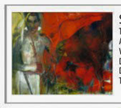
WHAT'S ON

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

Documentary Screening
Documentary: 1971
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh
Date: February 7-9
Time: 2:15pm, 6:30pm

Award Giving Ceremony
Title: M Noorul Quader Shishu Shahitya Purosskar '11
Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy
Date: Feb 10
Time: 3pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Studied Reflections
Venue: Radius Centre, Gulshan-1
Date: Feb 10-Mar 2
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Exhibition
Title: Dreams-Sowing
Artist: Kanak Chanpa Chakma
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, R-6, H-4, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 28-Feb 12
Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Dreams of the Land
Artist: Noriko Yanagisawa
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan
Date: Feb 3-12
Time: 12pm-8pm

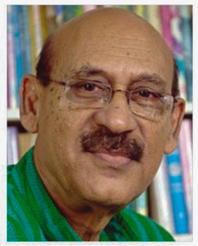
Solo Exhibition
Artist: Kashinath Salve
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, R-6, H-115, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Feb 7-20
Time: 11am-8pm

Birthday Celebration
Samarjit Roy Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 10
Time: 6:30pm

A veteran actor as a writer

One on one with **Abul Hayat**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU



Veteran actor, director and playwright Abul Hayat also dabbles in writing -- publishing articles regularly in the top tier newspapers of the country. Each Ekushey book fair, book enthusiasts also receive more offerings from Abul Hayat, the writer.

Four books by Hayat are set to be launched at this year's fair, with two novels already out on the opening day. "Mohor" and "Ural Pakhi" were launched by the publishing house Ananya.

Hayat has long been writing columns under the title "Esho Nipobone" and a compilation of his works will also be brought out by Ananya soon, informs the actor.

"Apart from columns and novels, I write short stories as well. A compilation of the stories, titled "Obhiman", will be released by Shobdo-shilpo by next week," says Hayat.

"Trishnar Shanti" -- Hayat's first novel -- was published in the early 1990s. He continued wielding the pen, with his books touching the 16 mark, including the latest publications. Although a busy shooting schedule has barred him from visiting the book fair up till now, Hayat expressed hopes that he will become a regular from next week.

Hayat says he only writes during leisure hours or whenever there is a sudden desire. He adds that the screenplays he writes are also converted into short stories or novels, so that they live on.

"New publications are always a cause for a different kind of jubilation," Hayat says, adding that it is the joy that drives him to write more. Time however acts against his frequency of writing, he observes.

Although all creative works provide a fulfilment of soul, writing novels are his favourite, the veteran actor says.

Asked about future plans on writing, Hayat says he wants to continue his endeavours -- whenever he gets a break from shooting, scriptwriting or direction. Writing good pieces -- which will appeal to both himself and the readers -- is his intention.

"The atmosphere at the Ekushey Book Fair needs to be disciplined and festive," Hayat adds on his expectations from the annual fair.

Great pleasure, great sadness...

CATHERINE MASUD

It is with great pleasure mixed with great sadness that we are here today to announce the upcoming Dhaka release of Tareque Masud's last film "Runway", February 10th to 21st at the National Public Library. Great pleasure of course because it is a long-awaited moment for us, over one year having passed since the premiere show of the film in October 2010. Great sadness, because Tareque himself cannot be here with us today to share this moment.

Tareque was always a trailblazer in whatever he did, and the release of "Runway" was no different. From the outset, he decided to adopt a radically different approach to releasing the film, bypassing mainstream commercial distribution channels and taking the film himself to the far reaches of the country. The capital Dhaka was to be the last stop in Runway's journey. His reasoning was that with the demise of the cinema hall network throughout the country, the only effective way to reach audiences was through parallel distribution, and priority should be given to the cinema-deprived audiences outside the capital city. And so he became the "cinema feriwallah", taking Runway first to Chittagong on Dec. 16th, 2010, then on to Sylhet, Khulna, Rajsahi, Kushtia, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Narail, and Faridpur among other places. Then, after August 13th, as Tareque would have wanted, Runway's journey continued onwards, to Manikganj, Jessore, Rajbari, Bhanga, Netrakona, Barisal, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Comilla…

