

WHAT'S ON

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

Film Screening
Organiser: Sangeet Masud Memorial Trust
Venue: Shaikat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shaahbagh
Date: Feb 20-22
Time: 3pm onwards (Feb 21: 10am)

Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Long Awaited Freedom
Artist: Razial Ahsan
Venue: Drk Gallery, H-58, R-15/A (New), Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 17-23

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Portraits of Ambiguity
Artist: Rabul Karim Sumar
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DOHS, Mohakhali
Date: Feb 16-25
Time: 11:30am-7pm

Musical Soiree
Artist: Tapan Chowdhury
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: February 22
Time: 6:30pm

Group Exhibition
Title: Love is in the Air
Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, Al Heights, Dac-72/71/0, Progoti Shorani, Uttara Badda
Date: Feb 9-26

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Re-enacting Actuality
Artist: Mahmudul Haque
Venue: Bengali Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16(New), Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 8-21

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go
Artist: Joya Shahin Haq
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, City
Date: Feb 15-March 3

Ode to All Musicians

TULIP CHOWDHURY

How dull and listless life would be if the drums did not play their beats, if the guitar strings remained silent, if the piano notes did not stream out flowing notes or if the singers did not sing the songs that touch the heart and transform us to the melodious world! Music -- filling our life in various mediums enlightens the heart and takes the soul to infinity, reaching out to the tears and joys of life. When the music of Beethoven, Mozart or Chopin penetrates the stillness of one's surroundings, the soul suddenly finds itself lifted to a strange contentedness, the tears find reasons and joy multiple. When the songs of Tagore sung by Mita Haq, Abbasi's *bhawaiya* songs or Bhupen Hazarika's inspirational compositions start playing with the heart strings, life seems to be bathed with a strange light and the sun rises once more with new promises and meanings.

The names mentioned are a few of the thousands of musicians we remain indebted to for keeping our aesthetic senses alive. Musicians are the gifts of human ingenuity that make us experience life in its multitudes of emotions. The soul that finds solitude in a simple country song or a folk song, wants to hold on to these moments and live forever. These moments of illumination of the heart come back to revive us when the desultory faces of life get us down. And they also reunite hearts with joy when the happy melodies reverberate in our souls. Music is that essential ingredient without which life is like a windless, flowerless spring day.

According to Ulrica Nilsson, RNA, PhD, nurses face many challenges as they care for the needs of hospitalised patients, and they often have to prioritise physical care over the patient's emotional, spiritual, and psychological needs. Meeting these additional needs is a challenge. In clinical practice, music intervention can be a tool to support these needs by creating an environment that stimulates and maintains relaxation, well being, and comfort.

In fact with the beginning of civilisation music has entered human lives as a form of revival. Greek philosopher Pythagoras prescribed music and diet to restore and maintain the harmony of body and soul. In 1800, Florence Nightingale recognised the therapeutic effects of music on wounded soldiers and even observed the effects of different types of music. Beginning with the invention of the phonograph in the late 1800, we have come far in the technological developments of music that aid us to listen and fulfill our souls from one end of the world to the other. And there is a modern trend of fusion of different cultures in the music industry, to create another form of music that would stir the souls in different ways.

In our country when it comes to Tagore songs and the mastery of words in them we remain much indebted to the late Waheedul Haque and Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, Shibli Mohammed and other contemporary singers. The great school of music, Chayyanaut, was built on the back-breaking efforts of



Mozart



Firoza Begum



Mita Haq



Bhupen Hazarika

Tagore exponents like Waheedul Haque, Dr. Sanjida Khatun and others. We remember Feroza Begum and her entrancing voice for bringing the remarkable songs of Kazi Nazrul Islam to us. And those of us who are familiar with Lalon Geeti, "Khabar bhitor ochin pakhi kenne ashe jai", are bathed in the great truth of life spoken in the song.

