

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: Shammilito Sangskritik Jote
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises
Date: February 8-21
Time: 4pm onwards



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Rashid Amin
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi
Date: February 18-March 1
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition

Photographer: Andera Kunzig
Title: Urban Changes
Venue: Goethe Institut Bangladesh
Date: February 8-25
Time: 10am-7pm



Boi Mela thoughts



Bratachari music and dance at Ekushey Book Fair



Artistes of Bratachari Samiti Bangladesh during a performance.

PHOTO: NELOY HOSSAIN

ZAHANGIR ALOM

On the 15th day (February 15) of Ekushey Book Fair, cultural organisation Bratachari Samiti Bangladesh (BSB) staged poetry recitation, music and dance, followed with performances by Wrishiz Shilpi Goshthi at Bangla Academy premises.

Artistes of Bratachari performed "Manush Haw", "Bangla Bhumir Daan", "Amra Bangali", "Kodal Chalai", "Manush Dol", "Tarun Dol", "Kriye Nrite", "Dhamail", "Kathi Naach", "Jhumur", "Jari", "Raibeshey" and more on the occasion.

In 1934, Gurusaday Dutt started the 'Bratachari' movement. In his words, in "The Bratachari Synthe-

sis" (first published in 1937), "the movement is to bring back to humanity, in all countries, the ideal and practice of the wholeness of life which, alike in the individual, the national and the international sphere has been so grievously shattered in the modern world in every country by the fragmentary outlook on, and treatment of, life in education, science, work, play and social functioning."

The aim of the movement -- in other words, Dutt's aspiration -- was to reinstate a well-rounded sense of being by upholding the inherent values of individual and regional diversities. As Dutt used to say, "Bishwa-manab hobi jodi, shashwata Bangali haw." (If you want to be an effective global citizen, be a true Bengali first.)

Followers of 'Bratachari Andolan' (movement) abide by five *brata* (vows) -- regarding knowledge, labour, honesty, unity and recreation.

Prior to the group's performance, Fahima Samad of Bratachari spoke on the life and works of Gurusaday Dutt.

Artistes of Wrishiz Shilpi Goshthi rendered a number of *gano sangeet* and folk songs at the event. Their renditions included "Ei Shomadhi Toley Koto Rran", "Rakto Diye Kinlam Bangla", "Salam Salam Hajar Salam", "Ora Amar Mukher Bhabha Kaira Nitey Chaye", "Manusher Majhey Boshobash Kori", "Agey Ki Shundor Din Kataitam" and more.

The event wrapped up with Fakir Alamgir's renditions of *gano sangeet*.

With the theme "Buker khuney juddha jari, Amor Ekushey February", Shammilito Sangskritik Jote is holding a fortnight-long Ekushey special programme at central Shaheed Minar premises. On its eighth day (February 15), child artistes of Liza Lalitakala Academy performed group dances. Istekbal Hossain, Iqbal Khorshed, Shyamoli Sultana and Mukta Shaha staged solo recitations while artistes of two cultural organisations Udichi Shilpi Goshthi and Nandankanan presented group recitations. Kazi Mizanur Rahman and Alawal Haque rendered solos. Artistes of Dhrubatan and Ustad Momtaj Ali Khan Sangeet Academy performed group renditions on the occasion. Theatre troupes Mohakal and Natyadeep staged two street plays written and directed by Swapon Bhattacharya and Khorshed Alam. Shabda Natya Charcha Kendra staged a street play as well.



"Taxi Driver" remake the buzz of Berlin Film Fest

Berlin International Film Festival and the Internet have been abuzz with rumours of a Martin Scorsese-Robert De Niro-Lars Von Trier collaboration -- and, at least for the time being, they appear to be true.

The idea behind the project is similar to the film "The Five Obstructions" that Von Trier and Danish helmer Jorgen Leth made in 2003. In that film, Von Trier challenged his colleague Leth to do a remake of his own 1967 film "The Perfect Human." Von Trier gave Leth the task of remaking five times, each time with a different obstacle, such as making the film animated.

In the new project, Von Trier will challenge Scorsese and De Niro to remake their 1976 classic "Taxi Driver."

