

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekusheyl Book Fair '12
Venue: Bangla Academy Premises
Date: February 1-29
Time: Sun onwards

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Texture and Colour in Mindscape
Artist: Moksada Iqbal Nipa
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan-1
Date: Feb 19-Mar 1
Time: 12pm-8pm

Bilingual Poetry Recital
On Book VI of Meghaduta by Michael Madhusudan Dutta
Translated & Scored by: William Radice
Venue: British Council, 5, Fuller Road, Dhaka
Date: Feb 23, Time: 6pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Renewal in Serenity
Venue: Galleries Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara
Date: Feb 18-28
Time: 11am-7:30pm

Multimedia Presentation
Featuring the heroines of Tagore in his life & works
Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum
Date: Feb 24, Time: 6:30pm

Dance Recital
Dance-Drama: Rai-Krishna Padaboli
Organiser: Nityamal
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 24
Time: 7pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: A tribute to Feroz Nager
Organiser: The Arts Council of Dhaka
Venue: Khazana Restaurant, R-55, H-9, Gulshan-2
Date: Feb 19-Mar 3
Time: 12pm-10pm

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

PROFESSOR EMERITUS **ANISUZZAMAN HONOURED**

PADATIK BANGLADESH HOLDS 14TH AMAR EKUSHEY CULTURAL CONVENTION

ZAHANGIR ALAM

The 14th Amar Ekushey Cultural Convention by Padatik Bangladesh was held at Ramna Batomul, Dhaka on International Mother Language Day (yesterday). Tagore singer Nargis Chowdhury led the group rendition of national anthem that opened the daylong event. Artists of Padatik Sangeet Sangsad performed the Ekushey song "Amar Bhai-er Roktey Rangano" [written and composed by Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury and Altaf Mahmud, respectively].

Presided over by Padatik chief, Selim S.H. Chowdhury, the event included a reception for renowned litterateur and Language Movement Veteran Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman. National Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam was the chief guest at the programme. Dignitaries spoke on Language Movement at the programme while Selim S.H. Chowdhury urged all to diffuse the conscience of 'Ekush'. Nargis Chowdhury, also the director of Padatik Sangeet Sangsad, presented uttario to the guests.

Artists from Bangladesh and Agartala, Tripura (India) presented solo and group renditions of patriotic and folk songs, recitation, dance, street plays and more at the event.

Artists of Surer Dhara and Sursaptat performed the songs -- "Moder Garob Moder Asha" and "Ek Nodi Rakto Periy". Choreographed by Tamanna Rahman and Anik Bose, several artists of Nrityam and Soreyan danced to the songs "Orey Ekattur Orey



Students of Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT) perform at the event.

Bahanno" and "Dhono Dhanno Pushpo Bhora".

Artists of Kranti, Bonhishikha, Nibedan, Wrishid, Dolonchapa and other troupes also presented songs while several artists of Holong Hukumu Bodol of Agartala showcased indigenous dance forms depicting Jhum, hunt and devotion.

A number of students from several English medium schools performed group dances to patriotic and folk themed songs. Nazrul singer Salahuddin Ahmed

paid his tribute to the language martyrs through the song "Rupali Jyotsna Diye Rekhechhi Dhuyee Shaheed Minar-er Bedi". The artiste also rendered one of his own compositions, "Shara Bishwe Chhoriye Gecchhey Ekush Tomar Alo".

Tagore singer Fahim Hossain Chowdhury rendered a patriotic number "Padma Nadir Paar-e Amar Chhotto Sabuj Ga", while folk singer Bishwajit Roy presented two songs -- "Notey Gachh Muraye Na" and "Jonmehchilam Manush Hoyer", Tagore singer Mahadev



Professor Anisuzzaman receives crest from Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam.



PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

Ghosh rendered "Salam Salam Hajar Salam".

Noted singers Papia Sarwar, Mohiuzzaman Chowdhury, Dalia Nausheen, Ferdous Ara, Salma Akbar, Sajed Akbar, Nargis Chowdhury and others performed solo. Elocutionist Ahkamullah rected "Amar Porichoy", written by Syed Shamsul Haq.

