

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Duet Art Exhibition

Artists: Tajuddin Ahmed and Kamal Kabir  
Venue: Tivoli Art Gallery, F-33, Second Circle, DCC Market, Gulshan,  
Date: February 8-21  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: A Pilgrimage for Peace  
Artist: Kazi Ghiyasuddin  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, R-27 Dhanmondi  
Date: January 29-February 11  
Time: 12pm-8pm



### Solo Painting Exhibition

Artist: Sk. Mehedi Kamal  
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-26, R-3 Dhanmondi  
Date: January 29-February 7  
Time: 12pm-8pm



### Ekushey Book Fair

Venue: Bangla Academy  
Date: February 1-28  
Time: 3pm-9pm



# What's in for this year's Ekushey Book Fair



Starting from today, the Bardhaman House premises at Bangla Academy will be abuzz with booklovers of all ages.

### TAKIR HOSSAIN

Ekushey Book Fair has become a symbol of our national identity. The fair lasts throughout the month of February. Understandably, readers, writers, educationists wait enthusiastically for this event. During this month, the fair becomes a hub for all creative people.

According to Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, "For this year's fair we have taken a number of steps which should be helpful for our publishers, writers and readers. Five hundred and five stalls have been erected for the fair. Twenty six stalls have been allotted for the little magazines. The rest are for publication houses. A number of publishers have been black-

listed this year, as they were selling pirated books.

"I've observed that many publishers have no interest in literary translations. So the Bangla Academy authority has given extra attention to this particular genre.

"This year publishers have to turn in their books to the National Library and Archive Department where the authorities will issue certificates. Publishers must provide the certificates to sell those particular books at the fair. We are also paying attention in generating taxes this year."

The Daily Star also spoke to some of the leading poets, writers and educationists on the occasion.

At this year's fair, six new books by poet Mahadev Saha will be unveiled. The books are

"Andher Anguley Ato Jadu" (from Prothama Prokashoni), "Premer Kobita Samagra" (Anonya Prokashoni), "Nirbachito Duisho Kobita" (Dibash Prokashoni), "O Borsha O Bashanto" (Ekushey Bangla Prokashoni), "Prothom Pochti Kabyo Grantho" and "Shornali" (Bijoy Prokashoni).

"I consider Ekushey Book Fair to be one of the most major cultural festivals of our country. It generates a mass interest in Bengali literature and accommodates writers, readers, intellectuals, social and cultural activists," said Mahadev Saha.

Educationist and researcher Professor Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir said, "I hope this year's fair sees an abundance in new books.

Bangla Academy should be more cognisant of the demands of writers and readers."

Jahangir's books of poems "Jiboner Dikey Haat Bariye Ami", novel "Ferari Jiboner Kahini" and a collection of essays "Tatwabodhayok Sarkar O Despotik Rashtro" are being published from Suborno Prokashoni.

