

WHAT'S ON

Omor Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Surawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3pm-9pm



Dhaka Art Summit
Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Segunbagicha
Date: Feb 7-9
Time: 10am-8pm

DHAKA ART SUMMIT
7-9 FEBRUARY 2014
www.dhakaartsummit.org

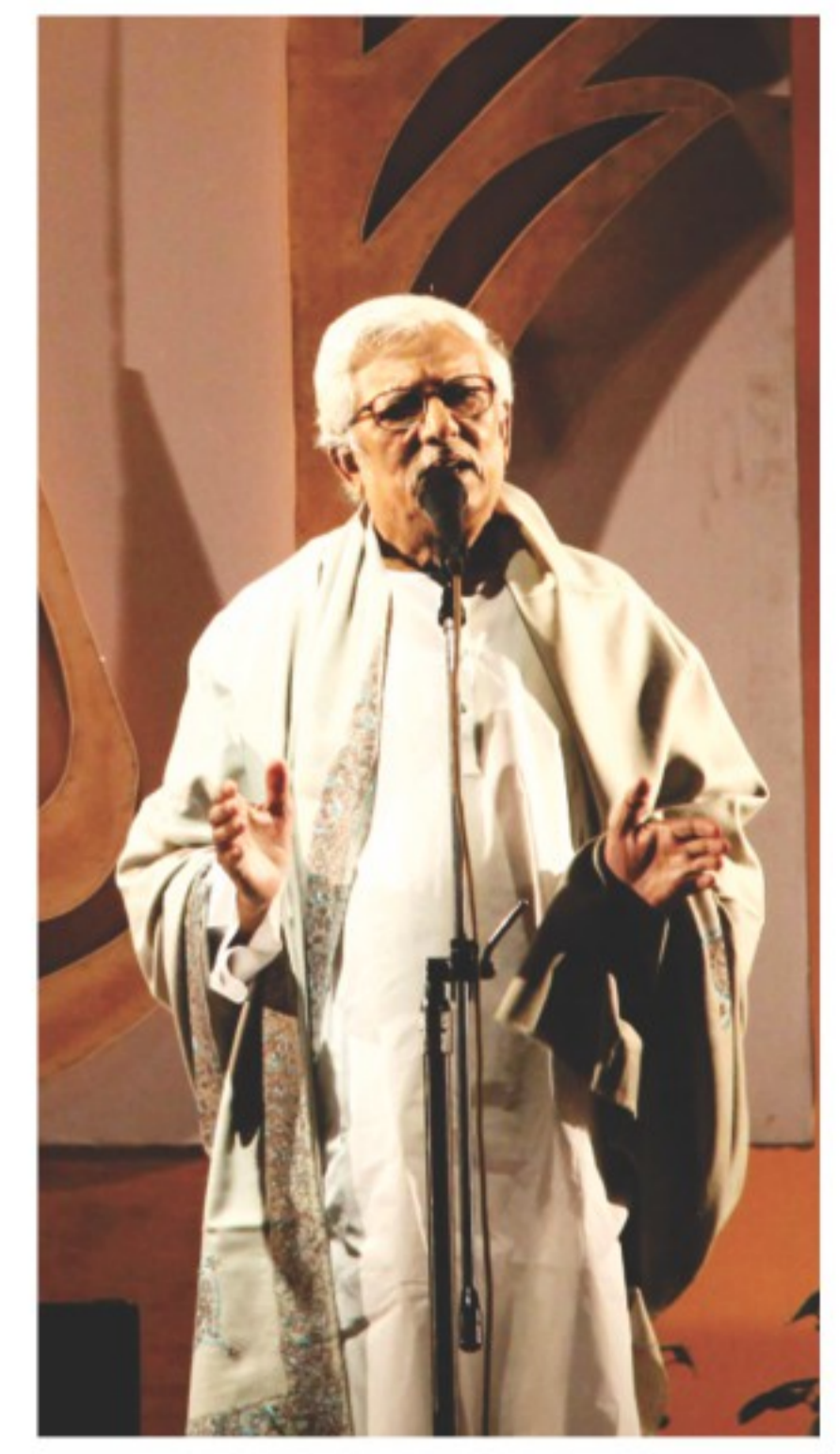
Jatiya Kabita Utshab
Organiser: Jatiya Kabita Parishad
Venue: Premises of Central Library, Dhaka University
Date: Feb 1-2
Time: 5pm-8pm



Private Collector's Exhibition
Collector: Durjoy Rahman Joy
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan
Date: Jan 24-Feb 3
Time: 12pm-8pm



