

WHAT'S ON

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

Group Art Exhibition
Title: Masters and Others
Venue: Shilpakalpa Gallery, H-7, Rd-13, Dhanamondi
Date: Feb 22-28
Time: 12pm-8pm

Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Technology of Romanticism
Artist: Nazim Hossain & Sarfaraz Hossain
Venue: Bengal Shilpakalpa, H-42, Rd-16 (New), Dhanamondi
Date: Feb 24-Mar 5

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

Terracotta Relief Exhibition
Title: The Taste of Mother Clay
Artist: Nazim Hossain
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-42, Rd-16 (New), Dhanamondi
Date: Feb 22-Mar 2

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

Photography Exhibition
Title: Silent Miracle
Photographer: Soimita Datta
Venue: Dhaka Gallery, H-58, Rd-15 A (New), Dhanamondi
Date: Feb 25-Mar 5

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go
Artist: Jeya Shastri
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60 Gulshan Avenue, Gole 1
Date: Feb 15-March 3



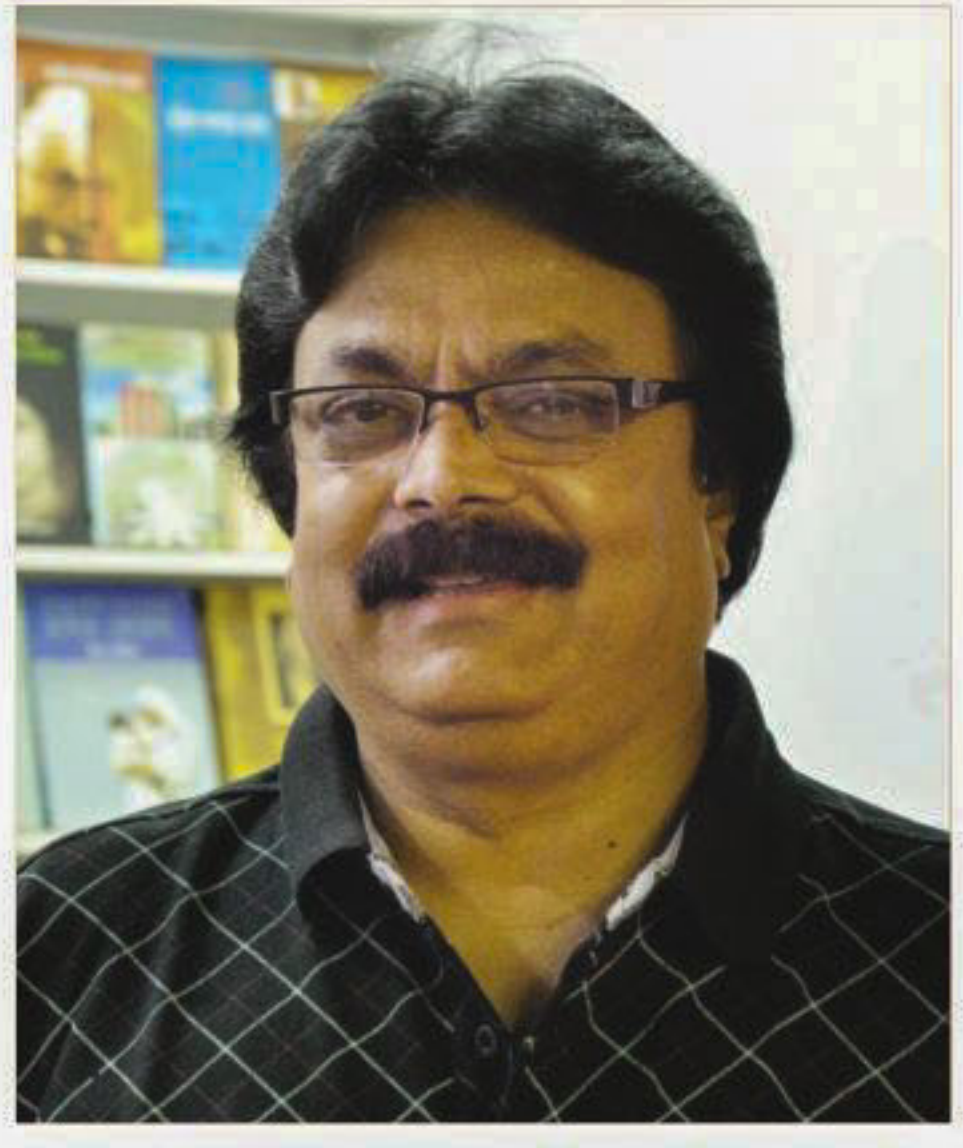
REFLECTIONS BANGLA: THE FRENCH OF THE EAST

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK
The noted linguistic, Professor Abdul Hye, once famously remarked that Bengali was the "French language of the East". He was referring to not only the sweetness of the language, but also the profound use of connotation, pronunciation and the subtlety of our mother tongue. An Indo-Aryan language spoken by roughly 230 million people and ranking amongst the top spoken languages in the world on the scale of four to six, Bengali has a long tradition of absorbing the best of the "foreign" influences over the centuries and intermingling them with the local dialects.
Our culture being a melting pot and a conglomeration of Portuguese, English, French, Turkish and Iranian culture, there are 31 dialects in Bangladesh. In fact (according to Wikipedia) the first written Bengali dictionary/grammar, Vocabolario em idioma Bengalla, e Portuguez dividido em duas partes, was written by the Portuguese missionary Manoel da Assumpcao between 1734 and 1742 while he was serving in Bhawal.
The local dialects certainly add colour and vibrancy to the language. In a land stretching from Rangpur in the north and Chittagong to the south, the 31 dialects give a tangible identity to the local heritage although (often) they also form the source of much confusion! For instance in Rajshahi, "si" is pronounced "shi" so that "sir" is pronounced "sher" (tiger) and vice versa!
A common dialect in the northern belt of Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj may lead one to come up against the dialogue "buillei porey builbe honi je buillei dio". Likewise, in Khulna, we are more used to listening to the song "nati khati bela gelu shutti paraama na". In Barisal, the expression "ek ser taak" refers to cheat and not baldness. Many a person, outside Chittagong, finds it near impossible to follow the local dialect. Such an, of course, be said about the Sylhet accent also. Was it that long ago that an international airways had to open a separate "Sylhet" booth to cater to the proud locals who spoke in no other dialects?
