

WHAT'S ON

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

Solo Sarod Recital
Artist: Yousof Khan
Venue: IGC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: February 26
Time: 6:30pm

Solo Art exhibition
Title: An Era of Complex Emotions
Artist: Zenaat Wahid
Venue: Art Club, Garden Gallery, H-34, R-11/A, Dharamondi
Date: Feb 25-Mar 3
Time: 3pm-7pm

Workshop & Art Exhibition
Organiser: Gallery Cosmos
Artist: Fudezuka Toshihisa
Venue: Cosmos Centre, 69/1, 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

Solo Photo Exhibition
Title: GurandPandua
Photographer: Babu Ahmed
Venue: Bengali Gallery of Fine Arts, 10/25/1, 84/10/1, Dharamondi
Date: Feb 27-March 8
Time: 12-8pm

Film Festival
Organiser: DUPS
Venue: TSC Auditorium, DU
Date: February 24-28
Time: 10am onwards

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

Photography Exhibition
Title: 60 Shots-Season 2
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, H-58, R-15/A, Dharamondi
Date: Feb 25-Mar 1
Time: 3pm-8pm

Ekushey Boi Mela: Catering to All Readers

AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN

Participation of publishers and various organisations at the Ekushey Boi Mela is ever increasing. To accommodate them and the thronging visitors, the authorities have understandably increased the number of stalls from 505 in 2010 to 556 this year.

Besides publishing houses, there is a wide range of stalls representing different organisations: government, non-government, socio-cultural, political, voluntary and even mass media and many others. All these participating organisations and the sea of visitors have turned Ekushey Boi Mela into an event unlike any other. With the presence of emerging and seasoned poets, writers, litterateurs, intellectuals and cultural personalities, the fair is getting recognised as a hub where one can meet people who share the same interests and inspire him/her.

In our country, the Boi Mela is possibly the most widely covered festival by the mass media. Logically, it is an occasion when journalists, photographers and editors meet each other, working around the aisles. Expressing his gratitude to the journalists who have been writing about the mela, Murshiduddin Ahmed, deputy direc-



Rashed Khan Menon, MP (2-R) and Nazia Jabeen at the Prerona stall. PHOTO: MUMIT M.



tor of Bangla Academy, said, "The Media Centre, a few yards to the north of Information Centre, located at the west side of the Bardhaman House, serves as a source of information for journalists." However, on overcrowded evenings, especially during the weekends, getting to the information centre becomes a challenge. And if you are on the look out for a particular book and do not know the name of the publisher, you might end up taking an exhausting walk through all the aisles and come out without finding it.

With crowds forming in front of the rows of book stalls, the air in Bangla Academy premises becomes thick with an almost opaque wave of dust in the pleasant winter evenings every year. The readers are, nevertheless, enthusiastic about their favourite authors' works.

The stall of Prerona, an organisation working for the visually impaired, seems to pique the curiosity of many with its collection of books printed in Braille. A student of Eden College, Jannatul Naim, who was absorbed in reading a book printed in Braille, expressed her gratitude to Prerona for

taking this exemplary step. Nazia Jabeen, a member of Prerona, said: "It's very unfortunate that [before Prerona] no one has ever taken any initiative to set up a corner for the visually impaired readers at Ekushey Boi Mela." Prerona has already published eight books by eminent writers in Braille. To express his solidarity with the organisation, celebrated author Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal has authorised [royalty free] Prerona to publish all his books in Braille. Prerona will also organise a cultural programme at the Bangla Academy premises tomorrow [February 27] where Dr. Iqbal will hand over one of his books to them.

On the outskirts of Boi Mela, one notices massive piles of books with flashy covers on the pavements. An impressive array of popular foreign/Indian writers' books can be found here. Bangla translations of global masterpieces, books on various strands of Islam, and more can also be found here. People also gather around makeshift food stalls selling chatpata, phuchka and a whole lot of other street food.

Readers' Corner Book Fair in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A three-day book fair at the premises of Phulbaria Upazila Parishad concluded on February 23. The book fair, which began on February 21, marked the International Mother Language Day. The event was organised by Phulbaria Sahitya Sangsad.

A total of 11 stalls were set up at the fair. Among others, Azad Angan from Mymensingh and Kabir Library from Phulbaria set up stalls with a new collection of books of seasoned and emerging writers.