National Street Theatre Fest
Organiser: BGFT
Venue: Shaheed Minar
Date: Feb 1-7
Time: 4pm onwards



NEWS bytes

Oscar-nominated song removed from shortlist

A contender for this year's best song Oscar has had its nomination revoked after it emerged that its composer, an ex-Academy governor, contacted voters. Bruce Broughton is accused of using his position to promote the title song from "Alone Yet Not Alone", an independent film with a Christian message. The Academy said his emails, though "well-intentioned",



had created "the appearance of an unfair advantage." In a statement, Broughton said he was "devastated" by the Academy's decision. The ousted track will not be replaced by another contender, leaving four compositions to compete for this year's award for best original song. The 2014 Academy Awards will be held on 2 March at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Source: BBC

OF FOND MEMORIES

Chhayanaut Sangeet Bidyaytan turns gold

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Gold turns pure through test of fire. When the core of conscience burns, it shimmers like dazzling diamond. Fifty years back, the gems and jewels of our cultural arena took a bold step to celebrate Tagore's birth centenary in 1961 - against the backdrop and staunch opposition of Ayub Khan's military government. Two years later, the outcome of that emboldened step gave birth to Chhayanaut Sangeet Bidyaytan. Chhayanaut is not just a music school or cultural hub of this part of the world; rather an unsullied name of embracing Bangla, Bangaleena, Bangalittwo and Bangladesh -- a well-disciplined cultural organisation of diffusing knowledge, sagacity and sage and a visionary pioneer of upholding national conscience, spirit and literary and cultural essence. Marking the Golden Jubilee of the school, artists, students, teachers, alumni and several golden sons of this soil who planted the seed of cultural conscience in 1963 reminisced on the fond memories of the 50 years' journey. The opening day (January 31) of the two day celebration programme featured a musical procession, reminiscences and offerings of songs and dances.



(Above) Dr. Sanjida Khatun (L) and Kamal Lohani (R) speak at the event; (C) the bright rally that circled the streets. (Below; clockwise) Iffat Ara Dewan, Papia Sarwar, Shaheed Samad, Milila Ali, Sadya Afireen Mallick, students of Chhayanaut and Khairul Anam Shakil perform at the programme.

Artistes of Chhayanaut, attired in orange and green, paraded the street adjacent to the Bidyaytan. With the pulsating beat of dhol, moudira and harmonium, they first rendered the national anthem and marched forward with the colourful musical procession with placards that read "Shobarey Kori Ahoban Esho Anondito Pran", "Manush Hou Manush Hou", "Bishwa Manob Hobi Jadi Shwashoto Bangalee Ho", "Mora Bidhatar Moto Nirbhoy" and more. Jubilant artistes danced to the songs "Dhono Dhanno Puspaha Bhora", "Ebar Tor Mora Gang-e", "Mora Jhonjhar Moto Uddam", "Kokoloko Chholochholo" and "Manush Hou". Following the procession, the artistes performed two choral Tagore songs "Buk Be(n)dhe Tui Dara Dekhi" and "Sangho Shoron Tirtha Jatra Poth-e" that set off the performance at Chhayanaut auditorium. President of Chhayanaut, Deshikottom Dr. Sanjida Khatun recalled the 50-year journey of the school, highlighting contributions of

many artistes and cultural personalities in achieving the glory of the school. The eminent artiste also elaborated on various course curricula that the Bidyaytan offers at present. "If there is music all around, the mind is enlightened. This is prerequisite to peace. I hope all concerned with Chhayanaut will sincerely and passionately materialize the objective of the school," said Sanjida Khatun. Noted artiste Iffat Ara Dewan reminisced on the golden days and later rendered two Tagore songs. In his speech, veteran journalist and cultural personality Kamal Lohani underscored the contributions of Chhayanaut in achieving the autonomy movement and independence. "With the 50 year journey, Chhayanaut Bhaban has now become a cultural memorial," he remarked. Noted singer Milila Ali presented a popular Tagore song "Amar Hiyar