And so at last we come to Dhaka, later than we would have planned, and with a different mood as well. Now it is not just the release of Runway that we bring to Dhaka, but along with it a special tribute to Tareque Masud and his creative partner, cinematographer Mishuk Munier, who died with him on that fateful day. Therefore we have included in our screening programme the last three works they made together: along with "Runway", also the short fiction "Naroshundor", and the 2-minute "Ekush", on International Mother Language Day. In some way it is appropriate that this release programme takes place in the month of February: as we remember the martyrs of Ekushey, we can also remember these martyrs of cinema, Tareque, Mishuk and their other three production team members, Mustafiz, Wasim, and Jamal. May they all rest in peace, and may their dreams of better cinema, and a better world, live on forever.

Catherine (C) speaks at a press conference.

Release details: February 10th-21st, 2012
Venue: Public Library Auditorium
Showtimes: 3 shows daily 3pm, 5pm and 7pm.
Only Feb. 21st: 5 shows at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 7pm.

The writer is a filmmaker and producer.

"Great Masters of Bangladesh: Safiuddin Ahmed" launched at Bengal Gallery

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Bengal Foundation and Skira Editore (of Milan, Italy) launched their first book of the series Great Masters--- "Great Masters of Bangladesh: Safiuddin Ahmed". The programme was held on February 7 at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi. Earlier, their book "My Journey as a Witness" on internationally acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam was published as well.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman unveiled the book as chief guest. Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman was present as special guest. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Professor Syed Azizul Haque, Dr. Kaiser Haq, poet and Professor of English at the University of Dhaka; printmaker Ahmed Nazir, son of Safiuddin Ahmed; Abul Hasnat, editor of the monthly Bengali literary magazine Kali O Kalam; Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation; Subir Chowdhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts; and Abul Khair Litu, chairman of Bengal Foundation, spoke at the book launch.

The speakers gave a brief description of the publication, the artist and his contribution to Bangladeshi art.

"I'm elated to be a part of the worthy publication. Writing on Safiuddin Ahmed has been an exceptional experience for me. He is a dedicated and talented printmaker," said Syed Azizul Haq.

"This is a great achievement for us. The book has perfectly documented the artist's life and works," asserted Habibur Rahman.

About the book and the artist, Abul Hasnat said, "It is a rare publication. The book superbly projects an artist's lyrical creation. An introvert, Safiuddin has been a famed printmaker over the decades. He is very meticulous in his unique creations."

Abul Maal Abdul Muhith stated, "I congratulate both Bengal Foundation and Skira for publishing this rare book on a veteran artist. I believe joint initiatives such as this will take our art and culture forward".

Safiuddin is now bed-ridden and has been suffering from old age complications for a long time. He was born in 1922 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), India. He was a student of Calcutta Government School of Art and graduated from the institute in 1942. After the Partition (1947), Safiuddin left Calcutta for Dhaka, and got involved in a movement to set up the first art institute in the then East Pakistan. He was a friend and colleague of Zainul Abedin, one of the founders of Dhaka Art College.

Safiuddin is a fastidious artist. He deliberates over as ingle piece of work, in search of perfection.

Some of his outstanding achievements as a young artist included the President's Gold Medal (1945) by Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta, first prize in the category of black and white in International Contemporary Art Exhibition, New Delhi (1946), first prize in the category of black and white (etching and drawing) in Inter-Asian Art Exhibition in New Delhi (1947),Patna Maharaja's Gold Medal (1947). He is a proud recipient of the Ekushey Padak and Shadhinota Puroshkar.

Dignitaries at the book launch.

During a concert. PHOTO: MILES

OF **BALLADS** AND **FUSION**

Miles three decades into the rock journey…

JAMIL MAHMUD

It was formed only for the purpose of enjoying music, only to play the songs that the members would love to listen at home. Thirty years on, their act has set them at a level where they rank as one of the most successful bands in Bangla rock. Miles, formed by a group of fun-loving friends, celebrates its three decades of musical journey this year.

Although the band was formed in 1979, it celebrates its 30th anniversary this year; considering 1982 as the breakthrough and the most significant year in its history.

