

**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

**Private Collector's Exhibition**  
Collector: Sharif Rahman Jey  
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan  
Date: Jan 24-Feb 10  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Annual Folk Music Programme**  
Venue: Chhayanat Auditorium, Dharmamandi  
Date: Feb 7  
Time: 7pm

**Musical Soiree with Dance**  
Artists: Arno Kamolika and Ifat Ara Nargis  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1

**Duet Art Exhibition**  
Artists: Hashem Khan and Mohammad Iqbal  
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, Dharmamandi  
Date: Feb 6-Mar 1  
Time: 12pm-8pm

**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Shemonty Monjari  
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1  
Date: Feb 8  
Time: 6:30pm

**Album Launch, Musical Soiree and Recitation**  
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum  
Date: Feb 7  
Time: 6pm

# Boimela on new grounds

Optimism surrounds Ekushey Book Fair's move to Suhrawardy

FAHIM FERDOUS

For the first time in 42 years, the Omor Ekushey Boimela is treading on new grounds this year, with a big portion of it being held at the historic Suhrawardy Udyan. While fair attendees have mixed reactions, writers remain mostly optimistic about it.

Eminent author Selina Hossain said Bangla Academy has a historic significance to the book fair, as Nurul Amin, the man who ordered for firing on protesters on February 21, 1952, lived in that building, so the civil society wanted Bangla Academy to be established there. But at the same time, Suhrawardy Udyan itself is a historic landmark, and youngsters who come with their parents to these grounds for the fair, will learn about its place in our history. She also said the fair growing in size can only be good news; the learned, enlightened minds wait for it year-round, either to publish their books, or to buy new material to read.

Folk researcher and writer Saymon Zakaria also said the new premises mean that readers



Visitors are growing in numbers as the Book Fair progresses.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

can spend more time and there will be less rush and cramming for space since readers and publishers have increased over the last years, and his experi-

ence of visiting the fair this year has been pleasant. He also said this was not a division, rather an expansion and extension of the historic connections that

the two neighbouring places have among them. He also said last year, the fair was affected by various political and associated developments, but he was opti-

mistic this time about the number of new books being published and more readers visiting the fair premises.

Eshita Hossain, a physician by profession and an avid reader -- who visited the fair, meanwhile said it was slightly strange and unfamiliar to be at the Boimela, adding that the years of habit of being at the Bangla Academy during the fair was something she would miss. She however said it was more spacious, and expressed hopes of it buzzing louder in the coming days.

Rubaid Iftakhar Mahbub, a TV journalist, said the Ekushey Book Fair has been his favourite place to be throughout the month of February since his teens, and added that it would probably take a few years to get accustomed to coming to the new venue for the books. He also said he missed the arrangement of stalls at the Bangla Academy premises, and it could get a little confusing here to find the stalls. But he added that the reason behind moving a part of the Book Fair was to allocate more space to readers, writers and publishers alike, and that was always welcome.



About the group exposition, Nilu Rowshon Murshed, chairperson of Athena Gallery said, "I have always had a fascination with art since a very young age, but my true appreciation began once I started collecting Bangladeshi art. With 'Then and Now', I am reminded of how so much has changed, such as the makeup of our artists and galleries. At the same time, I am still taken aback by the quality of imagination and diversity of skills possessed by Bangladeshi artists -- this much has not changed."

