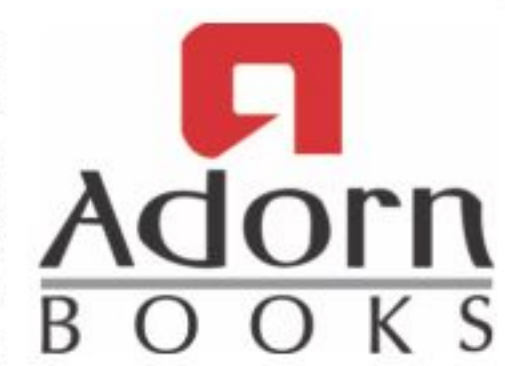


WHAT'S ON

**Book Fair**  
Organiser: Adorn Publication  
Venue: Seminar Room,  
Central Public Library,  
Shahbagh  
Date: June 1-15  
Time: 9am-8pm



**Album Launch**  
Album: Benuka (Nazrul Sangeet)  
Artist: Khairul Anam Shakil  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, Rd-16 (New), Dhanmondi  
Date: June 7; Time: 7pm



**Duet Musical Soiree**  
Artists: Salma Akbar & Sajed Akbar  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: June 7  
Time: 6:30pm



**Solo Drawing Exhibition**  
Artist: Mainuddin  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 31-June 12  
Time: 3pm-8pm



**An Evening of Rock Music**  
Band: Miles led by Shafin Ahmed  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: June 8  
Time: 6:30pm



**NEWS bytes**

**Sting to release new album**



Pop star Sting is to release his first full-length album of original material since 2003, the New York Times reports. "The Last Ship", due in September, will feature songs the Tyneside-born artist has written over the last three years for a stage musical about shipbuilding in the north of England. Sting's output over the last decade has included an album of lute music and 2010's "Symphonies", which featured symphonic covers of some of his songs. Sting -- real name Gordon Sumner -- was born in Wallsend in 1951. After a brief spell as a schoolteacher, he formed his band, The Police, in 1977. The band enjoyed a string of hits including "Message in a Bottle" and "Every Breath You Take" from 1978-83.

Source: BBC

**It's True!**



Shooting for the Coen Brothers' film "No Country For Old Men" was interrupted for a day due to a smoke-cloud from the set of another film -- Paul Thomas Anderson's "There Will Be Blood" (starring Daniel Day-Lewis), which was also filming in the area.

**Celebrating the torchbearers of Bangla literature**

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail  
The birth anniversary celebrations of Tagore and Nazrul were celebrated by Tangail district administration in the town on Saturday.

A colourful procession of artistes and cultural activists from different cultural organisations, government officials, public representatives and students of different educational institutions made its way in the town. Later, competitions of Tagore and Nazrul songs, dance and poetry recitals were held at Zila Shilpakala Academy auditorium, organised jointly by Shishu Academy and Zila Shilpakala Academy.

Prize distribution among the winners of the competitions, a discussion and a vibrant cultural function were organised at the same venue. Highlighting the lives and works of Tagore and Nazrul, speakers at the discussion said the two bards were torchbearers of Bangla literature.

**REMEMBERING GURU**

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Azam Khan -- known better to his fans as "Guru" -- is arguably the foremost pioneer in Bangladeshi pop music. In a career spanning four decades, he has left a mark in the hearts of countless aspiring musicians. On his second death anniversary (June 5), frontman of the rock band Dreek, Saifuzzaman, recalls the iconic musician's influence on him and his band:

"Although Azam Khan is fondly called 'Pop Samrat', we don't consider him just that. His music was more rock, but since that genre was not that familiar among Bengalis at the time, and his music became vastly popular, he was given that tag. His lyrics, compositions and the power of his music were certainly rock tinged, and we, the rock musicians of today consider ourselves his musical descendants.

"The first songs of Azam Khan and Uchcharon (his band) we heard were on cassette tapes, when we were very young. As days went by, we collected and listened to more, and later on discovered his music in greater depth as we matured as musicians.