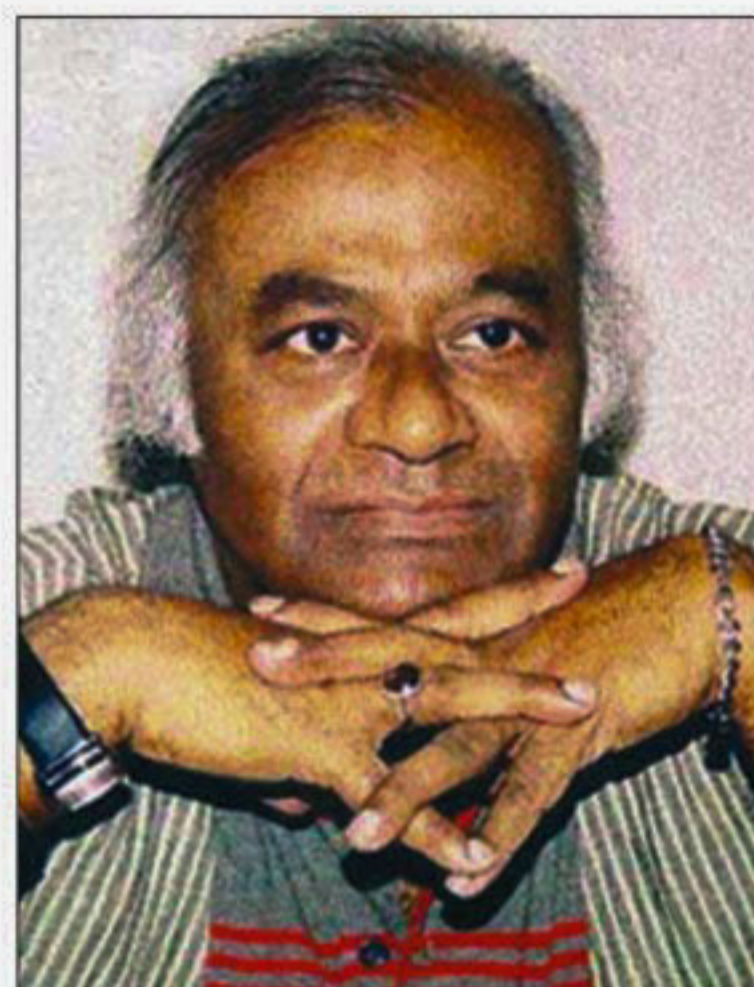
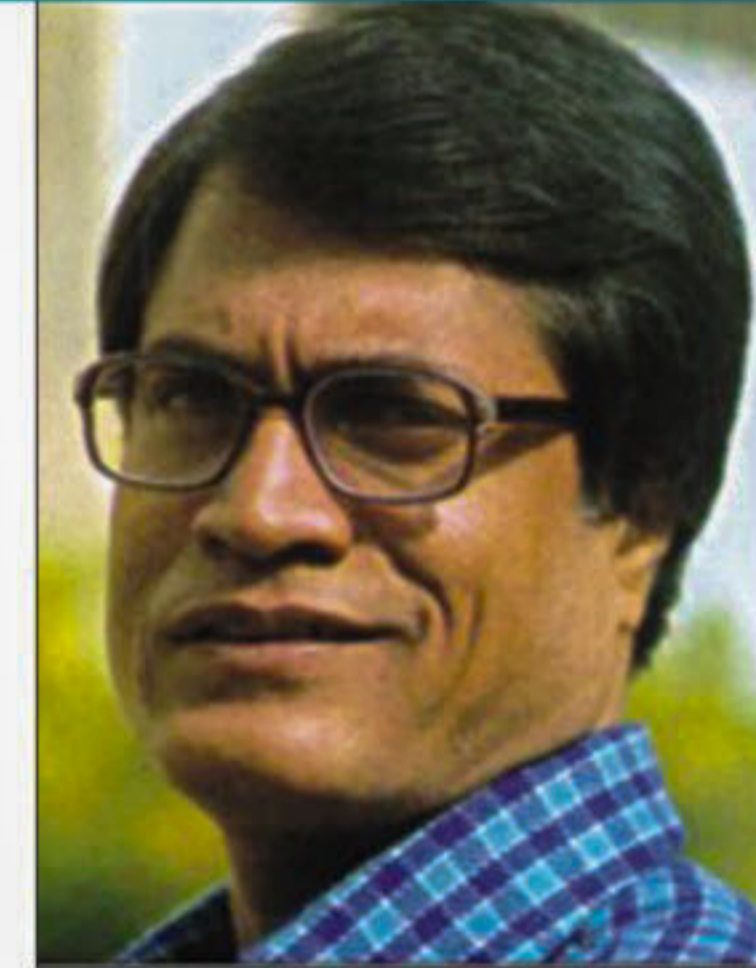
A compilation, titled "Rabiul: Omnibus", featuring the works of poet and architect Rabiul Hussain, is being published from Mizan Publishers at the fair.

The poet thinks that the fair should be held at a bigger venue. Hussain also feels that the government should allot a permanent venue for the fair and the event should continue over a month.

Dr. Muhammad Samad, poet and former

president of National Poetry Council, said, "This year, I'm busy with my research-based works. I believe the fair has been playing a key role in our literary scene over the years. It has become a symbol of nationalism, encouraging a bold stance against communalism and ignorance."

Shamim Azad, noted expatriate poet, has published in both Bengali and English. She visits the fair every year. Her latest books -- to be available at this year's fair -- are "Jormandho Jupiter" (from Agami Prokashoni), "Bileter Snapshot" (a compilation of her popular writings, published by Moula Brothers) and "Smriti Kabyo". As an expatriate writer, she wants to reach out to a bigger readership in Bangladesh. "I feel an emotional attachment to the fair," said Azad.



Clockwise (top-left): Professor Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Mahadev Saha, Dr. Muhammad Samad, Shamim Azad and Rabiul Hussain.

## Classical music festival in Rajshahi

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two renowned classical musicians were accorded reception at a two-day long Uchchanga Sangeet (classical music) Festival that ended in Rajshahi recently.

Pandit Madan Gopal Das, a noted tabla player of Dhaka and Ustad AKM Shamsuzzaman of Rajshahi received the Ustad Mozammel Hossain Memorial Award, at the reception on the inaugural day.

