

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Ekushey Book Fair**  
 Venue: Bangla Academy  
 Date: February 1-28  
 Time: 3pm-9pm



### Musical Soiree

Singers: Dalia Naushen and Azad Hafiz  
 Organiser: Indian Culture Centre & Shadhona  
 Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan-1  
 Date: February 5  
 Time: 7pm



### Solo Painting Exhibition

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



### 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



## Boi Mela Thoughts



### Syed Shamsul Haq

A CORRESPONDENT

Readers who have been eagerly waiting for poet-writer Syed Shamsul Haq's latest books are in for a treat. Like other litterateurs -- renowned and emerging -- Haq is offering new publications at the Ekushey Boi Mela (book fair) that began yesterday.

Haq is one of the most active figures in our literary field. In the early '60s, he introduced unique themes and style through his poetry. His poems are uncomplicated and appeal to the readers with the poet's adept use of language. In novels and short stories, Haq's writings delve deep into varied social, political and economic issues.

At this year's Ekushey Book Fair, five new books by Haq are being unveiled. Three new books of poems by Haq are "Ninad" (from Prothama Prokashoni), "Bhalobashar Din-e" (Panjeri Prokashoni) and "Bolo Prem Kotha" (from Pathak Samabesh).

"Pronito Jiban", a biography, will be published from Ittadi Publications. "Phuler Moto Pobitra", a novel by Haq, is being published from Samoy Prokashoni.

# Lalon and his humanism in focus

## Folk Music Festival ends at BSA

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The weeklong folk music festival, titled "Shapto Loko Shadhok Smaron", ended on January 31 at the premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). Arranged by the Department of Music and Dance, BSA, the festival focused on the life and works of rural bards Shah Abdul Karim, Radha Raman Dutta, Bijoy Sarkar, Hason Raja, Jalal Khan, Ramesh Sheel and Lalon.

Lalon is unquestionably the forerunner of Baul music and philosophy. His doctrines of simplicity and above all universal love for humanity irrespective of caste, creed, gender and social status have touched such heights that they are engraved on the hearts of many

soul searching people.

The closing day's programme highlighted discussion of the mystic bard and renditions of his songs.

Lalon's poetry has a mesmerising quality and was translated into German, Italian, French, Japanese and Hindi.

The programme on January 31 was divided into two segments -- discussion and live performances. Presided over by the director of the Department of Training, BSA, M Mannan Hawladar, the first segment began with a welcome speech by the director of Music and Dance of BSA, RA Mahmud Selim, followed by a lyrical and erudite speech by Lalon exponent Dr Abul Ahsan Chowdhury.

"Though the Bauls are mystic in nature, an

attitude of protest flowed through their hearts. We can recall the incident when Lalon, along with his disciples, put the *ektara* down and took up baton to save his friend Kungal Harinath's life. Lalon is the successor of great mystic leaders -- Kabir, Tulsi Das, Ram Das, Paltu and others -- of the undivided India who urged people to come together under one umbrella," Dr Chowdhury said.

"Born in Lalon's time, it took Raja Rammohan Roy many years to popularise his Brahmo religion in Bengal. In that society, Lalon was ignored too. But as a spiritual leader, Lalon's luminosity flourished among the downtrodden. Rabindranath Tagore understood the maxim that Baul philosophy is at the heart of Bengali-ness,"

he added.

In the second segment of the programme, eminent Lalon artiste Farida Parveen rendered two songs of the great Baul: "Satyo Bol Shupothey Chol" and "Boro Shongkotey Poria Doyal." Warda Rihab and Amit Chowdhury of Dhriti, a dance troupe, performed to a Lalon song "Emon Manob Jonom Aar Ki Hobey" followed by another dance performance by the artistes of Nandan Kala Kendra. Other performers at the programme were Pagla Babul, Rupu Khan, Tamanna Nigar Tuli, Monowara Begum Mona, Sabrina Sharmin Shoumi, Iffat Ara Nargis and more. Arif Dewan, Shahid Dewan and their troupes also performed folk music at the programme.



Farida Parveen renders songs of Lalon.



Dr Abul Ahsan Chowdhury speaks at the programme.

PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

# Grammy night belongs to Beyoncé and Taylor Swift

## Grandest live performances in the planet

There were plenty of over-the-top moments during Sunday night's (Monday morning, local time) 52nd annual Grammy Awards, but none of them could outshine Beyoncé and Taylor Swift.

The dynamic duo -- who were nominated for a combined 16 Grammy Awards -- took home 10 of them, with Beyoncé winning six and Swift snagging four, including the night's biggest trophy, Album of the Year.

"I hope that you know how much this means to me ... that we get to take this back to Nashville!" Swift squealed while accepting the Album of the Year award. "Our families are freaking out in their living rooms!"

