WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 1-28
Time: 9am onwards

Iranian Film Festival
Venue: Dance and Music Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 7-9
Time: 11am onwards

Photography Exhibition
Title: Kaleidoscope of Life
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy
Date: February 6-9
Time: 10am-5pm

Birangana Utshab
Play: Kohe Birangana
Troupe: Manipuri Theatre
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: Feb 4-5 at 6 and

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

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

Dhaka World Music Festival '11
Venue: Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex, Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 4-5 at 4pm

National Street Theatre Festival 2011
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar Premises
Date: February 1-7
Time: 4pm onwards

Steady start at 'Ekushey Boi Mela'

JAMIL MAHMUD

There is a notice board placed on the wall of Bardhaman House dedicated to providing updates about everyday new books. The board usually displays flaps of the day's books. Though on the second day a total of 29 new books were published, the board showed only seven flaps.

While enquiring about the discrepancy from the Bangla Academy authorities, it was learnt that it is not a must for the publishers to provide flaps of new books to the Academy. The publishers only provide information such as the name, price, publication house etc. about a book. "Though it is not a must, we can request the publishers to provide flaps so that we can provide detailed information to booklovers," said Murshiduddin Ahmed, Deputy Director of Bangla Academy.

Many spectators and buyers who came to the fair felt that it would be more effective if the board conveyed more information about new books.

Of the 29 books published on the second day, eight are novels and eight are compilations of poetry. Amongst new books, Humayun Ahmed's "Himu Ebong Ekti Russian Pori" sold like hotcakes. The book is published by Gyankosh. Onno Prokash has brought out Ahmed's autobiography "Fountain Pen" which is dedicated to the Bangladesh Cricket Captain Shakib Al Hasan.

Prior to the ICC Cricket World Cup, Shobdo Shilpo has published a book on the game titled "Cricket Ebong Biswacup Cricket" by Ashrafuzzaman.

The information booth was also not prepared till the evening of the second day of the fair. Consequently, many booklovers had to negotiate a veritable maze to find the stalls of their choice. In explanation, volunteers at the booth said that they had not received adequate information about the stalls yet, as the authorities had said that it would take an extra day to fully prepare the booth.

Enthusiastic crowds streamed into the fair till the evening, as the mela remained open for half an hour more after the closing time of 8pm. Yesterday, as it was a weekly holiday the crowds were much large in numbers than they were on the preceding days.

Enthusiastic booklovers made an encouraging turnout to the mela on Friday.

PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

Tanvir Tarek

Porshi

Tuning Up for the World Cup

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

As one of the host nations, Bangladesh has begun to feel the heat of the upcoming ICC Cricket World Cup. Tanvir Tarek and Porshi have upped the temperature a bit with the duet, "Shagotik Bangladesh", which will be the signature tune for the World Cup. Mahmud Manzur is the lyricist, and Tarek has composed the tune.

The lyrics are a call of celebration to all, urging them to join in the chorus of fours and sixes and to enthuse the spirit of the host nation, Bangladesh. Tarek was also assisted by Jewel Morshed on sound arrangements, when the track was recorded last week at studio Celebrity Sound.

Porshi says she feels very lucky to be a small part of this grand project. The song expresses the spirit of cricket as well as the patriotism cradled in all Bangladeshi hearts, she says.

Meanwhile Tarek informs that the making of the song had to be rushed as Laser Vision was keen to release it soon. However, he expresses the hope that "Shagotik Bangladesh" will gain appreciation from the listeners. Tarek also credits lyricist Mahmud Monzur for not confining himself to cricket in the song, but inscribing the bravery of 1952 and victory of 1971 in the lyrics. He also thanks Jewel Morshed for producing great sounds for the song.

"Shagotik Bangladesh" will be featured in Laser Vision's album "Jege Uthho" which is set to be released to mark the cricket World Cup. An elaborate music video is also being shot, which the audience will be able to enjoy as filler songs on Banglavision or Ekushey TV.

PUTHI LITERATURE

Reviving a dying tradition

AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN

The significance of literature of *puthi* is undeniable in any study of Bengali language and literature that aims to understand the development of modern Bengali language. Literary critics have often referred to the importance of understanding how *puthi* literature has influenced the works of some of the most celebrated writers and figures.

During the British colonial rule of the subcontinent, the majority of Bengali Muslims who were illiterate amused themselves reciting and listening to *puthipath*. As a result, a study of *puthi* literature allows an insight into the custom and language used in that society, suggested literary critic Ahmed Sofa. Notwithstanding its popularity among the illiterate, the tradition has been represented by leading Bengali poets and novelists like Kazi Nazrul Islam and Akhtaruzzaman Elias.