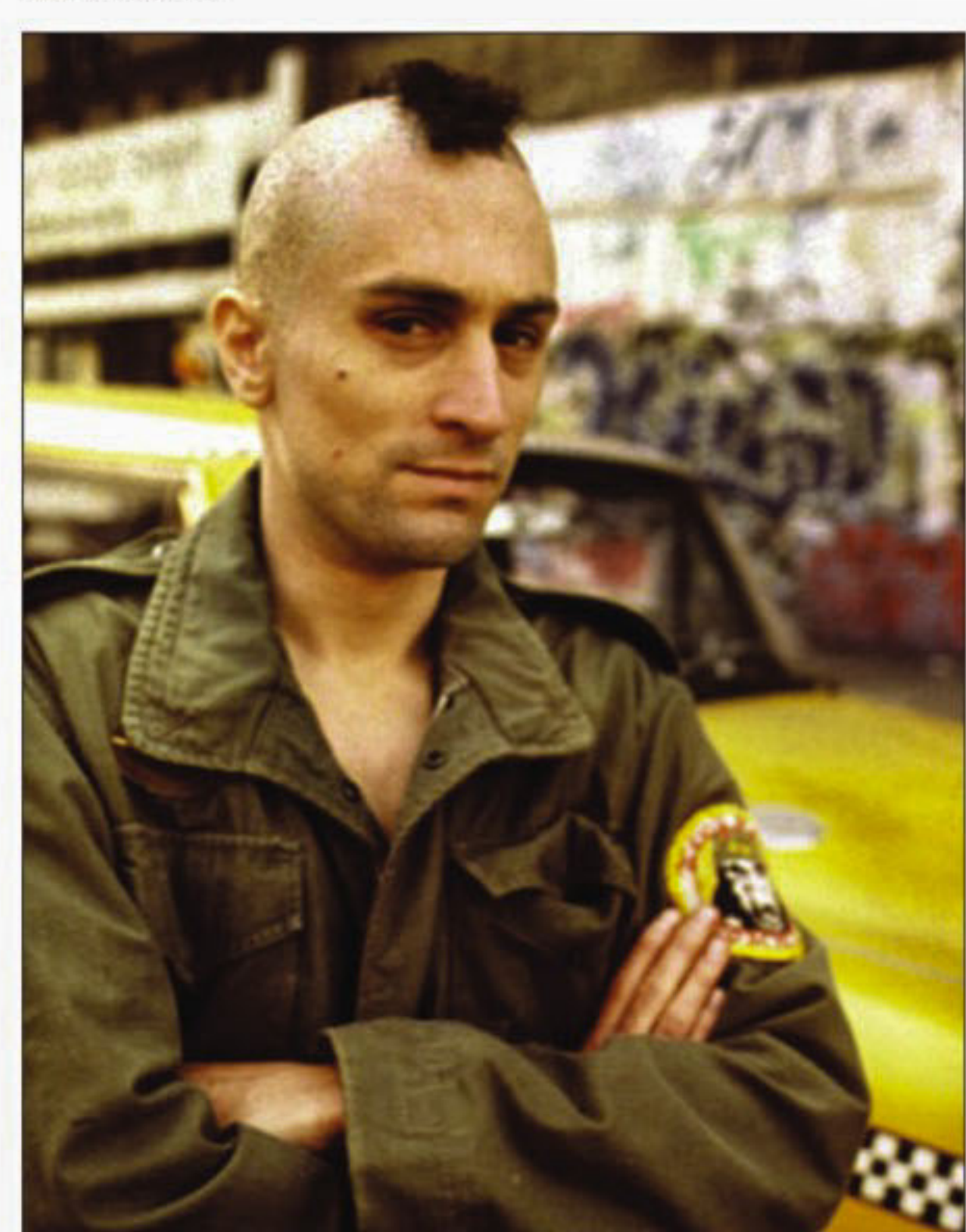
The story took on a life of its own after a Danish newspaper published an interview in which Peter Aalbaeck Jensen, Von Trier's business partner and executive producer, said he could neither confirm nor deny the rumours.

"There will be a statement coming shortly," he said -- although another Danish source confirmed the collaboration.

Scorsese is in Berlin to promote his thriller "Shutter Island," which was premiered there last Saturday night, while Von Trier drove down from Copenhagen to be a part of the pre-sales meetings of his forthcoming sci-fi film "Melancholia." That film is to be shot within the next year, so the Scorsese collaboration would probably have to wait.

Over the weekend, when Scorsese was doing press in Berlin, he did not mention the Von Trier project, as discussion focused on features in pre-production, such as a 3D adaptation of Brian Selznick's novel "The Invention of Hugo Cabret."

Source: Internet



Robert De Niro in the 1976 classic "Taxi Driver".

