

WHAT'S ON

Chobi Mela VII
Festival of Photography
Organiser: Drik Gallery and Pathshala
Venue: Drik Gallery, Shilpakala Academy, DU premises and more

Group Print Exhibition
Title: Chhagal Chhobi-2
Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
Date: Jan 19-30
Time: 11am-5pm

Classical Music Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Music & Dance Centre, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Jan 28-30
Time: 6:00pm

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Buffering in Art
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka
Date: Jan 22-28
Time: 11am-7pm

Book Launch
Title of Book: Mukto O Shadhin
Venue: Bengal Cafe, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 28

40th Anniversary of Theatre Troupe Aranyak Natyadal
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Jan 26-Feb 1

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Shambhu Acharya
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 22-31
Time: 3pm-5pm

Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Buddha's Heritage in South Asia
Venue: Zainul Art Lounge, H-60, R-131, Gulshan I
Date: Jan 10-28

Showcasing Bangladeshi music and musicians across the border

Bengal Foundation to hold grand festival in Kolkata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This is a good year for Bangladesh, on the cultural front, and the year has just begun. Photographers from around the world are converging at the ongoing Chobi Mela VII, happening in Dhaka, and this year's Kolkata Book Fair has put Bangladesh in the limelight as the theme country. After photography and literature, it's turn for Bangladeshi music and artists to shine across the border.

Bengal Foundation, in association with ITC-Sangeet Research Academy, is organising what could be the grandest Bangla music festival ever. The nine-day long festival (from February 8 to 16) titled, "Bangla Gaaner Utshab", will be held at the ITC-SRA premises located in Kolkata (1, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Road, Tollygunge), India.

At a press conference held yesterday at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, the organisers and some of the participating artists spoke on the upcoming festival.

Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, said, "Last year's Classical Music Festival (jointly organised by Bengal Foundation and ITC-SRA) was a great success and that has encouraged us tremendously. Although the festival featured some Bangladeshi artists, it mainly highlighted master artists and gurus from India, which shouldn't come as a surprise; in classical music, India is certainly far ahead. However, we have plenty to be proud of. When Bangla music is concerned, we believe, Bangladeshi artists have achieved a level of excellence and need to be promoted across the border. We are fortunate to have ITC-SRA as an able partner."

Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation, said, "The festival will be dedicated to Kazi Nazrul Islam. We thought it



Organisers and artists at the press conference.

Bengal Foundation will also launch 30 music albums of the featured artists at the festival.

From the Indian side, Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, Srikanto Acharya, Shubhomita, Swagatalakshmi will perform at the event.

Apart from music, the festival will also feature two dance-dramas: "Bhanu Singh Padabali" by Bhabna (from Dhaka) and "Shapmochan" by Dakkhini (Kolkata).

Asaduzzaman Noor will recite poetry at the event.

As added attraction, traditional Dhaka food, like kachchi biryani, will be available at the festival.

Prothom Alo and The Daily Star are partners of the festival. Maasranga Television is the broadcast partner and Charbela Chardik, Kali O Kalam, Bengal

Barota are media partners. Sadya Aftreen Mallick, editor of Arts & Entertainment, The Daily Star, expressed the hope that more organisations would be encouraged -- to hold cultural events on a grand scale -- by Bengal Foundation's endeavours. She said, "When Padma Shris and Padma Bhushans raved about the Dhaka audience and the classical music festival last year, I was elated. That festival was important as it gave us an impression of where we stand as performers. This upcoming festival is equally important, but for very different reasons; it will highlight Bangladesh and where we excel."

Among others, Farida Parveen, Kiron Chandra Roy and Fahmida Nabi, also spoke at the conference and hoped that they can make Bangladesh proud at the festival.

What future holds for the printed word

Kolkata Book Fair opens

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The magic of printed words will never die nor will the pleasure of holding a book. That is the refreshing message that emerged at the opening day of the Kolkata Book Fair, with Bangladesh as focal theme country, on January 26. This is a time when the rising spectre of e-books is casting a shadow over the future of not only publishing industry but also the brick-and-mortar book shops.