Swift's three other Grammys came in the country category, with "Fearless" winning Best Country Album and her hit "White Horse" grabbing Best Country Song and Best Female Country Vocal Performance. Beyoncé's haul was spread out across many categories. Her ubiquitous "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" won three Grammys, for Song of the Year, Best R&B Song and Best Female R&B Vocal Performance. "Halo" won for Best Pop Female Vocal Performance, and her version of Etta James' "At Last" took home the award for Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance.

"This has been such an amazing night for me," the diva said while accepting her Best Female Pop award. "I'd like to thank my family, including my husband [Jay-Z]. I love you."

Following close behind Beyoncé and Swift were a pair of artistes who won three Grammys, including Jay-Z (Best Rap Solo Performance, Best Rap Song and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration) and the Kings of Leon, who shocked many when their "Use Somebody" took home Record of the Year.

The Black Eyed Peas won three Grammys (one for Best Short Form Music Video); Eminem, who took home two awards; and Lady Gaga, who won two of her own.

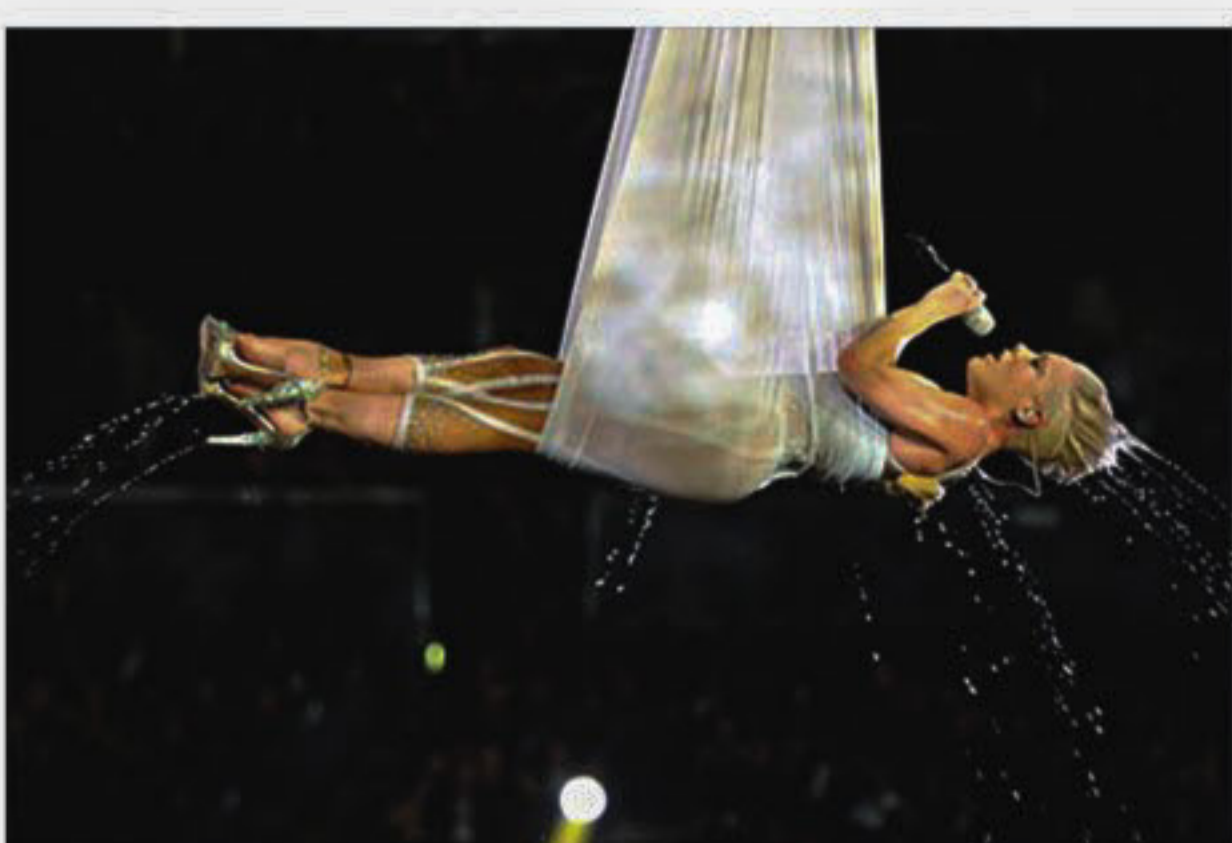
But for all the award-accepting merriment, it was the performances that shined brightest on this Grammy night. Or at least they shined the loud-



Taylor Swift and Stevie Nicks perform at the Grammys.

Show producers gave out only a handful of awards during the actual telecast, deciding to focus instead on the talents they had assembled inside the Staples Center, and that talent delivered, with one massive spectacle after the next.