Members of Deshbangla Theatre, Bangladesh Theatre and Padatik Rangpur street plays and artistes of Padatik Natya Sangsad Bangladesh staged "Shey",

an adaptation of Tagore's work. Mashkur-e Sattar Kallol emceed the event.

Padatik Bangladesh has been holding this programme on February 21 since 1999.

The evening session also featured dance, theatre, recitation and performances by leading and promising artistes of the country.

The Daily Star and abc radio were the media partners of the event. Sponsored by GMG Airlines, the programme was aired live by channel 9.

DOWN **MEMORY LANE**

Murtaja Baseer recalls the Language Movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Murtaja Baseer, who belonged to the second batch of the Dacca Art College (now Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka), was always an ardent cultural activist.

Whenever there was protest against any type of injustice or in favour of the Language Movement, Baseer took active part in the processions. Along with other artists Baseer painted on walls, paper and canvas during the movement. They worked day and night, and against all odds, using their creativity to generate patriotic sentiments among the masses.

Baseer said, "In the early 50s there was unrest among the people of the then East Pakistan. The majority of the people were Bangla-speaking. The people of East Pakistan demanded Bangla as the state language. During the time, the situation was terrible, with arrests and torture of intellectuals, students and politicians by the Pakistani regime. The Dhaka University campus became the focal point for student meetings in support of Bangla.

"In February 1953, a collection of poems, short stories, songs and essays on the Language Movement -- edited by Hasan Hafizur Rahman -- came out. The volume, titled "21st February", also contained a linocut and sketches by me. These were probably the first such published works on the movement."

The artist's later works, which included a series titled "Epitaph", symbolically depicts the martyrs' souls. Oval, round forms and varied subdued colours are the predominant features of the series. The works are generally characterised by the dual themes of anger and agony. The series' mode of expression is a mingling of realism and pure abstraction.



IN MEMORIAM

Faiz Ahmad, an icon among writers and journalists

FAYZA HAQ

Faiz Ahmad -- journalist, writer and activist -- has joined the ranks of departed heroes. The last I knew of him, the 84 year-old philosopher was at some meeting in Dhamondi, near the lake. Anukul Majumdar, who ran the private art gallery Shilpangan in Dhamandi, never stopped singing his praise.

When I interviewed him about a year back, Faiz Bhai was carried away, speaking about the Liberation War. He was speaking of how "Mintu Bhai" (famed journalist Enayetullah Khan) and others had rescued him, and handed him to safe quarters. He had described almost every bit of his role in the Liberation War. He had spoken in details and was spirited and vociferous to the end. He was full of guts and gumption till the final point.

He spoke about writing poems, essays; short stories for children; his memories as a committed communist, visiting Fidel Castro, and being a member of Radio Peking. He was full of zeal, enthusiasm, as a friend of those in need of food, clothes and shelter. Faiz Bhai was always there to guide and encourage free thinking and writing. Culture, especially painting, was something he could write about with is left hand -- so to put it.

Faiz Ahmad was vocal and clear about the details in his writing and his thinking. His philosophy was encouraged by his background, and his career as a journalist -- editing and working as a senior reporter for various Bangla news-papers of repute in Dhaka since 1971. He exchanged views with travellers and thinkers of all walks of lives, beginning with pre-1947 politicians and philosophers of undivided India, especially of Kolkata. As a retired senior citizen, he spoke in public, at Dhaka cultural gatherings, with incredible lucidity and tirelessness.

Passionate and forceful, he moved his listeners. He was a personality who dedicated his mind and physical prowess to one and all. It is for this reason, like the veteran journalist and dedicated cultural activist Waheedul Huq, Faiz Ahmad dedicated his eyes and body to the people of Bangladesh whom he held close to his mind, heart and soul.



EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR
PUBLISHERS GO PUBLIC



Syed Zakir Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Book Fair, now in its last week, is drawing large crowds. Bangla Academy sources informed that this year, more than 900 new books including stories, poems, plays and essays had already been unveiled at the fair.

