

WHAT'S ON

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

**Photography Exhibition**  
Venue: Drk Gallery, H-58, Rd-15A (New), Dhamondi  
Date: Feb 20-23  
Time: 3-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Art of Composed Emotions  
Artist: Zenaat Wahid  
Venue: Art Club, Garden Colony H-34, R-11A, Dhamondi  
Date: Feb 25-Mar 3; Time: 3pm-7pm

**Workshop & Art Exhibition**  
Organiser: Gallery Cosmos  
Artist: Fudezuka Toshihisa  
Venue: Cosmos Centre, 69/71, New Circular Road, Malibagh  
Date: Feb 25-March 5

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Proshanto Karmakar  
Venue: Nordic Club, Gulshan-2  
Date: February 5-28  
Time: 2pm-8pm

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Rebecka Sultana  
Venue: IGCC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: February 25  
Time: 6:30pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Bisharjan  
Troupe: Dashrupak  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shikha Academy  
Date: Feb 25 at 6:30pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Ramananda  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7/A, H-60, Dhamondi  
Date: February 18-27  
Time: 3pm-8pm

**Solo Exhibition**  
Title: Carnival of Agony  
Artist: Ashraful Haqam  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, S-4, Utrara  
Date: Feb 11-24  
Time: 11am-7:30pm

# Classical and Flamenco Guitar Fest Wraps Up



Professor Stanley Yates

JAMIL MAHMUD

The weeklong Dhaka Classical and Flamenco Guitar Festival -- the first major initiative by Classical Guitar Association of Bangladesh (CGAB) -- was held from February 14 to 19. The festival included several shows at different venues in Dhaka, including a couple of educational institutes. The cause behind arranging the festival at educational institutes was to generate interest in western classical music among the young.

Two accomplished and reputed American guitarists -- Professor Stanley Yates and Mir Ali -- performed at every show held during the festival. Their skills and styles inspired the audience, most of whom were young guitar enthusiasts.

Professor Yates' orthodox style of holding the guitar and soft playing of notes suggested his command over the instrument. The comforting notes went very well with the audience.

While Professor Yates' performance was steady and subtle, Mir Ali was energetic and his performance highlighted improvisation. Positioning the guitar on his right foot (an unorthodox style), every Bangladeshi knows -- "Amar Bhai-er Roktey Rangano Ekushey February"

Before covering classics such as "Columbiana" and "Rumba" (both composed by Paco Peña), Ali played an improvised oriental tune.

Then Professor Yates joined Ali and the duo performed a couple of pieces that would be remembered for days. The performances included "Milonga" and "Libertango".

Iftekhar Ahmed, president of CGAB and a post-graduate on music from Arizona State University, USA, covered the Beatles classic "Yesterday". Several local students joined the American guitarist duo and formed an orchestra to offer homage to "Amar Bhai-er Roktey Rangano". Singer-composer Swami Zubayeer was on vocals. The audience joined in too, turning the concert into a huge success.

The festival also conveyed a social message: "Save the Rive Buriganga". The Daily Star that has been promoting awareness among the masses on this issue joined the festival as media partner.



Mir Ali

PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

# Street Theatre Festival in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

As part of Bangladesh Pathonak Parishad and The Daily Star's month-long street theatre festival across the country, street plays were recent staged at Tangail Shaheed Minar premises.

Two popular theatre groups of the district presented plays on the themes of the Liberation War and the anti-autocratic movement of 1990.

The artistes of Tangail Nagar Natyadal presented "Dam Diye Kinechhi Bangla", written by Kushal Bhumik, as the inaugural show. Later, the artistes of Rakku Smriti Parishad presented "Feri Nishan", written by Mannan Hira.

A huge audience enjoyed the plays in the evening.

Former lawmaker and president of Tangail Coronation Dramatic Club, Fazlur Rahman Khan Faruque, inaugurated the festival and addressed a discussion as the chief guest.

Prominent educationist Professor Mirza Abdul Momen, president of Tangail Press Club Ataur Rahman Azad; president of Tangail Natya Forum Faruque Qureshi; poet Rashed Rahman; president of Tangail Nagar Natyadal Swapan Bhattacharya and member secretary of Rakku Smriti Parishad Sammo Rahman also addressed the session.

Termining newspapers as a mirror on society and theatre as a tool to change the flawed system, speakers at the discussion expressed their appreciation of The Daily Star and Bangladesh Pathonak Parishad for holding the festival.



# Reading Jasim Uddin at IGCC

A CORRESPONDENT

As part of the observance of the International Mother Language Day (February 21), The Reading Circle (TRC) and Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre of the High Commission of India jointly organised a reading of "The Field of the Embroidered Quilt", the English version of "Polli Kobi" Jasim Uddin's "Nakshi Kanthar Math", at the IGCC premises on February 18.