Dance guru Bazlur Rahman Badal inaugurated the function with Ustad Rabiul Hossain in the chair.

Hindol Shangskritik Gosthi organised the festival in memory of Ustad Mozammel Hossain (1907-1976) who made an immense contri-

bution to music in his lifetime.

The festival began with a choral rendition by artistes of Hindol, Mukto Gharana, Shurotirtho, Dhruvoshokha, Shoilee, Oikyatan and Padma Residential Sangeet School. This was followed by a performance of *Lahora* on *pakhawaj* by Shushen Kumar Roy of Shatkhira. Solok Hossain, Nagma, Pandit Amoresh Roy Chowdhury of Rajshahi performed Khayal.

Renowned singer AKM Shamsuzzaman, lyricist Soumitra Banerjee, music teachers Rezaul Islam and Rafiqul Islam, among others, attended the event.

The nightlong rendering of classical music by acclaimed and upcoming artistes on the second day was

the main attraction of the festival.

The evening began with a group recital of *Dhrupad* by artistes of Hindol at Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries Auditorium that continued till dawn.

Khairul Anam Shakil, Anil Kumar Saha, Rezwan Ali and Anup Barua from Dhaka; Dolon Kanungo of Chittagong and Parmita Haq, SM Selim Akhtar, Manjuri Roy rendered Khayal while Pandit Shibnath Das played the flute.

Swarup Hossain, Uttam Kumar Haldar and Madan Gopal Das played *tabla*, Solok Hossain assisted on harmonium and Konkon, Mousumi, Himel, Govinda, Dilara and Ritwik played the *tanpura* at the programme.

## Printmaking workshop held at Cosmos-Atelier 71

A two-day long printmaking workshop concluded on January 30 at Cosmos-Atelier 71, Malibagh, in the city, says a press release. Leading local and foreign printmakers attended the workshop with an aim to popularise the medium among art-



(From left) Enayetullah Khan, South Korean Ambassador Suk-Bum Park, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes and Swiss Ambassador Dr Urs Herren at the inauguration of the workshop.

ists in Bangladesh. Wood engraving, linocut, metalcut, etching, aquatint, mezzotint, drypoint, lithograph, among other mediums, are familiar to the printmakers of our country.

Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mijarul Quayes inaugurated the workshop along with the South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Suk-Bum Park and Swiss Ambassador Dr. Urs Herren. Enayetullah Khan, chairman of Cosmos-Atelier 71 spoke on the occasion.

The Swiss Ambassador complimented the artworks of the Bangladeshi printmakers and observed that these could be exhibited abroad in the interests of publicity and diplomacy. South Korean Ambassador Suk-Bum Park said that he has attended many exhibitions and cultural programmes in Bangladesh, and is quite excited to see peoples' love for art. He said that South Korea could be a partner of Bangladesh in sharing experiences in the art and cultural domain.

Mijarul Quayes praised private initiatives to promote the art and cultural heritage of Bangladesh alongside the government endeavours. He said that it is important to take the country's opulent art and cultural heritage to the outside world.

## Grammys 2010 preview

# Women on top as Beyonce, Lady Gaga, and Taylor Swift likely to win big

The 2010 Grammys are one big girl fight, with Lady Gaga, Beyonce, and Taylor Swift competing in top categories -- and likely to come out the biggest winners.

Of the stars with a shot at sweeping the three top categories on the show -- to be aired live on StarWorld today at 7 am -- all boast double X chromosomes.

