

WHAT'S ON

Theatre
Troupe: Nagorik Natyangan
Ensemble
Play: Raju Rai (Premier Show)
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 4, Time: 6:30pm



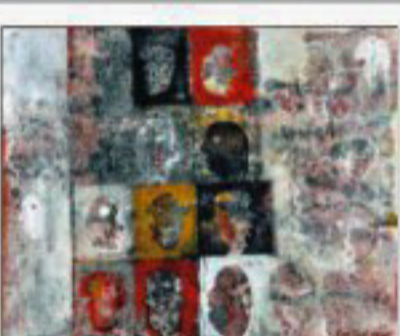
Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Yasmin Mustari
Venue: IGC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: February 4
Time: 6:30pm

Chobi Mela VI
At seven different venues
Theme: Dreams
Organiser: Dink
Date: Jan 21- Feb 3



Solo Musical Soiree
Artist: Tapan Sarkar
Venue: Nat Mondol, Dhaka University
Date: February 1
Time: 6pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Mohammad Faruk
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7A, H-60, Dhanomdi
Date: January 28-February 6
Time: 5pm-8pm



Solo Sitar Recital
Artist: Reenat Fauzia
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: Feb 5; Time: 5:30pm



Ikebana Contest and Demonstration
Organiser: JIAB and the Embassy in Japan
Venue: Lake Shore Hotel, H-46, R-4, Gulshan-2
Date: February 4, Time: 10:30am



Theatre
Troupe: Samay
Play: Shesh Shonglap
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: February 3
Time: 6:00pm



A touch of royalty

'Raj Punyah' held in Bandarban



Chief of Bomang Circle Aungsui Pru Chodhury (C) seen along with guests on the first day of the festival.

PHOTO: STAR

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, back from Bandarban

The celebration of the 135th 'Raj Punyah', the age old festival of the royal Bomang dynasty ended on Wednesday at the Rajbari compound, amidst festivity and fanfare in the hill town of Bandarban.

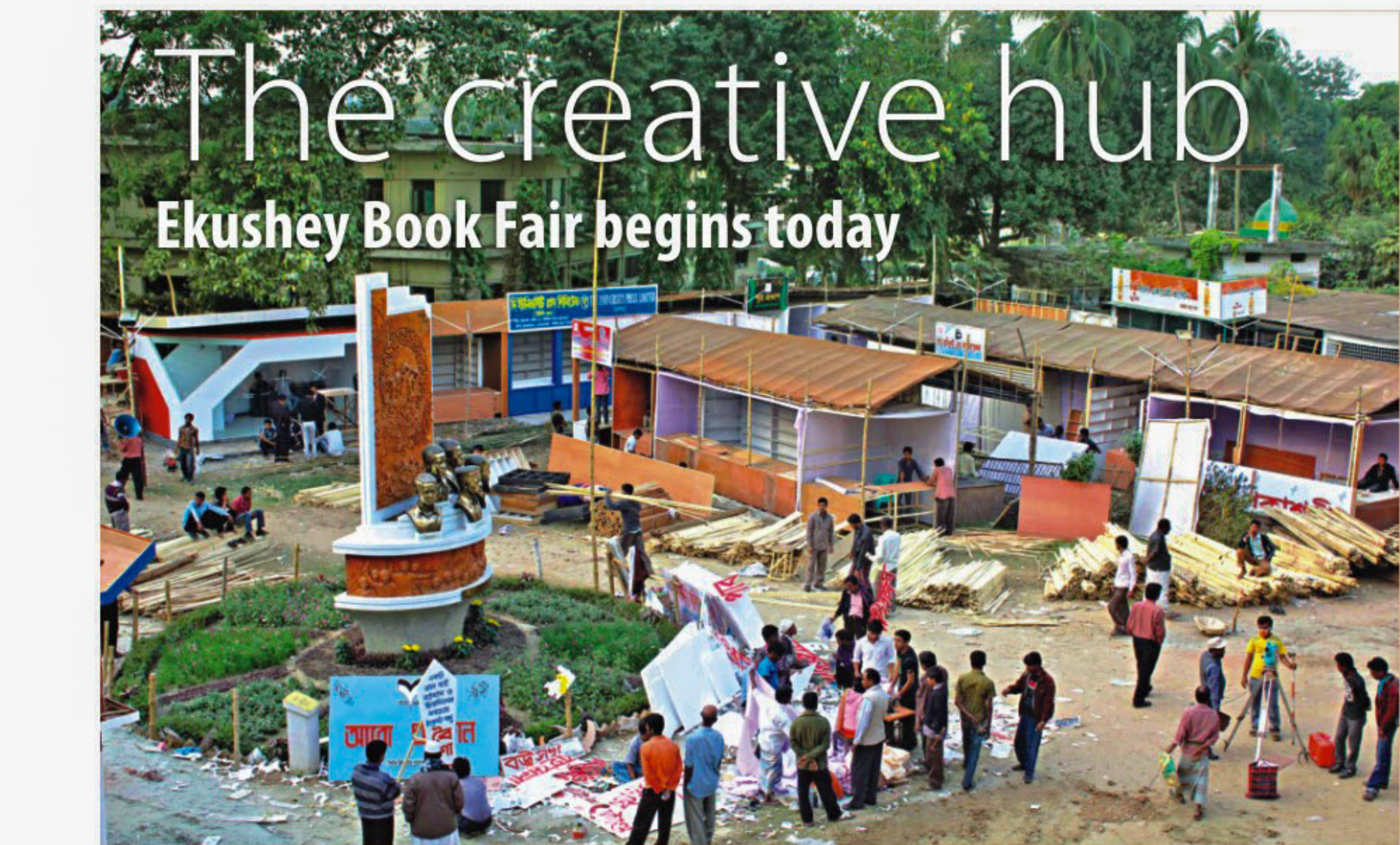
The weeklong ceremony, also known as 'Poyengjara' in Marma language kicked off on January 20.