Talk of jazz, rock, classical, folk or any other form of music, in any country on earth, the human soul, once attached to the beauty of music gets back to its time and time again. "Summer wine" by Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazlewood, Carpenters' "Yesterday once more" and Michael Jackson's "Heal the world" never fail to transport our hearts to a land of endless solitude. You Mutter to yourself, "Why heaven is right here, in this momen-

Every once in a while I hum Tagore's "Jibone joto puja holona shara, jani hej jani to hoini hara...." This song has kept so many lives holding onto hope, hope that keeps the last dying flame still burning, hope of a liberated nation that finally set the people to bring to reality the words of the song, "Joy Bangla, Banglar joy..."

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ALL-TIME GREATS Zahir Raihan: Capturing national struggles on celluloid

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Mohammad Zahirullah (better known as Zahir Raihan) -- born on August 19, 1935 in a village in Feni -- lived only to be 37, but left his mark in the heart of every patriotic Bangladeshi with his works. After moving back from Kolkata following the partition of 1947, Zahir Raihan obtained a post-graduate in Bengali Literature and began working as a journalist. After initially writing short stories (inspired by his brother, prominent litterateur Shahidullah Kaiser), Raihan ventured into films as an assistant with "Jago Hua Saver" (1959). He made his directorial debut with "Kokhono Asheni" in 1960. In 1964, he made Pakistan's first colour movie, "Sangam", and completed his first cinemascopic movie, "Bahana", the following year.

Zahir Raihan spent a busy decade in the 1960s, directing "Sonar Kajol" in 1962 (jointly with Kalim Sharafi), "Kancher Deyal" in 1963, "Behula" in 1966, "Anowara" in 1966, "Dui Bhai" in 1968 and "Jibon Theke Neya" in 1969.

Apart from films, Zahir Raihan was also an accomplished writer. His publications include "Surjya Graham", "Shesh Bikeler Meye", the epic "Hajar Bochor Dhore", "Arek Falgun", "Borof Gola Nodi", "Aar Koto Din", "Koyekti Mrittu" and "Trishna". It was the subject matter of his work, however, that separates him from his contemporaries; Raihan had strong nationalist beliefs, and it reflected sharply in his work. Some of his works stood icons of the movement of the then East Pakistan that eventually culminated into the struggle for independence. He was one of the first few to back the move of violating curfew on the fateful day of February 21, 1952, and wrote "Arek Falgun", a striking novel on the movement -- while in jail after being arrested in connection with the movement. His film "Jibon Theke Neya" is also a satirical depiction of the ongoing national movement, portraying an entire country through the story of a family.

The Liberation War began when Raihan was the general secretary of Bangladesh Liberation Council of Intelligence, and was making his first English film "Let There Be Light". He abandoned the project and made his most notable work, the documentary "Stop Genocide", depicting the horrendous atrocities of the Pakistani forces.

Zahir Raihan left his house on January 30, 1972 looking for his brother Shahidullah Kaiser, who was abducted by Pakistani forces just before Bangladesh's emergence on the world map, and never returned. It is believed that he was killed in Mirpur by Pakistani soldiers in hiding and their Bihar collaborators, while looking for the body of his brother at the Mirpur mass grave where many intellectuals were killed and buried.

BOI MELA CORNER Mahadev Saha at the "carnival of alphabets"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahadev Saha, one of the leading romantic poets in contemporary Bengali literature, is characterised by mystery. He has added a new dimension to Bangla poetry and started writing in the early 1960s. Saha is offering nine new publications at the ongoing Ekushey Boi Mela.

The four new books of poems by Saha are: "Kabya Samagro -- Pancham Khondo" (from Ananya Publications), "Nirbachito Tinsho Kobita" (Akkhor Prokashoni), "Bhalobashar Lyric" (Chorja Grantha Prokash), "Shorbange Tomar Gunjan" (Bibhash Prokashoni), and "Dekhechi Morter Dhulo" (Sakhi Publishing Club).