In old Dhaka the blend of Urdu and Bangla during the Nawabi era has created a niche by itself. Bangla in its purest form was known as the French of the East, the language of the intelligentsia. The number of unique words to reflect human emotion, its subtle use to reflect personal relationships ("apni, tumi, tui") marks it as a true language of the people, a language that unlike any other language in world history has imbued so much pride that men and women have happily walked into a hail of bullets to preserve its identity. A language where a simple "tumi" can denote so much emotion, that poems are incomplete without it. No wonder it's often said that poets are the unwritten guardians of a country's language.
Ironically, the divine songs of Tagore were initially not given due respect in our society, as he had "introduced" new words to our vocabulary. His songs were not regarded as classics or refined by the connoisseurs of music who were mostly fond of Indian classical music. At the musical conferences of the elites only Nidhubabu's tappa songs were rendered. Occasionally songs of Rajnikanta or Dwijendralal Roy could be heard but Tagore songs were not considered conventional or appropriate.
Unlike Rabindranath, our national poet Nazrul, being fiercely rebellious and anti-British, stood out amongst many of his peers who were not as confrontational as him. Naturally many of his songs reflected his brand of fiery emotion and patriotism, a far cry from the standard formulaic commercially successful songs. In fact, even his romantic songs, his ghazals, bore his signature touches, the artful play of words and tone that set it apart from the rest.
Distressingly, nowadays Bengali sometimes seems to have taken yet another turn. Young people tend to mix the pure form and have started a new trend that they pick up from just about anywhere. Noted personalities have remarked that previously there was a trend to follow the electronic media to pick up the proper pronunciation and now people don't know what to follow.
If poets are the guardians, the media have to be the enforcer of the language. With their widespread reach, their massive popularity, it is essential that each of the media houses in print or electronic form take up the challenge of guiding the millions of Bengali speakers so that their true and beautiful nature is preserved and nurtured. How else would the wonderful dialects be the flag bearers of the proud local heritage? How else would we give birth to another Tagore and Nazrul? How else would we honour the martyrs whose life we have traded for our right to speak in our beloved tongue?