In her opening remarks, Professor Niaz Zaman narrated the background of the session and also informed the audience that TRC had stepped into its sixth year. In his address, Ankan Banerjee, director, IGCC, appreciated the programme and emphasised the continuing cooperation between Bangladesh and India in the cultural field. He praised the strides TRC had made in the last five years and noted the efforts made to that end by Professor Niaz Zaman and Asfa Hussain, among others.

Those who took part in the reading of "The Field of the Embroidered Quilt" were Professor Niaz Zaman, Salma Karim, Shahruk Rahman, Farida Shaikh, Jackie Kabir and Syed Badrul Ahsan.



# An Essayist with a Vision

12th death anniversary of Abu Zafor



Prof Abu Zafor

TAKIR HOSSAIN

February 23 marks the 12th death anniversary of Abu Zafor. Zafor was a noted educationist, essayist and columnist of our country. His writing enriched the literary movement in the '60s and '70s -- decades regarded as a "golden age" for Bengali literatures. He was actively involved in national movements; in particular his immense contribution to the Liberation War will be remembered with utmost reverence.

Zafor was born in Murshidabad district of West Bengal in 1937. After completing his MA in 1960, he joined B.L. College (Khalua) as a lecturer. Subsequently he moved to Jagannath College (Dhaka) and worked there for over a decade. After retirement, he served at several important posts in the Education Ministry. His repertoire may not have been voluminous, but it's considered a touchstone where the standard of language and themes are concerned. Some of his noteworthy publications are "Anwishta Jiban" (A collection of essays), "Shahitye Samaj Bhabna", "Hasan Azizul Haque-er Golpey Samaj Bastobota" and "Rabindranath-er Rajnoitok Chintadhara."

Zafor authored a significant number of research papers published in national and international journals. He also contributed regularly to a number of newspapers in Bangladesh. He also wrote regularly in monthly literature magazines Muktohdara and Desh. He was an outstanding amateur portrait artist also.

Noted painter Murtaja Baseer recalled Zafor: "I first met him in 1961 in Dhaka. He was very close to poet Shamsur Rahman. Rahman introduced me to him. Zafor was very congenial and a great conversationalist. During the '60s and '70s, Ahmed was very close to noted painters, poets and journalists of the country.

Sculptor cum painter Syed Abdullah Khalid maintained a close relationship with Professor Abu Zafor. The latter occasionally visited the "Aparajeyo Bangla" when this sculptor was being constructed.

Poet Mohammad Samad said, "Abu Zafor, highly educated and cultured, was a progressive and liberal person. His incisive and thought-provoking writing has enlightened our literary world."

Zafor was known for speaking his mind. His opinion always favoured the cause of the masses, in particular the marginalised.

It's true that research-oriented works find very limited exposure in our literary scene; this is more so evident at book fairs like the ongoing Ekushey Boi Mela. But one expects this tendency to change. Innovative, analytical literature, like Abu Zafor's, should be available to more readers.

# Five-day book fair in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAI, Magura

A five-day book fair to mark the International Mother Language Day began from Sunday afternoon at the Deputy Commissioner's office premises in Magura.

The fair was formally inaugurated by the chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Dr. professor Mohammad Serajul Akbar MP.

A discussion followed with Deputy Commissioner Sushanta Kumar Saha in the chair. Professor Mohammad Serajul Akbar addressed the meet as the chief guest.

The discussion was addressed amongst others by the mayor of Magura municipality Mohammad Altaf Hossain and chairman of Magura sadar upazila parishad Abu Nasir Bablu.

# International Mother Language Day Observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, ATN Bangla, Scholars Bangladesh and Ethics Club jointly organised a cultural programme at ATN Bangla's studio in Bashundhara Shopping Mall on February 19.

Noted journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury was present as chief guest at the programme. M.E. Chowdhury Shameem, founder president of Scholars Bangladesh; Spanish Ambassador to Bangladesh, Arturo Perez Martinez; Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Zhang Xianyi; Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Tamotsu Shinotsuka; Taiyung Cho, ambassador of Republic of Korea, among others, spoke at the programme. The guests performed songs and recited poems in their own language.

M.E. Chowdhury Shameem said, "Scholars Bangladesh has taken initia-



Spanish Ambassador Arturo Perez Martinez performs at the programme.

tive to establish a nationwide Ethics Club for upcoming generation to practice ethics in their specialised areas.

"It is a matter of pride and glory for the nation that February 21 is now observed all over the world. On this day, people in 185 countries promise

to conserve their mother tongues like our martyrs' had done nearly six decades ago."

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking February 21st and International Mother Language Day, an elaborate programme was held at Gahi Samyur Gaan Mancha of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) on February 20. The programme included placing of floral wreaths at the university Shaheed Minar premises, discussion and a cultural function.