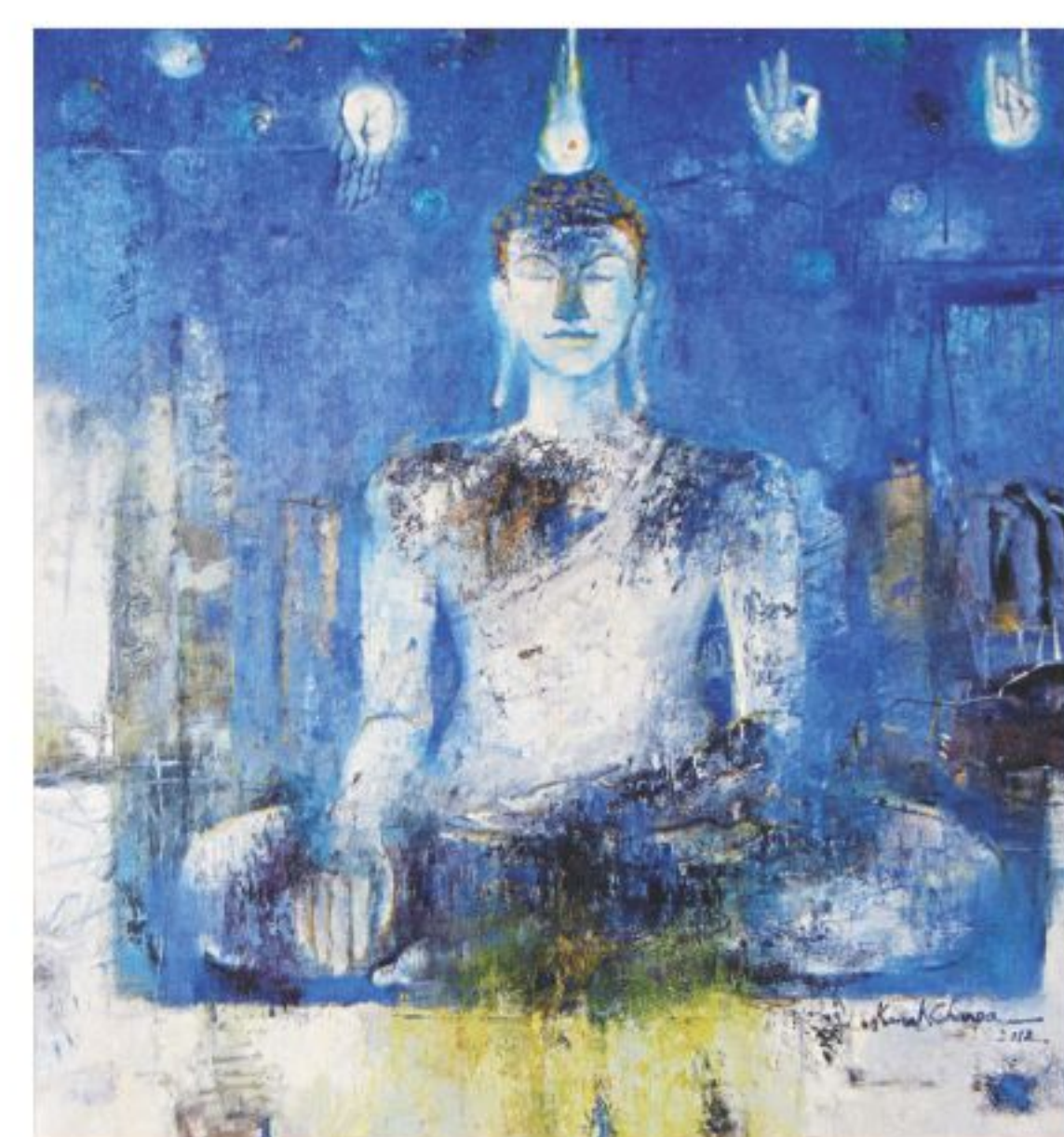
At the exhibition, eminent Bangladeshi expatriate artist Monirul Islam's "Hope Comes and Goes Away" is an oil piece with scribble lines and subdued colours. The variations of tone of colours are also apparent in this middle sized piece. Free space is a noticeable aspect of his works. Serenity and lucidity are unique characteristics of his paintings and prints, particularly etching and aquatint.

Syed Abdullah Khalid's "Symphony of Colour" denotes an aspect of untainted nature, where crimson and blue get focused. Blossoming flowers and dense forests are recurring features in his paintings.

Through the works of Mahmudul Haque, it is easily comprehended that the painter has a great fondness for compositions and forms. His works delve deep into the imaginary world and are notable for the artist's signature turquoise composition. His painting also presents a flat space with subtle colours as well as thick textures.

When one intimately studies Mohammad Eunus' painting at the exhibition, the artist's affinity for thick texture, impasto colours and abstract objects become noticeable.