PHOTO COURTESY: MDI FARHAD RAHMAN/FELICOR

BOI MELA CORNER Lutfor Rahman Riton: Rhymes unlimited

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Lutfor Rahman Riton is a renowned in the field of children's literature, with many popular books of stories, novels, poems and rhymes under his name. Also a translator, Riton's repertoire is the strongest as a rhymester, with his popularity also spreading to Kolkata. Like each year, several new books by the author have come out at the Ekushey Boi Mela. Chondraboti Academy has published two children's rhyme books -- "Gonesh Dhonesh Ronesh" and "Bhootor Bachcha", as well as a memoir titled "Nayan Tomarey Pae Na Dekhite Royechho Nayane Nayane". "Bholamon Piring Piring" -- a collection of rhymes for adults, has been published by Ananya Prokashoni. A new teen novel -- "Arjun" -- has also been published by Ananya. Royal Publishers has brought out a story book -- "Monrir Golpo MP'r Golpo", while Onarjyo has published a rhyme book titled "Joy Bangla Joy Mujibur".
Riton was won several honours for his works, including the Bangla Academy Award. However, the writer considers the admiration of the readers as his greatest achievement. He says, "I write for the readers, especially for children. So I consider the admiration from my readers a great achievement."
Lutfor Rahman Riton started writing at an early age. Inspired by the reading habits of his family members, he also immersed himself in the world of words, and eventually picked up his pen to jot down his thoughts. His first saw his work being published in the daily Ittefaq.
For the past few years, the author has been living in Canada with his family. However, he comes to Bangladesh before February, and stays through the duration of the Ekushey Boi Mela. He writes all his new material overseas.
Riton is a regular at the fair, roaming around everyday in the premises. He also makes time to host a daily book show for Channel i. Like many others, the author expressed his satisfaction at this year's fair being only for the publishers.
Asked what his wishes were, Lutfor Rahman Riton replied, "I want to keep on writing till my last breath. I want to write more good books for children."



Book fair in Jessore

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Jessore
A five-day long Ekushey Boi Mela commenced in Jessore on Thursday evening, on International Mother Language day, with great enthusiasm. Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Mostafa Faruque Mohammad, inaugurated the book fair releasing balloons at Munshi Meherullah Ground as the chief guest. The chief guest said, Bangla language is often being practiced in a distorted way in the name of "modernism" and there is no pride in practicing the language by mixing both Bangla and English. He stressed on using proper Bangla language and said, many teachers still can't speak and write Bangla language accurately, which is appalling.
Deputy Commissioner Mostafizur Rahman chaired the ceremony while Police Superintendent Joydev Vadra, Addition District magistrate ANM Moimul Islam, Addition Deputy Commissioner (General) Zohurul Haque spoke on the occasion.
Twenty book stalls are set in the book fair organised by the District Administration.

Maasranga-SPBA Art Camp '13 in Pabna



A CORRESPONDENT
Participating artists were: Syed Abul Barq Alvi, Naema Haque, Nasren Begum, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Sheikh Afzal, Ranjit Das, Mohammed Iqbal, Rashid Amin, Rebeka Sultana Molly, Farzana Ahmed Umi, Anukul Chandra Mazumder, Javed Jalil and Shahid Kazi.
Mostafizur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Pabna; Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Maasranga Television and chairman of SPBA; Syed Abul Barq Alvi, dean, Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka along with participating artists attended the inaugural session on February 1. A cultural programme was held on the closing day of the art camp. Noted Baul singers performed at the programme.

Participating artists with guests at the art camp.

"Banga Pat": Highlighting traditional art forms



In the play, the traditional and age-old entertaining elements of the country, which prevailed for centuries were depicted through chorus and dances. AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