Several new books of local writers, including nine story books written by Dr. Md. Abu Sayed Sarker, were the fresh arrivals at the fair.

The book fair drew a huge number of visitors from different areas of the upazila. One such visitor, Professor Ruhul Amin said that such fairs should be organised regularly at the upazila level to promote the reading habit among the younger generation. Abu Hanifa, a college student said that rural people have very little opportunity to go to book fairs in Dhaka and other major cities; such events can generate interest in literature in the remote areas.

Thanking the initiative taken by local Sahitya Sangsad, Kabir Uddin Sarker, a local journalist, said that more support is needed to organise such fairs at the upazila level.

A cultural function was also held in the course of the book fair. A play titled "Ekusher Chetona and Athor" was staged marking the occasion.

At the inaugural ceremony of the fair, a discussion was also held. Advocate Muslem Uddin, MP inaugurated the fair as chief guest.

Presided over by president of Phulbaria Sahitya Sangsad, Motalib Darbari, the opening ceremony was addressed among others by Phulbaria Upazila Parishad chairman, Anwar Hossain Badsha; Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Rokon Uddin; Advocate Emdadul Haque Selim; officer-in-charge of local police station Kazi Saidur Rahman and Harun-ur-Rashid.

"Ashamapto Opekha", a volume of poems written by Ruhul Amin was also launched on the occasion. Eminent cultural personality Professor Shaheed Khan unveiled the cover of the book at another function on the inaugural day.

Udichi, Manikganj Holds its 9th Council

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

The 9th council of Udichi's Manikganj unit was held here last Thursday. The event included a rally, discussion and cultural programme.

The day started with hoisting the national flag and the Udichi flag at the Sangskritik Biplabi Sangha auditorium premises in the district town.

Starting from there, a rally paraded the main streets of the town. After that, a discussion was held at the Sangskritik Biplabi Sangha auditorium.

Professor Niranjan Adhikari, vice president of Udichi central committee, was the chief guest. Sangita Inam, secretary (Organisation Unit) of Udichi central committee; Prodig Hor, former secretary; Nurul Islam, vice president and Akmal Hossain, secretary of Udichi Manikganj district committee, spoke at the discussion.

Later a cultural function was held there after declaration of the names of the committee members.



Artists perform at the programme. PHOTO: STAR

Lakshmi Chatterjee, president of Udichi Manikganj district committee, presided over the discussion. Mohammad Sayem, member of the Secretariat Board of Udichi central committee; Prodig Hor, former secretary; Nurul Islam, vice president and Akmal Hossain, secretary of Udichi Manikganj district committee, spoke at the discussion.

PROFILE

Mukul Ahmed, a Displaced, Bilingual Storyteller

A CORRESPONDENT

"It is mostly men who tell their stories but I want to tell stories that women want to say but very rarely seem to be able to. I want to explore female perspectives," -- this was how Mukul Ahmed responded when asked why he often works with all-women casts. Last year in January, Mukul directed Mahesh Elkunchwar's "Sonata" [also 2010], once again, he presented Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" in Cox's Bazar and Dhaka in which all the characters were played by women.

Would he say that he understands women? "Well, I do try to see and explain the whole being -- their beauty, blemishes, sharp intellect and the challenges they face." When pressed again on the matter of his obvious bias towards women in the plays he directs, Mukul described how his mother played a major role in his life. "She was my first inspiration. She was an amazing storyteller and nurtured my dreams of becoming a narrator [through theatre]."

Mukul Ahmed is a Bangladeshi who has been living and working in London [UK] since the 1990s. Having gained an MBA in 1999 and an MFA in theatre direction in 2007, he has been professionally engaged by various companies in London. His most recent association has been with Tara Arts whose artistic director is the much-revered Jatinder Verma.

