

WHAT'S ON

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

Amor Ekushey Book Fair
Venue: Bangla Academy
Premises, Dhaka
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3-8pm (Sun-Thu) & 11am-8pm (Fri & Sat)

Book Launch
Book: Rabindranath-er Geetiya O Nitayika
Publishers: Nityanchal & Mawa Brothers
Venue: Music & Dance Centre auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

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

Group Exhibition
Title: Love is in the Air
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, AJ Heights, Cha-72/1/D, Progoti Shorani, Uttor Badda
Date: Feb 9-26

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Reviving Miniature
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, H-115, Rd-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Jan 29-Feb 7
Time: 11:30am-7pm (except Sunday)

National Street Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Group Theatre Festival
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar, Dhaka

Comilla pulsates with a unique festival



The cultural programmes that were lined up for this festival caught the imagination of the people of Comilla.

UDAY SANKAR DAS

It was informative, educational, entertaining, and most of all, thought-provoking. The 3rd Comilla Cultural Festival came to a rapturous close last Thursday evening at the Comilla Town Hall with the staging of "Teen Konya", an adaptation of British Asian writer Farrukh Dhondy's play on Shakespeare's three heroines.

The festival was the brainchild of an expatriate from Comilla, Manjurul Azim Palash, who after a decade in the UK, returned to his hometown. He was joined by an enthusiastic group of young volunteers.

With a slight delay, the festival began on January 29 with group renditions of songs by the artistes of Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan Parishad (RSSP), Comilla, which was followed by a seminar on 'Liberation War: National Reawakening'. The Vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, Professor Anwar Hussain, was the chief guest with a host of speakers present from Comilla and outside.

The speakers emphasised the necessity of national reawakening, so that the youth of 1971 who fought for the independence of the country could hand over the baton of their thoughts and ideas to the younger generation to take the country forward and achieve the goals for which the country was liberated. Professor Hussain said reawakening in the present scenario of Bangladesh is not only necessary, but is also inevitable. He urged upon all to kick-start this idea of reawakening from the town of Comilla that has been the path-provider of many historical events.

The second day of the festival saw a daylong workshop being held on 'Journalism: Preparation and Com-

mitment', attended by more than 40 young journalists, mostly from the print media, and working in Comilla. Well-known columnist and media personality Md. Jahangir inaugurated the workshop and elucidated the situation prevailing in the media of Bangladesh. The workshop was conducted by a number of experienced journalists -- both from the print and electronic media. In order to give a bit of an international flavour, some personalities with experience of working in radio and TV in the UK and the USA were also present.

A seminar was organised in the afternoon of the second day where a keynote paper on the evolution of Bangla poetry was read by a local journalist, Arshad Siddiqui. The paper received rave appreciation and it was proposed to incorporate this paper with some amendments in the festival brochure in future.

The third and final seminar was held on the last day of the festival, the title being 'State, Globalisation and Self-identity of the Adivasis'. The keynote paper was presented by researcher and development worker Farhat Jahban.

The cultural programmes that were lined up for this festival caught the imagination of the people of Comilla. The programmes included flute recital, rendition of thumri, Bangla poetry recitation, traditional folk songs, and to round up the festival -- a play on Shakespeare's three heroines with a Bangladeshi perspective.

Veteran flute player Ustad Azizul Islam, who hails from greater Comilla region, gave an extraordinarily absorbing recital on the opening night, playing the Raag Jhinjhoti, which has a tinge of Bhawaiya in it. He concluded his recital with a short dhooon on Raag Mishra Khamaj.

One of the highlights of the second day's cultural programme was a session on Bangla poetry recitation by

BOI MELA CORNER

Imdadul Haq Milon: Romancing the readers

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Imdadul Haq Milon is often credited along with Humayun Ahmed for creating and expanding readership in Bangladesh. His fame has crossed over to India's West Bengal, as well as among other Bengali speaking readers across the world.

In 2005, Milon was invited to the Takeshi Kaiko Memorial Asian Writers Lecture Series, organised by the Japan Foundation. At the annual event, which invites one writer from each Asian country, Milon represented Bangladeshi literature and delivered lectures about his writings at four international centres in Japan.

