

## WHAT'S ON



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

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

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

Annual Folk Music  
Programme  
Venue: Chhayanaut  
Auditorium, Dharmoora  
Date: Feb 7  
Time: 7pm

Musical Soiree with  
Dance  
Artists: Anu 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,  
Dharmoora  
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

FAHMIM 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 Udayan. 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 the same time, Suhrawardy Udayan 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

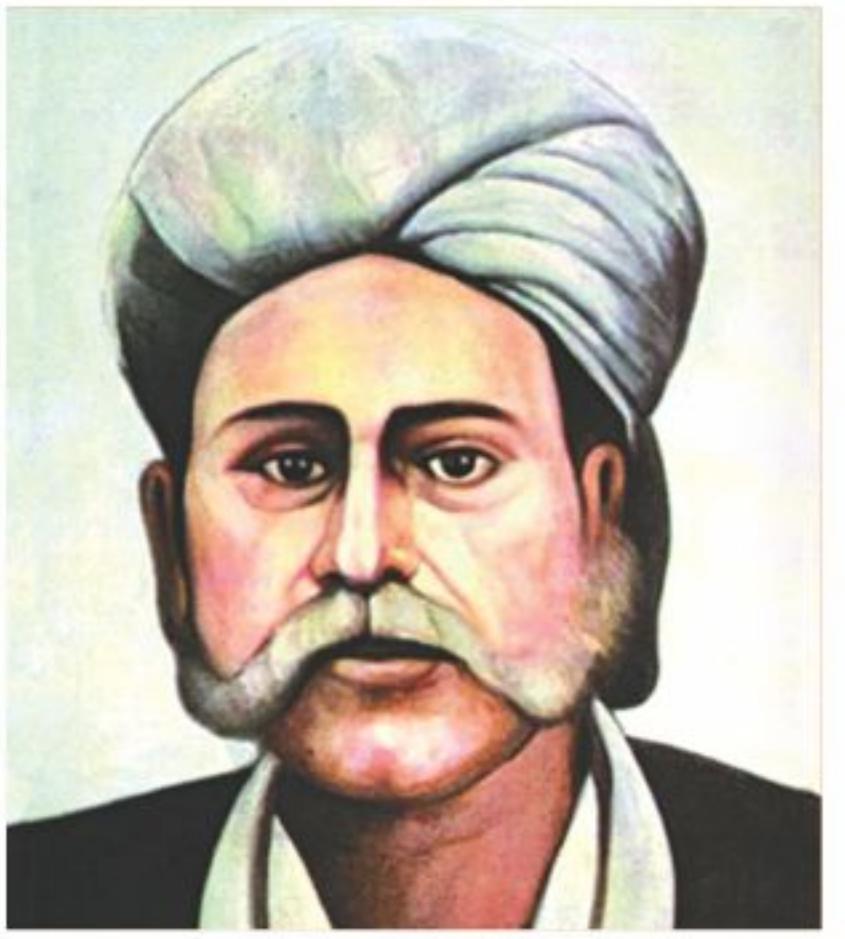
can spend more time and there will be less rush and cramming for space since readers and publishers have increased over the last years, and his experience of visiting the fair this year has been pleasant. He also said this was not a division, rather last year, the fair was affected by various political and associated developments, but he was optimistic this time about the number of new books being published and more readers visiting the fair premises.

Ehsita 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 Iftekhar 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.

## 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 Naseem Nizam inaugurated the festival.

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 Birendraram Singhdev. He spent most of his childhood in Sunamganj with his mother, Humruth Jahan Bibi. At the age of seven, his father started living in Rampura of Koknoshiri, 33 miles away from Sunamganj. Ali supervised and managed his paternal estates.

information Minister Hasanul Haque

Inu; Mohsin Ali, Social Welfare Minister;

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This year, the festival is on a larger

scale with various programmes, includ-

ing discussions on the life, literature and

works of Hason Raja, cultural

programmes and theatre. Different stalls

of traditional products, handicrafts and

artefacts are on display.

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

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## DHAKA ART SUMMIT

# Across genres, across generations

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Athena Gallery of Fine Arts in the capital's Uttar Badda has organised a group art exhibition titled "Then and Now", featuring the works of twenty six painters of different generations. The exhibition is also part of the Dhaka Art Summit which begins today. Among the participating painters, Monirul Islam, Syed Abdullah Khalid, Mahmudul Haque, Abdus Shakoor Shah, Mohammad Eunus, Jamal Ahmed, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Mohammad Muniruzzaman, Kanak Champa Chakma, Anisuzzaman, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa and Md Tokon are noticeable.



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

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 ATN Bangla?

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

Mahfuz: I directed the acclaimed series "Tomar Doai Bhalo 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.

Who 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 rich 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 entire attention to directing the drama.

Another series directed by you is being telecast on Channel 11 about it.