"The fair is the only place where there is a confluence of our writers and poets"

-- Shujauddin Kaisar

A CORRESPONDENT

Shujauddin Kaisar is one of the leading poets of the '70s and his poems focus on patriotism, people's woes, wants and desires. A bohemian in personal life, Kaisar is very outspoken and bold. His selection of words and phrases have fetched him admirers. After the '70s, a number of poets wanted to start a movement that would encourage noticeable form and content. Kaisar was in their ranks.

At the ongoing Ekushey Boi Mela, Kaisar's poetry books "Lajjar Bhetor Alo O Andharey" (from 1971 Prokashoni) and "Balobashar Grihosthali" (third edition) are available.

"When I started writing poetry during the Liberation War, I used to dream of holding such a book fair. After independence, a small book fair began in front of the Bangla Academy," he says.

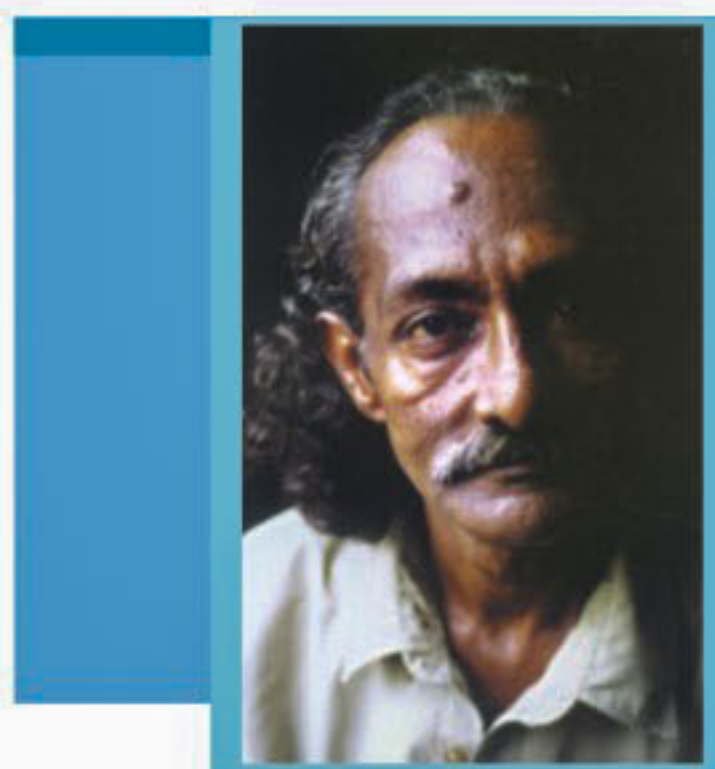


PHOTO: MASIR ALI MAMUN

"I always go to the book fair. Though it is very difficult to browse books in an overcrowded atmosphere. The fair is the only place where there is a confluence of our writers and poets. The Bangla Academy premises take on a festive mood on this occasion. I believe the book fair is now a part and parcel of our national culture and tradition."



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Theatre troupe Prachyanat staged its acclaimed production "Koinna" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 15. Scripted by Murad Khan and directed by Azad Abul Kalam, the play is based on a myth of northwestern part of the country. People believe that they live under the spiritual protection of one "Koinnapir" who is still believed to inhabit the mossy-green water of a local pond as a fish, accessible only to Nior, the respected head and descendent of the house. The play traces the mystery and imaginative creation that operates at the subconscious level of men.

Ekushey specials on ATN Bangla



(From left) Sumaiya Shimu, Apurbo and Abul Hayat in "Paap".

A CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will air special programmes on the International Mother Language Day (February 21). At 12:15 pm that day, "Barnomala", a

programme for children, will be aired. Kajali Ahmed has directed the programme.

Tele-film "Paap" will be aired at 3:15pm. Written and directed by Ferdaus Hasan, the tele-film features Abul Hayat, Sumaiya Shimu and Apurbo in lead roles. A special episode of



Mamunur Rashid (2-L) and co-actors in "Murda Pharash".

the regular show "Bashudha Dhak Dhol" will be aired at 5:15pm. Hosted by Sreya, the programme is directed by Shamim Ahmed.

A special entertainment show will be aired at 6:15pm. Single-episode play "Murda Pharash" will be aired at 8:45pm. Written and directed by

Mamunur Rashid, the cast includes Tamalika Karmakar, AKM Hasan, Tushar Khan and Mamunur Rashid.

The daylong programme will wrap up with "Palash Ranga Barnomala". Rumana Afroz has directed the programme.