Majhey Lukiye Chhile" while renowned artiste Papia Sarwar passionately performed another popular Tagore song "Tumi Kon Kanoner Phul". A Chhayanaut gold medalist and noted Nazrul Sangeet exponent Sadya Afireen Mallick mentioned the surname -- "Suruj" of Waheedul Haque. "We altogether have matured under the light of that "Suruj" (The Sun) and Sanjida apa's able guidance. I was emotionally charged while attending the rally and remembered how we had previously rallied several times under the guidance of our Gurus to collect fund for the flood victims, during the Probbhat Feri on Ekushey and more. Chhayanaut has made us learn how to become good human beings; how to become a pure Bangalee. I hope you all will become not only artistes but cultural activists," she said. She also paid rich tributes to her Gurus

heart and soul while performing the song "Keno Diley E Ka(n)ta". He also performed a folk genre "Poddar Dheu Rey" on request. Renowned classical vocalist Rezwan Ali rendered Raga "Puria" at the event, while sitarist Ebadul Huq Shaikat recited awchar alap, vilambit and drut teentaal compositions on south Indian Raga "Bhachaspati". Based on teentaal, tabla artiste Goutam Sakker presented peshkar, kayda, gaut, tukra, chakradar tukra and rela at the event. Bizon Chandra Mistry played raga Kalavati on nagma. Singers of Sangeet Dol performed two ganosangeet numbers "Phul Khelbar Doin Noy Addo" and "Himalay Theke Sundorbon" while soloist Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Chandana Majumdar, Shammi Rabbabi, Belayet Hossain and Sharmila Bandopadhyay performed Tagore song, folk song, Atulgeeti, Bharatnatyam and Manipuri dance respectively on the opening day.

IT'S TRUE!

Bhatiali (or Bhatiyali) is a traditional form of folk music in Bengal, Bangladesh and West Bengal. It is a traditional boat song, sung by boatmen while going down streams of the river, as the word comes from Bhatta meaning ebb or downstream. It is mostly sung in the Mymensingh District along the Brahmaputra River or the



Bhati (lower region of a river) area. The lyrics are traditionally about boating, fishing and rivers. Notable collectors, composers and writers in the genre are Miraz Ali, Ukil Munshi, Rashid Uddin. Jalal Khan, Jang Bahadur, Shah Abdul Karim and Uddin Ali. Singer Abbas Uddin made the genre popular.

National Poetry Festival in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Kobita Shohey Na Danob Jatona", Jatiya Kabita Parishad has organised the 28th Jatiya Kabita Utshab at the premises of Central Library of Dhaka University. The poetry festival was inaugurated yesterday and ends today. Eminent poet Syed Shamsul Haq inaugurated the festival as chief guest. He said, "This is one of the largest gatherings of poets in the sub-continent. Bengali-speaking poets from different parts of India have also taken part at the festival. I feel that the poets must become more and more comprehensive and more allusive." About the festival, Indian poet Ashish Sanyal said, "I feel that the festival could work as a cultural link between poets of India and Bangladesh."



Noted bards at the inauguration.

the good of society." Indian poet Dilip Das said, "The poets of Bangladesh are very friendly and proud of their heritage and independence. I have been introduced to many poets and academics here."

Bangladeshi poet Asad Chowdhury said, "The gathering provides an opportunity for rethinking and re-examination." Poet Habibullah Shirazi, president of the Jatiya Kabita Parishad, presided over the programme.

Poets Nirmelendu Goon, Rafiq Azad, Rabiul Husain, Belal Chowdhury, Aslam Sani, Mohammad Nurul Huda, Asim Saha, Mohammad Samad, Tarik Sujat, Kazi Rosy, Abed Khan, Rafiqullah Khan, Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin, Shahriar Kabir, Kajal Bandopadhyay and others attended the festival. This year, a large number of local and foreign poets recited their poems at the festival. Foreign poets from India, Norway, Sweden and Austria have taken part at the festival. Among them, noted poets from India are Ashish Sanyal, Uttam Das, Shyamal Kanti Das, Shankar Chakrabarty, Dilip Das, Akbar Ahmed, Anubhab Tulsi, Samir Tati and others. Swedish poet Kristian Carlsson, Norwegian poet John Y. Jones; Austrian poet Dorothea Muller-Ott; and Swidish poets Anre Ruth, Haideh Daragahi, among others, have participated in this year's festival. The two-day festival comprises recitation sessions, poets' reciting their poems, seminars and presentations of songs.

ITTYADI re-telecast today



A CORRESPONDENT

Ittyadi, the longest-running and one of the most popular magazine programme in the country, will see the repeat telecast of its latest episode tonight on Bangladesh Television and BTV World at 10:30pm. The episode, first aired on Friday, was shot at the Ruppjonj Muthapara Zamindar House. Aside from the regular skits and segments, it also features a number of topical packages, and music by popular artistes. Ityadi is produced and hosted by Hanif Sangket, and the programme is presented by Keya Cosmetics Limited.