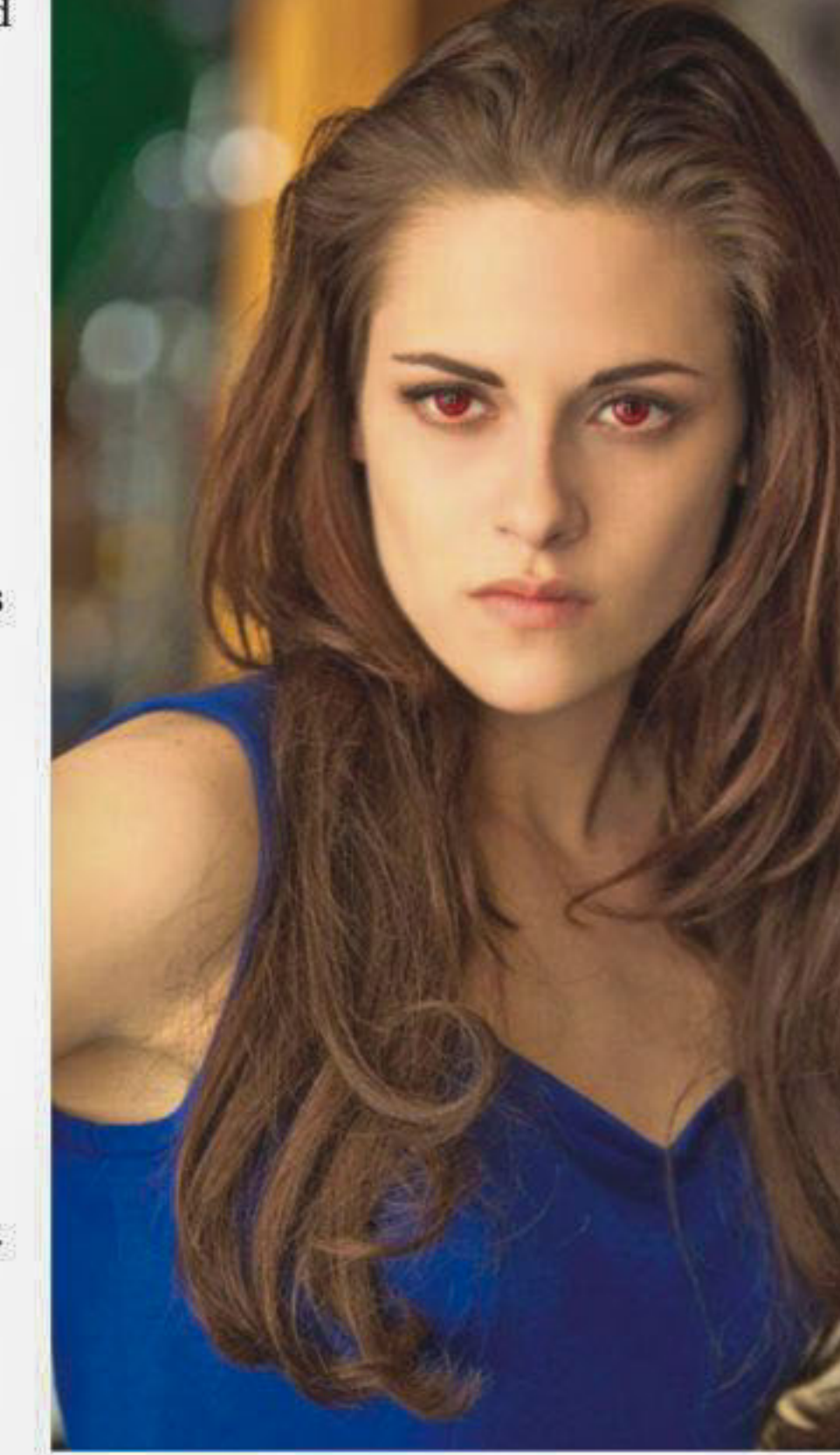
A large audience, gathered at Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy auditorium, was treated to "Banga Pat", a play on traditional art forms on Bengal, last Friday. The play was staged by Ensemble Theatre. It was the premiere of the play, and 14th performance by the troupe.
The play has been written and directed by Sayek Siddique of Loko Natya Dal, Dhaka. He also played the protagonist in the production.
In the play, the traditional and age-old entertaining elements of the country, which prevailed for centuries were depicted through chorus and dances. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the drama as they found many cultural elements that are now fast fading into oblivion.
The artistes of the play brought stories of the past like "Roopbhan", "Radha-Krishna Pala", "Nasim Bibi", "Behula and Lakhindar", "Mahua Bibi Pala" to the stage.
The artistes also performed various folk genres including Kabi Gaan, Ghettu Gaan, songs of ethnic group Hajong and wedding songs of the haor areas of Netrakona and Kishoreganj districts.
The cast included Mishti, Apurupa, Sathi, Bilkis, Iri, Surya, Bappi, Al Amin, Monir, Vares, Razib, Sujit, Aurnab and Sarwar.
A discussion was also held prior to the show, with Sharif Mahfuzul Haque, president of Chhayantan Sahitya and Sangskrit Sangsad, Mymensingh unit; Sarwar Rahman, executive member of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha; Md. Asaduzzaman, organising secretary of Ensemble Theatre; and its adviser Sheikh Shari Ahmed, among others, taking part.
Speakers were of the view that many traditional forms of entertainment are already lost and many are on the verge of extinction and through the play, the young artistes recalled those art forms.

