



















"Not everyone should publish"

well as ones on the Bangla lan-

ket -- the author observes.

guage. There are only a handful of

language related books in the mar-

The author says that not every-

and that there should be strict regu

tive", he adds that book enthusiasts

are being swindled. The publication

of thousands of books at a single

fair is unjustified and unnecessary,

example, he says publishing books

has become almost the same as

ever they want nowadays.

when Chittaranjan Das of

since 1977.

he thinks. Using Internet blogs as an

anyone can write and publish what-

Like every year, Saber plans to visit

the book fair every day as it always

cheers him up. Asked when he first

started coming to the fair, the writer

says his first visit was in 1972 or 1973,

Muktodhara initiated the fair. But the

author became a regular at the fair

one should be allowed to publish

lations. Terming the trend "nega-

-- Moinul Ahsan Saber

same as each year. There shouldn't

be any chaos at the fair, Saber says,

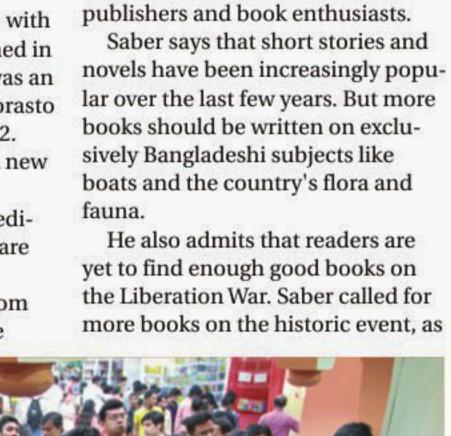
SHAH ALAM SHAZU

adding that poor arrangement Moinul Ahsan Saber is a seasone denies readers from taking ample author -- with 75 books to his nan time in browsing new books. He -- covering short stories, novel, adds another expectation: expandliterature for adolescents and tra ing the size of the fair. The author lation. He has won the Philips says the fair continues to be Award, Humayun Kadir Award, arranged on the same amount of Bangla Academy Award and space as before, despite a drastic received several other recognitions increase in the numbers of both

Saber began writing in 1974, with his first story "Mohini" published the weekly Bichitra, when he was an HSC student. His first book "Pora Shohish" was published in 1982.

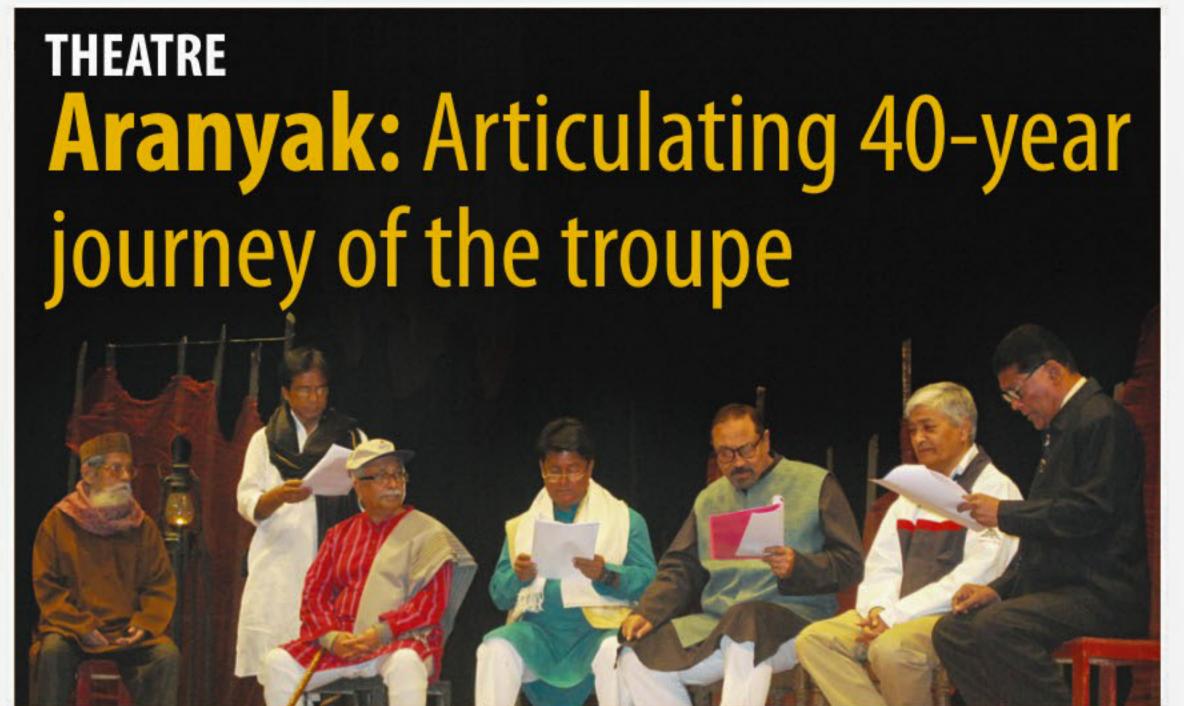
Dibya Prakash will publish a new novel by Saber at the ongoing Ekushey Book Fair, while new editions of five of his other books are also set to be published Asked about expectations from

