

WHAT'S ON

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

Closing ceremony of Ichche Dhana Organiser: Bengal Foundation Venue: Bengal Shipalaya, Dharmundi Date: Feb 3

Jatiya Kabita Utsab Venue: Central Public Library Premises Date: Feb 1 & 2 Time: 10am

Group Art Exhibition Title: Equation of Time and Art Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1 Date: Jan 27-Feb 12 Time: 12pm-9pm

Photography Exhibition Photographers: Six Australian Photo Media Artists Title: Dialogue Venue: Interior Depot Gallery, Haque Plaza, H-2, Rd-14, Gulshan-1 Date: Jan 30-Feb 12

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

Group Art Exhibition Title: Reviving Miniature Venue: Gallery Corner-2, H-115, Rd-4, New DMC, Mohakhali Date: Jan 29-Feb 7 Time: 11:30am-7pm (except Sunday)

Graphic Print Workshop Title: Passion & Impression Writers from Bangladesh & India Venue: Galley Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sector-4 Uttara Date: Feb 1 Time: 12:15pm

DID YOU KNOW? Burdwan House - The main office of Bangla Academy is located at the Burdwan House, once part of the University of Dhaka.

EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

Epitomising Bengali literary traditions

Ekushey Book Fair, better known as "Boi Mela", has become a symbol of our national identity and is inextricably linked to our culture and heritage.

"Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2013" begins today. On the occasion of the opening of the fair, Bangla Academy organised a press conference yesterday at the Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Auditorium of the academy, in the capital.

Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy; Murshid Anwar, deputy director of Bangla Academy; Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Channel i and Impress Telefilm Ltd; Alaf Hossain, secretary, Bangla Academy; Shahida Khatun, member secretary of "Boi Mela"; Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, deputy managing director of BRAC Bank Ltd; Zeeshan Kingshuk Huq, head of Communication and Service Quality of BRAC Bank Ltd, were present at the press conference.

Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan said, "I consider Ekushey Book Fair to be one of the most significant cultural festivals of the country. It creates mass interest in Bengali literature and brings together writers, readers, poets, intellectuals, publishers, social and cultural activists. I believe the fair has played a key role in developing the literary and cultural scenario in the country over the years. It has become a symbol of nationalism -- encouraging a bold stand against social injustice and ignorance."

Faridur Reza Sagor said, "The mela is in the hearts of Bengalis. This is where people from all walks of life come together. Traditionally, we are a nation that loves festivals, and this month-long festival revitalises us."

Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid said, "The fair has become a part of our national identity and heritage. The



PHOTO: STAR

fair will play a role in inspiring youngsters to read more." Murshid Anwar said, "A total of 407 units (space for book stalls) have been allocated among 236 publishers; 30 units among 20 government organisations; and 19 for eight social organisations. There will be a little magazine corner and a stall for Bangladeshi writers living abroad as well."

This year, the fair has been dedicated to the deceased writer and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed. Readers will get 25 percent commission on the price of books of different publishing houses and organisations, and 30 percent commission on books of Bangla Academy.

This year, different parts of the mela premises have been named after Language Movement veterans like Salam, Rafiq, Barkat, Shafiq, Jabbar and other historical personalities.

Seminar on diverse subjects will be held daily throughout the month. Discussions will focus on Bangla literature and the lives and works of educationists, literary and cultural figures of the country. Advaita Mallabarmna, Abdul Haq Chowdhury, DL Roy and Swami Vivekananda will be highlighted in the discussions. BRAC Bank Ltd and Channel i are assisting Bangla Academy in organising the fair.

The fair will be open from 3pm to 9pm everyday. On holidays, it will be open between 11am and 9pm. The fair will open at 8am and continue till 9pm on February 21.



ZAHANGIR ALAM

A three-day classical music festival ended on January 30 at the National Music and Dance Centre auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the festival as chief guest on January 28. Noted music exponent Mobarak Hossain Khan and renowned dancer Laila Hasan were present as special guests at the inaugural programme.

A number of artistes performed both classical vocal and instrumental music along with classical dance genre at the festival. The third day (January 30) of the festival marked performances by several artistes presenting classical vocal and instrumental music along with dance. Amiran Ahsan set off the concluding day's musical journey with a star recital. The talented artist wrapped up her performance with an experimental piece that was marked by several musical changes.

Chandana Debi Hajong was the next to take the stage. The artist rendered a khayal based on Raga "Shudh Sarang".

