

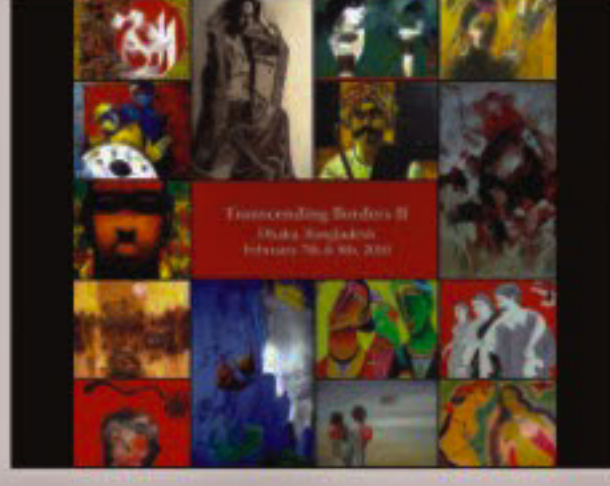
## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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



**Group Art Exhibition**

Title: Transcending Borders II  
 Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel, Airport Road, Dhaka  
 Date: February 7-8  
 Time: 11am-10pm



**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**

## Musician Topu's 'secret' is out

A CORRESPONDENT



Popular musician turned actor Topu now has another identity. Topu is making his debut as a writer with the book "Ekti Gopon Kotha" at the ongoing Ekushey Boi Mela this week. The book contains lyrics of 36 of his songs. *The Daily Star* spoke to Topu about the book. "All my songs are written by me, and they are mostly romantic songs. The book happened quite unexpectedly. Joy from Ajob Productions called me up and told me that they were interested in publishing a book featuring my lyrics. That's how it all started," says the singer-lyricist. What does he have to say about the book? "Nothing particular, apart from the fact that I am beginning to feel old," he adds with a laugh. "Usually veteran cultural personalities write books, publish memoirs. Publications also come about when someone passes away. But it's cool...I'm excited about this." What is the "Gopon Kotha" (secret) mentioned in the title of the book? "The secret is how a man/woman feels about the beloved. It's simple and plain confessions of innermost emotions," Topu says. Interestingly enough, Topu used to write poems from an early age. His mother has preserved those writing. However, this book "Ekti Gopon Kotha" is about the depth of his lyrics.

# Emdadul Haque Milon discusses his new books



Random attraction at the Boi Mela: a flutist in jatra costume draws public intrigue.



Emdadul Haque Milon

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

MAINUL HASSAN

One of the major attractions of the Ekushey Book Fair are the latest books by leading and popular writers of the country, among them this year are eight works by noted novelist Emdadul Haque Milon. "This year there has been an impressive response and people have been thronging the venue by the hundreds from the very first day," said Milon. "This is a major event. The premises are transformed into a single meeting place for writers, book lovers and readers," added Milon. "Bondhubandhob" is among Milon's books that have been unveiled at the fair.

"The book contains many untold stories. Staring from my school days to my university years and adult life. I have been fortunate to have many friends; some among them are famous, while some not so. I have shared many treasured moments of my life with them and given an account of how the friendships began." Recalling his first encounter with noted author Humayun Ahmed, Milon said, "At an Ekushey Book Fair many years ago, Humayun Ahmed approached me with one of my books in hand, and asked for my autograph. I was taken aback. Since that day he has been a good friend and a well wisher. "Bondhubandhob" contains many such stories -- some of the most interesting incidents of my life," said Milon.

Among his other newly published works are "Lillian Upakhyhan", and "Aaina Kahini." The novel "Lilian Upakhyhan" centres on a German girl named Lillian and her struggles in European society. "Every society has its unique range of issues. The book addresses that aspect. From 1979 to '81, I was in Germany. There I became friends with a girl who's name was Lillian," Milon said. "Aaina Kahini" focuses on the issue of dowry. "In the novel the central character, Aaina, is rejected by her lover who he refuses to marry her without dowry. As a form of protest, Aaina goes on a hunger strike in front of her lover's house. Through this book I've tried to address an alarming social issue: deception in the name of love," the author said.