And the message of hope came from none other than veteran and venerable academician-critic Professor Anisuzzaman of Bangladesh who inaugurated the Book Fair at the Science City complex in South Kolkata on Saturday.

It was in a way in the fitness of things that Anisuzzaman voiced concern over growing popularity of online reading habit, particularly among the youth, but sounded optimistic that printed books cannot be totally replaced by their digital versions.

"There has been apprehension about the future of printed books as digital technology is advancing very fast. In western countries several big book chain stores have closed down. A magazine like Newsweek stopped publishing. Even Encyclopedia Britannica has announced that it will no more come out in a book form but only online issues will be available," said Anisuzzaman.

This led him to pose: "Does this signal the demise of books?" And he replied firmly: "No. For all of us, who love books, believe our relationship with books is integral and cannot live without them."

However, the words of 76-year-old Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University reflect more of a wish than perhaps a reality that is slowly dawning on the publishing industry.

"We should know that, like us, there are millions of people who love books in printed form. Books are connected with our souls and we can't do without them," said Anisuzzaman.

Echoing the Bangladeshi author, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Internet and technology could never replace printed books. "So many news channels have come up but we have not stopped reading newspapers. We read papers and also watch TV," she said.

Heart-warming words from Anisuzzaman and Mamata about printed books notwithstanding, it is time we discuss certain issues that will increasingly challenge the entire publication business chain right from authors, editors, book-sellers, agents and reviewers.

The fear of growing competition in digital reading has already seen consolidation in online publishing business by Amazon and other net-based sellers, forcing traditional leading book stores to do a rethink on their retail strategies. It has also prompted book publishing industry to merge like Penguin of Britain and Random House of Germany have done last year to take on competition and price under-cutting from online stores.

Do we change the way we have bought books all these years? Don't we go to brick-and mortar book stores? Do we read books in printed form or online -- either on your table-top or laptop computers or tablets? Do we conjure up the scarce picture of a day when there will be no book fair at a particular site? These are the questions Professor Anisuzzaman has made us think about and challenged us to find an answer. This, one also hopes, will make us love the printed words more.

THEATRE

Aranyak's 40th anniversary to wrap up with weeklong festival



Aranyak staged "Raarang" on the opening day of the festival. PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted theatre troupe Aranyak Natyadal began a yearlong programme in February last year to celebrate its 40th year. Over one year, the troupe has held programmes at various venues in Dhaka. The celebration is nearing its end. Curtain will come down with a weeklong festival that began on January 26 at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Former Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman formally inaugurated the festival. Among others, theatre personalities Ramendu Majumdar, Ataur Rahman, Nasiruddin Yousuf and Liaquat Ali Lucky spoke at the inaugural programme. Mamunur Rashid, chief secretary of Aranyak, presided over the inaugural ceremony.

The troupe honoured 40 theatre directors and playwrights at the inaugural ceremony. To commemorate the achievements, the troupe has also published a book titled "Aranyak: Ekti Dol-er Natyakotha".

A light, sound and choreography presentation was the highlight of the first day's programme. The show was held in the open space of the academy. It featured the history of the troupe, glimpses from its notable plays and other activities.

Later, the troupe staged its popular play "Raarang" at the National Theatre Hall. The play has been written and directed by Mamunur Rashid. The play depicts the struggle of the impoverished Santals against the oppression of the dominant Bengalis.

Chanchal Chowdhury, AKM Hasan, Shamim Zaman, Tamalika Karmakar, Mitali Das, Deepak Suman, Shamima Shawkat and Mamunur Rashid enacted central roles in the play.

Today, the troupe will stage "Mayur Shinghashan" at the National Theatre Hall. Prior to the play, a recital of classical music will be held at the venue.

