

## WHAT'S ON

**Hay Festival 2013**  
Title Sponsor: The Daily Star  
Venue: Bangla Academy  
Premises, Dhaka  
Date: November 14-16  
Time: 8am-8pm everyday

**Art Exhibition**  
Title: Pater Gaan Banglar Bagh  
Artist: Nazim Hossain  
Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2, New DMC, Mohakhali  
Date: Nov 15-24

**Book Fair**  
Marking Humayun Ahmed's Birthday  
Venue: Public Library Premises and Main Auditorium, National Museum  
Date: November 13-17  
Time: 10:30am-9pm everyday

**Exhibition**  
Title: Exotic Jute II  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Margat Road, Dharmamandi  
Date: Nov 1-15  
Time: 2pm-5pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Artist: Gazi Rafiqul Islam  
Venue: EMK Center, H-5, R-27(Old), Dharmamandi  
Date: Nov 5-17

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Mustafa Zaman Abbas  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1  
Date: Nov 16  
Time: 6:30pm

**Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Anisul Islam Young Artist Award  
Venue: Bangla Salipalaya, H-42, R-16, Dharmamandi  
Date: Nov 7-18  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Theatre Festival**  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Nov 14-15  
Time: 4pm

## NEW RELEASES

**Dol Purnima Raat-e Solo album of Nazrul Sangeet by Dalia Nausheen**

**Peace Love and Devotion Solo Sitar Recital by Ebadul Huq Shaikat Source: Laser Vision**

**Kata Nitey Ken Kew Ashena Duet album by Priyanka Gope and Mamun Zahid Source: Laser Vision**

**Neel Akash Chhuye Mixed album Source: CD Choice**

# Celebrating the bounties of Nabanna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Esho Mili Shob-e Nabanner Utshab-e", Nabanna Utshab-1420 will be held today (November 15) at Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University. Nabanna, the 'festival of new harvest' is celebrated by the rural people across the country during the Bangla month of Agrahayan (Nov-Dec). Jatibo Nabanna Utshab Uddipan Parshad has been holding the festival in Dhaka since 1999.

Traditionally poets, painters, musicians, bauls and people from all walks of life come together at the festival. A big attraction of the celebration is food. Nabanna Mela (fair) is generally held in the countryside. The festival, non-communal in nature, brings smile on the faces of the farmers of Bangladesh.

The celebration of Nabanna Utshab in Dhaka has already created much enthusiasm among people of all classes. Veteran journalist and cultural personality Kamal Lohani will inaugurate the festival. Chairman of the parshad Laila Hasan and convener of the festival, Shahriar Salam will speak at the programme.

The programme will set off with the melody of flute at 7am and will feature solo and group renditions of folk songs, baul gaan, raibesh dance performances, recitation, and a procession that will circle Teachers' and Students' Centre (TSC) at 9 am.

A press conference was held in this regard at Liberation War Museum, Dhaka on November 13. Shahriar Salam read out a written statement with Laila Hasan, Babul Biswas, Manzar Chowdhury, Nayem Suja and Kabir Ahmed present at the event.



PHOTO: STAR

## Melodies of a Dewy Dusk

Late autumn soiree of classical music



Yusuf Khan (R) plays sarod at the event as tabla artiste Sabuj Ahmed looks on.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With an aspiration of rediscovering the relation between nature and culture, Lakshyapara Classical Music Conference arranges classical music sessions in tune with the change of seasons. Likewise their late Autumn Session-2013 was held on Friday evening at Sudhijan Pāthāgar in Narayanganj. Titled Sikta Sanjher Sur (Melodies of a Dewy Dusk) the initiative of Lakshyapara coincided with the first of a series of programmes chalked out to celebrate the upcoming golden jubilee of the Sudhijan Pāthāgar, a library founded 59 years ago as a private initiative. Asjadul Kibria, the secretary of the library welcomed a sizeable audience of about two hundred guests. Lakshyapara coordinator Asit Kumar in his speech described the library as an institutional icon of the cultural heritage of Narayanganj and congratulated the glorious efforts of a private library having about three thousand active members.