Two new books of essays by Saha are: "Atmo Smiriti Unissho Pachattar: Shei Andhokar Shei Bibhishikamoy" (Nandonki Prokashoni) and "Keno Bhalobashi" (Bangla Prokash). Both books include personal experiences, history, research-based articles, travelogues and more.

A collection of short stories, "Jekhane Gondho Chilo Phul Chilo Na", will publish from Oitijho. Rachi Grantha Niketan will publish "Mahadev Saha-r Shakkhatkar". The book has been compiled by Dr. Anupam Sen.

About the fair, Saha says, "The book fair, to me, is a carnival of alphabets. I consider Ekushey Boi Mela to be one of the major cultural festivals of our country. It reflects secularism as well as harmony among people of all religions. I believe that the fair has been playing a key role in developing our literary scene. It has become a symbol of nationalism, encouraging a bold stance against ignorance.

"I've visited many book festivals, notably in Frankfurt, New York, Athens, Berlin, Paris, Delhi and Kolkata. Ekushey book fair is very different and unique. Poets, writers, readers and publishers eagerly wait for the fair around the year.

"I feel that poetry is at the heart of the fair. The number of poetry books has increased over the years. At the fair, both veteran and promising poets are getting good response from readers."



Members of "Ghazal", the all-female Sufi music band from Iran.

Flamboyant flamenco from Spain, mystic melodies from Azerbaijan, music and dance by an Indian community that traces its origins to East Africa -- all these and more figured at the recent 3rd International Sufi Festival in New Delhi. Starting off with the Pinana brothers' group from Spain, the music of the flamenco guitar and voice by Curro and Carlos Pinana, were perfectly matched. The guitar riffs set off the evening, as the vocalist took over with songs that spoke the language of love, peace and search for the divine. If the vocals couldn't be faulted, neither could the lithe flamenco dancer whose steps held the audience captive as she dramatically shifted from easy to increasingly complex and sensuous moves. Next in the line-up of the first day was the four-member Mugam group from Azerbaijan. While the three instrumentalists lent a touch of the exotic to their performance, the showstopper was 57-year-old Sakina Ismayilova. Her unwavering vocals, as they touched the highest pitch, did justice to the tradition of Mugam that dates back thousands of years. Sakina is a well-known singer in her country and has performed Azerbaijan music in Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Japan, India, Austria, Germany, USA and many other parts of the world. Mugam, a traditional musical form that leaves much room for improvisation, has been recognised by UNESCO as a "Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity". From the Indian state of Gujarat came the Sidi Goma group. The Sidi community who live in various regions of India are of East African origin. The group presented music and dance that resonated with a touch of the wild jungles of Africa. The second day of the three-day festival presented the Bengal Bihar Sufi Folk group and Otava Yo group of Russia. Bauls and Fakirs are a well-known community of wandering minstrels common to West Bengal and Bangladesh. The concert presented the Bauls and Fakirs from Nadia who performed their mystical songs and Bangla qawwali. Along with them, the Nirgun singers from Bihar joined in with songs, which also centred on universal love and brotherhood through the couplets of Kabir. It was a unique experiment at presenting Kabir and Lalon together. The star attraction of the final day was Ghazal, the all-female Sufi music band from Iran. Though the country still carries reminders of the former autocratic Ayatollah Khomeini regime, the six-member group continues to pelt out Sufi songs. Indira Naik from Mumbai, India was another refreshing voice in a genre dominated by men. Last on the line up was the Meckhet group from Tunisia. In a world torn asunder by intolerance and strife, the Sufi singers were like a breath of fresh air with their messages of universal brotherhood, love and peace.

Musical homage to Saraswati on CMC campus

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Students of Chittagong Medical College (CMC) held a cultural programme on the occasion of Saraswati Puja on campus last Friday.

The day was turned into a reunion of present and former students of the college, teachers, doctors and their family members.

