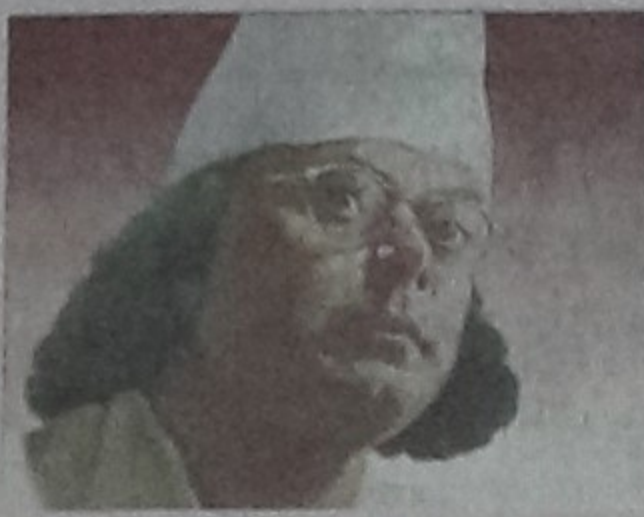


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Exhibit of Wood Engravings**  
Title: Palashi Thekey  
Exhibitor: Naresh Kumar Sutar  
Organiser: Shudha  
Venue: National Museum  
Date: April 3-10  
Time: 9:30am-4:30pm (Fridays 3:30-7:30pm)



**CD Launch**  
On the biography of our National Poet  
Title: Nazrul the Poet  
Organiser: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
Date: April 10  
Time: 7pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Lyrics of Line  
Artist: Sanat Kar  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (Old), Dhanmondi  
Date: April 3-14  
Time: 12-8pm



**35th Anniversary of RCSC**  
Organiser: Russian Centre of Science and Culture  
Venue: RCSC, H 42, Bhasha Shoinik MA Main Road (Rd 7), Dhanmondi  
Date: April 12  
Time: 6:30pm



## Charukala abuzz



Like every year, students of Charukala (Faculty of Fine Arts, DU) are gearing up to celebrate 'Pahela Baishakh.' This year, the preparations started from March 25 under the banner of 'Baishakh Udjapan Parshad-1416.' Several items like 'shora', 'tyapa putul', masks, T-shirts, scarves and watercolour paintings by the students are sold at Charukala premises to generate funds for the Baishakhi celebration. Silvia Naznin, a student of MFA in Painting and member of the celebration committee, informed that an auction of artworks by the teachers of FFA started from yesterday. Proceeds from the sales will go to the celebration fund for arranging a three-day 'Chaitra Shangkranti-Baishakhi' programme. Price-range of the items is between tk. 100 and 5000. The three-day celebration will feature a Baishakhi rally, special programme on 'Chaitra Shangkranti', 'Bashakhi Utshab', 'jatra-pala' and more. The slogan of this year's Baishakhi celebration is "Esho Rudro, Esho Shokti, Esho Mukti."

PHOTO: MUMIT M

## Musical soiree by Rabirashmi

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of their regular programmes on Tagore, Rabirashmi held a musical soiree titled 'Gaaney Gaaney Rabindranath' at Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum on April 8.

The event started with a discussion. Tagore artiste and director of Rabirashmi, Mahadev Ghosh; Matiur Rahman, adviser, Rabirashmi and former Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Anup Bhattacharya spoke on the occasion.

A one-minute-silence was observed in memory of Syed Shamsul Huda, former adviser, Rabirashmi, who passed away on January 19.

The cultural programme started with a

choral rendition of Rabindra Sangeet -- "Bishwabina rohey," "Dhirey dhirey bao ogo utol hawa" by members of Rabirashmi.

The programme featured renditions of several familiar Rabindra Sangeet.

Rabeya Akhter performed "Ogo dokhina hawa," Sushmita Saha sang "O amar chander alo" and Sushmita Hossain performed "Orey grihobashi khol dwar khol." The ever-familiar, "Eto dinjey boshey chhilem" was presented by Dilip Kumar Ghosh. Other solo performances were by Sharmin Rahman Chaiti, Syeda Qamrun Nahar, Ajit Kumar Das, Mahadev Ghosh, Shamim Ara Begum and others.

The programme ended with a chorus of the Tagore song, "Bashontey phool gathlo" by artistes of Rabirashmi.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Artistes of Rabirashmi present familiar Rabindra Sangeet at the musical soiree.

## Amir and Shahrukh come together for a cause

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA,  
New Delhi

It required a crisis in Bollywood to prompt two of its biggest stars and bitter rivals Shahrukh Khan and Aamir Khan to bury the hatchet and share a dais for a common cause.