Introduced by the then 9th Bomang Circle Chief Sanangor in 1875, this festival has been celebrated by the Bomang royal dynasty to uphold the tradition and customs of the indigenous people.

Since time immemorial the Bomang Circle Chief used to collect 'Annual Jhum Taxes' from jumia families every year. On the occasion, the Circle Chief organised a festival titled 'Raj Punayah'.

On the first day of the week long festival, thousands of enthusiastic indigenous people, ranging from Chakma, Marma, Tangchangya, Tripura, Pankhua, Lusai, Khyang, Bawm, Mro, Chak and Khumi from three hill districts of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari thronged the Rajbari compound.

At the opening ceremony, 96-year-old Aungsui Pru Chowdhury, 15th Bomang Circle Chief along with royal family members and his courtiers, 'paik-paida' and 'savasda', beat-



Work in fast progress-- on eve of Ekushey Book Fair.

PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Come February and it's time for the month long Ekushey Book Fair. The fair has become a symbol of our national identity and inextricably linked to our culture. Understandably, novelists, poets, writers, intellectuals, educationists, and in fact all creative people eagerly await the event.

Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2011 begins today at the Bangla Academy premises in the city, commemorating the martyrs of the Language Movement, 1952.

Bangla Academy Director General Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan said, "I consider Ekushey Book Fair as one of the major cultural festivals of our country. It generates mass interest in Bengali literature and assembles writers, readers, intellectuals, social and cultural activists. I believe the fair has played a key role in the literary and cultural scenario over the years in our country. It has become a symbol of nationalism, encouraging a bold stance against superstition, communalism and ignorance.

"For this year's fair we have taken a number of steps which should be helpful for our publishers, writers and readers. A total of 522 stalls have been allocated among 290 organisations. Apart from publication houses, several voluntary organisations, government and non-government organisations and media houses will participate in the fair. We expect the fair grounds to be streamlined this year. We have concentrated on proper distribution of stalls.

"I've observed that many publishers have no interest in literary translations and research-oriented books. So the Bangla Academy authority has given extra attention to these particular genres.

"During the month, the main task of the academy is to conduct research on Bangla language, culture, history and publish fictional, literary and research-based works. The Bangla Academy Award is considered one of the most prestigious in our country. The award is conferred every year."

Murshid Anwar, Deputy Director,

Bangla Academy said, "On the occasion of the Boi Mela, Bangla Academy has already published over 80 new books in different categories. As in previous years, a special bulletin titled 'Protidiner Boimela' will be published daily over the month.

"Different places of the mela premises have been named after historical personalities like Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Dhirendranath Dutta, Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad and Begum Rokeya. Special corners for little magazines and children's literature have also been allotted. Seminar on different subjects will be held daily throughout the month."