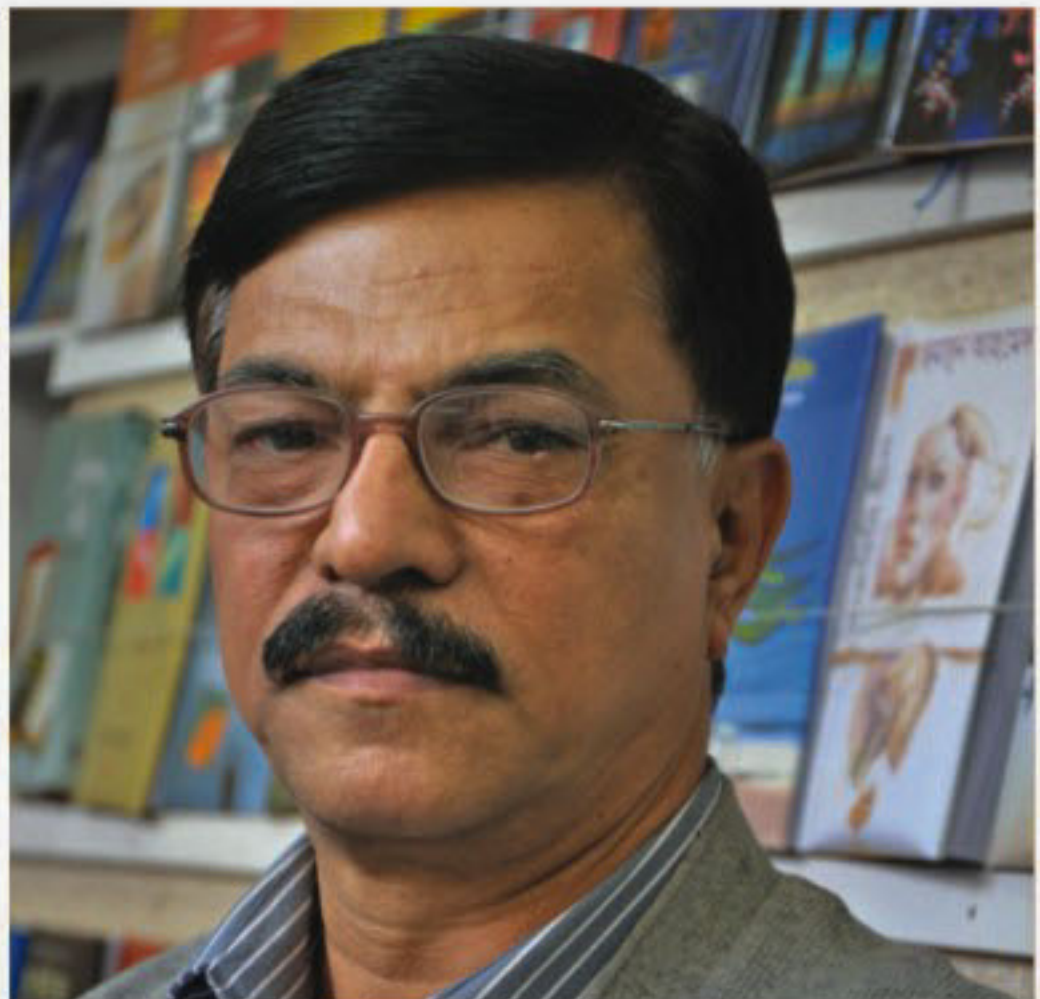
Two leading book publishers talked to The Daily Star about the fair, their publications and other subjects.

Syed Zakir Hossain, publisher and chief executive officer of Adorn Publication, said, "I always feel excited about taking part in the Ekushey Book Fair. For the last 14 years, we have been taking part in this major event. This year, the country is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Language Movement. As a publisher, I have published Bengali books of many writers over the decades.

"Adorn has an experienced editorial board, which comprises noted academics, scholars and writers. Before publishing a book, we send the manuscripts to the editorial board for evaluation.

"We have published books written by both promising and seasoned writers. We also try to publish research-based books. It is regrettable that many publishing houses have been producing poorly edited and substandard books. This tarnishes the image of publishing houses."