For a long time, Bengal's scenic beauty as well as noble women in all their curvaceous



(Clockwise from top-left): Paintings by Syed Abdullah Khalid, Maksudal Iqbal Nipa and Kanak Champa Chakma.

beauty, bucolic panoramic view, metropolis, bauls, mendicants, working class and more have been supremely depicted by the painter Jamal Ahmed. The artist portrays the moving and remarkable sights around us. The artist paints people, capturing the diverse moments of their social bindings. He portrays both rural and urban people -- their sufferings, torments, bliss and ecstasies.

Ahmed Shamsuddoha has been greatly influenced by surrealist painters Salvador Dali and Boris Vallejo. At the exhibition, he has used the forms of petals and a number of vague forms. Figures are missing in the painting. His paintings provide the specta-

tors a sense of mystery. Kanak Champa Chakma's "Enlightenment", an acrylic piece depicts a seated figure with spiritual contemplation. The painting is interesting for its soft azure colours and mellow textures. The artist has given considerable time to making the ground. Some scribbles appear on the varied part of the painting.

At the exhibition, Maksudal Iqbal Nipa's oil-based paintings feature abstract expressionism where varied hues peeking from the piece. Her main purpose has been to capture the beauty of nature from her perspective. She has concentrated on applying colours.



## Mahfuz Ahmed

I am an actor first and then director



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

It has been a busy few years for popular television actor and National Film Award winner Mahfuz Ahmed who has turned director as well. Mahfuz spoke to The Daily Star about two of his TV plays currently being aired on TV.

Can you tell us about your TV serial being aired on ATN Bangla?

Mahfuz: I directed the acclaimed series "Tomar Doai Bhala Achhi". Its sequel, "Mago Tomar Jonno", is being aired now. More on "Mago Tomar Jonno".

Mahfuz: I grew up in Noakhali where I saw people with an obsession for foreign lands. They would even sell their mother's gold ornaments or family land to go abroad. But did their dream come true? Were the remittances they sent home utilised properly? These issues echoed in my mind for a long time. So, I directed "Mago Tomar Jonno" for Bangladeshi expatriate workers.

Where was the play shot?

Mahfuz: Qatar. We spent 21 days at the border points of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Oman for shooting. It was shot in Qatar city, the rest house of the Sheikh and desert areas. I tried to show the lifestyle of our country's workers and their sufferings in the play.

Did you act in the drama?

Mahfuz: No it would have been taxing for me to act and direct simultaneously. I just tried to give my direct attention to directing the drama.

Another series directed by you is being telecast on Channel I Tell us about it.

Mahfuz: It is called "Amader Chhoto Nodi Choite Ba(n)ke Ba(n)ke". Its plot is totally different and is a narrative of culture and lives of rural people.

What about "Choita Pagol"?

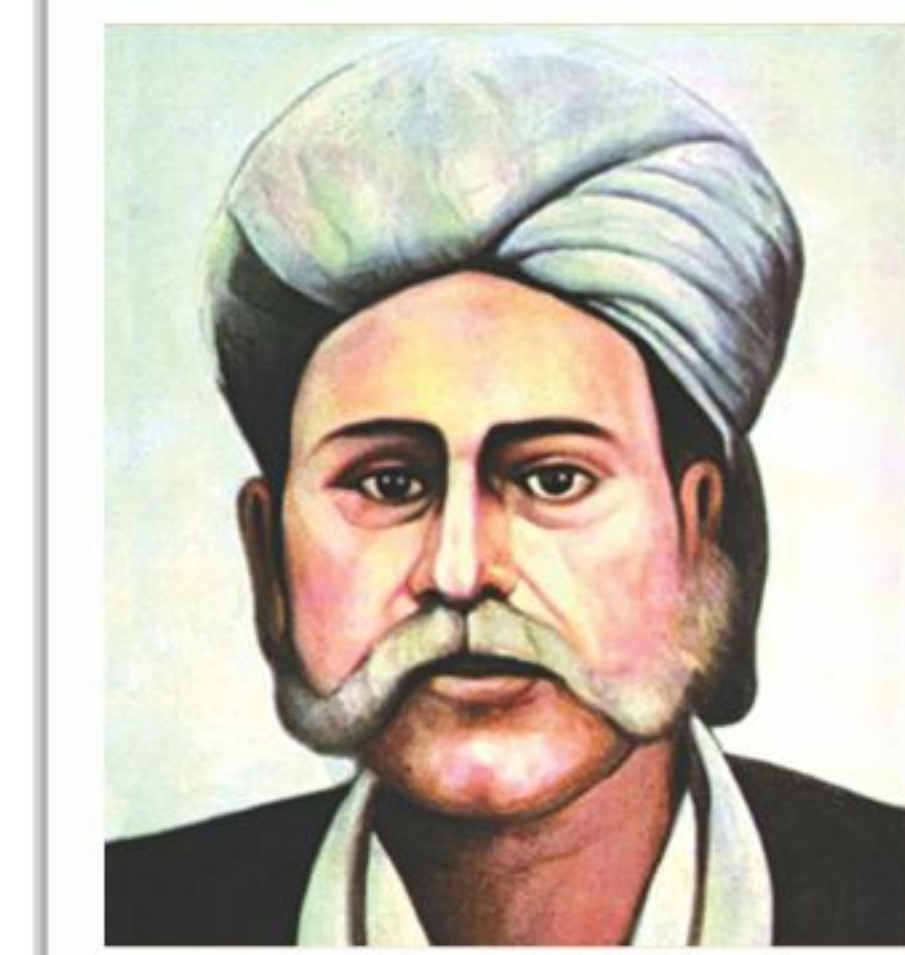
Mahfuz: It was one of my best directorial projects. The important thing was that the audiences received the play warmly. It was shot in Munshiganj and I played the title role.