"This year, we will celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. On the occasion, we are going to take a number of initiatives, including book publications and cultural programmes on the great bard. Honouring the contribution of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam to Bangla literature, the academy has decided to install two life-sized sculptures of the poets at the entrance of the Academy."



JAMIL MAHMUD

On the sixth day (January 30) of the theatre festival by The Daily Star and BGTF, Padatik's ongoing production 'Jol Balika' had its 50th staging. The play was staged at the National Theatre Hall, while Dhaka Theatre staged 'Binodini' at the Experimental Theatre Hall and Theatre Art Unit staged 'Magaj Shamachar' at the Studio Theatre Hall.

Padatik's 'Jol Balika' is written by Masum Aziz and directed by Shamsul Alam Bakul. The play narrates the plight of the people of riverine Bangladesh who benefit from the rivers in myriad ways but have to face the cruelty of rivers when they turn furious during the monsoon.

The story captures the paradox of the river as a life giver and a destroyer. Joybaul, a known Baul singer is widely respected for his inspiring singing during boat races. While composing a new

song for the upcoming race, he discovers that his daughter can also sing profoundly.

He then proposes to the mahajan (village headman) to let her sing in his place. Though the mahajan refuses initially, she finally leads the boatmen to victory and gains favour in the eyes of the people.

But good times have to end. The clouds begin to darken and the winds begin to howl; the great flood is indeed upon them. In a dream Joybaul's wife sees her daughter being claimed by death. Here the story unravels.

Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury enacts the role of the mahajan. The cast also includes Nilmoni Aich, Tosaddek Hossain, Shabil Reza Chowdhury, Zinatun Nahar, Rokhsana Akhtar, Sadia Chowdhury, Sagar Sen Gupta and Kamal Hossain. Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury has done the set design, while Nasirul Haque Khokon is the light



Clockwise from top: Scenes from "Binodini", "Jol Balika" and "Magaj Shamachar".

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

The curtains come down on...

The Daily Star-BGTF Theatre Festival

designer.

In "Binodini" Shimul Yousuff performs the role of Binodini Dasi, the pioneering actress of 19th century Bengal who made a remarkable contribution in shaping theatre, influenced by Western traditions.

Saymon Zakaria, with guidance from Selim Al Deen, Nasiruddin Yousuff and Shimul Yousuff, has dramatised "Binodini". For the dramatisation, Simon has used two autobiographies by Binodini Dasi "Aamar Kotha" and "Aamar Abhinoy Jibon". The play refers to Binodini's rise from what is regarded as a disreputable existence.

Directed by Nasiruddin Yousuff, Kamaluddin Kabir is the set designer and Ishrat Nisbat is the light designer of the play.

Theatre Art Unit staged "Magaj Shamachar" at the Studio Theatre Hall. The play is directed by young member of the troupe Sadi Sumon.

Based on Rabindranath Tagore's poem "Juta Abishkar", the satirical play depicts an egoistical king of an imaginary country. The king is surrounded by worthless ministers who keep him in the dark about the true state of the country and its citizens. Their problems keep multiplying.

Mohammad Bari, Tora Saha, Shathi Ranjan Dey, Sajed Mallick and Tarekul Islam, Sujon, Lemon, Shadhin Shah, Fauzia Karim Anu and Kamruzzaman Millat feature the other characters.

Ali Ahmed Mukul and Shadhin Shah designs the sets for the play. Abu Sufian Bipal is light designer, while Selim Mahbub is music director.

The weeklong festival that ended yesterday featured 21 plays by as many troupes. On the last day, Loko Natyadal (Siddheswari), Theatre and Sanglaap Group Theatre staged 'Majh Rater Manushera', 'Mera Fakir Ma' and 'Badnam' respectively.



Tabu on cloud nine

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood actress Tabu was on cloud nine last week. Not only did she receive the news of being chosen for the Padma Shri, a prestigious award announced annually by the Indian government on the eve of Republic Day on January 26, but is busy shooting in a Hollywood film by Oscar-winning director Ang Lee.

Tabu, who has wowed critics with her roles in both commercial as

well as alternative cinema and won a national award, is one of the five leading Bollywood personalities to be recognised this year by the Indian government. She is in good company, the others are actors Kajol, Shashi Kapoor, Waheeda Rahman and music director Khayyam.

In fact, when the newspapers carried the tidings of her receiving the Padma Shri, Tabu was on her way

to Pondichery, a former French colony on the coast of Bay of Bengal, in southern India to shoot for Lee's "Life of Pi".

