

WHAT'S ON

Humayun Mela 2013  
Organisers: Channel i  
Venue: Channel i Premises  
Date: November 13  
Time: 11am onwards



Photography Exhibition  
Artist: Gazi Nafis Ahmed  
Venue: EMK Center, H-5,  
R-27(Old), Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 5-17  
Time: 10am-8pm



Classical Music  
Workshop and Film  
Screening  
Venue: Bengal Cafe, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sep 26- Nov 16  
Time: on every Thursday (3-5pm) &



Exhibition  
Title: Exotic Jute II  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de  
Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road,  
Dhanmondi  
Date: Nov 1-15



Duet Exhibition  
Title: When Silence Eats Sound  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, 60  
Gulshan Avenue, Circle 1  
Date: Oct 30-Nov 13  
Time: 12pm-8pm



## NEWS bytes

### Netflix to show four new Marvel TV shows



Netflix has announced it will buy four new live-action TV series from comic book firm Marvel, bringing some lesser-known superheroes to the small screen.

The film and TV streaming service has committed to four 13-episode series, based around the characters Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Iron Fist and Luke Cage.

The four series - made by Marvel and Disney-owned ABC studios - will be streamed from 2015 onwards, culminating in a fifth mini-series uniting all four characters, called "The Defenders".

Marvel said fans would be able to enjoy shows "how and when they want."

As a streaming service, Netflix allows viewers to abandon scheduled programming, often making the entire series available to watch in one sitting.

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!



The Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, India are about 300 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments which date from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 or 650 CE, and include paintings and sculptures described by as "the finest surviving examples of Indian art, particularly painting", which are masterpieces of Buddhist religious art, with figures of the Buddha and depictions of the Jataka tales. On 28 April 1819, a British officer for the Madras Presidency, John Smith, while hunting tiger, accidentally discovered the caves, deep within the tangled undergrowth.

# A poet's passion for love

## Aminur Rahman's book launch at 9th Int'l Poetry Festival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ithaka, a Spanish publishing house recently published English-Spanish translated book "Perpetual Diary (Diario Perpetuo)" of poet Aminur Rahman. He is one of the significant poets of the 80s in our country. The significant part of this publication is that it was recently published in the 9th International Poetry Festival, Granada in Nicaragua. This is the first of a kind; a Spanish-English bi-lingual book has been published from an international publisher. The book was launched by the president of Granada Poetry Festival and noted Nicaraguan poet Francisco De Asis. At the launching ceremony, renowned Nicaraguan poet Professor Asatasio Lovo delivered an article on the publication. Aminur Rahman also read out some of his poems on that occasion.

The book includes fourteen paintings (in mixed media) of the poet. The Spanish translation has been done by famous Colombian poets Carlos Bedoya



Aminur Rahman recites his poems at the festival.

and Rafael Patino and Spanish poet Rafael Carcelen Garcia and Maria Menor. The Spanish translation has been edited by eminent Nicaraguan poet Anastasio Lovo. Aminur has written few poems in English, while other poems have been translated from Bangla by noted Indian poet Sudeep Sen, late AZM Haider and others. The English poems were edited by South African famed poet and novelist Peter

Horn. The poet has tried to connect the poetry to the intellect, rather than immersing it wholly in feelings and sensations. Utterly a romantic poet, his poems articulate the intensity of feelings and adoration. The poet's achievement is that he weaves a subtle irony through the intensity of emotion that quite overpowers him. His poetry is meditative and experimental. In his poems,

a reader will discover a passionate poetic sensibility. He has also raised eroticism to the level of art. The main elements in his poetry are solitude, love, yearning and inner vision. His style is unquestionably unique and evocative.

Aminur has published six collections of poems in Bangla. His works have been translated in more than twenty-five languages and has poetry books in English, Spanish, German, Japanese, Mongolian and Arabic. He also has two prose books to his credit, while he has translated eight books of poetry and edited quite a few poetry magazines and books. He is also an acclaimed art critic in our country. As an invited author, he has read his works at various international arts and literary festivals, universities and cultural venues. He has represented Bangladesh at the poetry festival in Colombia, Malaysia, Mongolia, India, Iraq, Japan, Sri Lanka, Spain, Nicaragua etc. He was awarded Chingish Khan Gold Medal (2006) in Mongolia and CLA Honour (2007) in Malaysia.

## Garos celebrate Wangala in Moulvibazar



MINTU DESHWARA, back from Lutijuree Punjee (Kulaura)

Members of the Mandi community celebrated their traditional Wangala festival amid singing, dancing and performing various traditional arts in the Lutijuri Punjee of the Kulaura Upazila of Moulvibazar district, over the weekend. Wangala -- the greatest traditional festival of Mandi people -- is a celebration of harvest in late autumn.

Mandi people, an agro-economy dependent group, thank Misi Saljong, God of fertility, before they consume any of their harvest, through delivering their worship, dancing and singing for two days and nights.

The ceremony was conducted by the Father Joseph Gomes OMI, and organised by local Mandi people and IPDS (Indigenous peoples Development Services).

Garos observe Wangala every year as part of their heritage, social customs and traditions. They believe without blessings of their Gods and Goddesses they cannot gain health, wealth, happiness and crops.