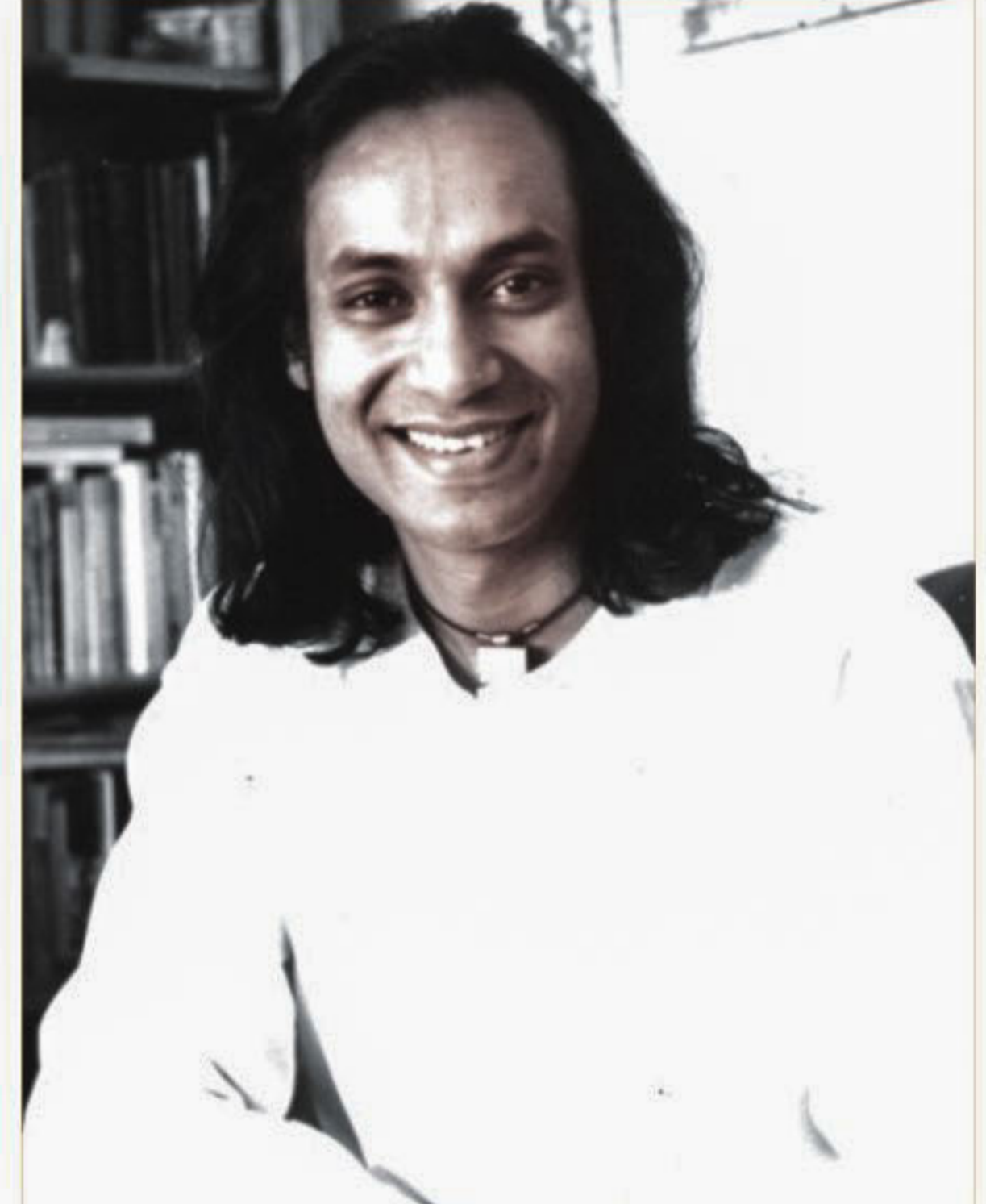
What is increasingly apparent is Mukul's tendency to explore the blending and weaving of different languages in drama, most notably Bangla and English, and a minimal approach towards storytelling. In fact, the former feature about his directorial choices can arguably be termed as unique. "Julius Caesar" was bilingual with actors speaking in both Shakespearean verses and Bangla. Mukul has already successfully implemented this new concept in England with a number of plays, most notably "Sonata", "Demon's Revenge" ("Meghnad Bawdh Kabya") and "A People's Romeo" ("Romeo and Juliet"). In fact "A People's Romeo" was awarded the much-coveted 3 stars by Guardian's theatre critic, Lyn Gardner.