the fair, the author says it is the



Reminiscing on his first book launch. Saber says most of his friends, including the late poet Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah, became ublished authors in the beginning of the 1980s. But as there was not an abundance of publishers at the time, Saber had to wait till 1982 for his first book to be published. His friend Mashuk Helal helped a lot through the process, he adds. The stir that the first publication created, along with the appreciation from both close ones and readers, was cause for great

Moinul Ahsan Saber is the editor of weekly 2000 and acting editor of



A lively discussion and reminiscence on the troupe's debut play, Kabor, was part of the celebration.

All the lights inside the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy were switched off on February 1 evening. Entering the hall, the audience discovered around 80 members of Aranyak Natvadal, attired in black with lit candles in hand ready to welcome them. In the dim shadows cast by the candles, the members gave a performance that articulated the 40year journey of the troupe.

The troupe embarked on its journey on the same day way back in 1972. In the course of time, it has gained much popularity through many acclaimed productions that mainly reflect the eternal human

Outside the auditorium, veteran actress Ferdausi Majumdar formally inaugurated the celebration. Wishing Aranyak success in fearlessly facing all hurdles, Majumdar said that she felt honoured to be a part of the programme.

Two key moments of the programme were resurrecting of the troupe's first play -- Munier Chowdhury's "Kabor" -- by the young members and a lively discussion and reminiscence of the

Ferdausi Majumdar (2-R) inaugurates the festival. Mamunur Rashid (R) and

other celebrities are also seen in the picture.

play's first show [on February 20, 1972] by the then cast.

Thespians Aly Zaker, Soovas Dutt, Dr. Enamul Haque and Mamur Rashid as well as Mahbub Chowdhury and Nazmul Hussain

performed in the debut version at the Engineers' Institute. All of them were present at the discussion. Young artistes staged the play and

the discussion was held later. "I think they performed better than us, what do you think?" --Zaker started the discussion praising the resurrected version as he posed the question to Rashid,

who also directed the play. The veteran artistes also reminisced how the late theatre icon Abdullah Al Mamun suggested 'Aranyak' as the

troupe's name, how they struggled to arrange the first show and how rest of the members felt proud to perform along with Soovas Dutt who was by then a major star.

To commemorate the first show of the production, the troupe also felicitated the cast at the programme. During the show, the stage got an ambiance of a prison replicating Munier Chowdhury's staging of the play during his

Near the end, all the present and former members gathered on the stage, from where, one of them announced that the troupe would celebrate the anniversary throughout this year. The confirmed schedule will be revealed later.

POETS' CORNER

National Poetry Festival 2012 concludes



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Kabita Shanitey, Shopner Dhonitey the two-day long 26th Jatiya Kabita Utshab (National Poetry Festival) 2012 concluded yesterday at the Dhaka University Library premises.

Poet Syed Shamsul Haq inaugurated the festival, organised by Jatiya Kabita Parishad (JKP) on February 1. President of JKP, Habibullah Shirazi, presided over the programme. Poet Rabiul Hussain, convener of the Parishad; Aslam Sani, general secretary; Tarik Sujat, joint convener of JKP; and eminent poets Rafiq Azad, Nirmalendu Goon, Muhammad Rafique, Mahadev Saha, Belal Chowdhury, Aurunabh Sarkar, Muhamm Nurul Huda, Shihab Sarkar, Ashim Saha, Muhammad Samad, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Three hundred poets and writers from home and abroad participated in the festival. The festival featured recitation, musical soiree, discussion and more. On the first day of the festival, artistes of Sammilita Sangskrit Jote performed several songs.

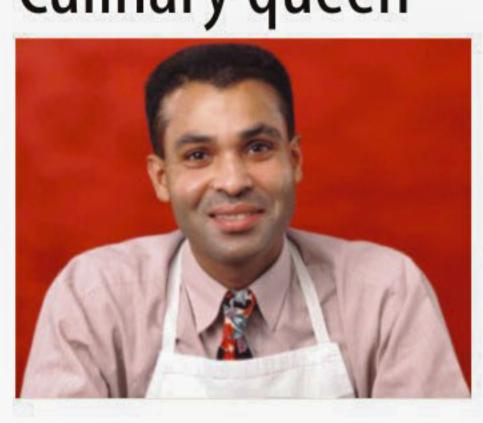
Participating poets came from India, Pakistan, Spai Nepal and Bhutan, including renowned poets Syed Jaygum Dastagir, Germain Droogenbroodt, Abdus

Sukur Khan, Gouri Sankar Bandyopadhyay, Shamalkanti Das, Chitra Lahiri, Ratul Dev Burman, Akbar Ahmed, Uttam Das, Bithi Chattopadhyay, Amitabh Chowdhury, Anil Sarkar, Dip Mukhopadhyay, Taposh Roy, Amrita Mytai, Mrinal Basu Chowdhury and others. They recited their poems at the festival. A good number of Bangladeshi expatriate poets and litterateurs from the USA, UK, Sweden, Italy, France, Canada and Australia also joined the festival.

