

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

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



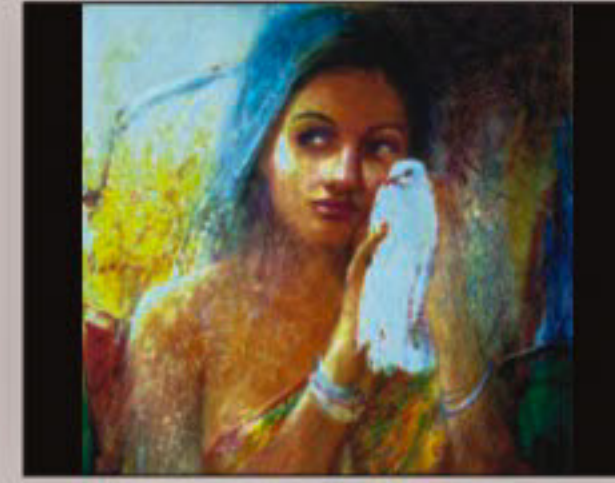
### Solo Art Exhibition

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



### Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Haq Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2  
Date: March 15-28  
Time: 10am-8pm



### Film Festival

Title: Amar Bashar Chalachitra  
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society  
Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU  
Date: February 22-28  
Time: 10:30am onwards



## Ekushey Book Fair ends tomorrow

Discussion on the state of language in Bangladesh

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The month-long Amar Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy premises ends tomorrow. Apart from books, the fair also features cultural programmes and discussion everyday. Noted personalities present keynote papers on different topics related to language and literature.

The discussion on February 25 featured a keynote paper by Dr. Zeenat Imtiaz Ali.

Dr. Ali's paper discussed the languages of the indigenous communities of Bangladesh. According to the paper, "Only indigenous languages such as

Marma and Chakma have alphabets. The rest are in oral form and are endangered at present." Through the paper, Dr. Ali urged the authorities to take necessary steps to protect and preserve these languages. Dr. Ali also said that a community's cultural identity is reflected through its language.

Professor Mohammad Daniul Haque, Professor Khondokar Ashraf Hossain, Professor Sourabh Sikdar and Associate Professor Gulshan Ara discussed on the topic. Professor Moniruzzaman presided over the discussion.

The discussion was followed by a

cultural programme. Highlight of the programme was performances of traditional songs. Helim Bayati recited from *puthi*, while Kuddus Bayati, Kanganini Sufia, Saidur Rahman Bayati, Bimol Baul, Idris Ali Bayati, Abdul Awal, Abdul Latif Shah, Aroj Ali Bayati, Alam Dewan, Hashi Sarkar and Ranjit Das Baul rendered songs at the programme.

Rabindranath Paul, Dasharath Das, Hasan Ali, Ashutosh Shil and Nazmul Alam Khan accompanied the artistes with instruments.

## Breathing new life into Tagore songs

"Swaponocharini": Bonna's latest offering to music enthusiasts



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna sings at the programme.

### JAMIL MAHMUD

Noted Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna's latest solo album "Swaponocharini" was launched on February 25 at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts. The album has been produced under the banner of Bengal Music Company Ltd, and features ten songs. Finance Minister AMA Muhith unveiled the new album cover as the chief guest. A live performance by the singer was the highlight of the event.

All songs in the album belong to 'prem parjay' or romantic themes. Featured songs are: "Alor Amol Kamolkhani", "E Ki Shatya Shokoli Shatya", "Ekhono Tarey Chokhey Dekhini", "Chokhey Amar Trishna", "Rimik Jhimik Jhorey", "Shaghano Gahan Ratri", "Kon Shey Jharer Bhul", "Ghar-etey Bhramar Elo

Gunguniye", "Sunil Sagarer Shyamol Kinarey" and "Jey Chhilo Amar Swaponocharini".

Bengal Music sources informed that the album would be available in the market starting from Pahela Boishakh (April 14).

Three young musicians -- Pulok Sarkar (from Kolkata), Labik Kamal Gaurob and Saad -- have done the music arrangement for the album. Bonna pointed out that some of the numbers are fusion, as the young musicians provided their interpretations.

"When Gaurob and Saad approached me about the album, I was somewhat perplexed. Later I realised that it is their appreciation of Rabindra Sangeet that has persuaded them to consider this project. I'm not saying that this is the most brilliant piece of work available in the music scene at this moment but the fact that

these emerging musicians have felt the urge to interpret Tagore in their unique way deserves encouragement. I'm hopeful that this album will reach out to the young music enthusiasts," said Bonna at the programme.

In his speech, AMA Muhith praised Bonna for her tireless efforts to popularise Rabindra Sangeet among the masses.

Among others, Abul Khair Litu, chairman, Bengal Foundation and Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director and chief executive officer of Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL) were present at the event. EBL is the sponsor of the album.

Ziaul Karim, deputy managing director, Bengal Music Company gave the welcome speech.

Later Bonna rendered several songs from the album. Reciter Pragna Laboni was the MC at the programme.

