

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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



**Cultural Programme**  
To mark Amar Ekushey  
Organiser: Shammilita Sangskritik Jote  
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises  
Date: February 8-21  
Time: 4pm onwards



**Book Launch**  
Binir Shathe Putul Biye  
Writer: Nazia Jabeen  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H-275/F, R-27 Dhanmondi  
Publisher: Sahitya Prakash  
Date: February 13  
Time: 3pm



**Theatre**  
Play: Half Akhrai  
Troupe: Udichee  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: February 15  
Time: 7:00 pm



## Boi Mela thoughts



## "Ekushey Book Fair reminds us of the Language Movement"

Asad Chowdhury

This year's Ekushey Book Fair offers three new works of poet Asad Chowdhury. The poet recently spoke to The Daily Star and shared his thoughts on Ekushey February, the book fair, his latest works and more.

"To literature enthusiasts, any book fair is a major occasion. Book lovers go to the fairs to buy books, to have a good time, or just simply to hang out with friends. But of all the fairs, Ekushey Book Fair has a unique appeal," said Chowdhury.

"Ekushey Book Fair reminds us of the Language Movement and what happened on February 21, 1952.

"Language Movement is a key event in our national history. It united people from all walks of life for a common cause -- ensure the right to speak our mother language, Bangla.

"Through the Language Movement, Bengalis rediscovered themselves, strengthening their sense of identity."

Speaking of his latest works, Chowdhury

said, "Among my books to be available at this year's book fair are: a collection of poems, 'Bojro Kontho Themey Geley' (from Panjeri Publications); 'Tushar Konya', a fiction for adolescents (from Utsho Prokashoni) and 'Ei Bhromon Aar Kichhu Noy', a travelogue."

"This year's book fair is witnessing a good turnout since its beginning. I think the fair will be successful -- satisfying both the publishers and the readers."

Calling the price hike of essentials "a major obstacle," Asad Chowdhury said, "With the price of everyday commodities on the rise there is a possibility that many would find it difficult to afford books."



## SSJ's Ekushey commemorative programme begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fortnight-long cultural event to mark 'Amar Ekushey' (International Mother Language Day) has begun at the Central Shaheed Minar premises on February 8. Organised by Shammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ), the programme features dance, music, street plays, recitation and more. Finance Minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhith inaugurated the programme last Monday.

Everyday member organisations of SSJ and art-

istes perform at the programme. On the second day (February 9), artistes of Udichi and Sur Sambhar rendered group songs; members of Utsha presented group recitation and children's organisation Bhorer Pakhi staged group dance.

The programme started with the dance performance by Bhorer Pakhi. They staged three dances to patriotic songs. Udichi's group renditions included "Muktir Mandir Shohan Toley".

Among the artistes, Mahadev Ghosh and Malay Kumar rendered solo songs. Ghosh's renditions

included "Salam Salam Hajar Salam" and "Mago Bhabna Keno". Among reciters, Solaiman Kabir, Jannatul Moumita and Zahirul Haque Khan presented solo performances.

Street plays were also part of the second day's programme. Two plays "Chor" and "Shakun" -- respectively by Padatik Natya Sangsad (TSC) and Dhaka Nandanik -- were staged on the day. "Chor" was written and directed by Kazi Rafique.

Everyday the programme starts at 4pm. The programme will continue till February 21.



Padatik Natya Sangsad (TSC) stage the play "Chor".

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

## Rabindra Sangeet with classical dance in Delhi

## Tagore for all seasons

KAVITA, New Delhi

It's that time of the year when you bid adieu to a long, cold winter and ready to welcome the joyous and colourful season of *Basanta* or spring. The magic of changing seasons ("Ritu Rang") is evocatively captured in Rabindra Sangeet. And what if it is combined with the graceful and lyrical Kathak and Odissi dances? You have a delightful mélange, titled "Tagore for the Six Seasons: Interpretations of Rabindra Sangeet in Odissi and Kathak." The recital was held on February 9 at the India International Centre, a cultural hub of Delhi.