"Aaina Kahini," "Lillian Upakhyhan," and "Bondhubandhob" have been brought out by the publication house Anonya. Among other Ekushey Book Fair specials by the writer are: "Shomogro Kishore Upanyash" -- a compilation of eight novels for adolescents [also from Anonya]. "Shei Bideshi Meye", a novel from Prothoma Prokashoni; A romantic novel "Sraban Shondha Tuku" from Anyo Prokash and "Shei Priyo Mukh" a novel on the Liberation War, from Nandanik Prokashoni, have also been published. "I hope this year's fair will be a major success and a treat for book lovers. More publication houses are taking part and this year's event seems more organised as well," he said.

## Coming soon! fan mail

We know that our readers would like to know more about their favourite artistes and celebrities. To take our readers closer to the stars a fortnightly (once every two weeks) feature, starting from February 14, will be based on questions sent by you.

Readers are invited to send questions right away! Write to:



fan mail  
 Arts and Entertainment  
 The Daily Star  
 19 Karwan Bazaar  
 Dhaka 1209  
 or  
 culture\_dailystar@yahoo.com  
 [subject should say "fan mail"]

## At London sale, a Giacometti sculpture sets a record



The sculpture (right) by Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti entitled "Walking Man I", at the auction house, in London.

One of Alberto Giacometti's best-loved bronzes, "Walking Man I," has broken the world record price for a work of art at auction, selling to an unidentified telephone bidder for \$92.5 million, or \$104.3 million with fees, at Sotheby's in London on Wednesday night. The previous record was \$104.1 million, paid for a 1905 Picasso, "Boy With a Pipe (The Young Apprentice)," at Sotheby's in New York in 2004.

In an overflowing salesroom 10 bidders competed for the six-foot-tall sculpture, which was conceived in 1960 and cast a year later. Sotheby's had expected the sculpture to bring \$19.2 million to \$28.8 million. The \$104.3 million was more than three times the record for a Giacometti, which was set at Christie's New York in May 2008 when "Standing Woman II" from 1959-60 sold for \$27.4 million. As perhaps the most recognisable of all

Giacometti sculptures, "Walking Man I" is itself a trophy piece. Not only is the form impressive, but so is the size. The sculpture was cast in an edition of six and four artist proofs, most of which are in museums or private collections, where they are considered likely to stay. "Walking Man I" was being sold by Dresdner Bank in Germany, which acquired it in 1980. It had been commissioned -- along with a group of others bronzes -- by the architect Gordon Bunshaft for Chase Manhattan Plaza in downtown Manhattan, where it was to stand alongside Bunshaft's 60-story glass-and-steel Chase headquarters. Although the installation was never realised, some of the sculptures -- and others that Giacometti created as experiments for the project -- were made; many, though, he destroyed.

Source: Internet

## Theatre festival at Jahangirnagar University

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong theatre festival, titled "Naty Parban-2010" at the Muktamanch (open stage) of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will begin on February 11. Arranged by Jahangirnagar Theatre (JT), the festival will feature staging of eight plays, including popular productions of Dhaka troupes.

The festival will open through a procession in the morning. On the evening of February 11, Natyachakra will stage "Cyclewala". JT will stage two plays -- "Shurabhat" and "Bhabmurti".

Among other troupes from Dhaka, Drishyapat will stage its acclaimed production "Socrates-er Jabanbandi". Natyakendra will stage its latest produc-



tion "Dalimkumar". Theatre Art Unit and Palakar's "Golapjaan" and "Daakghar", respectively, are the other Dhaka productions to be staged at the festival. Theatre Circle, a troupe from Munshiganj, will stage "Mago Ora Boley". The festival will also feature a couple of felicitation programmes, honouring theatre personality Rokeya Rafiq Baby and Language Movement Veteran Pratibha Mutsuddi. Everyday, plays at the festival will start at 7pm. The festival is an annual arrangement by JT, with an aim to encourage and enrich theatre activities on JU campus.



Theatre troupe Prachyanat staged its latest production "Punarjanmo" at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 3. Adapted from legendary Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's last work "When We Dead Awaken", the play has been directed by Azad Abul Kalam. Shahidul Mamun did the translation. The cast included Azad Abul Kalam, Reetu Sattar and Kazi Toufikul Islam Emon.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

The 5th Citycell-Channel i Music Awards programme will be re-aired today at 2:30pm on Channel i. The gala ceremony was held at the Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel recently. The event is held to honour the talented musicians of the country. Like last year, this year's music awards also featured twenty categories, though there was no submission in the Best Underground Band and Best Classical (Vocal). Amongst the twenty, four awards were given based on popular votes.