## Ayub Bachchu sets tunes to rhymes



The album features the rhymes with a taste of "funky rock," according to Bachchu.

### A CORRESPONDENT

Bachchu is out to change that.

"No rock music for you" -- many kids are used to hearing this. Now rocker Ayub

Babu" is sure to draw interest among the youngsters, and curiosity among adults. This is Bachchu's first set of compositions of its kind. The musician has set tunes to rhymes for children, written by Sajjad Hussain. The album comes with Hussain's book of rhymes [with the same title].

The album features the rhymes, with a taste of "funky rock" as Bachchu puts it. Songs in the album are -- "Asharey Golpo", "Maan Gelo", "Ei Ja", "Da Kumro", "Jaha Tota Tahai Tiya", "Dui Bhai", "Shoda Bhokey Moha Rogey" and so on; a total of twelve tracks.

"Each rhyme focuses on a certain character, and tries to address an issue," says Hussain. A highpoint of the book are vibrant illustrations by Shibu Kumar Shil.

Associated with music since 2006, Hussain has written songs for several

noted and upcoming bands and musicians, including Ayub Bachchu (for his solo album "Rimjhim Brishti"), Hassan Abidur Reza Jewel (for "Dorja Khola Bari") and LRB (for the album "Sporsho").

LRB's upcoming album "Juddho" (set to be released soon) also includes Hussain's lyrics.

Talking about the album, Bachchu says, "This experience has been completely new and unique. This is my first time working on rhymes and I thoroughly enjoyed the entire recording process."

Songs in the album have been recorded by singers Tanvir Hossain Probal, Selima Osman and Zakia Sultana.

The album and book have been published by Oitijhya.

Ayub Bachchu hopes that the album will find eager ears among music enthusiasts of all ages.

## Snapshots

### Burton takes Alice down the rabbit hole



Anne Hathaway as the White Queen.

The visionary filmmaker behind "Edward Scissorhands" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" has taken on the ultimate fantasy challenge -- turning Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" into a 3-D spectacle that makes the familiar seem new again. Mia Wasikowska plays an older Alice, who once again falls into the rabbit hole and reunites with the bizarre creatures she met as a child.

Once again, Johnny Depp is a one-person freak show as the Hatter, who is revealed to be a somewhat tragic figure with a special tie to Alice that recalls the Scarecrow and Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz".

After six films and two children together, one might think Tim Burton would have allowed the British love of his life, Helena Bonhan Carter, to be Alice. Nope. "Then I thought maybe the

White Queen, who is petite and pretty," the actress says. "Ah, no. I'm the large, oversized head person" -- a distortion created in post-production. As for all the yelling required for the furious royal, partly inspired by queen of mean Leona Helmsley, "It's great fun playing it but it's exhausting, losing your temper. She is age 2 in emotional control."

A vision in blinding white save for her charcoal brows and blood-red lips, Anne Hathaway's White Queen is not as good and pure as she seems. "She comes from the same gene pool as the Red Queen," the actress has explained. "She really likes the dark side, but she's so scared of going too far into it that she's made everything appear very light and happy."

Audiences get a double dose of Matt Lucas, the star of the popular UK comedy sketch show "Little Britain" -- but



Helena Bonhan Carter as the Red Queen.



Matt Lucas as Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

only his face and physical movements make it onto the screen. Those Humpty Dumpty-like bodies are totally CG. "I was in a green body suit and would have to walk on stilts sometimes," Lucas says. "I

spent 10 weeks on the set filled with green screens. If I never see another green room again, it would be good."

Compiled by Correspondent

## Painting competition for disadvantaged children

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A painting competition for disadvantaged children was organised by Municipality Community Development Committee at Ishwardi on February 24. Over 100 children of eight satellite schools of Ishwardi municipality participated in the event. This exceptional competition was held to mark International Mother Language Day to generate awareness about the Language Movement among the disadvantaged and marginalised children.

Slum Development Officer of Ishwardi municipality, Nazma Akter, chaired the programme. Panel Chairman of Ishwardi municipality, Shamsul Alam, spoke as the chief guest. Among others, municipality councillors Anwar Hossain, Firoza Begum, Bithi Islam and Mosharaf Hossain; journalist Salim Sardar; secretary of Ishwardi municipality Rabiul Haque and engineer of the municipality Anisur Rahman, attended the event.

Speakers at the competition emphasised the need to assist disadvantaged children.



PHOTO: STAR

### Children take part in the competition.

Disadvantaged children have all the potentials to become assets to society. With better facilities they can make immense contributions, expressed the speakers.

A large number of disadvantaged children do not have access to education, healthcare and other facilities. It is our duty to assist them and give up our neglectful attitude towards them, they added.

Later the guests distributed prizes among the lucky winners of the competition.

## CORPORATE BOOKING

Xtreme Racing (Go-Kart Track) will be reserved on 27th February, 2010 (Saturday)

for QUBEE (Inter-University Go-Kart Tournament 2010).

From 28th February, 2010 (Sunday) Xtreme Racing will remain open for all.