Hosted by Suman Biswas, the programme introduced artist Asit Dey who performed three kheyals. Puriya Kalyan being the first raga, his elaboration of the raga reflected the

subtle transformation of nature from dusk to the early shades of nightfall. The audience was much impressed by the artist's effortless in producing long and critical taans on infallible cycles of rhythm and tempo. The next raga was Janasammohini, a south Indian raga introduced and popularized in the North by Ravi Shankar. The third and last from Asit Dey was the only raga that associates the season of late autumn - Hemanta.

The second and last artist of the evening was Yusuf Khan, a renowned Sarod player. He began with raga Zila Kafi. His elaboration based on the ascending and descending notes-cycles of the raga showed his long experience founded on the strong base of a musical dynasty. Known for his plain and simple style, Yusuf Khan then presented a dhuun in raga Mishra Kafi and raga Kirvani.

Both the artists were aptly accompanied on the tabla by the rising star Sabuj Ahmed.

The curtains dropped with the audience clapping to appreciate and welcome Lakshyapara's declaration of their 5th Annual Conference to be held on 25-26 Dec 2013.

## Humayun Ahmed recalled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The 65th birthday of renowned writer and dramatist Humayun Ahmed was celebrated at his native village Kutubpur under Kendua upazila in Netrakona district on Wednesday. The event was celebrated at Shaheed Smriti Bidyapith(SSB) at Kutubpur. A daylong programme included Milad Mahfil, cutting a cake, rally, discussion and cultural function chalked out by SSB.

A colourful rally was brought out from the school premises that paraded the thoroughfare in Kutubpur village and its adjoining areas followed by a discussion. Altafur Rahman, uncle of Humayun Ahmed, presided over the meeting, addressed by Rezaul Karim UNO of Kendua upazila; Asaduzzaman, headmaster of SSB, and elites of the village. The speakers discussed on the life of Humayun and his contributions to Bangla literature.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna Drama Circle (PDC), leading theatre organisation of the district observed the 65th birth anniversary of noted dramatist Humayun Ahmed. A discussion focusing the life and literary works of Ahmed was held at the organisation premise on Wednesday night. Vice president of PDC, Torun Das Madan chaired the discussion while the secretary of the organisation Mostafizur Rahman Russell conducted the session. Among others Bhashkar Chakrabarti, dramatist Syed Hassan Dara, Habibur Rahman Shopon, Akter Zaman, cultural organiser Samsunnahar Borna, journalist Utpal Mirza spoke on the occasion.

The speakers focused on the art of writing of Humayun Ahmed saying that Humayun was the leading figure in literature of his generation.

"Using imageries Humayun Ahmed adds beauty in his writings. Even the ordinary characters turned prominent representing the society," the speakers said.

## "Is There a World Literature?" with Pankaj Mishra and Eliot Weinberger

MALHA MOHSIN

While the lawns of Bangla Academy soaked in the early winter sun's glory, curtains to the Hay Festival rose with an insightful session, titled "Is there a World Literature?", featuring Pankaj Mishra and Eliot Weinberger. K Anis Ahmed welcomed the audience to the first session of the day, right after the inaugural.

Hay Dhaka's centerpiece is the literature of this country, of this world, and how both of them merge, turn into one, and still retain their identities to create a kaleidoscope of cultures, traditions, values and of course, art. The session was a reflection on the evolution of literature through centuries, revolutions and social changes. While Ahmed posed and acknowledged questions and contradictions regarding the mobility of literature across borders and how it has influenced the general populace's perspectives on literature and shaped our styles of writing, Weinberger and Mishra shared their own accounts and opinions to answer and further elaborate on these phenomena and cultural shifts.

Weinberger, a prominent translator of Chinese poetry and Latin American literature, and Mishra, an Indian essayist and novelist who focused on social changes and shifts in India with respect to

globalisation in his first book "Butter Chicken in Ludhiana: Travels in Small Town India", were brilliant additions to a session that focused largely on how literature's focus has shifted from nation to nation, and culture to culture with time. They talked of how cultures have been drawn into literature and how globalisation has made it more dynamic, as contradictory as it may seem to regional emphasis among our work. As the session progressed, the audience got carried deeper and deeper into history, cultures and revolutions. As the discussions jumped from one poet or novelist to another from dichotomous ends of the worlds, borders soon got blurred and the whole world was brought onto the main stage via words, memories, nostalgia and passion.