"If I compare their music to that of the musicians of today, they may not have had such sophisticated instruments or been as technically diverse, but they more than made up for it with their passion, energy and the sheer force they created with their songs. Even Khan's singing style was unique, and his songs would very easily touch peoples' hearts.

"We feel lucky that we got to watch him live at various concerts during the '90s and later. I particularly remember one show where Ayub Bachchu and Azam



Khan played together; that was magical. The best aspect of Azam Khan, in my eyes, was his simplicity. For a musician of his stature, he had no ego or 'superstar attitude'. He was a great example of what could happen when the proverbial 'Bangla'r damal chhele' became a rock star. He and his band created an identity for Bangla rock music; and if it weren't for him, I don't think

Bangla rock music would be where it is today. "One other experience that Dreek has been blessed with is being filmed as members of the band Uchcharon -- for a television commercial. I myself portrayed Azam Khan; I watched his videos to emulate his movements and gestures. It was a great honour to step -- however fictitiously -- into the pioneering band's shoes."

**Summer Book Fair at Public Library**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adorn Publication has organised a 15-day book fair, titled "Grishher Boi Utshab", at the Seminar Hall of the Central Public Library, Shahbagh. The fair was recently inaugurated.

Professor Harunuzzaman, Department of English, Independent University; Syed Zakir Hossain, publisher and chief executive officer of Adorn Publications; rhyme-ster Alam Talukdar; poets Mohammad Nurul Huda, Faruk Mahmud, Dr. Mahub Sadik; novelists Ata Sarkar, Bilu Kabir and senior cultural and literary personalities attended the opening day of the fair.

About the fair and the quality of books, Syed Zakir Hossain said, "We have arranged a display of essays, poetry, novels and research works on history, travelogue, philosophy, religion, economics, environment, agriculture, gender issues, the Liberation War etc at the book fair. We have always tried to use our skills in publishing to popularise books on our culture, traditions and history. The fair's main aim is to increase the reading habit, broadening intellectual faculty and promoting creativity."

There are also a wide variety of books to choose from: books on Lalon, Radharomon, juvenile literature, children's books etc.

The books are being sold at 30 to 50 percent discounted prices. On the occasion

of the fair, Adorn Publication has been organising a discussion, seminar at the main seminar room of Central Public Library. Noted poets, writers and academics are taking part in the discussion.

Some voluminous publications also enhance the fair's significance: a series of publications on the Language Movement and the Liberation War; two sets of literary works titled, "Shahityo Kriti Granthomala" highlighting fiction by legendary writers Rabinranath Tagore, Mir Mosharrat Hossain, Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Bibhuti Bhushan Bandopadhyay, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Buddhoo Dev Bose, Satinath Bhaduri and others. Dr. Anisuzzaman has edited the works. Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui's "Bangla Literature and Other Essays"; Haroonuzzaman's "Bengali Bauls Series"; Syed Mohammad Shahed's "Bengali and Japanese Folk Rhymes: A Comparative Study in Oral Tradition"; Mahfuzur Rahman's "From Naogaon to New York"; Kabir Chowdhury's "Camellia and Other Poems of Rabinranath Tagore"; Shirin Akhter's "Nari Rajneeti O Rashtro"; M. Mufakharul Islam's "An Economic History of Bengal: 1757-1947"; Dr Rezaur Rahman's "Porojibi Prani"; Dr. Aruna Biswas' "Medical Waste Management in Bangladesh: Policy and Practices" and more are the attractions at the festival.

The fair will continue till June 15.



PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

**Taking Bangladeshi dance further**

**Shadhona as a beacon**

NAZIBA BASHER

Every artiste is fired by the dream to be a cut above the rest. To realise that dream means much hard work, a sound knowledge base and broadening of horizons. Another deciding factor is of course the right opportunity. It all becomes that much easier if you have people by your side to support and guide you through.

Lubna Marium, dancer and founder of Shadhona, has given such opportunities to her countless disciples. Given that stepping stone, many of them have acquired experiences of a lifetime, ready to take on obstacles in their path and transform the face of Bangladeshi dance.