Acting or direction--which attracts you most?

Mahfuz: I love acting, and I'm known to people due to my profession. I have been able to win everyone's heart through this. So, first I am an actor and then a director. I started my career as a director with the aim of doing some quality works.

Any upcoming movies?

Mahfuz: "Zero Degree", directed by Animesh Aich. After a long hiatus, I started performing on celluloid. Jaya Ahsan and Rubi were my co-stars in the movie, that it being produced along with some friends.



## Hason Raja "Loko Utshob" begins

MINTU DESHWARA, *Moulvibazar*

Hason Raja was a poet, mystic philosopher and folk-song writer and composer. To commemorate Raja, "Loko Utshob" began on the Jubilee High School field at town in Sunamganj yesterday. The birthplace of the great poet wears a colourful look for the weeklong festival, the largest of its kind in the south-western region.

Journalists Emdadul Haque Milon and Nayeem Nizam inaugurated the festival.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu, Mohsin Ali, Social Welfare Minister, Prime Minister's Information Adviser Iqbal Subhan Chowdhury, State Minister, Finance M A Mannan and other local administration high-ups are the guests set to attend over the three days. Hason Raja Parishad is organising the festival.

This year, the festival is on a larger scale with various programmes, including discussions on the life, literature and works of Hason Raja, cultural programmes and theatre. Different stalls of traditional products, handicrafts and

agricultural products have been set up. Other attractions are jatra, magic shows and circus.

Hason was born on December 21, 1854 in Bishwanath village, (now Sunamganj). He was the son of Dewan Ali Raja, a direct descendant of Birendram Singhdev. He spent most of his childhood in Sunamganj with his mother, Hurmuth Jahan Bibi. At the age of seven, his father started living in Rampasa of Lakkishiri, 33 miles away from Sunamganj. Ali supervised and managed his paternal estates.

# Celebrating Suchitra Sen

The Daily Star's homage to the legend



Ferdous Ara and Nasima Shaheen Fancy



Ifat Ara Nargis and Fahim Hossain Chowdhury



Aniruddha Sengupta and Munir Chowdhury

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Following a huge response from a large number of music enthusiasts, The Daily Star (TDS) is set to organise a special musical tribute in memory of legendary actress Suchitra Sen yet once more. The event -- to be held at The Daily Star Centre at 6 pm on February 13 to celebrate the advent of Spring on Pahela Phalgun of the Bangla calendar -- will have a repeat performance by singers who captivated music lovers at a programme held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy recently.

Noted artistes, who will perform selected songs from Suchitra Sen's films at the event, shared their vision on Mahanayika Suchitra Sen and the film tracks she lip-synched.

"We really don't know how much time this sub-continent will take to present another legend like Suchitra Sen. Artists of our country have imbibed much from her acting and the songs she lip-synched in the film. And I believe the forthcoming generation will continue to do so in the days to come," said Fahim Hossain Chowdhury.