Miles' first three years were spent in relative anonymity-- until Bangladesh Television opened its door for the band in 1982. Before that it usually showed up at the then Hotel Intercontinental (now Hotel Ruposhi Bangla).

"The year 1982 is significant in terms of our exposure to the audience. That year, BTV invited us to play instrumental music at a half-hour programme. That was the first time people got to see Miles. Right after that we played at the first public concert at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. We released our debut album in the year as well," says the band front man Shafin Ahmed.

Miles' first line-up was Farid Rashid, Kamal Mainuddin, Larry Burnaby, Ishtiaq, Musa, Robin and the late Happy Akhand. Soon after the band was formed a change took place. Shafin and Hamin Ahmed joined the band and Manam Ahmed followed.

The early influences were high profile bands such as Eagles, Chicago and Beatles as well as artistes like Stevie Wonder, George Benson and Carlos Santana. Shafin finds those years as a "tremendous learning process" for the band members.

The debut album, self titled "Miles", comprised seven cover songs and three originals. It was in English. The early set up was hard fought as the members had to produce as well as distribute the album on their own. The second album "A Step Further" (1986), also in English, was just opposite to the debut work; seven originals and three cover songs. "It's Magic", which later morphed into Bangla as "Jadu", featured in the album.

The current line-up: Shafin Ahmed (bass and vocals), Hamin Ahmed (lead and vocals), Manam Ahmed (keys and vocals), Iqbal Asif Jewel (guitar) and Syed Ziaur Rahman Turjo (drums and percussions). PHOTO: FABIAN VON ALLMEN

There's a lot of debate about which genre Miles belongs to. Some say rock as some refer to as pop. But Miles is actually a fusion band that brings together all sorts of music. "Fusion is very much apparent since our first work," says Hamin Ahmed, lead guitarist of the band.

The ballads that gave Miles ultimate popularity have been synonymous with it over the years. These ballads are very much subcontinental and borrowed from traditional tunes. Beautification has happened with applications of instruments as wells as different genres of music that influenced the members.

"When we made music, ballads came to us very naturally. They became popular later on, but when we made them we found them beautiful," says Hamin.

Songs like "Phiriye Dao", "Dhiki Dhiki", "Jala Jala", "Neela", "Jadu" and "Ridoyheena" gave the band popularity. All these songs were penned by Mahmud Khurshid.

The third album, the first Bangla, "Protishruti" (1991) was another milestone in the band's history. It set the ultimate pathway to popularity.

The 1990s were a very positive time for band music. Miles has a great contribution during the flourishing of Bangla rock in this decade. The audio industry grew by that time and there were increasing demands for albums.

Talking about song productions, Iqbal Asif Jewel (guitarist) says their preference is doing the tune first and then putting in the lyrics. "Someone first submits a song. Everyone participates on composition altogether. When we find that the composition is good, we bring the lyrics in," says Jewel.

"In the overall approach of a composition and arrangement, we are cautious that the song gets priority and the instruments only add colour to it," says Shafin.

Not only those ballads, songs like "Frustration" and "Shanti Chai" reflect Miles awareness of issues like social anomalies and the political milieu. For a band like Miles, it's a responsibility to make people aware and the band is doing it on a high note.

Several 'firsts' enrich Miles' achievements. It is the first band that had a CD release, when they converted from cassettes. It is the first band from Bangladesh that toured the US. According to Shafin, it is the only Bangladeshi band that was interviewed by international channels such as BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera.

So far it has released nine studio albums, including two in English. The latest one "Protiddhoni" was released in 2006. The 10th, "Protichchhobi", will be released this year.

The 30 year celebration concert will take place tomorrow (February 10) at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla, where the band began its journey. The event will be a treat for fans, as Shafin says, "We have a plan to introduce all the former members once again. Our celebration will be for them. We are going to invite some musician friends from India and Pakistan as well. Hopefully they will be with us".

The band's history will be screened chronologically through audio-visual projection. The members will perform popular numbers. Souvenirs will be available as well.

It will be a time travel back into the world of Miles.

Antoni Tàpies, Spanish abstract painter, dies at 88

Antoni Tàpies, a Spanish abstract painter whose seductive tactile surfaces, often scratched with mysterious graffiti-like marks, made use of unconventional materials like marble dust, ground chalk, sand and earth, died on February 6 in Barcelona. He was 88.

