Anisul Hoque gained popularity as an author through his

"Godyo-Cartoon" series of articles, short stories and novels.

dramas and films. The deputy editor of the daily Prothom

Alo has won several accolades for his writing, including the

Bangla Academy award. "Ma", a heartwarming novel, is one

of the most popular works by the author. In a conversation

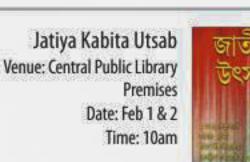
with The Daily Star, Hoque talked about the Ekushey Boi

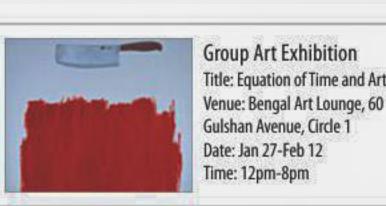
Mela (book fair) 2013 and a range of other subjects.

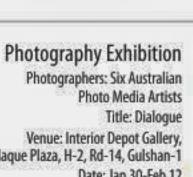
His repertoire also includes poems and scripts for TV









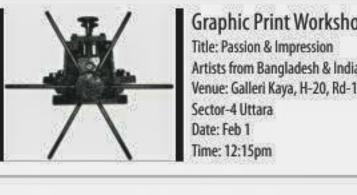


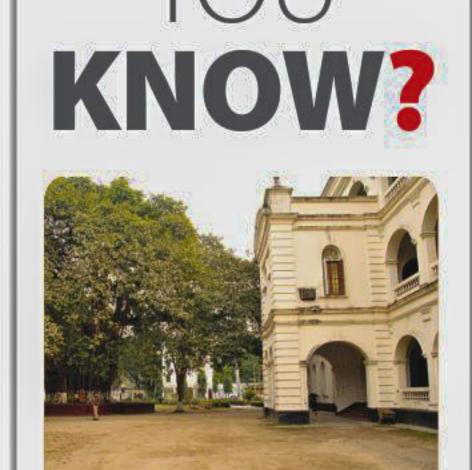












DID

Burdwan House

· The main office of Bangla Academy is located at the Burdwan House, once part of the University of

residence of the Prime Minister of the then East Pakistan, Nurul Amin, in 1952, when the Language Movement was at its peak.

· Burdwan House was the official

 The very building that had seen the hatching of conspiracies against the Language Movement and unleashed the bloodbath of February 21, 1952, is now the symbol of Bangladeshi literary tradition and

· After the February 21 killings, the demand of transforming the house into a centre for 'Bangla Bhashar Gobeshonagar' (research centre for

Bangla language) emerged. · At present the 'Bhasha Andolan Jadughar' (Language Movement Museum) is located on the first floor of the house.

EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

Epitomising Bengali literary traditions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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. Each year, readers, novelists, poets, writers, intellectuals, educationists and publishers in Bangladesh eagerly await the event.

"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; Altaf 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 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 festivities, and this month-long festival revitalises us.'

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

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 Hossa

were present as special guests at the

inaugural programme.

Khan and renowned dancer Laila Hasan

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

The talented artiste wrapped up her

that was marked by several musical

take the stage. The artiste rendered a

khayal based on Raga "Shudh Sarong"

day's musical journey with a sitar recit

performance with an experimental piece

Chandana Debi Hajong was the next



fair will play a role in inspiring youngsters to read

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

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 Mallabarmana, Abdul Haq Chowdhury, DL Roy and Swami Vivekananda will be highlighted in the

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

Showcasing Refined Melody with Graceful Rhythm

Classical music festival with dance ends at Shilpakala



Yousuf Khan (top) plays sarod while Amiran Ahsan presents sitar recital at the festival.

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

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 filr to see commercial release in Dhaka The feel-good comedy-drama that wa released in France in November 201 quickly went on to become the secondbiggest hit at French box office history, bagged eight nominations at the 2012 Cesar Awards [considered the French most authentic movie rating site, and did well after its US release in equivalent of an Oscar], and Omar Sy

took home the best actor honours.

Sabuj Ahmed on tabla and Meher

Hossain on harmonium accompanied the

Noted sarod artiste Md. Yousuf Khan

performed Raga "Kirwani" at the festival.

The artiste played alap, jor alap, vilambit,

madhyalaya and drut gaut on teen taal.

Tabla artiste Meher Hossain presented a

meditating through music. The artiste's

Saju Ahmed with two co-artistes,

Samiha Siddique Oishi and Mahbuba

Hossain Ruhi displayed a Kathak style

called tarana set on a musical on Raga

evocative of graceful corporal interplay

Saju Ahmed choreographed the piece.

