

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair '12
Venue: Bangla Academy
Premises
Date: February 1-29
Time: 9am onwards

Book Launch
Book: The Bangladesh Sundarbans
Writer: Enayeturrahman Khan
Venue: Cosmos Centre, 69/1, New
Circular Road, Malibagh
Date: February 03
Time: 4pm

National Poetry Festival '12
Venue: Dhaka University Central
Library premises
Date: Feb 1-2
Time: 10am onwards

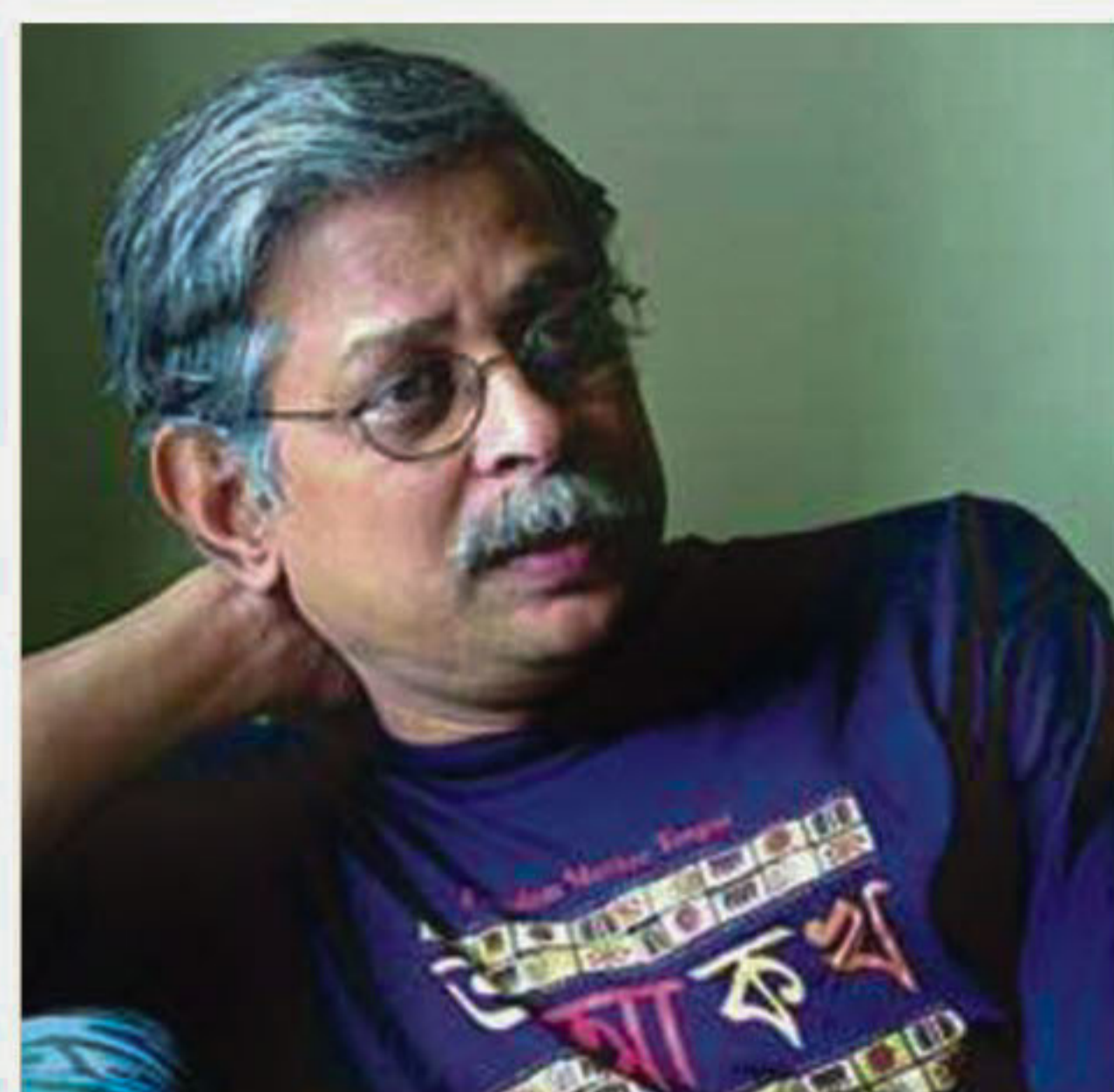
Rabindra Festival
Venue: National Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 2-3
Time: 5:30pm