Tàpies came to prominence in the late 1940s with richly symbolic paintings strongly influenced by Surrealist painters like Miró and Klee, a style he abandoned by the mid-1950s as he turned to what became his signature work: the heavily built-up surfaces that were often scratched, pitted and gouged and incised with letters, numbers and signs.

Using a wide variety of materials, on canvases and boards that often suggested walls, doors, windows or gates, he grounded his work in the brute reality of the Spanish street and in the turbulent political dramas of his youth in Catalonia, including the Spanish Civil War and the Catalan nationalist movement.

The rich, painterly textures and sober use of color in his "matter paintings" lent a moving solemnity the critic John Russell referred to their "seignorial dignity" to works that "seemed to have been not so much painted as excavated from an idiosyncratic compound of mud, sand, earth, dried blood and powdered minerals."

Tàpies chafed at being characterised as an abstract painter. At the same time, he refused to explicate the tantalising scratches, letters and crosses that seemed to offer the viewer a text. His dreamlike symbols, fished from the soup of the unconscious, suggested an ancient language waiting to be deciphered, but Tàpies declined to assist.

Tàpies was born in Barcelona on December 13, 1923. His father was a lawyer and Catalan nationalist who served briefly with the Republican government.

At 17, Tàpies suffered a near-fatal heart attack caused by tuberculosis. He spent two years as a convalescent in the mountains, reading widely and pursuing an interest in art that had already expressed itself when he was in his early teens.

To please his father, he enrolled in the University of Barcelona to study law, but he continued to produce art and for two months studied drawing at the Valls Academy. With the Catalan poet and playwright Joan Brossa, he founded Dau al Set (The Seven-Spotted Die), a progressive arts magazine, and, at an exhibition of his work in Barcelona, became friends with Miró, a decisive influence. In 1954 he married Teresa Barba Fàbregas. They had three children, Antoni, Miguel and Clara.

Source: **The New York Times**

Sweet Dreams for the singer

Citycell sponsors CD of Sheikh Sadi Khan

A CORRESPONDENT

Citycell recently sponsored an audio CD focused on instrumental music, titled "Sweet Dreams" by Sheikh Sadi Khan. Sheikh Sadi Khan is one of the most imaginative and creative music directors of Bangladesh. He has won numerous awards such as best music director for the films"Ferrari Basanta" and "Pokamakorer Ghar Bashati". He also received the best music director award at the National Film Awards for the film 'Ghaani'

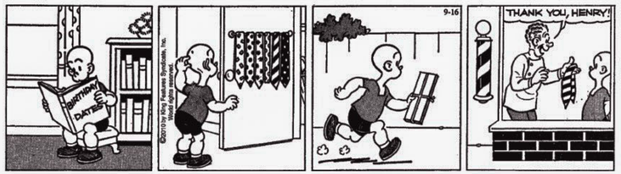
The cover unveiling ceremony of the CD was held at Channel i office on February, 7. Taslim Ahmed, head of corporate communications and public relations of Citycell; Shahidul Alam Shachchu, programme manager Channel i and AKM Arifur Rahman, chairman of Laser Vision were present at the programme.

A number of Sheikh Sadi Khan songs such as "Harmonic", "Sweet Dreams" etc can be found on Citycell's Hello Tunes VAS service. A number of talented musicians worked on the CD such as Reenat Fauzia (sitar) and Shukla and Krishna(vocals). Channel i is the media partner and Laser Vision Ltd is the publisher of this CD.

Sheikh Sadi Khan(4-R) in the company of guests at the launch.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker

Henry by Don Tranchte



WHAT'S ON

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

BTV
01:05 Business Hour
03:05 Bangla Feature Film
06:35 Mati O Manush
10:25 Unnayane Bangladesh
11:05 Chenajana

ATN BANGLA
11:20 Business and Finance
06:15 Amra Korbo Joy
08:00 Drama Serial: Not Out
11:00 Drama: Monghor