Nishit Dey presented Raga "Puria

Dhaneshree" on his sitar. The promising

artiste produced apt symphony during

others, Badal Pramanik rendered Raga

"Shyam Kalyan" while Neloy Ahsar

performed Raga "Jog" at the festival

his gaut and jhala performances. Among

with stunning footwork by the artiste tri

"Malkauns". The performance was

speedy jhala along with tehai wrapped up

lahora with the performance. While

performing the raga, Yousuf was so

engrossed that it seemed like he was

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 most critics, including a 76 percent positive rating at RottenTomatoes.com, considered the

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."

François Cluzet Omar Sy

Intouchables

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

published at the fair? Anisul Hoque: A new novel titled "Ushar Duwarey", 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

How many of your books are being

be a children's novel, "Ekattorer Ekdol Dushtu Chhele", as well. Two books featuring "Goddyo-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 Duwarey". 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 inside the jail There are also stories about a female Language Movement activist named Momtaz Begum.

What is the book "Shei Ghumer Por" about Anisul Hoque: It's a story about hum emotions. If a person is killed in crossfire, then his heirs can inherit his property. But if a person disappears without a issues and subjects that will be talked

Bengal-ITC-SRA

Classical Music Fest

on Maasranga

Television

The four-nightlong (November 29-

December 2, 2012) "Bengal-ITC SRA

Classical Music Festival 2012", held at

Army Stadium in Dhaka, was hugely

enthusiastic music lovers attending the

For those who missed the opportunity

to attend the mega event, Maasranga

Tonight's telecast will feature Wasim

Dhrupad performance will be on air

The grandest ever classical music

hundred vocalists and musicians from

the biggest names in Indian classical

Research Academy, India jointly

Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and

Maasranga Television as partners.

India and Bangladesh, including some of

Bengal Foundation and ITC Sangeet

organised the festival, dedicated to Ustad

Allauddin Khan. The festival also had

vocalist Pandit Uday Bhawalkar's

festival in Bangladesh featured a

Television is airing performances at the

festival at 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

Ahmed Khan's vocal presentation, while

successful with thousands of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



trace, then his heirs cannot claim h 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 or this situation through a fictional family

What are your aspirations regarding Anisul Hoque: I wish to write about

my first aspiration is to reach the people Does Bangladeshi literature live up to the international standards? Anisul Hoque: I think our literature is of

international standards. We have writers

Delhi. Now I want to publish it from New

York. I want my writing to be published

across the world. Since I write in Bangla

Bangla speaking populace in other

countries. My novel "Ma" has been

like Akhtaruzzaman Elias, Hasan Azizul Haq, Al Mahmud. We also had Manik Bandopadhyay, 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

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. translated in English and published from 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.

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

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



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



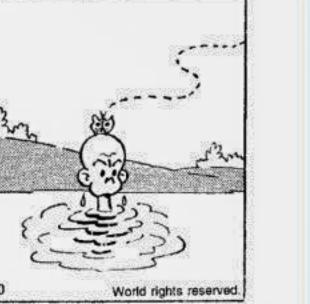
Henry





by Don Tranchte

by Mort Walker

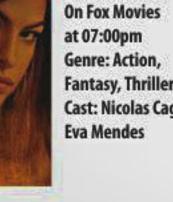


CHANNEL 9

School-e Oboshor-e Ajker Ononna

Handsome Ultimate Mar Fox Movies Sonamoni Shukh-e We Are the Night 10:10 Bhalo Thakun





05:00 Today's World Music



National Geographic

Monkey Thieves: The Banged Up Abroad Busted In Bangkok Fin Fighters: Good to th Ultimate Wild: Fight

Banged Up Abroad: Taboo: Beyond the Grave **Discovery Channel**

Indian Army Women's

DRAMA SERIAL

BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Dui Takar 1:30pm Roshni 09:45pm Gulshan Avenue 08:45am Metro Life 09:05pm Oloshpur 09:30pm Dhol

09:50pm Eti Dulabhai

NEWS BULLETIN News (Bangla) at 10am, News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm. News (English) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm. News (English) at 9am, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am News (Bangla) at 10am. News (English) at 9am. 6pm. CHANNEL i News (Bangla) at 2pm News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm. News (Bangla) at 2pm News (Bangla) at 1pm,

News (Bangla) at 2pm. News (Bangla) at 7pm

TALK SHOW 11:30pm Moha Shatto Al-12:00am Ajker Shongbadpatro 07:45pm Mukh 0 Mukhorata

12:30pm Hridoye Jummabar 10:40am Tarokalap