

## 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. Mehedi 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 new arrival



## An artiste's journey into the world of music

Kanak Chapa turns writer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Renowned singer Kanak Chapa's *atmakothon* (narratives of her evolution as a singer) "Stobir Jajabor" is mainly for aspiring young singers. However it suits the interests of musicians old and young alike. The book has been published by Anonya Prokash. Noted writer Imdadul Haq Milon will formally unveil the book today at 5pm at the Ekushey Book Fair. The singer will be present at the event.

The book is directly related to the singer's emotions regarding her forte, and the knowledge she wants to share with all. Kanak worked on the book during her busy schedule, whenever she found time. It took her approximately two years to complete the book.

Kanak is not only known as a prominent singer but she is also regarded as a profound writer with several of her write-ups published in different national dailies. She writes about issues affecting our society. The artiste has been writing from quite a young age. It was around class six or seven when she began writing poems. Her works have been appreciated by renowned poets time and again.

Kanak has won the National Film Award [for playback singing] for the third time in 2008. She would be performing along with many other leading artistes at the closing programme of the SA Games, Kanak informed.

The illustration of "Stobir Jajabor" is by Dhrubo Esh.

## Archery

## An indigenous tradition in Dinajpur



PHOTO: STAR

About 70 indigenous people participated in the rural sports fest.

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A traditional archery championship competition of indigenous people was held recently in Biral upazila of Dinajpur.

The Biral Press Club and Television Channel Viewers Forum jointly organised the programme at Ballandar High School complex.

AKM Azadur Rahman Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Biral upazila inaugurated the "Rural Sports Festival of Indigenous people" as chief guest, while MA Kuddus General Secretary of Biral Press Club was present as special guest at the event.

About 70 indigenous people across the upazila participated in the rural sports fest held here.

The games included athletics, archery, football and kabaddi.

Later, AKM Azadur Rahman handed over prizes to the winners of the competition. The festival drew huge crowds from all communities.

## A poet taking up the people's cause

### Mahadev Saha honoured at National Poetry Festival

A CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyo Kabita Parishad Puroshkar (National Poetry Council Award) 2007 was conferred on eminent poet Mahadev Saha on February 2 at the Dhaka University Library premises. Saha received a crest and a cheque worth Taka 25,000. Parishad President and poet Habibullah Shirazi, poet Asad Chowdhury, convener of the Parishad; Aslam Sani, general secretary; presidium members Muhammad Samad and Tareq Sujat handed over the award to the poet. Saha gave away Taka 5,000 of the prize money to the Kabita Parishad.

"I'm elated to receive this prize from my fellow poets. The fraternity I belong to has honoured me and I humbly accept this honour. Jatiya Kabita Utsab (National Poetry Festival) is now one of the major cultural festivals in the country. The festival witnesses a confluence of poets from all over

the country and abroad," Saha said.

Mahadev Saha was born on August 5, 1944 in Dhanghara, Sirajganj. The sole child of parents Godadhor Saha and Birajmohini, Mahadev completed his primary and high school education in his village. For higher education he attended Dhaka College, Bogra College and Rajshahi University. "In my student days, I enjoyed reading works of the literary masters like Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Jibananda Das," said the poet.

The noteworthy elements in Saha's poetry are solitude, love, yearning, the Liberation War, nature, poverty, secularism and equal rights. The poet is deeply moved by the ravages of poverty. His style is unquestionably unique and evocative. His poems also have a ready impact with their uncomplicated approach. His words and verses articulate the torments of a lonesome soul and a mourning heart.



Mahadev Saha

PHOTO: PARTHA PRATIM SADHU

## Oscar nominations that are for the people



singling out works that were often unfamiliar even to regular moviegoers: challenging and sparsely attended productions such as "The Last King of Scotland" and "Milk." If the annual ceremony didn't change it risked becoming "an awards show dinosaur," academy President Tom Sherak said. "So we said, 'Let's do something, and not sit on our hands.'"

Some of the best-picture picks almost certainly would have been nominated by the academy's 5,777 voters even if the category was its usual size: James Cameron's science-fiction blockbuster "Avatar," Kathryn Bigelow's bomb-defuser drama "The Hurt Locker," Quentin Tarantino's World War II fantasy "Inglourious Basterds," Jason Reitman's downsizing dramedy "Up in the

Air" and Lee Daniels' incest survivor story "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire."

