

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

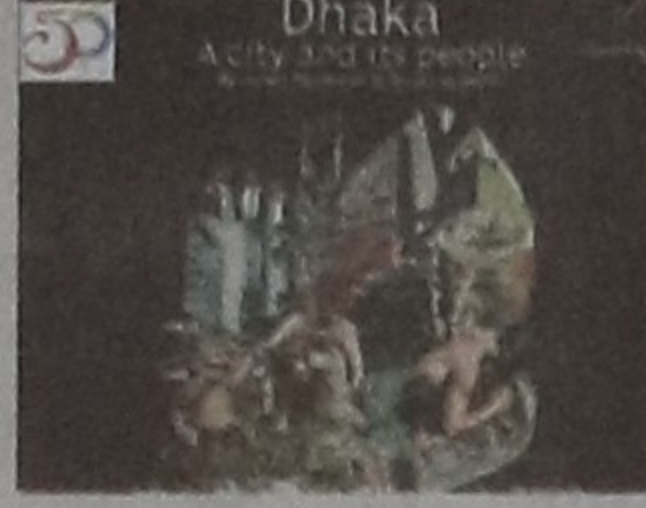
**Ekushey Mela '09**  
Organiser: Bangla Academy  
Venue: Bangla Academy premises  
Date: February 01-28



**Exhibition**  
On February 21  
Title: Dali & Others  
Organiser: Bangladesh Heritage Foundation & Bangladesh Research and Publications  
Venue: Bilia 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 Craftsman Award '09  
Organiser: National Crafts Council of Bangladesh  
Venue: BRAC Inn Centre Auditorium, 75, Mohakhali  
Date: March 5  
Time: 6pm



## Dali & Others

# A magnificent collection of art at BILIA



Clockwise (from top-left): Works by Salvador Dali, Monirul Islam, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury and Anisuzzaman Anis.



TAKIR HOSSAIN

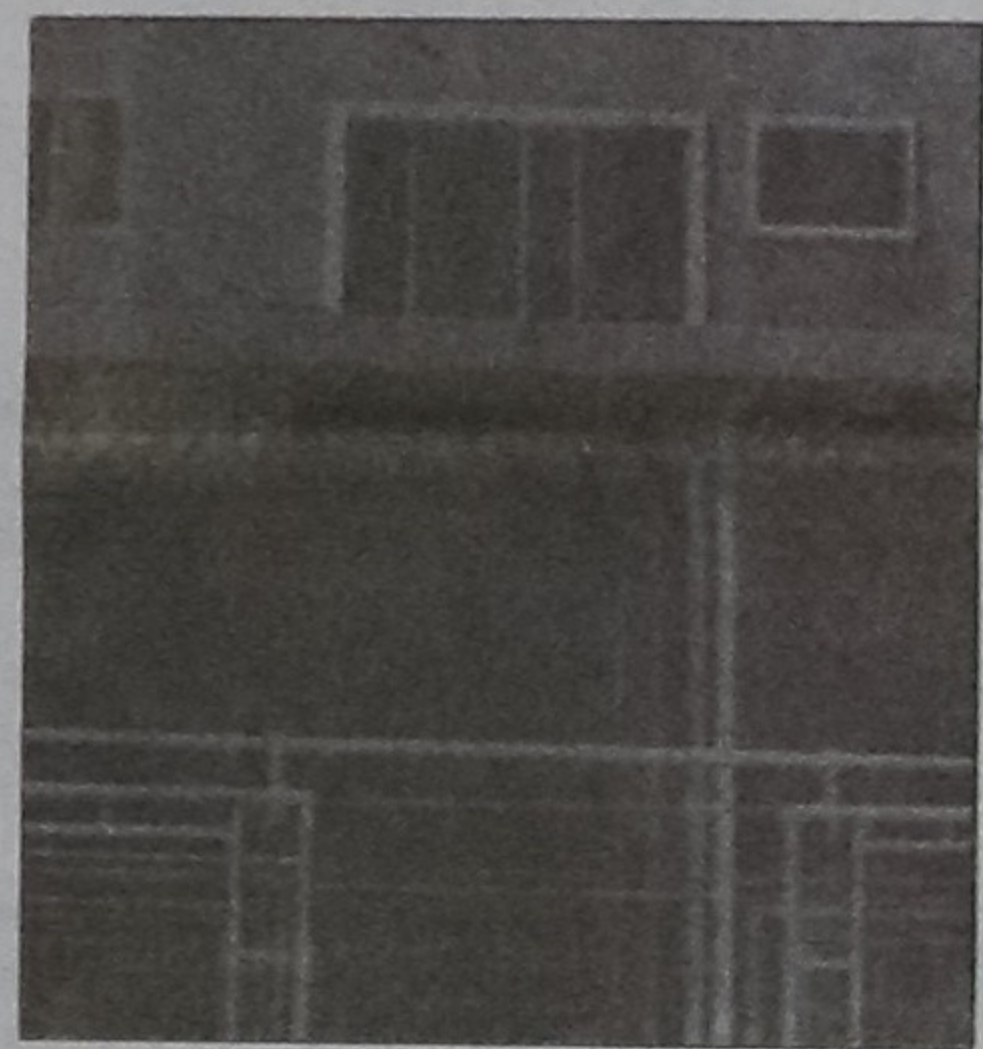
To solemnise the International Mother Language Day, Bangladesh Heritage Foundation and Bangladesh Research and Publications Ltd jointly organised a group art exhibition titled "Dali & Others" which is now on at the BILIA Auditorium, Dhanmondi.