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

What about "Chota 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 Ach. After a long hiatus, I started filming on celluloid. Jaya Ahsan and Ruhি were my co-stars in the movie, that is being produced along with some friends.



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.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDI RUPON



## Starstruck aunty breaks security barriers to meet Kangana

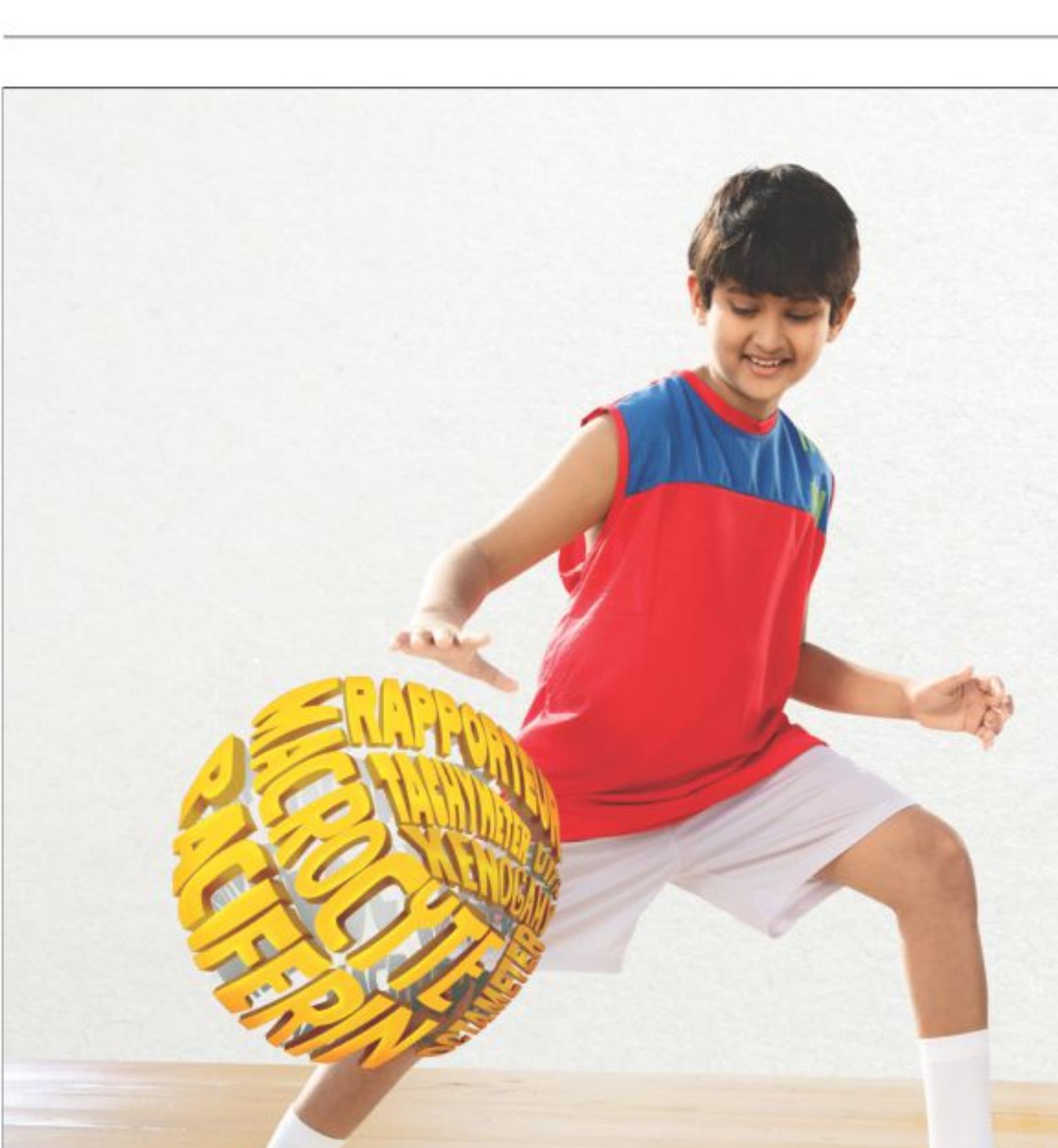
The enthusiasm of Delhi fans for their Bollywood stars knows no bounds. As predicted by the production unit of "Queen", Lajpat Nagar was buzzing with noise on the day of the shoot. It was a hectic day and a crazy crowd lined up to get a glimpse of Kangana Ranaut.

"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, 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.

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



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Online Round খেলে ২৪ ক্ষেত্রফলে ২০১৪ পর্যন্ত

\* স্পেলিং এখন খেলার অন্তর্ভুক্ত করে আজ আজ বেজিটেলেন করে নেও যে কো

বেজিটেলেন প্রতিযোগিতা অন্তর্ভুক্ত করে আজ আজ বেজিটেলেন করে নেও যে কো

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