Born in Bikrampur's Medinimondol village, the writer spent his childhood with his maternal grandmother. His journey from that village to Dhaka's Gendaria, later in his life, has been portrayed in many of his works. Milon penned his first story "Bondhu" in 1973. His first novel "Jabojjibon" was published in Bangla Academy's Uttaradhikar magazine. However, before his novel was printed, he published a collection of stories titled "Bhalobashar Golpo".

Among the many recognitions Milon has received is the 1992 Bangla Academy Award. The author treasures the admiration of the readers as one of the greatest awards.

Several books by Milon are being published by Ananya Prokashoni at the Ekushey Boi Mela this year. They include: "Paach Nayika", "Shada Ghorar Sawari", "Motku Miyar Girlfriend" and "Srabon Jochhna-e". Two other collections of stories are also being published: one is compilation of 50 love stories, while the other is a collection of Liberation War stories.

Milon has also written a book on fellow author Humayun Ahmed, titled "Priyo Humayun Ahmed", which is being published by Anyprakash. Nandonik is publishing a novel on the Liberation War, called "Shonar Manush". On his latest writings, Milon says, "Every book is like a child to me. Whenever I write, I try to put in all my passion in the words."

The Ekushey book fair was held for the first time right after independence, when Chittaranjan Saha laid down a mat on the Bangla Academy grounds to set up a book stall. Milon has been a regular visitor to the annual fair since then. He said, "At that time, I used to go there because I felt a calling of the heart. Poetry recital sessions also used to take place during those days."

Asked about how he felt when his first book was published, Milon took a walk down memory lane. He said, "Back in 1985, I travelled to Germany. I handed in a manuscript to a publisher before leaving. Returning home after two years, I found that the book hadn't been published yet. Qayyum Chowdhury illustrated the book cover with care, and the novel 'Jabojjibon' went on to become very popular."

Milon has published over 150 books so far. His "Bhalobashar Shukh Dukkho" sold over 85,000 copies at a book fair.

Aside from being a popular romance author, Milon has also worked on books on very serious issues, such as "Kalakal", "Bhumi", "Poradinota" and "Nurjahan". Milon received the Surma Chowdhury Award in Delhi for writing "Nurjahan". On the book, the author says, "Kolkata's Ananda Publishers first brought out "Nurjahan", a 1,300 page book. It took me 18 years to complete."

Like all other book enthusiasts, Milon waits round the year for the Ekushey book fair. "The fair creates a bond between readers, authors and publishers," he says.



Vandana Luthra awarded Padma Shri



Vandana Luthra, founder of and mentor at VLCC, has received the prestigious Padma Shri award, one of the highest civilian honours in India -- for her efforts and remarkable contribution to the society. Luthra is widely recognised as the leader in Indian beauty, health and fitness industry and is today regarded as an authority on the business of wellness, says a press release.

Her organisation, VLCC is widely known in India and abroad for its holistic, scientific and completely natural weight-management practices and therapeutic beauty solutions addressing the mind and body. The organisation has operations in 121 cities spanning across 16 countries, and runs Asia's largest chain of vocational education academies in beauty and nutrition.

Sylvester Stallone supports assault weapon ban in US

AP, California

Sylvester Stallone says that despite his "Rambo" image and new shoot-em-up film "Bullet to the Head", he is in favour of new US national gun control legislation.

Stallone supported the 1994 "Brady bill" that included a now-expired ban on assault weapons, and hopes that ban can be reinstated.