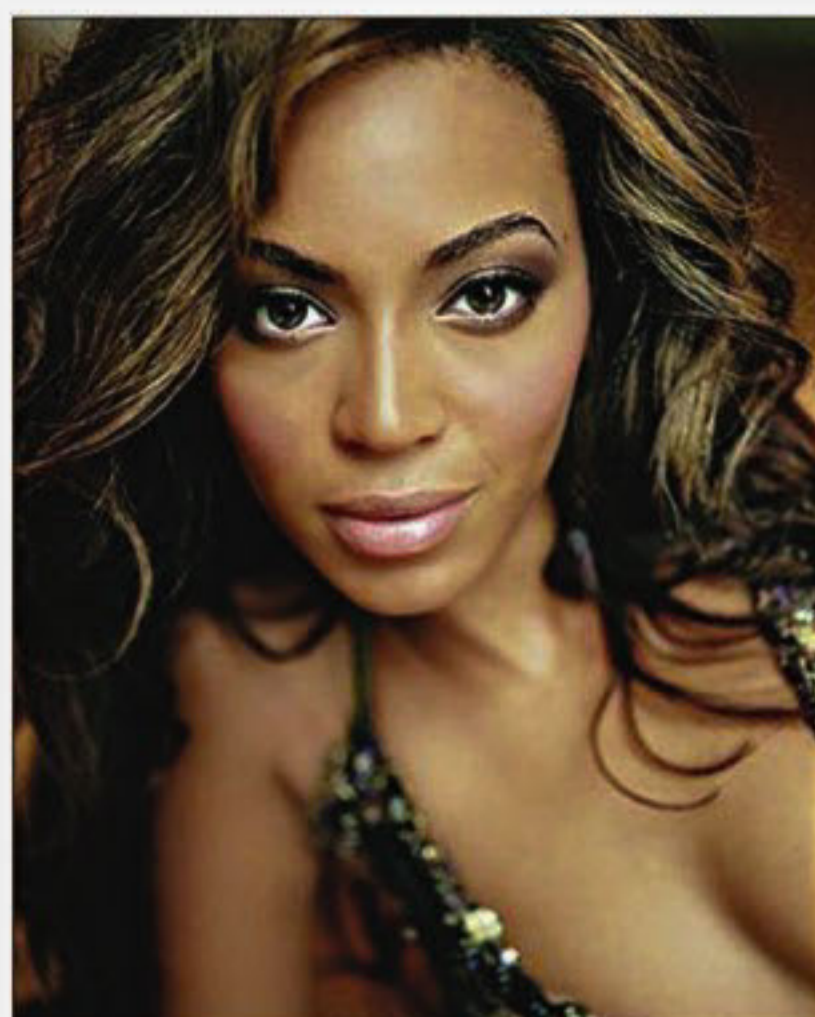
Vying for Album, Song and Record of the Year honours are fierce R&B diva Beyoncé, faux-country teen star Taylor Swift and dance-floor freakshow Lady Gaga.

There's even a key fourth woman up in two of the top three slots (Album and Record): Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas.

The fact that gender played such a big part in choosing the top candidates speaks to more than just the particular work these women released in the last year.

It proves that estrogen fuels much of what's left of the music industry itself.

The thinking goes something like this: Female artistes -- with their endless hair, makeup and clothing adornments, not to mention the assertive characters they need to survive in a male-dominated world -- make more fetching, changeable



(From left) Beyoncé, Lady Gaga and Taylor Swift are leading the Grammy nominations.

and interesting icons than most of their male counterparts. (Adam Lambert to the contrary.)

Acts like the Dave Matthews Band, Green Day and U2 may impress no end in the realm of music. But they lack the

tricked-out glamour and sizzle that stars like Beyoncé and Gaga can use to get on fashion and lifestyle magazine covers, as well as to land on the most coveted seat on the planet: across from Oprah.

As the general media lose interest in

actual music while gaining interest in what's garish, record companies need singers with big enough back stories and attitudes to snag the most eyes and ears.

For years, the Grammys have staged an elaborate game of bait-and-switch with

the nominees. Each December, they make a grand gesture of showering the most nominations on someone who just hit the chart jackpot -- like Lil Wayne last year or Mariah Carey during her "Emancipation of Mimi" comeback reign.

Then, on awards night, artier types sneak in from behind to seize the most valued honours.

The past decade or so has seen this pattern time and time again, as the starriest awards have gone to lower-selling, but more credible, performers like Herbie Hancock (for his tribute to Joni Mitchell), Dylan (for "Time Out of Mind"), Steely Dan (for "Two Against Nature") and Shawn Colvin (for "A Few Small Repairs").

Even last year, the most honoured work turned out to be a hushed and strange collaboration between Robert Plant and Alison Krauss, rather than anything by the fan-friendly Lil Wayne.

### The Indian Connection

The Indian Nominations for Grammys include musical wizards like AR Rahman,

Ustad Zakir Hussain and Ustad Amjad Ali Khan. The track "Jai Ho", which got Rahman two Academy awards and a Golden Globe, has been nominated in the category of Best Song written for Motion Picture, Television or Other visual media. Rahman has also been nominated in the category of Best Compilation Soundtrack Album for Motion Picture, Television or Other visual Media for "Slumdog Millionaire". Tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain has been nominated for the 52nd Grammy award in the Best Classical Crossover album category for the album "The Melody of Rhythm". Rahim Al-Haj and Amjad Ali Khan have been honoured by the Recording Academy with a 2010 Grammy Nomination in the Best Traditional World Music Category for their CD "Ancient Sound".

While glamour and media appeal may have shaped all this year's top nominees, the most song-oriented singer will take the day.

Source: Internet