Over the next four days, the troupe will stage plays including "Sangkranti", "Iblis" and "Kabor". The festival will also feature three seminars -- to be held at the Seminar Hall of the academy.

The festival will end on February 1 with the handing of the Aranyak-Dipu Memorial Award and staging of a re-staged version of the play "Kabor".

Aranyak started its journey on February 1, 1972. It staged its first play, Munier Chowdhury's "Kabor", directed by Rashid on February 20 the same year at the Engineers' Institute in Dhaka.

Aranyak plays often highlight class struggles and the necessity to minimise class differences in the society. In the 1980s the troupe led a theatre movement across the country called "Mukto Natok" (free theatre).

BTV	11:30 Prokriti O Manush 06:00 BPL 2013 (Live) 08:40 Krishi Dibanshi 09:30 Drama Serial: Shonali Alo	03:00 Gaan R Gaan 06:00 Kalpokoler Galgokatha 09:45 Cinema Express 11:45 Shuja Kotha
ATN BANGLA	11:20 Business and Finance 01:25 Matir Subash 09:20 Drama Serial: DB 01:00 Onno Drishti	08:40 Drama Serial: Kholokhol 09:20 Drama Serial: Collette 11:30 Shajir Baramkhana
CHANNEL i	09:45 Tritiyo Matra 05:30 Jibon Jekhane Jemon 07:50 Shonglap 10:30 Aloy Bhubhan Bhora	08:00 Bangla Feature Film 02:30 BPL 2013 (Live) 06:00 BPL 2013 (Live) 10:30 Drama Serial: Iblis
ntv	08:45 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 Anar Jiggasha	CHANNEL 24 04:30 Eto Jibon 06:30 Life Style

abcr radio FM 89.2	09:25 Laa Classic 05:30 Kacha Laska 08:30 Mela Koro 09:20 GP Jambh 07:45 Megh Barata 08:10 Adda 09:30 Love Hour 11:30 Shaka Golpo Drum Radio Footiti 07:30 Hello Dhaka	10:00 Morning Express 12:00 My Time 01:00 No Jenson 04:00 Deak Galary 09:00 Night Rider 01:00 Back to Back Music RADIO TODAY FM 89.6 09:30 Low Hour 11:30 Today's Adda 04:00 U Turn 07:00 Today Jay Hok
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Pancho 30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shohel Khan, Siddique Rahman

Ocean's Thirteen
On HBO at 07:10pm
Genre: Crime/Thriller
Cast: George Clooney, Brad Pitt & Matt Damon

Matir Subash
On ATN BANGLA at 01:25pm
Documentary Programme
Directed by Nabuwat Rahman

09:00 Comedy Show 09:45 Drama Serial: Ochna Prothombo	11:30 Bangla Feature Film 09:00 Gaan-e Gaan-e Adda 09:35 Drama Serial: Mayajjal 11:05 Aponi Kichhu Bolun
10:10 Ekushey-er Business 07:50 Music Station 09:30 Drama Serial: Pancho Premak 10:10 Cine Hits	03:35 Anger Management 07:00 Awards Fever: 19th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards 09:00 Dylan Dog: Dead of Night 10:50 Perfect Catch
10:40 Bangla Feature Film 04:00 Shorohori Doctor 08:00 Drama Serial: Boro Barir 08:00 Chhoto Bou 11:00 Reporters Dairy	05:05 Push 07:10 Ocean's Thirteen 09:30 Source Code 11:20 The Grudge 2
11:25 Proshashi Mukh	08:30 Melissa & Joey 09:30 Packed to the Rafters 10:30 Grey's Anatomy 11:30 Homeland
10:40 Tarikalap 12:35 Bangla Feature Film 09:05 Drama Serial: Boyra Poribar	National Geographic Channel 07:30 Taboo

Love for animals, love for music

Obhoyaronno celebrates one year of "no cull" in Dhaka



(Top) Shakila Zafar, Habib sing at the concert; Rubaiya Ahmad with her dog, Messi.