Why are some of his plays bilingual though? Mukul explained that he is trying to create a model of bilingualism in theatre. According to him Bengalis tend to use a lot of English words in their daily life and most people in Bangladesh are bilingual. Theatre is a wonderful avenue through which bilingualism can be taken forward. "Audiences who came to see the bilingual approach to classics and modern drama in the UK and in Bangladesh were very encouraging and enthusiastic; to their surprise and delight they found the transition between the two languages smooth and effortless."

Mukul is also being instrumental in promoting and providing opportunities for talented Bangladeshis living in the UK to work in mainstream theatre. Most notably Delwar Hossain, Leesa Gazi, Sohini Alam,

Swagata Biswas, Nobonita Chowdhury and others have been favourably noted by critics of mainstream theatre in the UK.

Mukul said that he would like to help train theatre professionals in Bangladesh and he wants to create a new audience. "I work with classics as well as original plays and would therefore like to work with new writers who are equally at home in Bangla and English." He, along with a few of his enthusiastic friends, has formed a theatre company in Bangladesh called Stage One Dhaka. The troupe's journey began with "Goodnight Ma" in 2008, followed by Mahesh Elkunchwar's "Sonata" (after it was staged by Tara Arts in London) and most recently "Julius Caesar". Interestingly many of the plays that Mukul has directed tend to be about dis-



placement of individuals in a globalised world. Why? "Because I feel displaced. Actually I tend to live in a fantasy world and despite everything, I like being in that world. I want to continue to dwell in that fantasy land of theatre. I don't think I am much in touch with reality!"

Who was he mentored by? "I have been principally mentored by Jatinder Verma but Helena Kaut-Howson and John Langley continue to feature very prominently in my professional life."

Are we going to see many more of his productions in Bangladesh? "Yes, most certainly. At present I am working with a Bangladeshi-American writer on a Bengali classic. Theatre is my passion and I hope to push the boundaries with every new production."

Madhuri's Ardent Admiration for Kathak

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

For Bollywood's "dhak dhak" dancing diva Madhuri Dixit, Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj is the "ultimate dancer."

Madhuri, whose dance on the big screen has swayed millions, says Kathak is her favourite form of dance and "I am in awe of Birju Maharaj-jii. I am an avid fan. He is the ultimate Kathak dancer for me. There are many talented dancers but I have not seen anyone like Maharaj-jii. I respect him a lot."

The 43-year-old actress is one of the few Bollywood stars trained and guided by Birju Maharaj.

Madhuri got to work with Birju Maharaj during the shooting of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's film "Devdas", for the thumri "Kahe Ched Ched Mohe".

"Kathak is very close to my heart, though I like other classical dance forms also. Today, a lot of free style and western dances have come in like Jive, Samba,



Film Fiesta at Rajshahi University "Runway", "Naroshundor", "Adom Surot" screened

RU CORRESPONDENT

Tareque Masud and Catherine Masud's feature film "Runway" was screened at a two-day film festival in Rajshahi University (RU) as part of its countrywide district-level release.

Ritwik Ghatak Film Society, Rajshahi Film Society and Rajshahi Medical College jointly organised the festival recently at the university's Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium.

Films were screened daily in two shows that drew full-houses where "Runway" together with "Adom Surot", a documentary on the late painter S.M. Sultan, were shown in first shows.

In second shows, "Runway" was shown together with "Naroshundor", a short fiction on the Liberation War.

Director Tareque Masud was present on the opening day. He also met with the university teachers and discussed film-related issues.



A scene from "Runway".

Catherine Zeta-Jones Gets Knighted



Catherine Zeta-Jones shows off her CBE award.

Wales-born Hollywood star Catherine Zeta-Jones has been knighted by Prince Charles for her contribution to cinema and was made a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in a ceremony in London.

The 41-year-old actress and her husband Michael Douglas arrived at the Buckingham palace with their children Dylan and Carys for the ceremony, reported Daily Mail online.

"The Mask of Zorro" star dressed for the occasion in a taupe skirt suit and a full hat complete with feathers. Her 66-year-old husband, who recently overcame a cancer battle, was also suited and booted for the event. The family

posed together after the ceremony, with their eight-year-old daughter Carys and 11-year-old son Dylan also dressed formally for the occasion.

The Swansea-born actress, who won an Oscar for her role as Velma Kelly in the 2002 film "Chicago", received her award from the Prince of Wales during which they had a quick chat.