CHANNEL i
11:05 Shantir Pothey
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
02:40 Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak
03:30 Bangla Feature Film
11:30 Shawpno Orar Din

ntv
04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey
06:15 Shubho Shondhya
09:00 Amaro Gaite Ichchhe Holo
07:45 Drama Serial: Ichhey Holo
09:45 Style & Fashion
11:55 Drama: Aishar Etikotha

Diganta TV
03:30 Gaaner Prohor
06:30 Karnophulir Teere
09:40 Drama Serial: Choshma Motin
11:05 Music Hour (Live)

Maasranga Television
10:02 Bangla Feature Film
05:30 Amazing Animals
06:30 Char Deyal-er Khela
08:00 Tele-film
11:00 Tomay Gaan Shonabo

Z Studio
11:10 Frank Mcklusky C.I
01:30 The Sum of All Fears
06:50 Almost Famous
09:30 The Weather Man
11:45 Gothika

HBO
04:10 Enter the Dragon

RADIO

abc radio FM 89.2
09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney
12:00 Daran Dupuroy
03:00 Duranto Bikeley
05:00 Shondhatara
07:00 Shajer Maya
09:00 Raat-er Akashey
11:00 Golper Shesh Nei

Radio Foorti
07:30 Hello Dhaka
10:00 Morning Express
12:00 My Time
01:00 No Tension
04:00 Dhaka Calling
09:00 Night Rider
01:00 Back to Back music

RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
12:00 Today's Adda
04:00 U Turn
07:00 Tabey Tai Hok
10:00 Rock the Station
12:00 Hutum Pecha

Bipashar Otithi
On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Monirul Islam

Almost Famous
On Z Studio at 06:50pm
Genre: Drama/ Music
Cast: Billy Crudup, Frances McDormand

Monghor
On ATN BANGLA at 11:00pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Mir Sabbir, Nadia

11:30 Shur Bhora Nilima

ETV
11:30 Ekushey-er Business
05:40 Sports Plus
07:50 Drama
09:30 Ekushey-er Chokh
10:10 Tobuo Badhon

Boishakhi TV
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
04:15 Shorashori Doctor
09:20 Drama Serial: Grihodaho
10:50 Reporters Diary
11:30 Praner Mela

BANGLAVISION
11:05 Shokal Belar Roddur
02:20 Cinebit
05:20 Porikkha-Prostuti
06:05 Shyamol Bangla
09:05 Bipashar Otithi

Rtv
01:05 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Cinema R Gaan
05:20 Jadur Deshey
11:30 Drama
12:05 Music Fest

Desh TV
04:30 Durpath
06:30 Phaguner Molat
06:25 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
09:30 The Art of War
12:00 2 Fast 2 Furious

Star World
03:30 Charlie's Angels
09:30 Supernatural
10:30 The Shield

National Geographic Channel
03:30 Mega Structures
04:30 Triumph of Life
09:00 Ultimate Vipers
10:00 Mega Factories
12:00 The Indestructible

Discovery Channel
03:30 Rampage
08:30 Wildest India
09:30 Breaking Point
10:30 One Man Army

BBC World
11:00 BBC World News
03:30 HARD talk
07:00 Impact Asia with Mishal Husain
10:00 The Hub with Nik Gowing
11:45 Sport Today

DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA
08:40pm Chand Phul Amaboshya
09:20pm Motijheel C/A

CHANNEL i
07:50pm Bhetor Bahir
09:35pm Shokal Shondhya Raat

ntv
08:15pm Rupkotha
09:45pm Shobuj Nokkhotro

Boishakhi TV
08:10pm Fourth Class Society

BANGLAVISION
08:15pm No Problem

Rtv
09:05pm Oloshpur
09:50pm Dhan Shaliker Gaon

Desh TV
08:15pm Sat Kahon

Maasranga Television
09:30pm Dilur Golpo

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
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm
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
12:30am Lead News

CHANNEL i
09:45am Tritio Matra
12:30pm Taroka Kothon

ntv
12:10pm Ei Shomoy

Rtv
10:40am Tarokalap
07:40pm Our Democracy

Boishakhi TV
12:00am Zero Hour
12:30am Ekushey-er Pongktimala

BANGLAVISION
11:25pm Talk of the Week

Desh TV
10:30pm Desh E Golpo

Maasranga Television
07:30pm Prime Issue