The audience whizzed past the literary works of Europe, noted the American poets' rebellion in their poetry, acknowledged the hindrances and complexities in the translations of Spanish and Chinese literature, and sneaked back into the auditorium at the home of Bangla literature and arts as the journey across the world's literature came to an end. But there really was no end. It was only the beginning of what can very well be considered Dhaka's growth into a confident, mature venue that can cater to a global citizen's passion for literature and arts.



HAY  
PANELS

Panel discussions: "Is there a World Literature?" (top); "Spiritual Quest" (left) and "Bangla Shahitto: Adhunikota O Antorjatikota".

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON



## Spiritual Quest with Arundhati Subramaniam and Peter Pannke

PROMA GULSHAN

It is not everyday that we take time out from our daily lives to think about the meaning of life; yet there are people who do this on a regular basis and actually make a living out of it. Two such amazing individuals are Arundhati Subramaniam and Peter Pannke. Arundhati is an Indian poet, writer and journalist while Peter is a German singer-writer who has done a lot of work on India and Pakistan. The two came together at an intriguing panel talk, titled "Spiritual Quest", on the opening day (yesterday) of the Hay Festival Dhaka 2013.

Like many other writers, Peter and Arundhati feel that spirituality and literature go hand in hand. According to Arundhati, one must recognise oneself as an individual before becoming established as a writer. For Arundhati, becoming an accomplished writer and poet was a not-so-simple three step process. First, she decided that

what she wanted to be was a poet; then she began quite aggressively to try and become one. She reached the third step when she stopped trying. This may seem contradictory but she feels that she could not have become the person that she is now if she hadn't stopped trying so hard. Now, she still seeks for answers but is more comfortable with not finding them.

Peter Pannke believes in serendipity; as a writer and singer, he lets it guide him. He thinks that if a person knows what he is seeking, he is not really seeking anything. In order to be a seeker, one must not know what he is seeking. One must let inspiration find him.

Peter Pannke ended the session with a heart-warming story, of a country called 'serendipity'; where losing a life's worth can be recovered and the biggest of treasures could be stumbled upon inspired by nature. But even more special than that discovery is to be able to share that story.

## Modernism and Internationalism in Bangla Literature

TAHJIB SHAMSUDDIN

"Bangla Shahitto -- Adhunikota O Antorjatikota", one of the sessions on Bangla literature on the opening day of the Hay Festival, was led by prominent writer of contemporary Bengali literature Abhijit Sen, and supported by Professor Mohammed Mohsin, Chanchal Ashraf -- a reporter by profession and emerging writer, author Parvez Hossain and Hamin Kamrul Haque. The panel discussed various viewpoints and breakthroughs of the Bangla literature that have managed to break the boundaries to step into modernism and internationalism.

The discussion began through the words of Abhijit Sen who claimed that modernism in Bengali literature was adopted from Europe, as we were part of the colonised culture, and international-

ism in Bengali literature came through the hands of Rabindranath Tagore. Professor Mohsin pointed out the works of Biharihar Charaborty, who first introduced modernism in Bengali literature and the writers who followed by stepping away from traditional forms -- fragmenting Bangla literature to create new structures. The discussants claimed that modernism may be identified in the works of Jibanananda Das and other poets of his time. However, modernism in writing does not mean internationalism. It is about identifying oneself with the society; how stories of different places of the world connect with a person is what results in internationalism.

The discussion moved towards the importance of this self-realisation, urging people to come out from their limitations to seek out new literatures, because only then true modernism can be

achieved. However, the fast-paced growth of the modern world, globalisation, and corporate entities have reduced the number of original novelists and contemporary writers. Abhijit Sen said that it was a matter of concern that we can now produce good graduates and executives, but not true writers. There is no room for an individual to grow as the pressure of society destroys any possibility for imagination.