Showcasing Refined Melody with Graceful Rhythm

Classical music festival with dance ends at Shilpakala



PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

Noted artiste Md. Shoyeb also performed vocal music on the concluding day. Instrumental music and dance performances were more frequent on the day. Dolon Kanungo (Mohonveena) and Uttam Chakrabarty (flute) presented instrumental music while noted dancers-choreographers Sharmila Banerjee and

Tamanna Rahman performed Manipuri; Baby Rosario presented Bharatnatyam and Tabassum Ahmed showcased Kathak at the festival. Sabuj Ahmed, Meher Hossain and Iftekhar Dollar accompanied the featured artistes on tabla while Krishna Kanta Acharya was on the harmonium.

THE INTOUCHABLES comes to Dhaka

Award-winning French film at Star Cineplex

FAHMIM FERDOUS "The Intouchables", the Academy Award nominated film by Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano, opens at the Star Cineplex -- the first French film to see commercial release in Dhaka.

The feel-good comedy-drama that was released in France in November 2011 quickly went on to become the second-biggest hit at French box office history, bagged eight nominations at the 2012 Cesar Awards (considered the French equivalent of an Oscar), and Omar Sy took home the best actor honours.

The film, based on a true story, got a nod in the Best Foreign Language Film category for the 85th Oscars, and scored the Best Film award at the Tokyo International Film Festival, along with the two central characters -- Omar Sy and François Cluzet -- getting joint Best Actor awards. It received strong positive reviews from its critics, including a 76 percent positive rating at RottenTomatoes.com, considered the most authentic movie rating site, and did well after its US release in



François Cluzet Omar Sy Intouchables

September last year. The story of "The Intouchables" is that of the unlikely camaraderie between a quadriplegic millionaire and his street-smart ex-con caretaker. It was termed as "an irreverent, uplifting comedy about friendship, trust and human possibility", depicting a relationship "rooted in honesty and

humour between two individuals who, on the surface, would seem to have nothing in common." The good news is that movie buffs of Dhaka, deeply deprived of variety -- especially on the big screens, can surely expect a break from quintessential Hollywood, and indulge in signature European humour.

BOI MELA CORNER

Anisul Hoque and his world of books

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

How many of your books are being published at the fair?

Anisul Hoque: A new novel titled "Ushar Duwary", a sequel to last year's novel "Jara Bhor Enechhilo", is being published this year. Another novel, "Shei Ghumer Por", is also being published. There will be a children's novel, "Ektorer Ekdol Dushu Chhele", as well. Two books featuring "Godyo-Cartoon" and "Oronney Rodon" columns will be published. Other books to be published include a poetry compilation, "Tomake Naa Pawar Kobita". Some other collections will also be published.

Tell us about "Ushar Duwary". Anisul Hoque: The book narrates how Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Tajuddin Ahmed met and grew close. Other characters in the book include Munier Chowdhury and Sarder Fazlul Karim. The book contains historic incidents that took place in the jail. There are also stories about a female Language Movement activist named Motmaz Begum.

What is the book "Shei Ghumer Por" about? Anisul Hoque: It's a story about human emotions. If a person is killed in crossfire, then his heirs can inherit his property. But if a person disappears without a



PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

trace, then his heirs cannot claim his property for seven years, or cannot even withdraw money from his bank account. His widow cannot remarry. Darkness descends on the family of a person who disappears; it's an emotional catastrophe. I wanted to shed light on this situation through a fictional family in this novel.

What are your aspirations regarding writing? Anisul Hoque: I wish to write about issues and subjects that will be talked

like Akhtaruzzaman Elias, Hasan Azizul Haq, Al Mahmud. We also had Manik Bandyopadhyay, Jibanananda Das, Shamsur Rahman. Each of them gave us works of international standards. But they were not recognised globally. I want our contemporary writers to get the international recognition they deserve. This wish is not only for me but for everyone else. My friend Mostofa Sarwar Farooki has entered the international arena with his films. We want to do the same with literature.

What are your expectations from this year's book fair? Anisul Hoque: Each year, I have the same expectation. This is not only a fair of books, but also a cause to celebrate creativity. A lot of books are sold, literature is promoted and the spirit of our nation also wakes up. I expect good book sales, and a proper arrangement of the fair in a safe atmosphere.

Are you addicted to books? Anisul Hoque: I'm a picky reader. I write novels, but I can't read them. I prefer articles and poetry. Although I don't have a strong habit of reading, whenever I'm reading, I stay completely submerged in that book. I'm a selfish reader. I buy 25 books that I need to research for my own writing, and read them all in two days. That is how I read books.