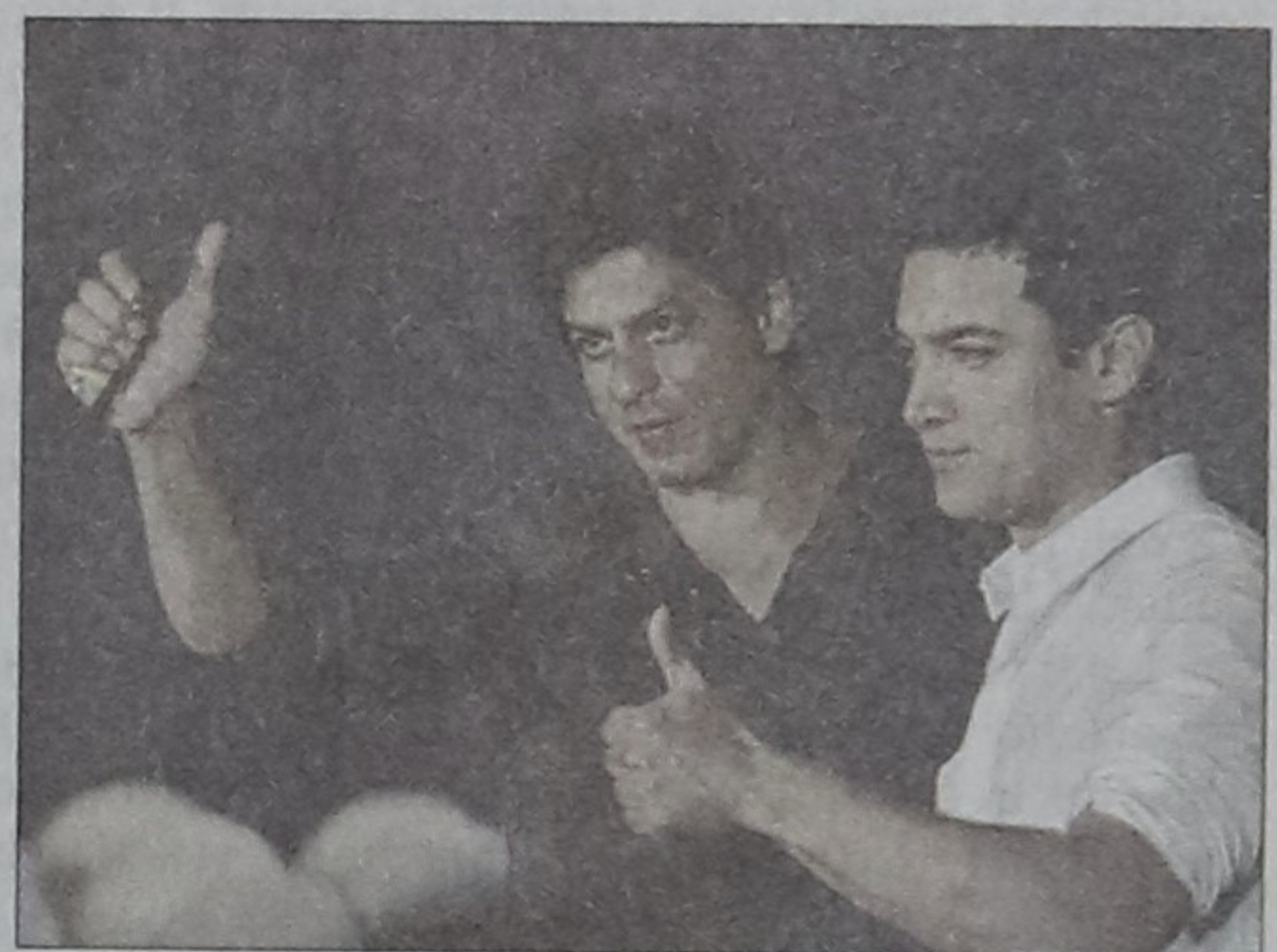
The two Khans came together on a platform in Mumbai on April 7 to rally behind United Producers and Distributors Forum in their battle against multiplex owners demanding equal revenue share from a film's release.

The occasion was the two superstars' interaction with the media to plead for producers and distributors.

The standoff between producers and distributors on one hand and multiplex owners on the other is threatening to stall release of new Bollywood films in multi-screen multiplexes across India.

It was possibly the first time in their over two-decade careers that Shahrukh and Aamir came together on the same platform for a common cause, providing a big opportunity for the shutterbugs to click away frenziedly keeping a hawk's eye on their body language.