On the first day of the festival, noted elocutionists Asaduzzaman Noor, Bhaswar Banerjee, Hasan Arif, Mahidul Islam and others recited poems.

On the closing day (February 2), two seminars titled "Muktijuddho O Amader Kabita" and "Bhasha Andolon O Amader Kabita", were held at the Dhaka University Library premises. Noted educationist and Nazrul exponent Dr. Rafiqul Islam; educationist and Tagore exponent Ahmed Rafique; editor of Kali O Kalam, Abul Hasnat; historian Professor Syed Anwar Hussain, Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan, among others, were the discussants at the

IN MEMORIAM Siddiqua Kabir: Culinary queen



TOMMY MIAH

I have known Mrs. Kabir for a long time. She was a truly amazing person and had been extremely kind and considerate to me when I was starting out.

As the Culinary pioneer in Bangladesh, she was an inspiration and role model to me in my culinary endeavours. Her life and achievements shaped my own endeavours and encouraged many others towards creating a positive Bangladesh.

I had the good fortune to know Mrs Siddiqua Kabir personally over the last decade or so, and we collaborated during several major events. We were pleased to have her on several occasions at Tommy Institute of Hospitality Management in

In 2010, she was a special guest at our International Chef of the Year Competition, which has been on since 1991. Not only did she help to boost the profile of the event but she also proved an invaluable source of advice to our esteemed judges, including Lord Fraser!

I also remember with fondness, only last year, visiting her at her house in Dhanmondhi when she was kind enough to sign and give me one of her recipe books. I will cherish this memento forever.

Her passing will leave a void in all our lives, but her memory and legacy will live on in the hearts and hearths of all Bangladeshis.

Ode to Bangla, Bangladesh and Bengali culture The Daily Star and Dhaka English medium schools host a vibrant cultural event







Clockwise (from top-left): Students of Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT), Scholastica and Maple Leaf International School perform at the event.

Director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala

Academy, Liaquat Ali Lucky attended the

event as chief guest. Through his inspiring

builders," added Anam.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

To promote Bangla and Bengali culture, The Daily Star, together with 550 students from 14 Dhaka English medium schools, hosted a lively cultural programme at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy premises on February 1. In his welcome address, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam,

said, "Of course we'll learn English, which is the international medium of communication, but not at the cost of forgetting Bangla and our opulent culture. A nation that takes pride in its culture can take confident steps on the global stage."

"There is a misconception that Bangla is not practised in English medium schools The Daily Star and the English medium schools would like to change this popular misconception. I urge all guardians to actively instil our traditions and pride in the

speech, full of excerpts from Tagore, Nazrul Madhusudan, Sukanto and Shamsur Rahman, he emphasised the need to learn and practice Bangla and Bangladeshi

The programme predominantly featured cultural performances (renditions of patriotic and folk songs, group dance, recitation and drama) by the students of Dhaka English medium schools. The young artistes showcased their creativity in solemnly presenting the two historic events -- the Language Movement and the Liberation War.

Tagore singer Nargis Chowdhury led the rendition of National Anthem with music teachers of the participating schools. Bengali identity among these future nation-Marking 60 years of the Language

International School kicked off the event with a group dance set to the song "Shoto Shaheed-er Buker Roktey". Students of ABC International School (Narayanganj) danced to the song "Jago Bangali Jago" and the poem "Kono Ek Ma Ke". Students of BAF Shaheen English Mediur

Movement, students of Siddiqui's

School danced to a patriotic number "Protidin Tomaye Dekhi Shurjolokey". The young artistes displayed the national flag national flower and several rural element during the performance. Cultural presentation by Happy Times International School followed. Students of Mount Royal Academy (Narayanganj) presented a musical narrative (featuring poems, songs, Puthi Patth) and performed a dance based on a

spirited song, "Badh Bhengey Dao". Methodist English Medium School showcased dances set on songs pertaining the six seasons of Bangladesh while The

British School danced to the songs "Moder Gorob Moder Asha" and "Matth-er Sabui Theke Surjer Laal". Academia students also presented dances based on patriotic and spirited songs including "Bangladesh-e Janmo Amar", "Shikol Pora Chhol" and "Karar Oi Louho Kopat". With the title "Shashshoto Bangladesh"

Students of Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT) performed at the event. Their performance featured rendition of "Badh Bhenge Dao" and presentation of a dance piece set on the song "O Prithibi Ebar Eshey Bangladesh Nao Chiney". Students of Heed International School rendered two songs --"Ekti Bangladesh Tumi Jagroto Janotar" and "Muktir Mondir Shopan Toley".