The students of Music Department of the university rendered patriotic choral songs on the occasion. The students of Natya Kala Department staged a drama titled "Ekusher Collage", which went down exceedingly well with the audience.

Earlier, a discussion was held with Vice-Chancellor of the university

Professor Syed Giasuddin Ahmed in the chair. Language veteran and freedom fighter Professor Sheikh Reazuddin Ahmed was the chief discussant.

Among others, treasurer of the university Dr. Md. Aynul Islam, deans of Business Administration and Social Science faculties Dr. Subrata Kumar Dey and Dr. Habibur Rahman respectively, registrar Md. Aminul Islam addressed the audience.

The speakers said that the spirit of Ekushey February should be upheld to create a better atmosphere for future generations. Ekushey February was the launching pad for the Bengali Nation's movements to realise their demands, which resulted in the ultimate victory over the Pakistan Army.

February 21st teaches us not to bow down against any sort of oppression and repression, they said.

# Bidrohi Natya Goshthi Turns 27

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Bidrohi Natya Goshthi, an active theatre troupe of the district, celebrated its 27th founding anniversary recently.

Marking the occasion, a discussion and cultural function were held at the Town Hall Shahid Minar premises.

The cultural function including rendering of songs, dance sequences and a play adding colour to the celebration.

Local artistes rendered songs, while the art-

istes of Nriyangan of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) performed dances to entertain the huge audience.

Artistes of Bidrohi Natya Goshthi staged a play, titled "Agnigiri", written by poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Directed by Ashraful Islam Upol, the play had a cast featuring by Azizur Rahman Azad, Omar Faruq, Habibur Rahman Russell, Masudul Islam, Tuhin Ahmed, Partha Shekhar Ghosh, Rafiqul Islam, Subrata Singh, Aljelika Chowdhury, Khodeja Akhtar, Rita Chowdhury and Subrata Gosh.

Earlier, a discussion was held with Azizur Rahman Azad, president of Bidrohi Natya Goshthi in the chair. Newly elected mayor of Mymensingh Municipality Ekramul Haque Titu was the chief guest. Secretary of Mymensingh Press Club Ataul Karim Khokon and journalist Zia Uddin Ahmed addressed the discussion as special guests.

Secretary of the organisation S.M Ali Azhar delivered the welcome speech.

The speakers said that Bidrohi has contributed greatly to the field of culture in Mymensingh and beyond. Drama is a reflection

of our everyday lives and can convey important messages to the common people, said the speakers.

Established on February 12, 1984, Bidrohi has so far completed its 111th performances of 27 plays in the last 27 years, said the speakers at the discussion. Some of these plays are "Mantri Kadam Ali", "Nirbansito Sundari", "Agnigiri", "Bhuter Mukhe Ramnaam", "Nao", "Barnamalar Chokhe Jal", "Pagol Shumari", "Lathial" and "Krishna Chhabi Naroke".

# NEW RELEASES

**Alor Pithey A(n)dhara**  
An album by Ganer Dol O Krishnokolli  
Source: Agniweena

**Protabyartan**  
Solo album by Tahsan  
Source: G-Series, Agniweena

**"Shokey Shongram"**  
Albums of recitation by Nazmul Hasan  
Source: Abritti Mela

**"Sangeet Guru"**  
VCD series of classical music (tutorial) by Dada Tapan Kanti Baidya  
Source: Sadarang World Music Centre

# Mystic Minstrels

Tradition of Sufism

KAVITA, New Delhi

Sufi singers came from countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Iran, Tajikistan and India. All on musical journeys to New Delhi where they brought a touch of love, divinity and mysticism, weaving together deeply spiritual lyrics, emotive voices and some extraordinary instrumental music. Over two evenings the Sufi ensembles and solo singers presented the Indian capital with music that cut across narrow boundaries of religion, language, country and genre.

"Sufism is not about religion. It is about universal love, peace and happiness," says Indian singer Rashmi Agarwal who performed on the second evening of a two-day programme devoted to "Tradition of Sufism". In explanation of the common thread that runs through her songs, she says, "It was pure Sufi music. In one way, the music is meditative and in another it is celebratory. It is combination of both factors, a celebration of love and longing, a desire to be one with the Lord."

Singer Sahiba Davlatshoeva from Tajikistan too finds a deep connection with Sufism. "For me Sufi music seems to flow from God. I sing the ghazals of mystical poets Jalaludin Rumi and Shams al-Din



The Sufi ensembles and solo singers presented music that cut across narrow boundaries of religion, language, country and genre.

and each of them speaks to my heart."