Lady Gaga kicked off the show with a theatrical version of "Poker Face" -- which featured a steam-powered set dubbed "The Fame Factory," some flames and a pair of seriously



Pink gets aerial (and soaking wet) during her performance of "Glitter in the Air."

sparkly shoulder pads -- then welcomed Elton John to the stage for a duelling piano take on Gaga's "Speechless" (and a few bars of the John/Bernie Taupin classic "Your Song"). And, in keeping with the rather flamboyant nature of both artistes, show producers made sure their conjoined piano was topped with severed mannequin arms.



Elton John and Lady Gaga perform a duet.

It was a pretty epic opening, but Beyoncé didn't back down from the challenge. She stormed into Staples with an army of riot-gear-clad escorts, then got down to belting out a fiery version of "If I Were a Boy," complete with a shredding backing band and a brief foray into Alanis Morissette's "You Oughta Know." She wrapped up her performance by channeling her inner Tina Turner, dropping to her knees and

medley of their hits, which featured a battalion of electric-clad dancers, Fergie donning her Robocop finest and Will.I.Am rocking an inexplicable black moulding of his head on his head.

There was also a 3-D tribute to the late Michael Jackson, which featured Celine Dion, Carrie Underwood, Smokey Robinson and Jennifer Hudson performing Jackson's "Earth Song," while 3-D images played around them (and featured unintentionally comical shots of stars like Rihanna, Beyoncé and Will.I.Am wearing their 3-D glasses in the audience). It will probably be remembered best for what happened next, as two of Jackson's children -- son Prince and daughter Paris -- accepted an honorary lifetime-achievement award in their father's memory.

"Daddy was going to be here; he was going to perform this year, [because] he couldn't perform last year," his daughter Paris added. "Thank you. We love you, Daddy."

This night will probably be best remembered for Beyoncé and Swift's dominance, not to mention the sheer spectacle of the performances, which proved that even in our times, the music industry knows how to throw a party -- a massive, eye-popping, over-the-top one at that.

Compiled by Correspondent

# "Third Person Singular Number" at Rotterdam Film Festival

Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's latest feature film "Third Person Singular Number" was screened at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Netherlands, according to a press release. The festival began on January 27 and ended yesterday. The film also competed for the 'Netpac Award', which was given for the best feature film from Asia.

"Third Person Singular Number" was one of the 13 films from different Asian countries including Japan, China, South Korea, Philippines, Thailand and Turkey. According to Internet Movie Database, the Netpac Award for the best Asian film is chosen by a jury of Asian participants at the festival.

The director of the film, Farooki, met the press after the screening of his film, where he answered questions regarding Bangladeshi films.

Inspired by Syed Manzoorul Islam's novel, titled "Tin Parber Jibon O Kichhu Bastab Case Study," playwright Anisul Haque and Farooki jointly wrote the script for "Third Person Singular Number".

Featuring interrelationships among a convict serving a life sentence, his wife and a singer, the film poses a question: can a woman, on her own, lead a dignified life in our society?

Most of the cast members are small screen actors including



A scene from "Third Person Singular Number".

Tisha and Mosharrar Karim. Other roles were played by singer Topu, Abul Hayat and Rani Sarkar.

It is noteworthy that Rotterdam is one of the renowned European film festivals like Cannes, Venice and Berlin.

# Rahman strikes gold at the Grammys



AR Rahman receives his Grammy at the Staples Center in LA.

Indian music maestro AR Rahman, who won two awards at the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards ceremony here, says he never dreamt of winning.

"Insane, eh? I never even dreamt about winning all these awards," Rahman posted on his Twitter page after receiving the award.

He was honoured for his compositions in Danny Boyle's fairytale drama "Slumdog Millionaire". He won for the best compilation soundtrack for a motion picture and the best motion picture song for "Jai Ho", which he shares with lyricist Gulzar and Tanvi Shah.

The composition in the film has won Rahman the most prestigious international awards including two Oscars, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), Critics Choice Award and the Golden Globe.

The composer is often called the Mozart of Madras, the city where he works.

"This is insane, god is great again," Rahman said as he accepted his award.

Rahman beat such rivals as Quentin Tarantino for "Inglourious Basterds" and rock star Bruce Springsteen in the soundtrack and best song categories respectively.

Last month, Rahman was shortlisted for an Oscar nomination for his Tamil song NaNa from the Hollywood film, "Couples Retreat".

The song is vying with 62 others for the nominations. The 44-year-old composer is a musician with a staggering range -- from raga to reggae to hip hop to Indian folk to jungle rhythms to western classical.

Seventeen years after he began writing music and songs for films, the jingle maker-turned-musician finally got recognition as India's first truly global film-music composer with his score for Danny Boyle's sleeper hit "Slumdog Millionaire".

Star maestro Ravi Shankar, guitarist Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and tabla player Zakir Hussain are the other Indian musicians who have won Grammy Awards.

Source: Internet