Solo Exhibition
Title: Dreams-Sowing
Artist: Kanak Champa Chakma
Venue: Gallery Chitra, 8-6, H-4,
Dharmoadi
Date: Jan 28-Feb 12
Time: 10am-6pm

Film Screening
Olivier Assayas Retrospective
Venue: Alliance Francaise de
Dhaka, Dharmoadi
Date: Feb 2-10
Time: 6pm

Reconstruction Fashion
Exhibition
Organiser: National Museum &
British Council, Venue: National
Museum Auditorium, Shahbag
Date: Jan 28- Feb 11

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Rejuvenation
Artist: Rajaul Islam Luvella
Venue: Gallery Kaya, Uttara
Date: Jan 27-Feb 7
Time: 11am-7:30pm



"I hope that youngsters would read more and watch TV less" -- Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal is an eminent writer and an educationist. He is immensely popular among young readers for his science fiction and adventure books.

2" and "Amar Bondhu Rashed" -- made particularly for the young audience -- have received accolades from all.

How many new books will your fans receive at the fair? Iqbal: I'm writing a book for kids/adolescents. Hope it will

come out at the book fair. There's going to be a science fiction as well. Apart from these, several special series for the young will also be found at the fair.

What is your view of the size of the fair? Iqbal: I think it would be better if the space of the fair were expanded. Because, the turnout gets bigger each year. I don't know how this issue will be

resolved. Will you be at the fair? Iqbal: It is hard to be at the fair regularly as I live in Sylhet. However, the youngsters will find me there on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the mela.

You're a favourite among young readers. How do you feel about this? Iqbal: It's a matter of joy for any writer. But I do feel that more books should be written for the young. My earnest request to eminent and popular writers of our country: please write more for the youngsters.

Do you miss anything at the book fair? Iqbal: Usually when I'm at the fair, I'm always busy signing books or talking to my fans. I never get any time to browse the stalls and look at new books. I always wish I had more time.

What are your expectations from the young readers? Iqbal: I hope that the youngsters would read more and watch TV less. They are losing interest in books.

Any new film being made based on your story? Iqbal: Afsana Mimi will make a film based on one of my stories, titled "Camp", while Sajal Khaled is making another called "Kajol-er Din Ratri".

THEATRE

Stage One Dhaka to premiere "Romeo and Juliet" tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stage One Dhaka is an international theatre company based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Its aim is to provide a platform for local established and emerging artists. The theatre company has recently produced a play, William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet".

The play has been staged outside Dhaka a couple of times. It'll have its Dhaka premiere tomorrow (February 3) at the Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Designed by Salauddin Ahmed, the play has been directed by Mukul Ahmed. According to Mita Chowdhury, actor and one of the directors of the company, the classic story is being presented in an innovative theatre form.

The performance weaves together Shakespeare's verse and Bangla prose. Five performers use Pala Gaan to re-discover the Shakespeare classic and present it in a lively and spirited setting. The much known story of the play begins with a bitter feud between the

Capulets and the Montagues, two prestigious families in Verona, Italy. Romeo and Benvolio are accidentally invited to their enemies' party; Benvolio persuades Romeo to attend.

At the party, Romeo locks eyes with a young woman named Juliet. They instantly fall in love but they do not realise that their families are mortal enemies.

When they realise each other's identities, they are devastated, but they cannot help the way they feel. Romeo steals into Juliet's terrace after the party and proclaims his love for her. She returns his sentiments and the two decide to marry. The next day, Romeo and Juliet are married by Friar Laurence.

The cast includes Delwar Hossain Dilu, Shormymala, Mita Chowdhury, Dominic Gomes and Shaifur Rahman Bipul. Two shows of the play will take place tomorrow, at 5pm and 7:30pm. Moreover, the play will be staged on February 5 at Chhayanaut Auditorium at 7pm.



A scene from the play.