Mosharraf Hossain, the most successful 19th century Muslim literary figure, wrote "Bishad Shindhu" adapted from the puthi "Shahidey Karbala". Kazi Nazrul Islam, one of the most celebrated Bengali poets, much later made extensive use of Arabic and Persian words in his poems, which is a defining characteristic of the *puthi* literature. Sofa observed, "Nazrul had spent a considerable part of his childhood surrounded by the puthi literature. He respected the tradition."

Puthipath has not lost its appeal altogether in the rural agricultural communities. However, this seemingly quaint tradition is being revived by an informal group of friends who sit around and listen to *puthipath* at leisure times in Dhaka University Campus. No matter how outlandish it may seem, the rhymester *puthipathak* (reciter), Kabbo Kamrul has released an album of *puthi* written by him.

Retaining the stylistic elements and tune of traditional puthi, Kamrul has written rhymed verses that tell the tale of our social crises, price hike, widespread discontents and inconsistencies the political and economic system. Unlike the traditional *puthi*, he has picked up the language we use everyday.

"In the tale, *Jhalmuri*, I have impersonated a jhalmuriwala and tried to give voice to his worldviews and the satisfaction he finds in love," said Kamrul. Similarly, the tales called, "Kadam Alir Malam" and "Pan Boyatir Biroho Gatha" represent the emotions and thoughts of vendors of herbal balms and betel leafs. The underlying coherence of his views is evident in "Manush Bikri Hochchhe" and "Rajdhani Dhaka". One finds an impressive array of urban issues in these rhymed verses.

Kamrul prefers to sing only with a *dotara* and a *mondira*. The sonorous voiced youth usually performs at cultural programmes and has appeared on TV channels several times. "I usually sing to anyone who's willing to listen," he said smilingly.

Kamrul prefers to sing only with a dotara and a mondira.

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

ATN BANGLA
02:45 Bangla Feature Film
06:15 Shustha Thakun
10:45 Bihango Katha
01:00 Campus Parliament

CHANNEL i
01:05 Bangla Feature Film
05:30 Boi Mela
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
12:00 Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro

ntv
12:50 Shastha Protidin
04:10 Gallery
06:45 Shongskriti Ei Shaptaho
07:20 Sholoana Bangaliana
09:00 Busy-der Easy Show

ETV
01:30 Bangla Feature Film
05:25 The Aim
12:00 Zero Hour
12:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan

Diganta TV
12:30 Score Cards
05:30 School Angina
06:30 Aparajita
11:05 Desh Mahadesh
11:30 Shindhu Hindol

Z Studio
10:50 Love Story
01:30 Starsky & Hutch
04:30 American Beauty
07:00 The Italian Job
09:30 Screen Actor Guild Awards
11:30 Catch Me If You Can

HBO
09:30 Takedown
11:30 Angels & Demons
02:15 Anaconda 3

RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2
06:00 Bhorer Janalay
09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney
12:25 Standard Chartered-The Daily Star Jiboner Joygaan
03:00 Duranto Bikeley
05:00 Shondhatara
07:00 Shajer Maya
09:00 Raat-er Akashey
11:00 Golper Shesh Nei

RADIO FOORTI
08:00 Addabazi
02:00 Foorti Unlimited
06:00 Bumper to Bumper
10:00 Back to Back music

RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
11:00 Musti Unlimited
01:00 Today's World Music
04:00 U Turn
08:00 Tobey Tai Hok

Hridoye Mati O Manush
On CHANNEL i at 09:35pm
Documentary programme
Host: Shykh Seraj

Catch Me If You Can
On Z Studio at 11:30pm
Genre: Biography/ Crime
Cast: Leonardo Dicaprio, Tom

Protidin-er Boi Mela
On BANGLAVISION at 04:05pm
Live from The Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2011

06:30 Vobo Gure Dot Com
11:50 Amader Boi Mela

Rtv
12:05 Protidin-er Gaan
02:30 Drama
05:40 Boi Mela protidin
06:00 Harano diner Gaan
11:45 Jegey Achho Ki

BANGLAVISION
01:05 Bangla Feature Film
04:05 Protidin-er Boi Mela (Live)
09:10 Garbo: Gao Pran Khuley Gao
11:25 Art Show: Laal Golap
12:30 Boshudha Cinemar Gaan

Desh TV
04:00 Desh Jonopod
06:25 Phagun-er Molat
07:45 Shangskritir Sharadesh
11:45 Shoja Kotha
12:30 Total Sports

Boishakhi TV
05:15 Boishakhi-CNN Shara Bishwa
08:45 Onno Alor Gaan
10:50 Shomoy Katuk Gaane Gaane

