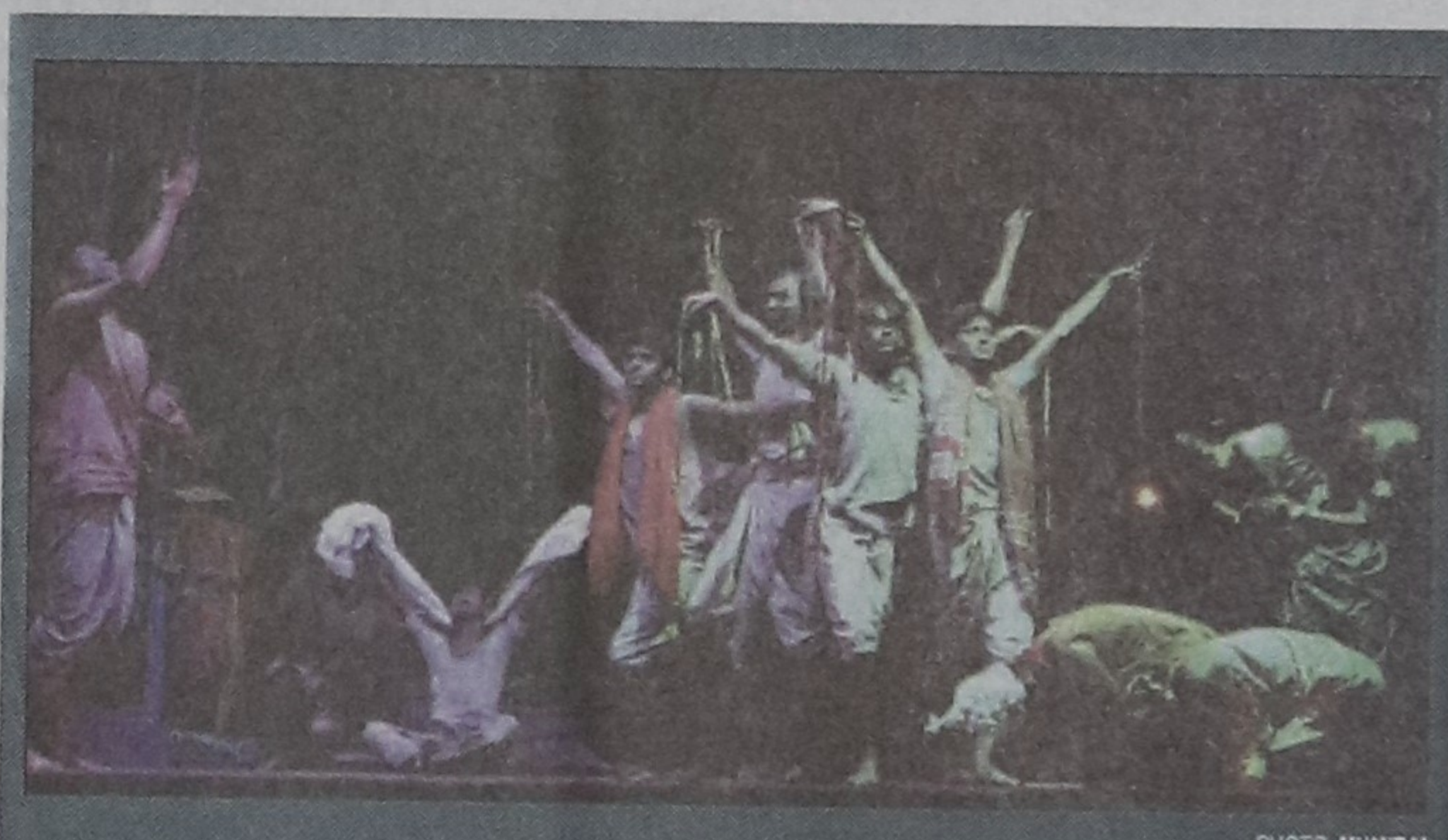


PHOTO: MUMIT M

The 50th show of Nagarik Natyangan's production "Pragoitihashik" was staged on February 20 at the National Theatre Hall, BSA. Adapted by Mahmudul Islam Selim from the short story by Manik Bandyopadhyay, the play is directed by Lucky Enam. Eminent theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar, President, ITI worldwide, inaugurated the golden jubilee show of the play.

Connecting Harijan children to the mainstream

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A month-long cultural competition ended here recently with a prize giving ceremony. The objective was to connect children with their and 'Harijan' (a marginalized caste) compatriots.

Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia, Sarkar Abul Kalam Azad, was the chief guest at the programme held at Kushtia Public Library premises.

FAIR, a local NGO working for the Harijan community in Kushtia and Pabna district, was the organiser of the programme. Manusher Jonno Foundation, a Dhaka-based national NGO, assisted FAIR in organising the event.

According to the organisers, 200 children took part in the competition. Of them around 30 children were from the Harijan community. The competitors took part in eight contests, including patriotic songs, folk songs, Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet and recitation of



PHOTO: STAR

Discussants at the programme.

FAIR, delivered the welcome address. The programme was presided over by Advocate Rajib Ahsan Ranju, member of FAIR Advocacy Group and convenor of the contest organising committee.

poems.

A total of 45 winners were selected by the panel of judges. Of the winners, 3 were from the Harijan community.

In his speech, the Deputy Commissioner called upon the public to purge the society of social and class discrimination. As he pointed out, the constitution guarantees equal rights for all human beings.

Other guests at the programme included Additional Deputy Commissioner, (General) of Kushtia, Ashok Kumar Debnath; former lawmaker and Mayor of Kushtia Municipality, Advocate Badruddoza Gama and former deputy director of Social Welfare Department, Nazrul Islam.

Dewan Akhtaruzzaman, director of Advocate Rajib Ahsan Ranju, member of FAIR Advocacy Group and convenor of the contest organising committee.



PHOTO: STAR

Shibbati Shebak Samiti, a reputed cultural organisation in Bogra, celebrates its 41st anniversary this year. To mark the occasion, members of the organisation recently arranged a day-long programme and took out a procession in Bogra city. The day-long programme also included cultural programmes, drawing competitions and sports.