The exhibition features works of prominent Bangladeshi painters, alongside later editions of artworks by legendary artists Salvador Dali, André Derain and Ernst Seidl.

Works of iconic Bangladeshi painters Quamrul Hassan, S.M. Sultan, Monirul Islam, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Shahabuddin Ahmed and Anisuzzaman Anis have given the exhibit a touch of elegance.

Quamrul Hassan is renowned for portraying Bengali women in their range of moods and tempers. S.M. Sultan was recognised for depicting the rural beauty, villagers, peasants - their struggles and their way of life. The human forms are robust and powerful and represent the hardworking people of our countryside. This prominent artist worked with oil colours, which he felt provided him with artistic freedom.

Monirul Islam has been living and working in Madrid since 1969. He is simultaneously a



printmaker, painter and water-colourist. His prints invariably have a serene look. His lines are always dominant in his works and invite the viewer to a physiological journey.

Samarjit Roy Chowdhury is another well-known Bangladeshi artist, who has been active from the mid 1950s. He is exceedingly fond of researching on folk motifs and trying out new forms and techniques. Various motifs like birds, plants, kites and romantic scene are



common in his works. Patriotism and love for nature are two recurring themes in his works.

Shahabuddin lives and works in Paris. A figurative painter, his canvases explore the inner power of humans and he charges them with his bold brush strokes and vibrant colour. Liberation War, human pain, suffering and their struggle always reappear in his large sized canvas.

Anisuzzaman Anis is a talented young

printmaker and he experiments with various designs, shapes and models, often depicting architectural designs of buildings. His works are very close to architectural lines and shapes. His restrained horizontal and vertical lines maintain a balance between space and composition.

Salvador Dali needs no introduction. The iconic artist was best known for his fantastic and lyrical surrealist images. His images appear dreamy and pensive. An edition of a Dali lithograph is on display at the exhibition. It's from the personal collection of former diplomat Waliur Rahman. The print delves into time and history.

André Derain was a French painter and printmaker. He is known as one of the pioneers of the Fauvist movement. At the exhibition, one of his drawing based lithographs depicts a nude female figure in red against a grey background.

Shashi Bikram Shah is one of the reputed Nepalese figurative painters. Vigour and energy are prime concerns in his work. His works frequently feature flying white horses in a devastated landscape where men and women appear small, helpless and crying out in pain.

The exhibition ends on February 28.

## Entertainment show "Ghorey Bairey" on Banglavision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The entertaining family game show "Ghorey Bairey" will be aired today at 2:40pm on Banglavision. Hosted by Shaila Simi, the programme is scripted, designed and produced by Kaunain Sourav.

Today's episode centres on a housewife named Maya. Born in Bosnia, Maya married a Bangladeshi and now lives in this country with her husband. She has developed a deep attachment to the language and culture of her adopted country. Like a true Bengali, she has learned Bangla and can sing several Bengali songs, including Tagore, Nazrul, Lalou and others.



## Shahor Bhora Ka(n)cher Kokil on Ekushey TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single episode play "Shahor Bhora Ka(n)cher Kokil" goes on air at 7:45 pm on Ekushey TV. Written by Faria Hossain, the play is directed by Chayanika Choudhury.

The protagonist of the play is an affluent entrepreneur. He encounters a USA returned woman and the duo strike up a friendship. This friendship makes the man's wife suspicious.

Apurba, Monalisa and Richi Solyman play the lead roles in the play.



## The Bengali obsession with festivals: Naiveté or impropriety?

KARIM WAHEED

Would it be an overstatement to say that we, Bengalis, are a nation obsessed with festivals and celebrations? There's a saying that goes, "Baro mash-e-tero parban" (thirteen festivals in twelve months). And that's fine. We do need festivals, just as our festivals need us. Certain traditions and cultural practices indigenous to Bengal that are, or at some point were, on the verge of extinction certainly need exposure in the form of festivals. But there are times when our affinity towards festivals step outside the boundaries of oft-naive, giddy display of excess and manifest crass, obnoxious impropriety.