DHAKA UNIVERSITY THEATRE FESTIVAL ENDS Waiting for Godot staged



The play is considered the most notable work of Samuel Beckett.

JAMIL MAHMUD

The 10-day-long 6th Dhaka University Central Theatre Festival ended on January 31 with the staging of an adaptation of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot".

The concluding ceremony and the show were held at the TSC Auditorium on DU campus.

Organised by the Department of Theatre, DU, the festival featured plays directed by the final year students, as well as indigenous theatre forms demonstrated by invited troupes from outside Dhaka. Professor A.K. Azad Chowdhury, chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), was the chief guest at the closing ceremony.



praised the organisers and expressed the hope that the arrangement would continue in the future. The adaptation of the Beckett play -- "Godor Opekkhbay" -- was translated by Professor Kabir Chowdhury. The play was directed by Khan Mohammad Rafiqul Islam.

has achieved the status of a "theatrically absurd" play in which nothing happens, and yet keeps the audiences glued to their seats.

The play zooms in on two vagabonds -- Vladimir and Estragon. Every afternoon under a tree, they wait for Godot, whom they are supposed to meet. Time goes by and Godot never shows up. The vagabonds' routine is broken one day when Pozzo and Lucky, a master and his slave, appear on the scene. The 10-day festival, an annual endeavour by the department, also featured indigenous theatre forms such as Muharram-er-Jari and Alkap. The students demonstrated folk forms through their performances glued to their seats.

Seminar on mime at Shilpakala Academy



A CORRESPONDENT

On January 28, Bangladesh Mime Federation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy jointly organised a seminar titled, "Potential for modern mime in Bangladesh", and a mime presentation at the seminar room of the academy.

Premiere of Shediner Ghatona held in Thakurgaon

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

The premier of a play titled "Shediner Ghatona" was staged at the Out Reach Resource Centre (ORC) Seminar Hall in Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School on Sunday night.

Local artistes performed in the play directed by Mashrequl Arefin, written by Azmat Rana, with Kademul Islam contributing to art direction. The play was based on a local incident where a village girl became a dowry victim and eventually died. After the play, a discussion was held at the venue.

Nasimul Mahbub: A music aficionado

SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

Nasimul Mahbub, a pharmacist by profession, has worked in most of the significant national and multinational companies of the country. At present, he is the Head, Plant Operations of Aristopharma. But if you ever listen to him singing you would not for once think that he is not a professional singer, whom you are meeting for the very first time!

Nasim has been in the industry as an amateur singer for about four decades with a voice that remains youthful till today. Even today his voice can make an impression and this shows that age has little impact on musical abilities. "I used to learn classical and Nazrul songs in the 1970s. I was about nine or 10 years then. I was also a child artiste of PTV (Pakistan Television) and MTV respectively, and used to perform at regular programmes. But as I left for Cadet College, my connection with the music world declined, as there was no scope of singing there," says Nasim. He continues, "At one point in life I was about to leave for Shantiniketan to pursue my education in music. But my father decided otherwise and I joined Dhaka University to complete my education in pharmacy."

When asked if he regrets not making a career out of singing, he says, "When I hear a popular singer, I sometimes feel that I could have sung the same way. But I am happy to do what I am doing and music will always be more than a passion to me."



This versatile singer with an impeccable command over his voice can render a wide range of songs with consummate ease. He won the Notun Kuri Award as a child and participated in the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) competition and wrested the second prize in Adhunik song. Nasim states "I have to work on a tight schedule because of my responsibilities but nevertheless I listen to songs whenever time permits." His love for music ranges from Nazrul saangeet to western music. His fondest memories are from his childhood days when he spent hours learning and practising singing. His favourites include Subir Nandi, Samina Chowdhury, Sabina Yasmin and of course Runa Laila. When asked if he regrets not making a career out of singing, he says, "When I hear a popular singer, I sometimes feel that I could have sung the same way. But I am happy to do what I am doing and music will always be more than a passion to me."

Giving deadwood a new lease of life Rajaul's woodcarving exhibition at Gallery Kaya

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Creative and artistic designs were used in wooden doors, rectilinear door frames, windows, home decoration, furniture and more. Birds, animal forms, foliage and different parts of nature were used on the timber. The tradition had been on the wane for some time and by now it has become quite hard to find the existence of such craftsmen. It is widely known that woodcarving is a time consuming and labour intensive work.