The film by Lee, the Taiwanese-American director, is based on 2002

Booker prize winning book by Canadian author Yann Martel and tells the story of an Indian boy, named after a swimming pool in Paris, who survives a shipwreck.

The entire crew of the film is absolutely tight-lipped about further details of the story of "Life of Pi".

Besides Tabu, the film also stars Golden Globe award winning actor

Gerard Depardieu, India's Irrfan Khan and Suraj Sharma, a teenager from Delhi.

"Working with Ang Lee is turning out to be a brilliant experience, just the way I thought it would be," an elated Tabu told The Indian Express newspaper.

Bohemian Shines with "Shurjo"



Bohemian fans can very soon enjoy a new number from the band.

TOWHIDUL ISLAM KHAN

If the adage 'morning shows the day' is to be believed, then the year 2011 is set to be a great one for rock fans. Bohemian, one of the fastest rising bands in the scene, began the year in style, launching their second album "Shurjo" this month. Unafraid to try something new, Bohemian mixed melody with heavy rock in the new album to create a sound which listeners would find unique. The band confesses that the plan was ambitious from the very start: to attract a larger audience from both the underground and mainstream rock scene, as well as stay true to its own genre. But any rock enthusiast -- after listening to the album -- would agree that it was a job well done.

Bohemian's process of finding the tunes and the lyrics begins at the jamming pad and it's a team effort indeed. Everyone shares their experiences and generate a theme for the lyrics -- as

guitarist Mahbub Farhan strums his instrument, vocalist Shams Bin Quader hums the tunes, bassist Farshid Alam slaps his strings and drummer Rafatul Bari Labib plays a drum roll. As well as finding themselves through music, Bohemian is always eager to get any kind of feedback from the listeners -- be it positive or negative. The best way for a band to know if its music is being appreciated is through concerts, and that is why -- as vocalist Shams puts it -- "live music drives the band."

Bohemian fans can very soon enjoy a new number from the band -- as they are set to follow up their album launch with a fresh track in a mixed album celebrating the upcoming ICC World Cup. Bohemian stands firm against piracy and urges all to buy CDs of their favorite artists if they want to keep alive the spirit of rock. Those who love or hate the band can share their opinions on the 4-men-squad at the band's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bohemiantheband.

Artistes of Sadarang Uchchanga Sangeet Parisad, Bangladesh perform at the programme.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

PORT CITY APPLAUDS

An enthralling classical music night

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Music lovers thronged the Theater Institute Chittagong (TIC) for presentations by noted classical artists from home and abroad. The wintry evenings of Thursday and Friday did nothing to dissuade the audience in the port city.

Sadarang Uchchanga Sangeet Parisad, Bangladesh arranged the two-day 14th national classical music conference at TIC.

Lighting the candle, renowned cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar inaugurated the conference as the chief guest with Professor Emeritus Dr. Jamal Nazrul Islam in the chair.

The government should establish more cultural institutions across the country to promote children and adolescents' artistic bent of mind, said the speakers adding that culture and heritage are the

lifelines of human beings.

Against the backdrop of the present mechanised world, the speakers urged the audience to cultivate and preserve their cultural roots and traditional classical music.

At the start of the programme, the audience paid homage to world-renowned classical music maestro Bhimsen Joshi. Then followed a group classical performance "Ragamala", composed by Ustad Sarnamoy Chakraborty.

On the first day of the conference, Sushil Roy from Sathkira set the tone with a solo Pakhawaj performance. He was outstanding while playing 'Chautal' on his Pakhawaj. His recitation of Kabita (Kabita balan) on his Pakhawaj was superb.

Shayela Tasmin, Assistant Professor of Music Department of Rajshahi University presented Khayal in raga 'Mullani'. As a tribute to Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore on his 150th birth

anniversary she later performed "Jagade ananda joyge aamar nimontran" in her enchanting style.

Samyul Chandra Das played raga Kirvani on the violin. The event featured a jugalbandi performance with Md. Yusuf Khan on sarod and Raju Chowdhury on tabla.

The second day's programme began with a choral performance by Sadarang members.

Later Paromita Das, an expatriate in America, presented a 'Kheyal'. Her melodious presentation of 'Alap' and 'Bistar' kept the audience entranced. Pritam Palli from India performed 'tabla lahara'. His fingers recited multifarious 'Kayda' and 'Tukra' on his tabla.