And why not? Till recently, Shahrukh and Aamir had been taking pot shots at each other publicly, continuing the war of words that had begun last year with Aamir calling Shahrukh



The two Khans shared a dais to voice the sentiments of the Bollywood fraternity over their demand for equal share of profit with multiplex owners.

the number two star at a press conference.

The rivalry between the two actors had deteriorated further with shriller war of attrition.

Director-producer Karan Johar highlighted the rivalry between the two Khans by beginning the press conference on April 7 with the request to media persons not to ask any question on the "friendship" between the two actors.

But given the irrepressible journalists, Shahrukh was asked if his sharing the dais with Aamir could be called a rapprochement between them.

"This is a non-issue," pat came the reply from Shah Rukh.

"We are both grown up and intelligent people. Of course, I

am less intelligent than Aamir. I respect that and so must you all. It's a non-issue that we are sitting together here on one platform."

"We will have no problem even if we are sitting in the same plane, the same car or may be even the same film," he added.

Aamir chipped in by saying (hopefully jokingly), "I think we should get out the boxing gloves now."

The two actors joked with each other and jointly posed for photo-ops and at times whispered to each other's ears.

Is it the end of the cold war between the two Khans? Is it bonhomie time between? No rewards for guesses.

## Celebrating spring with music and dance

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Dancers performed at a festival with the songs "Aaji mon-e mon-e lagey hori," "Orey bhai phagun legechhey bon-e bon-e," "Aaji gaaner taal-e hridoy doley" and other songs celebrating the bounties of spring. The event organised by 'Gontobbo' was held at Pabna Town Hall last Wednesday.

Earlier, at a discussion, vice chairman of Pabna Sadar upazila, Shamsunnahar Rekha spoke as the chief guest. Bodrun Nahar, president of the organisation, chaired the programme. Among others, assistant education officer Md. Moinul Hasan and dance trainer Ibrahim Tonmoy spoke on the occasion.

Speakers focused on the uniqueness of

Bangla seasons. Each season plays an important role and the Bengali heritage is entwined with the distinct look nature takes on as seasons change, they said.

Of the six Bengali seasons, 'Bashonto' (spring) bestows nature with bounties in the most profound way. New foliage brightens up the surrounding, they added.

There are countless odes to spring by poets. Innumerable songs and writings in Bengali literature eulogise the season. 'Bashonto Utshab' (celebration of spring) is an integral part of our cultural heritage.

At the programme, artistes danced with songs on Bashonto. Shinchin, Shithi, Atonu, Anonna, Konka, Aorpa, Aishi, Rupa, Piu and others performed at the event. Trainers Tonmoy and Mrinmoy conducted the festival.



Dancers celebrate the season of spring with joyous performances.

## Madonna promises \$500,000 for Italian quake relief

AP, Pacentro, Italy

The Material Girl is giving something back to the land of her ancestors.

Madonna has promised \$500,000 to help victims of Italy's devastating earthquake, said Fernando Caparso, mayor of Pacentro, the mountainside village where two of the pop star's grandparents were born.

Caparso told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he had spoken to the pop star's manager and that he was deeply moved by Madonna's effort to assist the town as well as surrounding areas.

Liz Rosenberg, the pop singer's spokeswoman, confirmed that Madonna had pledged a "substantial amount," in quake relief but didn't disclose the exact figure.

The picturesque village, 100 kilometres (60 miles) from hard-hit L'Aquila, felt Monday's earthquake but did not suffer serious damage. However, Caparso said residents were terrified and some have been sleeping in tents or in their

cars for fear of being crushed in collapsing buildings.

Caparso said the bulk of Madonna's donation would be destined for areas harder hit.

In this tiny village, located below a snow covered mountain and overlooking a valley of olive groves, residents were mostly appreciative of the gesture -- particularly coming at a time when the area was already experiencing economic problems.

"This was a tragedy for us, and I am very moved by what she did," said Davide Battaglini, 33, who works for Italy's financial police. "Our situation isn't the best, factories have been closing, so a gesture from a star like her is very welcome."

Madonna still has relatives in the town, who live in a four-story home along the main road leading up through the mountainside village. Giuseppe Mirandola, the son of her second cousins, answered the door at the entrance to the home.

"Journalists have been bothering my family for a long time," Mirandola said from the door. "I don't want to talk."



PHOTO: STAR

Bauls perform at a programme conferring 'Lalon Padak 2009' to poet Sayeed Abu Bakar and the late Lalon singer Laile Begum. The event was held on April 7 at the Government Lalon Shah College in Jhenidah. 'Lalon Padak Prodan Committee' and local NGO 'Uchchhash' arranged the programme.