They organised a drawing competition for children, mainly students of different institutions of the Port City, in the morning.

Prize giving ceremony -- of this competition -- was held in the evening where Principal of CMC, Professor Dr. Selim Muhammad Jahangir, was present as chief guest.

MBBS and BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) students of CMC participated in the cultural programme, held in the evening. Students of 53rd, 54th and 24th BDS of the college performed in a theatrical production of "Ramayan". The play was directed by Tanmoy Kumar Paul, a student of the college, who was assisted by Shuvo Majumder and Ziku Shil.

A fashion show -- themed on the call for trial of all war criminals -- was also appreciated by the audience. The band, Chitkar, presented some of their songs including "Nadir Moto Boye Choli" and "Dhar Rajakar".

Artist Savyata presented the classic "Amar Bhai-er Rakte Rangano Ekushey February", dedicated to the martyrs of the Language Movement. She also covered the Rabindra Sangeet "Purano Shei Din-er Kotha".

Rajib Saha, president of Bani Archana Parishad 2013, CMC, said the programme reflected a sign of non-communal spirit on CMC campus as students and teachers of all religions attended the programme.



Students of different institutions participate in a drawing competition. PHOTO: STAR

Yahya Hawwa: Voice of the Syrian revolution

Yahya Hawwa was five when his father and uncle were killed in front of him in Hama, Syria, in 1982. This was the era of Bashar al-Assad's father, Hafez, whose forces are believed to have massacred 20,000-40,000 Syrian citizens. The memory left an indelible scar on Hawwa -- now 36 and dubbed the "singer of the Syrian revolution".

It is a title that comes at a wretched price: 17 members of Hawwa's family were arrested late last year; one was killed, and until recently Hawwa was on the ministry of the interior's "wanted" list. "Before the start of the revolution, all the things I sang about were either for children or spiritual songs," he says from his home in Amman, Jordan, where he has lived for several years. "It was not until the Syrian revolution kicked off that I felt great pressure to sing about it."

He and his mother fled from Syria to Saudi Arabia after his father was murdered. His father and uncle were market traders, selling fruit and vegetables; their crime was that they had a brother who was an outspoken critic

of the Syrian regime. Classically trained in Qur'anic recitation, Hawwa also borrows from western traditions; the instrumentation of his songs is often minimal, relying more on his powerful voice. In the space of two years, he has written 30 songs. The revolutionaries chant his lyrics before they go out to protest, he says. Arguably the most potent of these is Hawwa's "Going to My Death".

Last year, Hawwa was one of a number of acts to tour the UK on behalf of Human Appeal International and Syria Relief, on a bill topped by the 31-year-old Lebanese-born singer Maher Zain.

"The role of music in the Syrian revolution has been profound," Hawwa says. "It has served two main roles: on the ground, it has rallied the revolutionaries and encouraged them. And outside Syria, it has shed an artistic light on what's going on there."

Source: The Guardian



Beetle Baily by Mort Walker

I AM THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THIS CAMP! MY WORD IS LAW!

4000 MEN RELY ON ME TO MAKE THEIR DECISIONS!

SORRY, I NEED TO TELL MYSELF THIS EVERY TIME I LOOK IN THE MIRROR

Henry by Don Trachte

BTV	10:30 Mati O Manush 12:35 Shukhi Paribar 06:00 BPL 2013 Final (Live) 09:30 Tara Bhora Raitey	Desht TV	03:30 Gaan R Gaan 05:00 Durpath 08:15 Drama Serial: Radio Chocolate 09:45 Concert for Victory
ATN BANGLA	11:20 Business and Finance 01:25 ATN Music 05:10 Bihanga Kotha 08:00 Drama Serial: Jhulanta Babura	Maasranga Television	10:02 Bangla Feature Film 08:00 Drama Serial: Kobiraj Golapghat 11:00 Madhyasrater Train Adda O Gaan
CHANNEL 1	01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 04:20 Amar Chhobi 07:50 Sherakontha 09:35 Garbo	CHANNEL 9	09:30 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 Power Play 06:00 BPL 2013 Final (Live) 12:00 Sports Daily
nTv	11:00 Rupmadhuri 04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey 08:15 Drama Serial: Metro Life 09:00 Glamour World	CHANNEL 24	04:30 Musical Lounge 08:00 Rock Focus 09:00 Drama Serial: Ashin
ETV		Fox Movies	02:45 Limitless