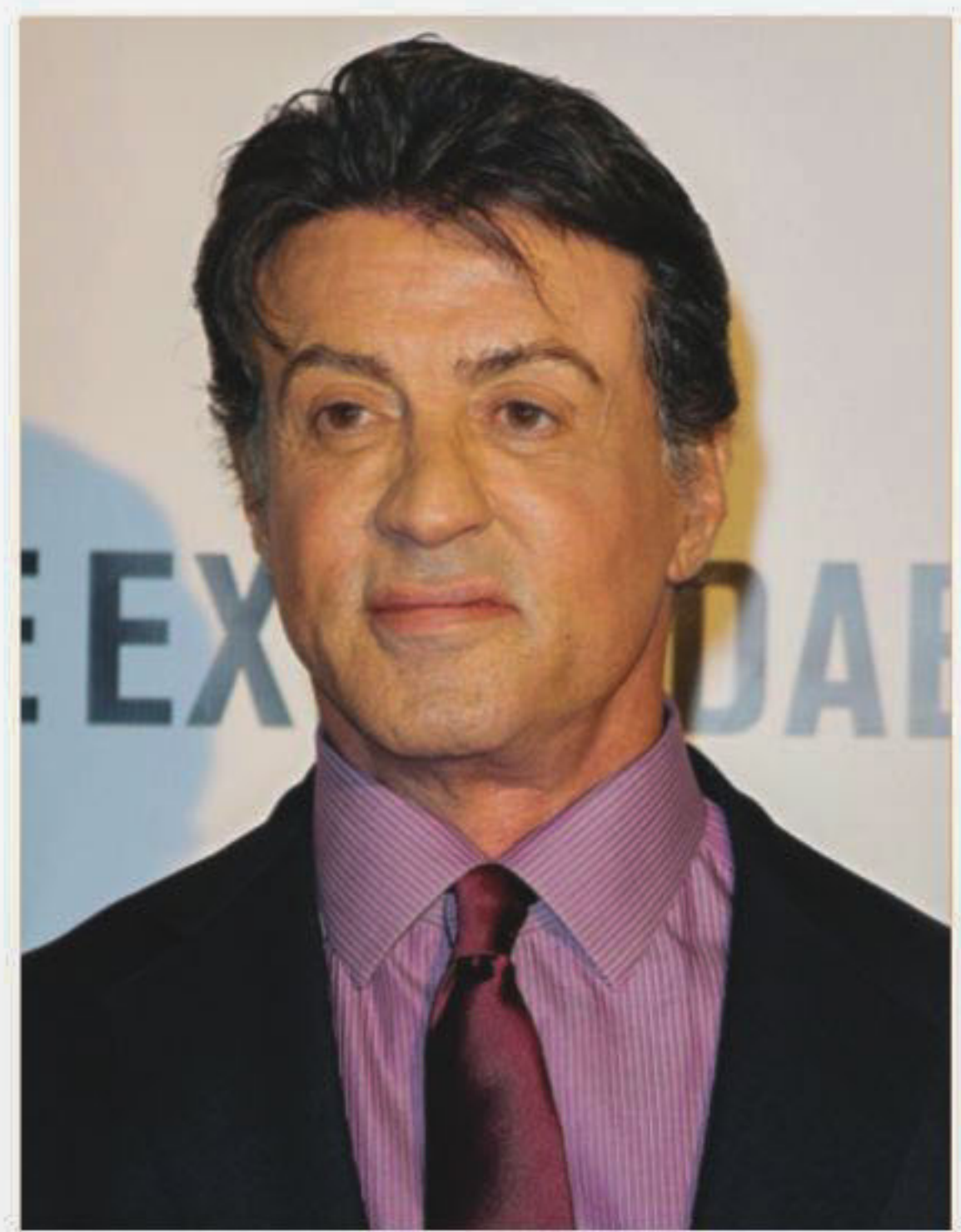
"I know people get upset and go, 'They're going to take away the assault weapon.' Who... needs an assault weapon? Like really, unless you're carrying out an assault... You can't hunt with it... Who's going to attack your house, a (expensive) army?"

The 66-year-old actor, writer and director said he also hopes for an additional focus on mental health to prevent future mass shootings.

"It's unbelievably horrible, what's happened. I think the biggest problem, seriously, is not so much guns. It's that every one of these people that have done these things in the past 30 years are friggin' crazy. Really crazy! And that's where we've dropped the ball: mental health," he said. "That to me is our biggest problem in the future, is insanity coupled with isolation."

Stallone is now in production on his next project, pairing up with the former "Raging Bull" Robert De Niro for "Grudge Match", about two aging boxers.

"People think it's going to be some geezer brawl. Really? OK, they're in for a surprise. I'm telling you. I've been working on the fight, the choreography. He's taking it deadly serious. Because no one wants to be



shown up," Stallone said of De Niro. "It's going to be like a 'Rocky' fight. This will be 'Rocky 7', with me fighting -- with Rocky fighting the Raging Bull."