04:15 Robocop 2
07:15 Thunderbirds
09:30 Species
11:30 Spartacus: Blood and Sand (Season 1): Premiere

Star Movies
11:45 Peter Pan
01:45 Meet Dave
03:20 Bringing Down The House
05:15 Charlie's Angels
07:00 Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs
08:40 Seabiscuit
11:05 X-Men Origins: Wolverine

Star World
11:30 American Idol
12:30 Two And A Half Men
04:30 Burn Notice
08:30 How I Met Your Mother
10:30 Coffee With Karen
11:30 Warehouse 13

National Geographic Channel
11:30 I Didn't Know That
04:30 World's Toughest Fixes
06:30 Jailed Abroad
07:30 Nat Geo Investigates
09:30 Dangerous Encounters

DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA
08:00pm Projapoti Mon
08:40pm Uposhonghar
09:20pm Banglar Baro Vuia
CHANNEL i
07:50pm Choita Pagol
10:00pm Ural Ponkhi Mon
ntv
08:15pm Chader Nijer Kon Alo Nei
ETV
09:30pm Durer Manush
Rtv
10:00pm Tourist
BANGLAVISION
08:15pm Jamaimela

NEWS BULLETIN

BTV
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 2:00 pm.5:00 pm.8:00 pm. News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm. Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am
News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 7:30am. 1:30pm. 5:00pm. 7:15pm. 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am. 12:00am. 4:00pm.
News (English) at 6:00pm
Rtv
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ntv
News (Bangla):7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
ETV
News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

TALK SHOW

ATN BANGLA
09:20am Asian City Vision 2020
12:30am Grameenphone Lead News
CHANNEL i
09:45am Grameenphone Tritiomatra
11:05am Amader Aayna
12:30pm Citycell Taroka Kothan
ntv
12:30am Ei Shomoy
ETV
12:05am Banglalink Ekushey Raat
Rtv
10:45am Bashudha Tarokalap

ROAD SHOWS

Two street plays held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Two street plays were held in Kushtia on Tuesday evening.

The plays were part of the month-long Street Theatre Festival jointly organised by Bangladesh Pothonatak Parishad and The Daily Star to mark the 40th anniversary of Independence and 20th anniversary of the national daily.

Beginning January 14, the festival is being held at 50 locations in 47 districts.

Bodhon Theatre of Kushtia staged "Ekusey February", scripted by Zahir Raihan and directed by Samim Sagar. Nandan Theatre staged "Janiyaka Iman Ali' directed by Nazrul Islam Khokon.

The programme was inaugurated by freedom fighter and Vice-Chancellor of Kushtia Islamic University Professor M. Alauddin.

A discussion was a held prior to the plays.

The discussants expressed their special thanks to The Daily Star for initiating such an exceptional programme. They asserted that street drama is a key art to send a direct message to the masses. They also hailed the daily's initiative in honouring the freedom fighters through the programme.

Freedom fighter Abul Jalil, Mohammad Hossain Mohon, Assistant Professor of English at Kushtia Government College Ajoy Moitra, Bodhon secretary general Aslam Ali and Nandan president Nazrul Islam Khokon addressed the gathering. The Daily Star correspondent Amanur Aman gave the welcome address on the occasion.

PHOTO: STAR

Bodhon Theatre of Kushtia stage "Ekusey February" at the programme.

Reflection of reality

TAFSILUL AZIZ, *Kishoreganj*

Two street plays were held at the open stage of Gurudayal College Martyrs Memorial Archive in Kishoreganj recently.

The performances were part of a month-long street theatre festival, jointly organised by Bangladesh Pothonatak Parishad and The Daily Star to mark the 40th anniversary of Independence and the 20th anniversary of the national daily.

Ekota Natya Goshti of Kishoreganj staged "Goru", directed by Babu Manash Kar and written by Moloy Bhowmic. The play centres on a king who persecutes his people for stealing a cow. Nibedita Natya Gosti of Bhairab staged "Khatipuran", directed and written by Sagar Rahman. The play is a severe indictment of corruption in Bangladesh where compensation does not reach those for whom it is intended as it has been usurped by police personnel.

The programme was inaugurated by Fazlul Haque Sagar, vice principal of Gurudayal Government College, while journalists, teachers and students were among those present.

PHOTO: STAR

A scene from a street play staged at the open stage of Gurudayal College.

Rooted Creativity-8 at Bengal Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts gallery has organised a series of exhibitions, titled "Rooted Creativity". The eighth installment of the series was inaugurated yesterday (February 4) at Bengal Gallery in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The exhibition will run till February 13.