## In praise of Alice Munro

### The Reading Circle discuss a new Nobel Laureate of Literature

FAYZA HAQ

With the Canadian High Commissioner Heather Cruden as the chief guest, Dr. Niaz Zaman as the moderator, Neo Mendes -- at his book shop, Omni Books - held an eye-opening discussion. The talks by Ameneh Ispahani, Shahruk Rahman, Asfa Hussain, Tanveerul Haque, Shireen Scheik -- all members of the Reading Circle and Ali Ahmed, a retired government official and one of the few people in Dhaka in possession of some of Munro's books, were all informative and absorbing, in the short time they were allotted.

The programme was for about an hour. Tea and snacks in the premises followed, though some people skipped that as this was the evening before yet another long-winded hartal.

Alice Munro was the 13th woman to get the Nobel Prize, Ameneh said. She added that Alice Munro, in Ontario, Canada got weary of selling books that other people wrote and felt that she could do better than the writers that she was selling. She was working at Jim Munro's s book shop for 50 years. She got a Booker Award in 2009, and three Governor General's Awards the spotlight was on her latest book which won the Nobel Prize for 2013. Ameneh added that her writing was certainly of a high standard. She said that there was simplicity behind her



Discussants at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

stories and that they were addictive.

She ended her brief talk by saying that the message of the writer always comes through. She said that she had read her stories for the first time. She had managed to read six of her short stories including "The Bear Comes Over The Mountain" and "The Red Dress".

"There was great value in them," Tanveerul Haque added. "She even writes about sex-workers and how a father ends up killing his children. The background remains a small town. The tragic lives that she narrates make the stories remarkable. Her descriptions are superb. In the end Fiona is granted a home. It is tenderness of feelings that is left."

Shireen said that one of the books had been dedicated to the writer's father. "Each story sticks to the mind." In her books, said Shireen, Munro captured humour and human psyche. "The work was revolutionary. As it moved backward and forward in time -- it does not lose the string of event or the collection of characters. We see a teenager dates for the first time, and how she takes to drinking when she is jilted. The characters include Moira, who looks after her brother. She has leukemia and so has her birthday party days before due time, so that she is alive for the party's gaiety and fun. There is the inclusion of the young teacher, who enters the scene of the quixotic children. She appears, as if, out of the blue to correct the children."

Dr. Niaz Zaman said the Canadian Ambassador had been chosen as the chief guest, as this was the first time that a Canadian had got the Prize for Literature. Munro had studied literature, and her stories were set in the small towns of Ontario. She said that women had to take time off from their housekeeping chores to take to writing.

Shahruk said that Alice Munro has received many prestigious awards. She said, "Munro has presented the silent drama. She is like Jane Austen. Munro's characters are taken from ordinary life. But unlike Austen, the personalities do not necessarily have much humour. She brings in complex sexuality in her characters. In one of the stories, said Shahruk, Uncle Jasper rules his house with a firm hand. One day, it was said, he came home to find his wife in a social soiree and that his wife had arranged it. Aunt Dawn, in the narrative, handles the situation. From being a bully, he turns into singing at a funeral service.

Ali Ahmed remembered his days in Ontario. He had read Munro's analysis by Margaret Hatwood. This was the first time that the short story was in focus. She certainly represents the culture of Canada, he concluded.

Dhiraj Kumar Nath, a former adviser of the caretaker government, thanked the speakers and suggested that some of Munro's stories be translated into Bangla.

## Peeves of the stars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

### Romana

My biggest fear is that of spiders. As a child, I was so scared of them that everyone made fun of me. My school friends enjoyed frightening me. One night I saw a spider on my study table and screamed for help. Hearing the hue and cry, my family rushed in, stopped a moment to take in the scene and burst into laughter but I started weeping. Even today I am frightened of creepy spiders.



## German pianist set to perform in Dhaka

Professor Justus Zeyen, a well-sought after German pianist who has been giving concerts in Europe, the US and Asia, as a soloist as well as a pianist for chamber music and an accompanist of singers' recitals, is set to perform today in a programme at the Goethe-Institut, Dhaka.

He has been playing at various important festivals around the world, too. For his work with physically challenged world-class bass-baritone Thomas Quasthoff, he was rewarded with several awards and Grammy nominations, says a press release.

Apart from his work as a pianist, Professor Zeyen teaches at the University for Music, Theatre and Media in Hannover, Germany.

At the event, Prof. Zeyen will perform pieces of the famous German composers Bach, van Beethoven and Schumann and other world-famous classical artists from Europe.

Proceedings from the ticket sales (priced at 200 taka each) and all donations will go to Bangladeshi-German NGO "German Doctors".

The event will take place at the Berlin Hall of Goethe-Institut at 7pm. Tickets will be available at the Institut reception, as well as the German Embassy.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Shibli Mohammad (L) instructs a member of her troupe Nriyanchal, as the prominent dance school gears up for an international assignment: the 13th Asia Arts festival, to be held in Kunming, China from November 18-22. An eleven-member dancers' delegation -- including Shibli and Shamim Ara Nipa -- will perform at the opening session, and two other venues throughout the festival.



Sargam, the only regular magazine on music of Bangladesh, organised a discussion session and musical soiree to pay tribute to renowned artistes of the sub-continent -- Manna Dey, Madhury Chattopadhyya and folk artiste Reshma, all of whom passed away last month. Sargam Editor Quazi Rownaq Hossain shared some unknown stories of these artistes. A well-appreciated cultural presentation of Sargam Sanskritik Dol and leading singers of the country followed. They presented Manna Dey, Madhury and Reshma's most popular songs like "Sundori Go Dohai Tomar", "Coffe House er Shei Adda ta", "Nijere Haraye Khuji", "Damadam Mast Kalandar", "Lambi Judai" and more.