Cases in point: Starting 'iftaar' preparations from the morning (the frenzy continues till evening) -- shopping for ingredients, buying food etc -- and shopping for Eid-ul-Fitr, thus jamming virtually all, bazaars, shopping centres and major streets in the city throughout Ramadan, when one is supposed to practice 'siyam' (moderation). Food festivals (last year) at a time when price of rice skyrocketed and there were queues -- from here to kingdom come -- at government run "fair price shops." Competing to buy the most intimidating, gynomous steer available in the market prior to Eid-ul-Adha. A flurry of "Eid special" shows, plays etc on TV channels that drag on for seven mind-numbing days. Umpteen 'pitha utshab' around the country, who cares if the farmers have enough to eat or not? Buying an atrocious Indian soap influenced clothing item at a price that can sustain a family of five for five months. This can go on...

The latest to be added to this list of "mad" fixation with festivals is Ekushey February. Anticipation begins with deciding what to wear on that day. Designers/fashion houses unleash their "Ekushey" collections weeks ahead. Has "Ekushey" become an occasion to make fashion statements? What's scarier is witnessing young women decked in what looked like their wedding jewellery (or would be, when they decide to get married) aptly accompanied by guys looking like they'd be attending that wedding, sauntering at the 'boi mela' on February 21. I received more than one SMS that day that said, "Ekushey-r shubhechha." Who should explain to this misinformed saps that "Ekushey" is a day of mourning, and not celebration. Its a day to recall the Language Movement martyrs, not a joyous occasion when you should extend mushy "shubhechha" (felicitation) to others.

Unintentional naiveté, or shameless impropriety -- that's up for debate. Festivals are commendable; celebrations recharge us. But anything over the top should be avoided. Perhaps it's high time we contemplate the art of subtlety, modesty and moderation.

## Growing popularity of Generation Y in Bollywood



Freida Pinto represents Bollywood's Generation Y whose popularity is growing.

After just a film or two, young film stars are charging the earth for endorsing brands.

"Slumdog Millionaire" starlet Freida Pinto, who is believed to have bagged a role in Woody Allen's next, may see her brand endorsement fee rise four-fold to nearly Rs 1.5 crore from a mere Rs 40 lakh that she charged earlier. Genelia D'Souza and Imraan Khan,

who starred in the hit "Jaane Tu Ya Jane Na," and Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone, the cornerstones of Pepsi's "Youngistaan" campaign, are already demanding between Rs 1 crore and Rs 4 crore.

The growing popularity of Generation Y is easy to explain, given that Bollywood's established stars Shah Rukh, Hrithik Roshan, Aamir Khan and Rani Mukherjee are appearing in fewer films.

"The older stars have very few projects for the next few months. The younger stars have three or four projects slated for release over the next 12 months and will be in the limelight. The endorsement rate is directly proportionate to the number of new projects you have in hand," said Anirban Das Blah, chief executive of Globosports, the Bangalore-based celebrity management company.

Part of the reason for this rapid rise in asking price is that some new stars may be new in Mumbai but already have a large fan following in their regions. D'Souza and Asin, for instance, are already big names in south India, but the success of just one Hindi movie has virtually doubled their fees.

Industry sources say stars like Kapoor, D'Souza and Padukone are currently in talks with at least five leading brands in categories like automobiles, beauty products and apparel.

Companies say they are banking on new faces because it fits the profile of the brands they are endorsing. D'Souza, for instance, endorses Coca-Cola's new Fanta Apple.

Tata Sky, for the same reason, roped in Asin during the release of the hit, "Ghajini." "Tata Sky and Asin have a lot in common. Both are young, energetic, achievers, and both enjoy a high degree of credibility with consumers," said Vikram Mehra, the company's chief marketing officer.

Source: Internet

## Painting competition: Grooming young talents for the future



PHOTO: STAR

A total of 70 children took part in the competition.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A painting competition for children was held recently to observe February 21. The event was organised at the premises of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahashala.

Development Wheel (DEW), a non-government organisation, arranged the event for primary school students in three groups. A total of 70 children, including 11 physically challenged students, from different educational institutions here, took part in the competition, titled 'How we wish to see our parents'.

The judges of the art competition were assistant keeper of the Sangrahashala, Dulal Chandra Gain; Sajeda Begum Saju and artist Abdur Rouf, lecturer of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Fine Arts Institute, Mymensingh. Nine children from three groups were selected for awards.

Earlier, deputy commissioner of Mymensingh, Mohammad Ziaur Rahman Khan inaugurated the competition. Among others advocate A.H.M. Khalequzzaman; Mymensingh Press Club secretary, Zillur Rahman Khan; principal of Muslim Girls School and college Mohammad Shahabuddin; president of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad local unit Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen, journalist Shanta Mariya; executive Director of DEW Shah Abdus Salam and Rezaunul Haq also spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

The speakers said that children are the hope for the future and, therefore, even at an early age they should be properly guided so that they can bond better with their parents.

Later, the chief guest distributed prizes and certificates among the winners.