Does Bangladeshi literature live up to the international standards? Anisul Hoque: I think our literature is of international standards. We have writers

Exhibition featuring works of six Australian photographers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group exhibition displaying the works of six contemporary Australian photographers began at the Interior Depot Gallery in Gulshan 1, Dhaka on January 30. The exhibition, titled "Dialogue", features collaborations between photographers Marian Drew, Jorge Deustua, Angela Blakely, David Lloyd, Kelly Hussey-Smith and Alan Hill.

The six photographers, working collaboratively and individually, seek to capture the connectivity of human experiences in their projects. The works are about the excesses of human existence, the spaces in which we dwell. In their works, the photographers seek to respond intellectually and compassionately to the world in which they live.

Among the guests at the inaugural programme were Greg Wilcock, Australian High



Dignitaries at the opening.

Commissioner in Bangladesh; Mark Pierce, Assistant Secretary, South and Central Asia Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Commonwealth of Australia; Tim Bolotnikoff, Australian Deputy High Commissioner in Bangladesh; Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Director General, East Asia and Pacific wing of the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Ambassador Md. Zamir, Chief Information Commissioner. Among the featured photographers, David Lloyd was present at the opening. The exhibition is part of a cultural exchange between Bangladesh and Australia, and will continue till February 12.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker



Henry by Don Trachte



Table with TV channels and their programmes: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 9, CHANNEL 1, GTV, FOX MOVIES, BANGLAVISION, HBO.

Table with radio stations and their programmes: abc radio FM 89.2, Radio 12.00, Boier Faka.

Bengal ITC-SRA Classical Music Festival on Masranga Television at 09:00pm. Musical Programme Artist: Waseem

Ghost Rider on Fox Movies at 07:00pm. Genre: Action, Fantasy, Thriller. Cast: Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes

Roshni on Channel 1 at 11:30pm. Drama Serial. Cast: Moushumi, Lutfar Rahman

Table with TV channels and their programmes: 09:05 Gaan-e Gaan-e Desh-e, 11:25 Am Ekhon Ki Korbo, ntv 02:35 Tele-film: Guest House, Desh TV 03:00 Phrygian-er Gaan, 08:15 Bindu Thekya Britto, 09:45 Drama: Khyati, 11:45 Call-er Gaan, Boishakhi TV 02:30 Shudhu Cinema Gaan, 08:00 Amar Guitaar Amar Gaan, 08:50 Drama, Maasranga Television 02:30 Phono Live Concert: Paribaho, 05:02 Square Hospital Doctor's Chamber, 08:00 Drama: Swopnochokro, 09:00 Bengal ITC-SRA Classical Music Festival, 07:00 Devil, 07:00 Star World, 02:30 Grey's Anatomy, 04:30 Melissa & Joey, 09:00 The Front Row with Anupama Chopra, 09:30 Packed to the Rafters, 11:30 Homeland, National Geographic Channel 12:30 Scam City Rio, 05:30 Monkey Thieves: The Monkey Catcher, 06:30 Banged Up Abroad, 08:30 Fin Fighters: Bangkok to the Last Bite, 09:30 Ultimate Wild: Fight Clubs, 10:30 Banged Up Abroad: Clinkin Prison Break, 11:30 Taboo: Beyond the Grave, Discovery Channel 11:30 Life, 02:30 Rhodes across India, 04:30 Nature's Greatest Deeds, 07:30 Countdown to Collision, 09:30 Indian Army Women's

Table with TV channels and their programmes: ATN BANGLA 09:20pm Chhayabarti, Channel 1 11:30pm Roshni, ntv 08:45pm Metro Life, ETV 09:30pm Dhol, Boshakhi TV 06:20pm Bhorasha Coaching Centre, BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Dui Takar Bahaduri, 09:45pm Gulshan Avenue, Rtv, 09:05pm Oloshpur, 09:50pm Eti Dulubhai

Table with TV channels and their programmes: NEWS BULLETIN, Boishakhi TV News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 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 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm, Desh TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm, Maasranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.

Table with TV channels and their programmes: TALK SHOW, ATN Bangla 12:30am Lead News, CHANNEL 1 09:45am Grameshobha, 11:30am Grameshobha, 12:00am Aker Shongbadato, Boishakhi TV 12:30pm Hindyo Jumbhar, 12:00am Zero Hour, BANGLAVISION 11:30pm Moha Shatto Al-Quran, ntv 12:30am Hello America, Desh TV 07:45pm Mukh O Mukhorata, Rtv, 10:40am Tarikakap