Papia Sarwar's new album hits the market



A CORRESPONDENT

Noted artiste Papia Sarwar's latest Rabindra Sangeet album "Purna Chander Maya-e" has been released recently.

The singer has recorded 14 popular and less heard songs for her album, including "Tomari Modhur Roop-e", "Je Phool Jhorey", "Bhalobashileyi Jodi Shey", "Pushpa Bon-e Pushpa Nah", "Dip Nibey Gechey Momo", "Megh-er Porey Megh", "Tumi Toh Shei", "Chirobondhu Chronoribhor", "Shomukhe Shanti Parabar" and, of course, the title song.

Indian music director Durbadal Chattopadhyay has directed music for the album. Chattopadhyay's exclusive musical arrangement, coupled with Sarwar's outstanding rendition, adds special value to the album. Produced under the label of G-Series, the album is being marketed by Geetanjali.

Papia Sarwar graduated in Rabindra Sangeet from Visva Bharati University, Shantiniketan, with a scholarship. In a career spanning almost five decades, she has carved a niche in the hearts of many music aficionados.

CHOBIMELA VII

"I cannot work unless I'm sad"

-- Nasir Ali Mamun

Most of Mamun's portraits are dark, and have a single source of natural light.

PHOTO: ATLA AKASH

FAHMIM FERDOUS

"I was born in an 'uncivilised' 20th century family, and started photography in 1972, completely illiterate of the art" -- Nasir Ali Mamun, one of the pioneering figures of Bangladeshi photography, began his 'Artist's Talk' session at the Goethe-Institut in Dhaka on January 31 on a rather dramatic note.

At that time, there were less than 150 cameras in Dhaka, he said, comparing the number to the 2 crore-plus (including camera phones) today. He said that his interest in portrait photography was fuelled by pictures of Gbangbandhu and Mawlana Bhashani. The little portraits of them that appeared on booklets or posters were plain and had no flow; Mamun said that he wanted to take "up front" photos.

It's not easy to take photos of famous people, Mamun said, as he kept on showing his portraits taken between 1972 and '82. It's difficult to keep up with them, and many would "burn out" in their vicinity, but "if they played the sitar or the sarod, I played tabla with them," Mamun added. It was also hard to know who the important people were, as there were not many forms of recognition back then, in post-Liberation War Bangladesh. So he made a list, showed it to people, and asked them to add names to it.

Mamun said that he first used a camera on March 3, 1968 -- a toy-like non-branded plastic camera -- and had no gear of his own for the first six years. He used to borrow a camera from 'Studio Nihar', from 9pm-8am (when the studio was closed). He also

began stealing international magazines from wealthier households in Dhanmondi, and cut out the pictures to study them.

Talking about his muse, Mamun said, "I invite sorrow. I cannot work unless I am sad."

Most of his portraits are dark, and have a single source of natural light, because he wanted to depict the unsettled emotions within and the people he photographed, to bring out the talents that were never properly evaluated.

The artist's close association with the portraits were evident, as he remembered years, and in a lot of cases, the dates of taking those photographs. The slideshow began with a few drawings of him made by people -- ranging from Dr. Muhammad Yunus, his son, and SM Sultan. All his portraits of famous people feature low natural lighting, striking expressions -- some candid, some profoundly held -- and introspective elements.

Mamun then moved on to his series works -- people that he followed for a long time. The motivation behind them was to frame the changes that these people go through, not just externally, but also in terms of persona, he said. He displayed a series of photographs of artist SM Sultan, while sharing stories of staying at Sultan's Narail residence, where the bohemian had snakes, weasels, birds and various other animals as pets. Describing Sultan as a "wild character", Mamun said it was impossible to tolerate Sultan for more than 72 hours because of his bizarre lifestyle and personality, and that is what made him such a striking subject.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker

Henry by Don Trachte

YOUR QUESTIONS KEEP SANGLAP ROLLING

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BTV	02:30 BPL 2013 (Live)	03:00 Gaan R Gaan
	06:30 BPL 2013 (Live)	06:30 World Music
	08:40 Kirshi Dibanshi	09:45 Cinema Express
	09:30 Drama Serial: Shonali Alo	11:45 Shuja Kotba
ATN BANGLA		Maasranga Television
	11:20 Business and Finance	10:02 Bangla Feature Film
	01:25 Matir Subash	08:40 Drama Serial: Khonikalya
	09:20 Drama Serial: DB	09:20 Drama Serial: College
	01:00 Onno Drishti	11:30 Shajir Baramkhana
nTV		CHANNEL 9
	08:45 Bangla Feature Film	08:00 Bangla Feature Film
	05:30 Apar Jigasha	02:30 BPL 2013 (Live)
	09:00 Comedy Show	06:30 BPL 2013 (Live)
	09:45 Drama Serial: Ochena Protimbibo	11:00 Drama Serial: Idots
ETV		CHANNEL 24
		04:30 Eito Jibon
		06:30 Life Style
		08:00 Musical Launch

RADIO

abr radio FM 89.2	12:00 My Time
05:30 Kacha Lanka	01:00 No Tension
06:30 Mitka Kara	04:00 Dhaka Calling
07:20 GLevech	09:00 Night Rider
07:45 Megh Barata	01:00 Back to Back Music
08:10 Adda	RADIO TODAY FM 89.5
09:30 Love Hour	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:00 Shadid Golpo Drum	12:00 Today's Adda
RadioForo	06:00 8 Tam
07:30 Hello Dhaka	12:00 Tabey Tai Hok
10:00 Morning Express	10:00 Raat Shor Gaan

Je Kotba Keu Boleni
On ATN BANGLA at 11:30pm
Talk Show
Guest: Selim Reza

Due Date
On HBO at 07:45pm
Genre: Comedy/Drama
Cast: Robert Downey Jr., Zach Galifianakis & Michelle Monaghan

Pancho Premik
On ETV at 09:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Hassan Masud, Siddique Rahman

11:30 Ekushey-er Business	Gtv
07:50 Music Station	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
09:30 Drama Serial: Pancho Premik	09:00 Gaan-e-Gaan-e-Adda
10:10 Cine Hits	09:35 Drama Serial: Mayajjal
Boishakhi TV	11:05 Apori Kichu Bolun
10:45 Bangla Feature Film	Fox Movies
04:00 Shorashori Doctor	02:30 Seven Pounds
08:00 Drama Serial: Boro Barir Chhoto Bou	07:00 The Double
11:00 Reporters Dairy	10:55 Transporter: The Series
BANGLAVISION	11:45 London Boulevard
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	HBO
06:25 Front Line	03:35 The Hangover Part II
08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First	05:03 The Italian Job
11:25 Proshahi Mukh	07:45 Due Date
Rtv	09:30 Stomp the Yard
10:40 Tarokalap	Star World
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	03:30 Last Resort
09:05 Drama Serial: Run	08:30 Melissa & Joey
09:50 Bridal Show	09:30 Packed to the Rafters
Desh TV	11:30 Homeland
	Discovery Channel
	02:30 Man Woman Wild
	04:30 Survivor Man

DRAMA SERIAL

ATN BANGLA	08:40pm Jhalanta Babura	09:00pm Red Signal
nTV	08:15pm Metro Life	08:15pm Makraha
08:15pm Metro Life		Desh TV
08:20pm Swakshi Durbal		07:45pm Sai Kahon
09:20pm Ognipoth		08:00pm Hoshinari
BANGLAVISION		CHANEL 9
09:20pm Ognipoth		10:30pm Nagrik
BANGLAVISION		CHANNEL 24
		09:00pm Ashin

NEWS BULLETIN

BTV	News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 9pm.	Boishakhi TV	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.
nTV	News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.	BANGLAVISION	News (English) at 9am, 6pm.
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
CHANEL 1	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.	Rtv	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.		Desh TV	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.		Maasranga Television	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.

TALK SHOW

BTV	10:50pm Oikyatoyar	12:05am Ekushey-er Raat
	Bangladesh	Boishakhi TV
ATN BANGLA	11:30pm Je Kotba Keu Boleni	12:05am Star of Politics
CHANEL 1	12:30pm Taraka Kotbon	Maasranga Television
nTV	12:00am Ei Shomoy	12:02am Shungupto
ETV	12:05am	CHANNEL 24
		12:05am Modhyaster
		Muktakab