Sambudha Chattopadhyaya from India performed raga 'Yog' and 'Desh'.

The two-day music conference ended with a star performance in raga Kirvani by Amitabha Chowdhury from India.



Indigenous Mro artists perform a traditional dance during the royal festival at Rajbari Compound.

12:15	ATN BANGLA	09:10	Garbo: Gao Pran Khulay
01:25	Off Time		Gao
01:25	ATN Music	11:25	Raat Biraty
05:00	Gram Gonerj Khabor	12:30	Bashudha Cinemar
05:20	Obiram Bangladesh		Gaan
10:45	Bihongo Kotha	Boishakhi TV	
12:30	Grameenphone Lead News	10:30	Bangla Feature Film
		05:15	Boishakhi-CNN
CHANNEL i			Sharabidwa
09:30	Shangbadpote	06:20	Music Train
	Bangladesh	08:15	Go's Angel Mindbreak
01:05	Ekong Gneemar Gaan	11:30	Boishakhi Shongyakti O
01:30	Hridoyer Gaan		Binodon Sangbad
07:50	Khude Gaanraj	12:30	Shudhu Cinemar Gaan
11:30	Banglalink Jagoreror Gaan		
	Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpote		
		Diganta TV	
		11:30	Chitra Bichitra
		12:30	Score Cards
		01:30	Jibon Japon
		06:05	Doshi Diganta
12:00			
03:10	Amader Anandabari	08:05	Lime Light
04:10	Janar Achhey Balaar Achhey	10:00	Prime Time
		11:05	Drama

abc radio FM 89.2	12:00	My Time
06:00	01:00	No Tension
09:00	04:00	Dhaka Calling
12:00	09:00	Night Rider
03:00	01:00	Radio Today FM 90.6
05:00	06:00	Radio Today FM 90.6
07:00	11:00	Musti Unlimited
09:00	01:00	Today's Adda
11:00	08:00	U Turn
Radio Forth	08:00	Today's Adda
10:00	10:00	Raat Bhor Gaan

Angshik
Shada Kalo
On Rtv at 06:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Anisur Rahman Milon, Hasan Masud



The Sea Inside
On Z Studio at 11:30pm
Genre: Biography/
Drama
Cast: Javier Bardem, Belén Rueda



Nondini
On ATN BANGLA at 10:55pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Mir Shafiq, Mousumi Biswas



05:00	Deshor Khabor	01:30	The Last Lear
06:45	Cine World	04:00	The Manchurian Candidate
09:00	Gramar World		
11:30	Cover Drive Orthaba Leg Break	06:50	Top Gun
		09:30	10 Things I Hate About You
ETV		11:30	The Sea Inside
10:30	Ekushey Business		
04:02	Tommy Miah Recipe		
06:30	Desh Jurey Shanglap		
07:50	Baula Antar		
11:45	Janora Kotha		
12:02	Banglalink Ekushey Raat		
		03:30	A Walk In The Clouds
		05:20	When in Rome
		09:00	George Of The Jungle
		10:40	Gamer
		12:45	Blown Away
		12:30	Snakes on a Plane
		02:45	The Perez Family
		07:00	Two Weeks Notice
		09:30	An American Werewolf in London
		11:30	21 Grams
		03:30	How I Met Your Mother
		04:00	Friends
		06:30	The Bachelorette
		09:00	Friends
		10:30	Burn Notice

ATN BANGLA	Rtv	Angshik Shada Kalo
05:20pm	Pooch/Phaguner Pala	
06:55pm	Londoni	
09:30pm	Jato Durey Jai	
09:35pm	Maar Chhikka	
09:45pm	Darshok-e-Golpo	
09:30pm	Bhabi	

NEWS BULLETIN

RTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 12:00 pm.	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 12:00 pm.	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.	News (English) at 6:00pm
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

ATN BANGLA	10:30am	Grameenphone Lead News
CHANNEL i	09:45am	Grameenphone Titas Matza
12:30pm	09:45am	Cyber Tanika Kathon
ETV	10:10pm	Golpo Shapo Gaan
rtv	12:15pm	El Shomoy
Rtv	06:20am	Meet Democracy
BANGLAVISION	10:10am	Front Line
Desh TV	11:45pm	Shoja Kotha
Boishakhi TV	12:00am	Zero Hour