When the announcement of the award was made last summer she said, "I am absolutely thrilled with this honour. As a British subject, I feel incredibly proud, at the same time it is overwhelming and humbling."

Source: Internet

ATN BANGLA	02:45 Bangla Feature Film	10:50 Shomey Katuk Gaane
	06:15 Shushtha Thakun	12:30 Gaane
	10:45 Bihango Kotha	12:30 Shudhu Cinemar Gaan
	11:30 World Cup Big Hits	
	01:00 Campus Parliament	
CHANNEL I	01:05 Bangla Feature Film	
	05:30 Boi Mela	
	09:35 Hridoye Mati	
	01:00 O Manush	
	11:30 Fun Club Tournament	
	12:00 Gramephone Aker	
ntv	12:50 Shastha Protidin	
	04:10 Gallery	
	06:25 Boi Boshonto	
	07:20 Sholana Bangallana	
	09:00 Busy-der Easy Show	
	11:30 Juke Performance	
	Show: Ha-Sho	

abc radio FM 89.2	06:00 Bhowr Lalalay	02:00 Fourt Unlimited
	09:00 Mukhorjo Jhonyo	06:00 Bumper to Bumper
	12:25 Standard Charterred-	10:00 Back to Back music
	The Daily Star	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
	Bhowr Joghpan	11:00 Most Unlimited
	03:00 Duranto Bikelley	01:00 Today's World
	05:00 Shandhataro	05:00 Music
	07:30 Shajer Boley	04:00 Utm
	09:00 Rai-er Mahshy	08:00 Today's Ha Hak
	11:00 Golper Shesh Nei	11:00 Raat Bhor Gaan

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

War of the Worlds
On Z Studio at 11:40pm
Genre: Action/Adventure
Cast: Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning

Garbo Gao Pran Khuley Gao
On BANGLAVISION at 09:10pm
Musical Talent Hunt
Judges: Sabina Yasmin, Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Aul Akbar

ETV	01:30 Bangla Feature Film	09:30 Order of the Phoenix
	05:25 The Aim	11:30 Zambieland
	05:50 Sports Plus	12:00 Spartacus: Blood and Sand
	06:30 Vobo Guro Det Com	11:00 Star Movies
	10:10 Golpa Solpo Gaan	12:00 12 Rounds
	11:50 Cricket Crazy	03:00 Closer
		04:50 Knowing
		07:00 Nine
	04:30 Protidin-er Gaan	12:00 A Few Good Men
	04:30 Drama Serial: Eobong Bhola	12:00 Shindog Millionaire
	05:40 Amader Boi Mela	11:30 Star World
	06:30 Hazara diner Gaan	10:30 American Idol
	11:15 Jeyeg Achho Ki	02:30 Friends
		04:30 Master chef US
		07:30 Coffee With Karen
		09:30 The Good Guys
		11:30 White Collar
		National Geographic Channel
		11:30 I Didn't Know That
		02:30 Mega cities
		07:30 Nat Geo Extreme
		09:30 Dangerous Encounters
		11:30 Nat Geo Wild
		Discovery Channel
		11:30 A Life Telling Tigers
		02:30 Man vs. Wild
		07:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
		09:30 Man vs. Wild
		11:30 Machines of Malice

ATN BANGLA	08:00pm Prapojoi Mon	ETV	09:30pm Patul Nakh-er Ektokha
	08:40pm Neel		
CHANNEL I	07:50pm Ceto Pagol	Rtv	09:50pm Neel Jozzajy Kalo Saag
	10:00pm Ural Peshki Mon		
ntv	09:15pm Chader Nijer Kon Alo Nei	BANGLAVISION	09:15pm Tourist
			08:15pm Jamainela

RTV	News (Bangla): 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:30pm, 11:00pm	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 1:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm, News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm, News (English) at 6:00pm
	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am		
	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am		
ATN BANGLA	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am		
	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm		

ATN BANGLA	09:20am Pop Spin	ETV	12:05am Banglalink Ekushey Raat
	12:30am Gramephone		
	Lead News		
CHANNEL I	11:55am Amader Aayna	Rtv	10:45am Basudha Tarokajol
	12:30am Goyel Tanza Kotha	BANGLAVISION	06:05pm Front Line
ntv	12:30am El Shomoy	Desh TV	11:45pm Shojha Kotha