"Legendary singer Sandhya Mukhopadhyay immortalized the timeless songs for Suchitra Sen's films. We have grown-up listening and singing those numbers. The audience's great response to The Daily Star's previous programme is really inspiring. We hope to entertain them with our musical effort in the upcoming programme," said Ifat Ara Nargis.

"Suchitra Sen is the most glittering star of Bangla films and our pride as she was a Bangladeshi by birth. She won hearts of millions with her fabulous acting. Transcending cultural barrier, Suchitra Sen is now beyond time, space and people. I am glad to think that the audience

*The event -- to be held at The Daily Star Centre at 6 pm on February 13 to celebrate the advent of Spring on Pahela Phalgun of the Bangla calendar -- will have a repeat performance by singers who captivated music lovers at a programme held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy recently.*

took our first musical tribute to the legend very well. I hope the upcoming one will also be a success," said Ferdous Ara.

"Suchitra Sen is our dearest Mahanayika. Legendary Sandhya Mukherjee and Geeta Dutt recorded most of the tracks lip-synched by the iconic actress. I am really grateful to the audience that they were eager for a repeat performance. I hope they will also enjoy the next musical tribute," said Parveen Sultana.

"I got addicted to watching Suchitra Sen's film through my mother and aunts. The legendary actress never appeared to me as a film heroine; her characters were so lifelike. While performing the numbers, I was nervous as to how the audience will receive the songs. I thank the audience for which Daily Star will be holding the programme for the second time," said Nasima Shaheen Fancy.

"The songs we performed in last programme are timeless. For me, the creators of those tracks were conspicuously influenced by Tagore; for which the songs have attained permanence in many audiences' hearts. The evergreen songs coupled with Suchitra Sen's graceful acting have added an artistic dimension. That's why the songs still impress the music lovers and I hope it will continue for a long time," said Aniruddha Sengupta.

"I believe the popularity of Suchitra Sen will increase and never wane. Many of my friends, well-wishers and familiar ones congratulated me on the success of the previous programme. Many music lovers also missed the previous programme and they expressed their frustrations. I hope, this time, they will enjoy the event," said Munir Chowdhury.



Parveen Sultana



## Starstruck aunty breaks security barriers to meet Kangana

The enthusiasm of Delhi fans for their Bollywood stars knows no bounds. As predicted by the production unit of "Queen", Lajpat Nagar was buzzing with noise on the day of the shoot. It was a hectic day and a crazy crowd lined up to get a glimpse of Kangana Ranaut.

Director Vikas Bahl, who was nostalgic about shooting in the area which he has grown up in, said, "I was born and brought up in Lajpat Nagar, so it was a dream to shoot at this location."

Amongst these fans was a lady, who seemed to be very determined to get a picture clicked with Kangana. She barged in the security barriers and didn't budge despite repeated warnings. She approached Kangana and also pulled the actor closer, for a click. Kangana, who was preparing for the shot, was clueless about the insistent fan, but did pose for a picture with her.

Recalling the incident, the director Vikas Bahl said, "I can understand the people of Delhi and their psyche better. Nobody could stop the aunty, at least in Delhi!"

Source: TOI



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON

A scene from street play "Juddho Ebong Juddho" performed by Biborton Natya Goshthi, as part of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation's seven-day National Street Theatre Festival at the Shaheed Minar. 35 troupes from across the country are performing at the festival, which closes today.



## NEWS bytes

### 'Japanese Beethoven' admits he is a fraud



A deaf composer who has been dubbed "Japan's Beethoven" has admitted hiring someone else to write his music for nearly two decades. Mamoru Samuragochi shot to fame in the mid-1990s and is most famous for his Hiroshima Symphony No 1, dedicated to those killed in the 1945 atomic blast.

The 50-year-old has now confessed he has not composed his own music since 1996. The real composer of the musician's "hits" has not been formally named. According to his now-defunct website, Samuragochi was taught how to play the piano by his mother when he was four and began playing Beethoven and Bach when he was 10. He made his first breakthrough creating music for video games including "Resident Evil" and "Onimusha". He completely lost his hearing when he was 35 but continued to compose music, apparently relying on his "absolute pitch".

Source: BBC