Adorn is offering 70 new publications at the ongoing Ekushey Boi Mela. Notable books include "Amar Chhalebela" by the late Kabir Chowdhury; "Rabindranath Tagore and Victoria Ocampo: The Creative Touch" and "Bangladesh and Intercultural



Milan Kanti Nath

Collage" by Anwar Dil; "Aesthetics of Gandhi" by Dr. Syed Mohammad Shahed; "Jai Bangla" by Muntasir Mamun (translated by Kabir Chowdhury); "The Python" by Professor Haroonuzzaman; "Jibanananda Das' poems" (translated by Mostaque Ahmed); "Folk Tales of Bangladesh" by Kabir Chowdhury and others.

Milan Kanti Nath, of Anupam Prokashoni, said, "We have published all kinds of books including novels, essays and travelogues. Before publishing a book, we first think about our readers' requirements. We always try to meet their hopes and expectations. This year, Anupam is celebrating its 33rd anniversary. From its inception till now we have published over 600 books.

"My main concerns are the quality of the books (particularly quality of papers and documents) and illustrations. Badly edited works are likely to ruin the reputation of the publishing house. We need to establish an institution that can provide efficient editors and publishers. Ekushey Boi Mela embodies the soul of Bengali nationalism and helps convey much required knowledge to the masses."

At this year's book fair, Anupam Prokashoni is offering 33 new books. Notable publications include "Rachana Samagra" by Shahid Sabir; "Rachana Samagra Teen" by Jotin Sarkar; Rabindranath-er Khapa" by Dr. Morshed Shafiqul Ahmed; "Nihoto Rabindranath" by Rajib Sarkar; "Muktijuddher Smriti O Gaan" by Selim Reza; "Teen Purusher Rajniti" by Rafiq Kaisar; "Kishore Natok Samagra" by Muham-mad Zafar Iqbal and others.

Screening of
"...Ebong Kanna"
in Chittagong

ARUN BIKASH ROY, Chittagong

Srishtigarh will screen the feature film "...Ebong Kanna" at Theatre Institute Chittagong in the port city from February 23 to 25.

Srishtigarh is an organisation that started its journey in 2007 in a bid to make and popularise digital films. Organisers here at a recent press conference said that the film "...Ebong Kanna" was inspired by a short story of Akhtaruzzaman Ilias.

Director of the film, Maruf Hossain, said that he was inspired to make the film after he had read the short story "Kanna" written by Akhtaruzzaman Ilias.

The first show of the film was held at Titu Auditorium in Bogra, the home district of Akhtaruzzaman Ilias, on October 23, 2010, he said. The second show was held on January 19, 2012 at Dhaka International Film Festival, he added.

Poet Abul Momen said that every art is a new interpretation. Talking about the film, he said,



A scene from the film.

"We should encourage literature-based films and thus inspire young filmmakers to produce quality movies." He also praised the director of the film for his efforts.

Artist Dhali Al Mamun was also present at the press conference. It was his first public appearance since the tragic accident that took the lives of Tareque Masud and Mishuk Munier.

He said that it is very difficult to make a film on literature. Quoting Rabindranath, Dhali said that the greatest poet of Bangla literature opined that films should come out from the shadow of literature.

Shila Momen, artiste and the principal of Fulki, also spoke at the press conference held at Fulki Auditorium, Nandan Kanan, in the port city.

Organisers of Srishtigarh said that they would also hold a workshop on "the prospect of independent filmmaking from political and ethnological perspective of Bangladesh" on February 22 at Theatre Institute Chittagong. The workshop will be open to all and registration forms can be collected from Fulki on first come first serve basis, said Shami Suhrid of Srishtigarh.

The price of patriotism

Premiere of "Achin Pakhi"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

"Achin Pakhi", an adaptation of eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque's short story, premiered at Padma Mancho in Rajshahi on February 16.

Although Haque's story was set against the anti-autocracy movement of 1990, the play was made to revolve round the Language Movement of 1952 by scriptwriter Shibru Kumar Shil.

Directed by Parvez Amin, the 44-minute play was aired on ntv yesterday at 9pm.