One such young livewire dancer is Abu Naim, who started his journey in 1997 at Barguna's Shilpakala Academy. He received initial training from Rani Ghosh and Ziaur Rahman, mostly in folk and modern dance. In pursuit of a dream, he arrived in Dhaka to train under MR Wasek. However, since he had not learnt classical dance he was unable to reach greater heights. The ambitious young Abu trained in Bharatanatyam under Baby Rozario. Later, he joined Shadhona, where his talent found the right direction. He has been a part of many productions of Shadhona.

Soon after, he was offered a Shadhona-sponsored scholarship to train at Baliganj Rhythmosaic School and Dance Institute, Kolkata. The invite from South Asian Women's Association in Kolkata gave him the opportunity to train in a diverse range of dance forms-classical ballet, classical jazz, contemporary, kathak and tap dance. The institute also offered him theoretical courses such as Dance Anatomy, Dance



Abu Naim, Mahabub Hossain and Tahnun Ahmedi dancing their way to Kolkata.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Psychology and Dance History. "It was a little tough for me to settle down in the unfamiliar environment. Their training was too rigorous for me to keep up with. But after I returned to Dhaka for my holidays, I got a boost and planned on going on no matter what," says Abu.

While at the institute, Naim had also taken private lessons in Bharatanatyam from Rajdeep Bannerjee. He has recently returned from the one year diploma course and is now preparing for a new scholarship from Joseph Dance Academy in Malaysia for a Bachelor's Degree in contemporary dance.

"My learning has given me the courage and confi-

dence to become a better dancer. I don't have to become a contemporary or ballet dancer now. I still want to stick to Bharatanatyam. But I believe learning these new genres will help me blend two worlds and produce some good work. I am currently working on a BRAC Centre project with Sabbir Ahmed Biju -- also from Shadhona -- to train differently-abled children. Lubna Marium gave me this exciting assignment soon after my return."

Two more students of Shadhona, Tahnun Ahmedi and Mahabub Hossain, have been selected for a prestigious scholarship for a one-year diploma course in Kolkata. Both trained at Shishu Academy under MR Wasek, along with

many other gurus until they had finally joined Shadhona. They have been a part of many Shadhona productions, including "Taasher Desh", "Mayar Khela" and "Hey Anonto Punno". "Lubna Marium has given us the platform to grow and this is just the beginning of our journey," says Tahnun. "We look forward to training under dancers who have had international experience in dance forms that we could only have dreamt of learning."

Mahabub is fired by a similar dream. "Not only do we want to take our own dance skills to the next level, we want to take Bangladeshi dance way ahead," he says.

**TV WATCH**

**Sharmili Ahmed on "Ekusher Shondhya Tara"**

A CORRESPONDENT

Seasoned actress Sharmili Ahmed is the featured guest on "Ekusher Shondhya Tara", a weekly programme that will air today at 6:05pm on Ekushey TV. Sharmili will share insights into her long career as an actress, personal experiences, family life and more. The artiste will also focus on several aspects of upcoming actors. Sharmili's family members will give their perspective on her, an interesting aspect of the show. Rakib Hasan Surya produces the programme.



**The Bangladeshi touch**

**Celebrating Mother's Day in West Virginia**

DR. MASUDUR RAHMAN, writes from USA

A small Bangladeshi community residing in Huntington city, West Virginia, USA, strives to provide their children an environment that will allow them to reaffirm their identity as Bengalis even as they grow up in an American culture. Influenced by that thought, a programme was recently organised for the children on International Mother's Day and gathered in Women's Club auditorium at Charleston, the capital of West Virginia. The programme started with observing a minute's silence in memory of the victims in the Savar tragedy and the screening of a documentary on this incident made by Dr. Masudur Rahman.

Renowned physician Ayesha Sikder MD was in charge of organising the programme. To the delight of the audience, children in the three-eight years age group sang



Children in the warmth of their mothers.

patriotic songs and danced. The young ones gave expression to their unequivocal love for their mothers by reciting poetry that they wrote themselves and by presenting handmade cards to their mothers.

The mothers on their part shared their pleasant memories with their children. The children's fashion show was an entertaining event.

Dr. Afrin and Shahed Mustafa coordinated the programme.