Featured painters are Mohammad Mohsin, Iffat Ara Dewan, Md. Mominul Islam Reza, Kazi Rakib, Fareha Zeba, Mohammad Fokhrul Islam, Laila Sharmeen, Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash, Anisuzzaman and Maksuda Iqbal Nipa.

Ambassador Muhammad Zamir, Chief Information Commissioner, inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Noted architect and art critic Shamsul Wares was present as special guest. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of BRAC Bank Ltd, was present as guest of honour at the inaugural programme.

On the occasion, a press conference was held at Bengal café on February 3.

Among those who spoke were Subir Chowdhury , director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts; artists Mohammad Mohsin, Iffat Ara Dewan, Fareha Zeba, Mohammad Fokhrul Islam, Laila Sharmeen, Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash Anisuzzaman and Maksuda Iqbal Nipa. Sarwar Jahan, manager of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts read out a paper on the works of participating painters.

(From Left): Artists Anisuzzaman, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash, Iffat Ara Dewan, Mohammad Mohsin, Laila Sharmeen, Mohammad Fokhrul Islam and Fareha Zeba at the press conference.

Aamir Khan plays villain

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, *New Delhi*

After John Abraham and Hrithik Roshan, it is Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan's turn to play the villain--for the first time in his career--in Yash Raj's superhit franchise "Dhoom".

Both Abhishek Bachchan and Uday Chopra will reprise their roles of Jai Dixit and Ali and Aamir will share screen space with them for the first time.

It will be Aamir's second film with the Yash Raj banner after "Fanaa" in which he played a terrorist.

Khan said, "it was the first time I'm playing a negative role. When I read the script, I enjoyed it. I liked all the characters in it."

"Victor's (director Vijay Krishna Acharya) script really won me over and I look forward to working with him, sharing screen space with Jai and Ali, and, of course, working with Yashji and Adi once again," Aamir said in a statement even as he admitted that he had initially thought that he would fit into the role.

Victor had also written the scripts of the first two "Dhoom" films and directed another movie "Tashan".

"It is indeed a pleasure to be working with Yashraj once again. 'Dhoom; is a great franchise, most entertaining and full of fun. Everytime I hear the theme tune of 'Dhoom' it brings a swing to my step,' said Aamir.

Film's producer Yash Chopra said, "I am terribly excited with what an actor like Aamir will bring to the 'Dhoom' franchise with his unique star power and level of performance."

In the first "Dhoom", Abraham played the anti-hero role involved in motorcycle chases and in the second one Hrithik Roshan paraglided onto a train speeding through the deserts. It remains to be seen what Aamir does in the third sequel.

Efforts are on to rope in a top Bollywood actress for the heroine's role in "Dhoom 3".

Produced by Aditya Chopra and written and directed by Vijay Krishna Acharya, the shooting of "Dhoom 3" will begin at the end of this year and is slated for a 2012 Christmas release.

Aamir said he is "very proud" of his wife Kiran Rao's directorial debut film "Dhobi Ghat".

"A lot of people told me that 'Dhobi Ghat' was the best film to have come out of my production house and I agree with that view. I'm proud of what Kiran has done," said Aamir.

Recalling classicism

Musical programme on Tagore songs held

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, *Pabna*

A music programme on Tagore songs titled 'Rabindranather Gaan' was held at Pabna Town hall premises on February 1, marking the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. The young artistes organisation 'Baithak', held the musical night to recall the poet's urge for the mankind.

Fourteen popular Tagore songs based on different raagas were performed on the occasion on romanticism and patriotism. The artistes and the speakers also focused on the life and literary contribution of the poet during the interval of songs.

Songs such as "Phule phule", "Aj Jotsnna Raat-e", "Purono Shei Diner Kotha", "Tomar Khola Haowa", "Tumi Robey Nirobe" and more were performed on the occasion by Roslin, Kontho, Tomal, Sunny, Chaki, Rakib and Tanvir. Prominent Tagore artiste Proloy Chaki conducted the programme.

"Tagore emphasised on mankind in all his writings. We recall him for his great contribution to the mankind and classicism," Sani Chaky, an artiste and also the key organiser of the programme said.

PHOTO: STAR

Artistes sing at the programme.

To observe the anniversary of legendary filmmaker Zahir Raihan's disappearance day, Bangladesh Film Archive Alumni Association (BFAAA) arranged a discussion and film screening at the Liberation War Museum. Noted cultural personality Hasan Imam, Director General of Bangladesh Film Archive Kamrun Nahar and filmmakers Masiuddin Shaker and Manzare Hasin Murad, among others, spoke on the life and works of Raihan at the programme. Filmmaker Morshedul Islam, also convener of BFAAA, presided over the programme. After the discussion, Raihan's films "Stop Genocide" and "Kacher Deyal" were screened.