abcradio FM 89.2	09:30 Eek Odek 03:25 Cinema Taal 05:30 Kacha Lanka 06:30 Mitha Kora 07:20 GP Lunch 07:45 Megh Barista 08:10 Adda 09:20 Baithe Hole Janbe Jorbe 09:30 Hello Dhaka	10:00 Morning Express 12:00 No Tension 04:00 Dhaka Calling 09:00 Knight Riders 06:00 RADIO TOBAN FM 89.5 06:00 Green FM 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka 12:00 Today's Adda 04:00 U Turn 07:00 Roberi Ei Halk 10:00 Raat Sher Gaan
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Makrasha
On Rtv at 08:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Rashed Mamun Opu, Nova

The Grey
On Fox Movies at 07:00pm
Genre: Drama/Adventure
Cast: Liam Neeson, Dermot Mulroney & Frank Grillo

Raat Biratey
On BANGLAVISION at 11:25pm
Street Show
Guests: Bangga Majumdar

11:30 Ekushey-er Business 06:30 Desh Jury Shingul 09:30 Drama Serial: Shaubhe Thakle Bhute Kial	04:30 War Horse 07:00 The Grey 05:50 In Time 11:40 Armageddon
Boishakhi TV 12:15 The Business Show 04:15 Bunkalony 08:00 Drama Serial: Boro Barir Chhet Bou 11:00 Reporters Diary	10:40 Ip Man 03:25 The Twilight Saga: Eclipse 05:45 The Animal 07:25 Abduction 09:30 Cowboys & Aliens
BANGLAVISION 01:05 Bangla Feature Film 03:30 Arrow 06:30 Bichitra 09:05 Nacho Bangladesh 11:25 Raat Biratey	Star World 03:30 Arrow 05:30 Packed to the Rafters 08:30 Melissa & Joey 10:30 Grey's Anatomy 11:30 Homeland
Rtv 12:35 Bangla Feature Film 09:05 Drama Serial: Run 09:50 Look at Me 12:05 Business Talk	National Geographic Channel 01:30 Caught on Safari 04:30 Ultimate Predator

ATN BANGLA 09:20pm To T Company CHANNEL 1 11:30pm Roohi nTv 09:45pm Ochna Protrimbho ETV 08:20pm Bhanuadash College BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Generation Next Dot	Rtv 08:15pm Makrasha Desht TV 07:45pm Sat Kahon Maasranga Television 08:40pm Khonkhaloy CHANNEL 24 09:40pm Perena Gtv 09:35pm Mayajjal
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BTV 10:30pm Shambhobour Bangladesh CHANNEL 1 12:30pm Tarika Kothon nTv 12:00am Ei Shomoy ETV 12:02am Ekushey-er Raat Boishakhi TV	Boishakhi TV News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm News (English) at 9am, 9pm 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. Desht TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm. Maasranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 11pm.
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BTV 10:30pm Shambhobour Bangladesh CHANNEL 1 12:30pm Tarika Kothon nTv 12:00am Ei Shomoy ETV 12:02am Ekushey-er Raat Boishakhi TV	TALK SHOW 12:00am Zero Hour Rtv 12:30pm Our Democracy Desht TV 11:45pm Shuja Kotha Maasranga Television 12:02am Shangrotik CHANNEL 24 12:02am Modhyasrater Mukabak
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