Udichi's musical programme in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra
Udichi Shilpi Goshti arranged a music programme on Language Day at Projomno Mancho at Shatmatha on Thursday.
The programme was inaugurated by Sector Commanders' Forum Bogra district branch secretary, Masudur Rahman Helal, after offering floral wreaths at Shaheed Minar at Shaheed Khokon Park.
Udichi Sangsad president Mostafizur Rahman Fiji and secretary Mahmudus Sobhan delivered speeches at the programme elaborating on the sacrifice of martyrs for Bangla language and the progress of Bangla from its inception.
The speakers also demanded the capital punishment of all war criminal and declared their solidarity with the protesters of Shahbagh Projomno Chattar.
Upcoming singers also performed patriotic songs led by noted singer of the district Arifur Rahman.

Twilight named top turkey at Razzie Awards

The final "Twilight" film has swept the board at Hollywood's Razzie awards, which highlight the year's worst films.
"Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2" was given seven Golden Raspberry titles including worst picture and worst actress for Kristen Stewart.
Stewart, who is presenting an award at the Oscars on Sunday, was not present at the spoof award ceremony.
Instead, a cardboard cutout of the actress was brought in to the press conference to "accept" her trophy.
The five "Twilight" films have made a total of \$3bn (£1.9bn) at the box office.
Razzies founder John Wilson said the worst thing about the franchise was that "people take it so seriously".
"I believe that rather than 40 million girls who bought tickets, it was four million girls who bought 10 tickets each," he added. "That makes me feel better about the American public."
The film also "won" the worst director prize for Bill Condon, worst supporting actor for Taylor Lautner, worst re-make, rip-off or sequel, worst screen ensemble and worst screen couple for Lautner and Mackenzie Foy.
Stewart owes her worst actress prize to her performances in two films -- "Twilight" and "Snow White and the Huntsman".
The Razzies are described by the organ-



"Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2" was given seven Golden Raspberry titles including worst picture and worst actress for Kristen Stewart. SOURCE: BBC

An evening of Rabindra Sangeet in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail
A musical soiree, featuring Tagore songs, was held recently in Tangail at the auditorium of Tangail Club. Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad's Tangail unit arranged the function.
Popular Rabindra Sangeet artistes Fahima Samad and Mahadev Ghosh -- along with local artistes Maisha Khandakar, Sumona Paul, Saira Joaira Khushbu and Santa Paul -- presented songs at the programme.
A discussion was also held with Nihar Sarkar, president of Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad's (RSSP) Tangail unit, in the chair. Former lawmaker and Tangail Zila Parishad Administrator, Fazlur Rahman Khan Faruque, addressed the discussion as chief guest. Highlighting the life and works of Tagore, speakers at the discussion were of the view that intolerance spawned in the country can be dealt with the poet's messages of enlightenment.
The guests also distributed prizes and certificates among the top grade singers who participated in competitions held at the venue earlier in the morning. The competitions were held among 30 participants in junior and general categories. They were judged by Fahima Samad and Mahadev Ghosh.
Malysa Khandakar and Sumona Paul secured the top grades (first and second) in Junior category while Santa Paul and Saira Joaira Khushbu secured the top grades (first and second) in General category.
Nurul Islam Badal, general secretary of RSSP in Tangail, and an executive member of the unit, Monirun Nahar, moderated the events.

Beetle Baily by Mort Walker. LET'S EAT OVER IN THE CLEARING. IT'S TOO CROWDED. ZERO GREW UP ON A FARM AND LIKES EATING WITH THE ANIMALS. GREG + MORT WALKER. 8-16

Henry by Don Tranchte. A four-panel comic strip showing a character named Henry and a bird-like character in a forest setting.

Daily Star Books Khuswant Singh's MALICIOUS GOSSIP is available in the market now. Cover price: Tk 290, Home Delivery price: Tk 232. Grab your copy through our HOME DELIVERY SERVICE or visit your nearby bookstore. Daily Star Books Expanding Horizons.

Table of television programmes including ATN BANGLA, Maasranga Television, CHANNEL i, CHANNEL 9, CHANNEL 24, ETV, and FOX MOVIES.

RADIO section listing various radio stations and their programmes, including abc radio FM 89.2, My Time, and Morning Express.

University On Maasranga Television at 09:20pm. Drama Serial Cast: Raha, Mehjabeen. The 85th Annual Academy Awards On FOX Movies at 07:00pm. Award Winning Ceremony Programme. Pancho Premik On ETV at 09:30pm. Drama Serial Cast: Shohel Khan, Siddique Rahman.

Table of television programmes including Boishakhi TV, BANGLAVISION, Rtv, and Discovery Channel.

DRAMA SERIAL section listing various drama serials and their broadcast times across different channels.

NEWS BULLETIN section listing news bulletins and their broadcast times across different channels.

TALK SHOW section listing talk shows and their broadcast times across different channels.