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Dogs walking around at Rabindra Sharobar in Dhanmondi, Dhaka is not an uncommon sight. A get-together of dog owners and animal lovers in general, however, is quite a rare sight at a public place like this, but that is what happened on the wintry afternoon of January 26, when Obhoyaronno - Bangladesh Animal Welfare Society staged a concert celebrating one year of no cull in Dhaka.

"Culling" is the general term used for indiscriminate killing of animals. There used to be a time when the killing of stray animals was a common nomenclature in many cities but the trend has been abolished mostly, and through Obhoyaronno's valiant efforts, dog culling in Dhaka has been stopped for a year now. The organisation celebrated the occasion with a concert featuring musicians who are animal lovers. In the line-up were Shayan, Habib, Shakila Zafar, Arnob, Nemesis and Pihu Khan (from Renaissance).

Rubaiya Ahmad, founder and chairman of Obhoyaronno, recounted how it all began. Her dog was killed by the Dhaka City Cor-



poration in 2009, and since then she began the movement, researched, contacted international agencies and held discussions with various government stakeholders. After three years of efforts, Dhaka was declared a no-culling zone in 2012, and as a result, the LGD secretary, Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, received Humane Society International's "Outstanding Animal Protection Award" the same year. The award certificate, which Shahid Khan could not receive in person last year, was also handed to him during the programme.

Rubaiya Ahmad also informed that their current activities include management of canine population through sterilisation, and ensuring a safe dog population through vaccination, with the ultimate goal being a rabies-free Dhaka. Asked what prompted the thought of the concert, she said their work so far had been very silent, but she felt it was time to involve the community with the movement.

Shayan was the first on stage and sang a few of her popular numbers, to the amusement of a crowd that was still growing. Habib Wahid was next on stage, and he took the audience by surprise because his name was not on the concert list. He also sang a few of his hit numbers including "Swopner Cheyey Modhur" and "Elomelo Mon", to huge cheers. Shakila Zafar came on stage next, in her usual elegant style, and she sang "Bhulite Pari Na", "Tumi Amar Prothom Shokal" and "Je Jon Premer Bhab Jaane Na".

But it was Arnob's arrival that really got the crowd on their feet. With just a guitar and cajon to accompany him, Arnob was at his relaxed best, singing "Hariye Giyechi", "Tomar Jonno", "Majhe Majhe Tobo Dekha Pai", "Aadkhana" and closing with the hit "Shey Je Boshe Achhey".

Nemesis was next on stage, bringing the crowd alive with their energetic performances of "Tritiyo Jatra", "Bir", "Nirbashaon", "Obocheton" and "Kobey". They were followed by Pihu Khan, who brought back calm to the proceedings with his Bob Dylan-esque setup of an acoustic guitar and harmonica, singing Renaissance's evergreen songs, along with a new patriotic song from their upcoming album.

People are often in awe of the lifestyles of celebrities, and their favourite musicians' love for animals along with the dog-owners around them who came to the concert with their pets, did seem to have an effect on the audiences, alongside the short documentary on kindness to animals screened at the concert. And all of Obhoyaronno's efforts will be worthwhile, if these sentiments leave a lasting impact.

Madhu Mela in Jessore ends

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Jessore

Madhu Mela, a festival to celebrate the 189th birth anniversary of the pioneer of Bengali sonnets, poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta, ended on Sunday. Thousands of people enjoyed the weeklong festival, the largest in the south-western region.

This year Associate Professor Sarochish Sarkar of Rajshahi University was awarded the prestigious Poet Madhusudan Award 2013, while researcher Dr. Golam Murshed secured the Madhusudan Honour Award for their works on Michael Madhusudan Dutta. DC of Khulna, Abdul Jalil, handed the awards on January 25, the birth anniversary of the great poet. A website (www.mmdutta.com) was launched at the award giving ceremony.

The festival started on January 21 at Sagardani, the birthplace of the poet on the bank of River Kapataksha, in Jessore.