The medium has been practised in the Craft Department of Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. But the genre of art did not acquire the spirit it was expected to. Fortunately, a few enthusiastic artists are now trying to rejuvenate the medium. Rajaul Islam is one of them. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. At present he lives and works in Rome. He is now jointly working with noted Italian artist Laolo. W. Tamburella. Rajaul has learned many delicate methods and techniques of woodcarving from him.

His current solo woodcarving exhibition, titled "Rejuvenation", is now on at Gallery Kaya in Uttara.

Rajaul gives an artistic life to his creation. Observing trees, the artist easily comprehends how the branches can be used through his works. He has used metal plates, metal buttons and beads with wood. The texture of wood creates an eye-catching quality. He has pasted alphabets on wood in some of the pieces. His works replete with birds, trees and foliage, speak of rural and pastoral Bengal. Human forms are often merged with nature. The artist is skilled in sketching a blissful landscape. He engraves wood to express the splendour of birds and butterflies. His colours and forms keep telling us about Bangladesh and its splendid natural beauty. There was no strong theme in customary woodcarving before in our country. Since the '90s, the panoramic beauty of rural Bengal and young couples became significantly noticeable in woodcarving. The woodcarvers raced to the contest of the painters, who work in two dimensions. Nowadays, woodcarvings have taken a prestigious



place beside paintings. Woodcarvings also decorate doors and walls in a very artistic way. Art galleries and art shops have successfully made an impact on collectors' tastes with their collection of woodcarvings. Against a background of such reality, Rajaul has practiced this medium. His woodworks are a testimony to the fact that even after the branches of the tree have died, there is a possibility of them coming alive again. The exhibition ends on February 7.

AR Rahman revisited German Film Orchestra: Babelsberg performs in Indian capital

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

In a tribute to the cult status of Oscar winning composer AR Rahman, the famous German Film Orchestra: Babelsberg performed here recently on classic scores by him from films "Bombay", "Roja" and "Swades".

Though, Rahman himself didn't perform, the crowd sent out lusty cheers and gave him a standing ovation when he came on the dais to address the audience. "Every time I watch them (German Film Orchestra) play, I am

somewhere else... forgetting that it's my music. Not many know how I make music. I lock myself in the studio and sit alone for hours," said Rahman. "I am really excited and grateful for this gesture of the German Film Orchestra Babelsberg for doing this tour in India along with our students from the KM Music Conservatory. I am sure this will be a new experience for Indian score lovers", the 46-year-old "Mozart of Madras" added. Rahman, a two-time Academy Award winner, has composed

music for films like "Slumdog Millionaire", "Taal", "Jodhaa Akba", "Rang De Basanti" and recently-released "Rockstar". The concert was held to mark six decades of diplomatic ties between India and Germany. According to Dr. Marla Stukenberg, Director, Goethe-Institut, Mumbai, and initiator of the project, the German Film Orchestra Babelsberg is the first Western classical orchestra performing the music of AR Rahman in his home country".

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker and Henry by Don Tranchte comic strips.

Table with TV channels and programmes: BT, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv.

Table with radio stations: abc radio FM 89.2, Dhaka Calling, Back to Back music, RADIO TODAY FM 89.6.

Tomay Gaan Shonabo On Maasranga Television at 11:00pm. Programme: (Live) Musical. Guest: Aditi.

Thorne: Sleepy-head On HBO at 09:30pm. Genre: Drama/Crime. Cast: Stephen Campbell Moore, Joshua Close.

United in Glory on CHANNEL 1 at 11:30pm. Sport Show. Host: Naved.

Table with TV channels and programmes: 10:05, 04:10, 06:15, 11:30, 11:30, 11:30, 10:10, 10:10, 09:20, 10:50, 11:30, 02:20, 06:05, 09:05, Rtv.

Table with drama serials: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv, BANGLAVISION, Discovery Channel, Rtv.

Table with news bulletins: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv, BANGLAVISION, Discovery Channel, Rtv.

Table with talk shows: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, ntv, BANGLAVISION, Discovery Channel, Rtv.