The last section of the discussion zoomed in on the importance of literature itself as opposed to modernism and internationalism. The basic philosophy of modernism and internationalism lies to the extent of which we can relate ourselves to our culture, gaining inspiration from our 1952 Language Movement and the 1971 Liberation War. It is an endless revolution that can only be measured by the tools we ourselves create.

## Konkona as Tagore's muse

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

National award-winning actress Konkona Sen Sharma says, playing the role of Kadambari Devi, the sister-in-law of Rabindranath Tagore and a muse behind many of his works, in a Bengali movie will be a "fascinating experience" for her.

Kadambari Devi, 13 years younger to her playwright-husband Jyotirindranath, came to the Tagore household in July 1868, and committed suicide on April 19, 1884, about four months after Tagore's marriage. She was slightly older than the Nobel Laureate. "Kadambari Devi, her space in the poet's life, her equation with other women in the Tagore household as well as her husband Jyotirindranath Tagore, will always make her as one of the most intriguing characters in Bengali literary history," Konkona says.

Essaying this character will remain as one of the most fascinating experiences, she told journalists in Kolkata on the sets of the period film on the life of Kadambari Devi, directed by Suman Ghosh known for his previous films like "Podokhep", "Nobelchor" and "Dwando".

The set was built at a heritage house near 'Thakurbari' (Tagore's ancestral house) at Jorasanko in North Kolkata, and Konkona was draped in a blue saree and long sleeve blouse with frills, typical of that age.

Asked how much she had known about Kadambari Devi, Konkona said, "I had previously read and heard about her. But after being told by Suman (director Suman Ghosh) I began scouring for more books on her and got a better grasp on her character. She was a progressive, creative woman of that era and bonded well with the women in 'Thakurbari'."

Parambrata Chatterjee is playing the role of Rabindranath. "With his intelligent and cerebral looks, Param was the ideal cast," adds Konkona.

Director Suman Ghosh says he only had Konkona in mind for the role of Kadambari Devi for "her personality, her intellectual edginess and vulnerability."

"I have put great effort to dwell on the psyche of Kadambari and other women of the household. However, that does not necessarily mean there are only passing references to the male characters, like Jyotirindranath and Rabindranath," he says.



## 9th Citycell-Channel i Music Awards tonight



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The biggest award ceremony of Bangladeshi music, the 9th Citycell-Channel i Music Awards is going to be held today at the Al-Ahli stadium in Qatar's capital, Doha. This year's theme for the programme is "Music for the people".

Veteran singer Ferdousi Rahman will be conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at the event, while musicians from India, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka will also be honoured.

Combining critics' choice and popular choice, a total of 18 awards will be given in various categories, including Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet, classical, folk, modern, film, band and fusion music, along with music direction, lyrics, cover design and music video.

A host of stars of our music and entertainment industry, including Runa Laila, Sabina Yasmin, Momtaz, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonny, Bobita, Razzak, Moushumi, Ferdous and Tisha have travelled to Doha to perform at the glamorous ceremony.

Farzana Brownia will emcee the event, directed by Shahidul Alam Sachchu.



## AROUND THE FESTIVAL

(Clockwise from top left) Rahul Bose speaks at "From Words to Screen"; Artists perform Jarigaan at the lawn; Enthusiastic crowd take a look at an enlarged version of The Daily Star's Hay supplement.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## Overheard at Hay

"...We have come to a stage where we are in self confidence, and in moderate pride, we are ready to interact with the world. We are ready to tell the world who we are, what we are, what we do. Yes, we make mistakes. But who doesn't? Yes, in spite of the turmoil, we are an integral part of the world we live in."  
-- Mahfuz Anam

The traffic is worse but the festival is richer.  
-- Sandip Roy

Hope this is just a beginning of a journey.  
-- Enam ul Huq

Adhunikota Antorjatikota Noy. ("Modernism is not necessarily 'internationalism.'")  
-- Abhijit Sen

14 - 16 November 2013  
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