Apart from discussion -- on the life and accomplishments of the poet -- by eminent litterateurs from across the country, the event also included cultural function, drama and Jatra at Madhu Park, the venue of the fair.

A circus, magic show, Nagordola (merry-go-round) were also arranged for visitors from far and near. Around 800 stalls showcased products like decoration pieces, ornaments, toys, cosmetics and more at the festival grounds.

A number of sweetmeat stalls were set up as well. People also enjoyed a stop at the stall of Department of Agriculture Extension where large sized vegetable and fruits were on display.

Banglalink sponsored the event.



A young dancer performs at Modhu Mela. PHOTO: STAR

DS CAFÉ

Rosy Siddiqui, known for her acting prowess, maintains a strong presence on stage, TV plays and films. Rosy continues to be active in TV plays, while she has been working in theatre for 23 years. She is the featured celebrity of this month at DS Café. She will be on the hot seat and will take your calls at The Daily Star Centre Today, between 4 and 5 pm. Readers, fire away all your questions at her! The best 10 questions will be featured in the transcript to be published later. Call 01711623915 and 01711623917 to speak to Rosy.

Nescafé launches Get Set Rock



A colourful ceremony recently marked the launch of the official musical album of Nescafé "Get Set Rock" programme, featuring the tracks of the champion band of the programme, S.I.X, and runner-up band, Rang. G-Series, audio partner for the musical event, organised the ceremony at Café Thirty3 on Baily Road in Dhaka, say a press release.

The judges of the event, Pihu Khan and Bappa Mazumdar, were present at the inaugural ceremony. Also present were managing director of Nestlé, Stéphen Nordé; director of corporate affairs, Naquib Khan; senior manager, marketing communication and services, Ziaul Hafiz; marketing manager, Beverages, Ashikur Rahman; brand executive, beverages, Istiaq Ahmed; executive, media and consumer insight, Khondokar Ishtiaq; owner of G-Series, Nazmul Hoque Bhuiyan Khaled; and representatives from Nestlé Bangladesh's creative agency, Unirend Limited.

Nescafé organised the musical event "Get Set Rock" in 2011 to discover and recognise talented musicians nationwide. These musicians competed through band performances, and eventually, the champion and the runner-up were chosen in 2012. Nescafé recorded an album containing the tracks of the champion band S.I.X and the runner-up, Rang. Audio partner, G-Series, marketed the album nationwide.

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CELEBRATING LIFE

PHOTO EXHIBITION CULTURAL SHOW

Rabindranath Tagore's SHAPMOCHAN

by Pallavi Dance Troupe

Selim Al Deen Muktomoncho
Jahangirnagar University
31st January, 2013
5:30 pm

ENTRY is FREE

আয়োজনে: ছাত্র শিক্ষক কেন্দ্র, জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ATN BANGLA	09:05pm Red Signal
ntv	08:50pm Makraha
ETV	07:45pm Sat Kahon
08:20pm Swasthi Durbal	Maasranga Television
Boishakhi TV	08:00pm Hashibari
09:20pm Ognipath	CHANNEL 9
BANGLAVISION	09:30pm Nagark

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm, 10am, 4pm, 10pm, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm, News (English) at 9am, 6pm, CHANNEL 1 News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm, ntv News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, ETV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm, 1am.	Boishakhi TV News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm, News (English) at 9am, 6pm, BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, Rtv News (Bangla) at 4:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm, Desh TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, ETV News (Bangla) at 1pm, Maasranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.
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BTV	10:50pm Oikonyator Bangladesh	12:05am Ekushey-er Raat
ATN BANGLA	11:30pm Je Kotha Keu Bolun	Boishakhi TV Zero Hour
CHANNEL 1	12:30pm Taraka Kothon	12:05am Star of Politics
ntv	12:00am Ei Shomoy	Maasranga Television 12:02am Shungupto
ETV		CHANNEL 24 12:05am Modhyastar Muktabik