The filmmakers all were nominated for director, which, like most other categories, remained at five selections. It could be a historic year in the category. Were Bigelow to win the director Oscar, she would become the first woman to do so. If Daniels wins, he will be the first African American.

Although some of the year's most popular films -- including the beloved bachelor-party comedy "The Hangover" and the popular "Star Trek" reboot -- didn't make the shortlist, the five other best picture nominations represented a diverse slice of film genres, audience appeal and critical acclaim. In addition to "The Blind Side," "District 9" and "Up," the other best-picture nominees were the coming-of-age movie "An Education" and the quirky, dark comedy "A Serious Man."

The acting nominations include bold-faced names in high-profile studio productions (George Clooney in "Up in the Air," Meryl Streep from "Julia & Julia") as well as lesser-known, up-and-coming performers in smaller, independently financed films (Jeremy Renner for "The Hurt Locker," Carey Mulligan in "An Education").

Neill Blomkamp, who directed and co-wrote (with Terri Tatchell) "District 9," said he was astounded his apartheid allegory was nominated for the top honour, "even with the fact that they're trying to reach a larger audience. If someone had said to me while I was shooting the film in some shack in a township that it would have been nominated for best picture, I would have just laughed. It's absurd."

Source: Los Angeles Times

## Jackson's influence lives on in "We Are The World" remake

Twenty-five years after the all-star recording of "We Are the World" became a signature moment in celebrity altruism and pop-music history, a new collective of stars came together Monday at the same Hollywood recording studio to record a new version for Haiti earthquake relief.

Just as Michael Jackson, Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan descended on the A&M Studios on La Brea to sing for famine relief in Africa, Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Kanye West and Keith Urban turned up at the same soundstage (now called Henson Recording Studios) to join an all-star chorus that was 100 voices strong.

The 1985 effort, called USA for Africa, raised \$63 million and became a template for famous-face fundraising. The new single will premiere February 12 on NBC during the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics with the hope that the download single can help funnel aid into the ravaged island nation.

The anniversary project had been quietly planned for months and was scheduled for the day after the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards to maximise celebrity availability. The plan veered sharply, though, after the January 12 temblor in Haiti: Instead of more relief for Africa, the organisers switched gears and turned their cause to the Caribbean.

The scene on Monday, like the original session, was a fascinating mix of star confluence.

Where else would 83-year-old Tony Bennett sing in unison with 15-year-old Justin Bieber? Emphasising the cross-generational representation, the choir featured two Beach Boys (Brian Wilson and Al Jardine) and three Jonas Brothers (Nick, Joe and Kevin).

Some newly minted stars, such as Zac Brown, whose band won the best new artist Grammy on Sunday, seemed a bit wide-eyed to be milling in the sweltering recording room with the likes of Carlos Santana, who recorded a searing guitar solo for the single early in the six-hour session.

Other performers included Pink, Jeff Bridges, Vince Vaughn, Usher, Akon, T-Pain, Lil Wayne, Toni Braxton, Snoop Dogg and Josh Groban.

It wasn't all glamour -- Gladys Knight, unaware that she was on camera, was filmed applying makeup during one break. While everyone else took a break for dinner, Streisand stayed behind to work on her solo, struggling to find the right tone and phrasing.

It became a bit monotonous hearing the diva run through the same 21-word section more than two dozen times. But she didn't seem to mind: "I didn't come all this way just to do one," she said after one take.

The original recording session on January 28, 1985, featured 46 pop and rock stars, including Diana Ross, Billy Joel, Ray Charles, Tina Turner, Stevie Wonder and Willie Nelson. The song "We Are the World" was written by Jackson and Lionel Richie, and the single was



The all-star chorus included Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, Kanye West, Keith Urban and others.

produced by Quincy Jones, who also helped put together Monday's anniversary session.

After Streisand's solo time, the whole choir reconvened. Under the direction of Paul Haggis, the filmmaker best known for "Crash," the most star-packed cast on the planet made a music video while facing a swooping camera. At front and centre was Wyclef Jean, a former member of the Fugees and a defining presence in the public life of his native Haiti, especially in recent weeks.

Jean spoke to all who would listen. He talked emotionally about his own journey, as a young Haitian immigrant working at Burger King and falling in love with the music of Richie. "I'm like a kid in a candy shop," he said of the gallery of music heroes.

Jean had one overriding response to the night: "I just want to thank everyone. Haiti thanks you. The world thanks you."

Source: Compiled by Correspondent