Rajshahi Ritwik Ghatak Film Society and Children's Film Society jointly organised the premiere to promote the play.

Other than Rokeya Prachi and Ashish Khondoker, all the actors featured in the play are from Rajshahi, and the play was shot in different locations in Rajshahi.

The role of Bablu, the main character of the play, was performed by Souhardo Sarker Rito. Other

actors include Kamarullah Sarker, Mahmud Hossain Masud and veteran theatre activist Tajul Islam.

The story: Bablu, a child, wants his parents to buy him a bird. The parents finally give in and buy him a Chandana. Bablu is thrilled with the bird, but his parents feel guilty for depriving the bird of its freedom.

The play is set against the Language Movement when each day brought new anxieties, processions, and non-cooperation with the authorities. One day Bablu joins a procession; he is shot and is carried home over the shoulders of other people. His shocked parents realise that Bablu's chest is open just like the cage of the bird.

The impact of affecting the freedom of speech is the main theme of the play that portrayed the heavy price the people of the country paid for protecting the mother tongue.

Haque says he is elated to see his story turned into a play.

Beetle Bailey



Henry



04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	HBO	02:20	The Talented Mr. Ripley
08:15	Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe		05:15	Transporter 3
09:00	Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan		07:30	Paranormal Activity 2
11:30	Drama Serial: Terminal		09:30	Tomorrow Never Dies
			12:05	The Scorpion King
ETV	DW Global 3000			Star World
04:30	Baala Ontor		03:30	Panam
06:30	Fashion and Tune		09:30	Supernatural
07:50	Drama Serial: Ohongkar		10:30	The Shield
10:10	Trinamool Sanglap			National Geographic
Boishakhi TV				Channel
10:30	Bangla Feature Film Achhey		02:30	Mega Structures
04:15	Shorashori Doctor		04:30	Animals Gone Crazy
05:30	Battle of Cricket		09:00	Animal Mega Moves
08:45	Drama Serial: Talbetal Reporters Diary			Discovery Channel
11:00			02:30	Man vs. Wild
BANGLAVISION			03:30	Get Out Alive
07:05	Bangla Feature Film Bichitra		08:30	Gold Rush
05:25			10:30	One Man Army
09:05	Shouradjoir Kotha			BBC World
11:25	Music Club		03:30	HARD talk
Rtv			07:00	Impact Asia with Mshal Husain
01:10	Bangla Feature Film Cinema R Gaan		10:00	The Hub with Nik Gowing
05:00	Drama Serial: College Road		11:45	Sport Today

DRAMA SERIAL				
ATN BANGLA	09:30pm	Ghatok Baki Bhai		
08:40pm	Chand Phul	Boishakhi TV		
	Omaboshya	08:10pm	Fourth Class Society	
09:20pm	Poush Phaguner Pala	BANGLAVISION		
CHANNEL I		08:15pm	No Problem	
09:35pm	Shokal Shondhya	Rtv		
	Raat	09:05pm	Boiya Paribar	
ntv		11:30pm	House Number 138	
09:45pm	Dokhinayoner Din	Desh TV		
ETV		08:15pm	Saatkahan	

NEWS BULLETIN

RTV
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,
News (English) at 11:30 pm. (To be
telecast on all Bangla
channels).

CHANNEL-1
News (Bangla): 7:00 am,
9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm,
10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN Bangla
News (English): 7:00 am,
10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00
am, 4:00 am,
01:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:00pm,
News (English): 9:00 am,
11:00 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
rtv,
News (Bangla): 7:30am,
12:30pm, 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,
11:00am

TALK SHOW					
ATN BANGLA			ETV		
06:15pm	Kothamala		12:05am	Ekushey-er Raat	
12:30am	Lead News		Rtv		
CHANNEL I			10:40am	Taraklap	
09:45am	Tristio Matra		07:40pm	Our Democracy	
12:30pm	Tarika Kothon		Boishakhi TV		
11:30pm	Alloy Bhubon		12:00am	Zero Hour	
	Bhora		BANGLAVISION		
			06:25pm	Front Line	
ntv			Desh TV		
12:30am	Ei Shomoy		11:45pm	Shoja Katha	