Madhavi Mudgal, the renowned Odissi dancer who hails from a family of illustrious musicians, had choreographed the show, while the dancers were her niece Arushi Mudgal (Odissi) and Monisha Nayak (Kathak). Explaining the nuances of the superb performance, Madhavi says, "In our concert we start with *Basanta*, go on to *Grishma* (summer), *Barsha* (rainy season), *Sharat* (early autumn), *Hemanta* (late autumn), *Sheeth* (winter) and once again return to *Basanta*. Tagore said that when the flower blossoms on the tree you think this is it, but within the flower is the fruit, within the fruit is the seed. Within the seed is the tree. So one element gives way to another. We take it as a finality but it is a cycle and that is what we tried to capture in this performance."

This cyclical passage of time was gracefully depicted by Arushi and Monisha. The duo embarked on the concert with a duet on *Basanta* that set the tone for the evening. Then followed several solos and duets with intricate footwork and some amazing elements of *abhinaya* (expressions). The show ended with *Basanta* once more, complete with *dandiya* and the strewing of marigolds.

Odissi, believes Madhavi is "very conducive to bringing out the poetic aspect

of Tagore because it is curved, it is rounded, it's lyrical. The lyricism of the poetry can be well depicted."

While the two dancers performed with ease, much homework had to be done beforehand. Says Arushi, "It is interesting to perform Odissi with Tagore songs, but it is also very challenging because we do not do such concerts often, the poetry is so rich in itself and to do justice to it is difficult. First we have to understand the poem."

Kathak dancer (Jaipur Gharana), Monisha Nayak, though a Bengali also found the fusing of her dance genre with Rabindra Sangeet a challenging experience. "Tagore's songs are more based on the *taal*, the rhythmic aspect, and have a very beautiful, aesthetic interpretation. Joining these elements with dance was difficult but very interesting," she says.

While Arushi and Monisha stole the thunder, credit must, of course go to the talented seven accompanists behind the Rabindra Sangeet performance and Jayati Ghosh (vocals) in particular.

Madhavi and the two dancers are not novices to such performances. In March 2008, as part of "Utsav: Celebrating Tagore in the 21st century" Madhavi choreographed dance compositions of Tagore's "Ritu Rang" (or songs of the seasons). The four-day festival was jointly organised by the India International Centre and Shadhona.

And such "fusion" of two art forms is not entirely new, says Lubna Mariam, founder and general secretary of Shadhona.

"Tagore's entire concept of dance, and music, was one of *sangmsiran* which is the word he coined much, much before the world adopted the word 'fusion' for music. So, this was definitely not the first time that fusion was being used for Rabindra Nritya. But, yes, this was a rare instance of a leading classical dancer experimenting with Tagore's songs," she told this correspondent.



The cyclical passage of time gracefully depicted by Arushi Mudgal and Monisha Nayak.



## 5th International Drama Festival

## Bangladeshi production *Sojon Dulee* staged in India

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

Faridpur CDL Children's Theatre, an associate member of People's Theatre Association Bangladesh, recently staged "Sojon Dulee" (an adaptation of Polli Kobi Jasimuddin's famed poem "Shojon Badiar Ghat").

The play was staged in New Delhi, India during the 5th International Drama Festival 2010 (January 26-30).

The play was edited by Abdullah Biplob and directed by Habiba Akter Ananna.

The play delineates the friendship and budding naive love between two children. People infuriated by the relationship cause a rift between them and a riot ensues. Their friendship, nevertheless, withstands such tests by fire. The play highlights a sensitive and inspiring



The young actors seen with the organisers.

portrayal of communal harmony. Badan, Rajani, Lima, Parul, Mukta, Shanto, Prottoy, Keya, and Akash played the central characters.

Kamrul Hasan Jewel, convener of the Faridpur CDL Children's Theatre; dramatist Aminur Rahaman Farid; singer Shahnaz Parveen and Habiba Akter Ananna led the troupe in India.

## Valentine's Day

conquer Love with Conqueror!

On this Valentine's Day,  
No emails, No cards. No song dedication,  
NO chocolate covered candy cakes.  
I just want to write to you.  
I just want to tell you,  
I love you, I want you and  
I will conquer Love with Conqueror.....



Write your heart out on the finest paper that ever was.

On 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February, you will find us at

- Bitter Sweet Café
- B ISI
- Café Mango
- Cuppa Coffee Club
- El Toro
- Floor 6
- Kozmo
- Roll Xpress
- Coffee World

Ogilvy & Mather

conqueror