The Soman Ensemble Sufi Music Group from Tajikistan also touched many hearts. While

Sahiba sang one passable song, two singers of the nine member troupe got the audience clapping and whistling along, particularly with two accented Hindi film songs: "Ek din ayege" (A day will dawn...) and "Awara Hoon" (I am wayward...). Great showmanship there.

The Baran (which literally means 'rain' in the Iranian language) Music Ensemble from Iran created a more sombre and devotional ambience. The ensemble broke new ground with its emphasis on some highly unusual percussion instruments with the santoor as the basic background.

Rashmi Agarwal, of course made a deep impact on the audience with her deeply moving voice and lyrics. The first song was "Rang" based on the poetry of Sufi singer Hazrat Amir Khusro. Then followed songs by other poets that equally touched the spiritual chord of the audience. As Rashmi says, "The beauty of Sufi songs lies in the lyrics and music which enhance the enjoyment for both the listener and singer."

The invisible chord between the audience and the singers truly spoke for itself.

<b>CHANNEL i</b>	01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 01:30 Hridayer Gaan 04:30 Boi Mela Protidin 07:50 Khude Gaanraj 12:00 Aajker Shongbadpatri	06:05 Shorol Poth 11:05 Down the Wicket 11:30 Shur Shurohri
<b>ntv</b>	04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey 05:30 Agnar Jiggasha 06:25 Boi Boshoney 09:00 Kichu Kotha Kichu Gaan	01:30 Air Force One 04:15 Chicago 07:30 Consenting Adults 09:30 Hope Springs 11:30 Cold Mountain
<b>ETV</b>	04:30 Global 3000 05:50 Sports Plus 06:30 Ride on the Top 11:40 Boi Mela Protidin 11:50 Crazy Cricket	01:30 Replacement Killers In The Line Of Fire Black Hawk Down Die Hard I Bad Boys HBO
<b>Rtv</b>	03:30 Cinema R Gaan	11:25 Slumdog Millionaire 11:30 Throw Momma from the Train

**Cricket Rongo**  
On Rtv at 10:40pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Fazlur Rahman Babu, Lita Anam

**Cold Mountain**  
On Z Studio at 11:30pm  
Genre: Romance  
Cast: Jude Law, Nicole Kidman

**Ekoi Brintey**  
On Death TV at 07:45pm  
Celebrity Talk Show  
Host: Tamvin Sweeney

05:40 Amader Boi Mela 06:00 Drama: Angshil Shada	09:10 Drama: Bagh Puthul 12:05 Zoro Hour	12:30 The Lord of the Rings 05:00 Pirates of Silicon Valley 07:15 The Tale of Despereaux 09:30 Yes Man 11:45 Treasure of the Four Crowns
09:10 Drama: Zoro Hour 12:05 Zoro Hour	09:05 Shoudhary Gaan 09:15 Prangla Feature Film 04:00 Protidin-er Boi Mela 09:05 Shoudhary Kotha 11:25 CBC Ties Rivers Swing	10:30 The Simpson's 07:30 Coffee With Karen 08:30 Detroit 187 10:30 Burn Notice 11:30 Two And A Half Men
05:00 Durpath 06:25 Phagun-er Molat 07:45 Ebnj Binte 12:30 Total Sports	06:20 Bishwa 06:20 Manush Manusher Janna 11:30 Boishakhi Bindon O Shongskriti Sangbadh	10:30 Creative Vision 02:30 Caught in the Act 08:30 I Didn't Know That 08:30 Great Migrations 08:30 Dangerous Encounters BBC World 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Business Report 02:45 Sport Today 07:00 Impact Asia with Missal Hessian
05:15 Bhor Holo Bibhabori 05:15 Boishakhi-CNN Shara	07:30 Bhor Holo Bibhabori 05:15 Boishakhi-CNN Shara	09:30 Hardtrack 11:45 Sport Today 12:00 BBC World News

<b>ATN BANGLA</b> 09:20pm Pooth Phagunera Pala	10:40pm Cricket Rongo
<b>CHANNEL i</b> 05:30pm Jans Duryai Jal 09:35pm Maar Chhokka	<b>BANGLAVISION</b> 08:15pm Deyrectar 09:45pm Golshan Avenue ETV 08:20pm Ohongkar 09:30pm Ghotak Baki Bhai Boishakhi TV 07:50pm Dhaka to London

<b>NEWS BULLETIN</b>	01:00 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:30 pm, News Headlines (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, 8:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am ntv News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:00pm, 10:30 pm, ATN BANGLA NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.
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<b>TALK SHOW</b>	09:45am Trityo 12:30pm Maza Kathon ntv 12:10pm E Showmy	Rtv 10:45am Tankapal 08:30pm Meet Democracy BANGLAVISION 06:05 Front Line Desh TV 11:45pm Shoja Katha
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