"Beautiful Bangladesh" was the title of the performance offered by the artistes of Scholastica. The largest troupe (55 members) at the event rendered several folk and a Santali song "Chandra Jagichhey

performance highlighted communal harmony while Maple Leaf International School danced to several folk songs. The of a drama based on history and culture of Bangladesh by the students of Oxford nternational School.

award giving ceremony that The Daily Star holds every year for English medium O and A Level examinations.

Jonak Gaichhey" along with dance. They superbly showcased folk themed elements like dhol, mondira during their 10-minute Islamic International School and College's

programme came to an end with the staging An important part of the event was an

students who achieve outstanding results in General manager (Production and Events) of The Daily Star, Selim SH Chowdhury

planned, directed and emceed the entire



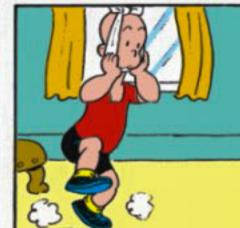


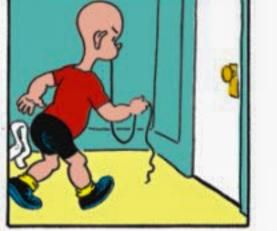


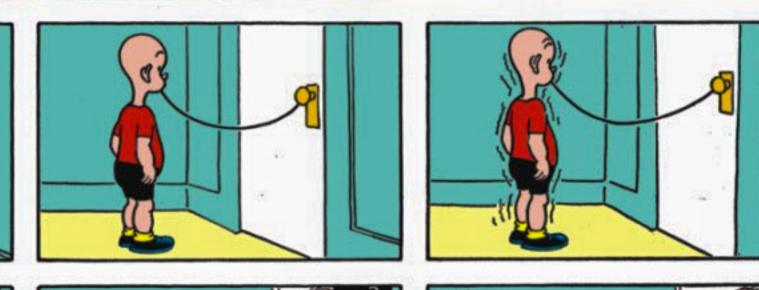


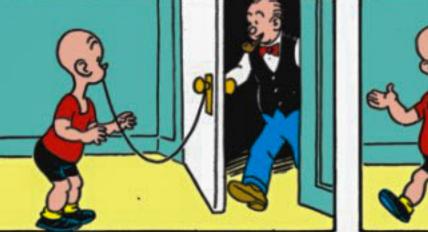


















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be responsible for any change in the programme

All programmes are in local

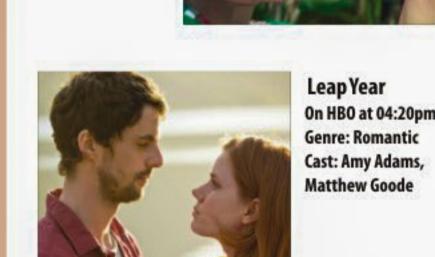
time. The Daily Star will not

09:30 While She Was Out

American Pie: The

RADIO

Drama Serial



BANGLAVISION

12:00 The Big Bang Theory National Geographic Amader Rannagh Channel Banged Up Abroad

A Traveler's Guide to the Planets Nat Geo Specials The Indestructible

Survivor India Ruk Jana Nahi Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam

Programme 11:00 Mann Kee Awaaz Priyojon-er Gaan 123 Sisimpur **BBC World** Call-er Gaan

03:30 HARD talk DRAMA SERIAL 08:10pm Onno Shokal

09:20pm Motijheel C/A BANGLAVISION 11:00pm Hawai Mithai 09:45pm Gulshan Avenue 08:15pm Rupkotha 08:15pm Chorkabyo 09:45pm Kobi 09:00pm Oloshpur Desh TV 09:30pm Rongila oishakhi TV 08:15pm Kuashar Ondhokar

NEWS BULLETIN

News (Bangla) at 7:30am. News (English) at 10:00am, Late Night News (Bangla and 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm English) 11:30 pm. (To be News (English) at 6:00pm telecast on all Bangla News (Bangla): 2:30 pm,

CHANNEL-i 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 10:30 pm, 12:30 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 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm,

TALK SHOW 12:30am Lead New

09:05pm Moner Kotha

10:40am Tarokalap

01:00am Tritio Matra Boishakhi TV

CHANNEL i

12:00am Zero Hour

12:05pm Moha Shatto Al-

BANGLAVISION

Maasranga Television 07:30pm Prime Issue