

WHAT'S ON

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



Film Festival
Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 12-20
Time: 3pm-7pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Sanjib Datta
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 11-20
Time: 12pm-8pm

Theatre Festival
Organiser: Department of Theatre and Performance Studies
Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University



Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Dui Bangal
Artists: Hashem Khan and Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Gallery Twenty One, Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 6-Mar 1





SHAH ALAM SHAZUI

Anisul Hoque is a journalist, poet, popular litterateur and columnist. His books have won him numerous awards, including the prestigious Bangla Academy Award. Haque's novel "Maa" was critically acclaimed at home and abroad. Like every year, several books by the noted author have been published at this year's Ekushey Book Fair. The Daily Star recently interviewed the wordsmith.

What's your view of this year's book fair?

Anisul: I am very optimistic about the fair like everybody else. Last February, there was a very low turnout as the youth was excited about Gonojagoron Mancha, and the political unrest did not help the cause. As the political situation seems under control now, more readers are likely to throng the fair.

What are the new books readers are getting from you this fair?

Anisul: Prothoma, Somoy and Ghankosh have published my

"Book fairs should be held in every district" ... Anisul Hoque



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

books "Amaro Ekta Prem Kahani Achey", "Selai" and "Bhalobasha Ebong Bacho" respectively. Although "Bhalobasha Ebong Bacho" is quite a slim book, it is my favourite. The story centres on the life of a virgin mother. Two other books are collection of my columns while some are for children.

You have also written poetry, but there has been no book so far. Why? **Anisul:** It gives me great

pleasure to know that my poetry has a readership (smiles). So far, I've written poems on my Facebook wall. In all likelihood, I will publish a book of my poems next year.

What are your suggestions to rev up the book fair?

Anisul: Such a fair in any developed country would be held in a dust-free environment. It would have gotten tougher to organise the book fair at Bangla

Academy next year, as more buildings will spring up, reducing the space for the fair. So, Suhrawardy Udyan is the perfect location for the fair. Ideally, the book stalls should be shifted there without felling the trees.

What's your take on such book fairs at divisional or district levels?

Anisul: Apart from Humayun Ahmed and Muhammad Zafar Iqbal's books, not many others reach most districts. I think book fairs should be held in every district, and a fund should be raised to organise this.

How would you evaluate your achievements as a writer?

Anisul: In one word, the love of the people. I think Allah has been very kind to me. While I am not a cricketer, rock star, actor or a familiar face on TV screen, the love of the people both at home and overseas is a great achievement for me.

What is it about your vocation that you enjoy the most?

Anisul: People love writers and poets. I am very grateful to my readers for the high esteem in which they hold me.

Kamar Simon brings home Golden Conch

MIFF sees yet another triumph for "Shunte Ki Pao!"

A CORRESPONDENT

Kamar Ahmad Simon's documentary "Shunte Ki Pao!" ("Are You Listening?") has won the "Golden Conch" for the best documentary in 13th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF), one of the oldest and prestigious film festivals in Asia. The award was declared in a dazzling ceremony held in Tata Centre in Mumbai on Sunday, where legendary filmmakers Shyam Benegal and Adoor Gopalakrishnan handed over two Golden Conches, certificates and award money. In addition to this, Kamar also won the award for "Best Cinematography" for the same film.



Kamar Simon receives the award from Shyam Benegal.

showcased 15 films only in International Competition of the feature-length segment, where the selection was made from 793

submissions from 34 countries around the world. The MIFF 2014 jury was chaired by eminent filmmaker Anand Patwardhan

from India, who was accompanied by film curator Angela Haardt from Germany, Fujioka Asako of Japan, Slovenian film scholar Jurij Meden and noted animator from Mumbai Shilpa Ranade.

Earlier, "Shunte Ki Pao!" received the Grand Prix for best film in 35th Cinema Du Reel, one of the major festivals in Europe held in Paris last year. Besides, the film also received the Jury Prize in Film Southasia 2013, was the curtain opener of 55th edition of the oldest documentary festival of the world Dok Leipzig in 2012 and screened in the 25th edition of IDFA, world's biggest documentary festival.

The film is set to be commercially released at the Star Cineplex on February 21.

Celebrating Suchitra Sen in Spring

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre at 6:30pm on February 13, to celebrate the advent of Spring on Pahela Phalgun -- will have a repeat performance by singers who captivated music lovers at a programme



held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on January 30. Noted artistes Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Ifat Ara Nargis, Ferdous Ara, Parveen Sultana, Nasima Shaheen Fancy, Aniruddha Sengupta and Munir Chowdhury will perform selected songs picturised on Mahaniyaka Suchitra Sen. Anyone interested to join this programme can contact the Administration Department of The Daily Star on 9144330 (Hunting) or 8124944 between 11am-5pm to enroll their names, on basis of accommodation availability, as seats are limited.

A post-modern approach of interpreting art

Showcasing of performance arts at Dhaka Art Summit



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The three-day (February 7-9) Dhaka Art Summit concluded on Sunday, filling the hearts of many artists, art connoisseurs and critics with an assortment of feelings. Alongside showcasing arts by many noted artists and different prominent art galleries of South Asia, the summit, jointly organised by Samdani Art Foundation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, also put on show a number of performance arts, film screening, discussions and roundtables.

Amongst the performing artists, Htein Lin of Myanmar presented his piece "Show of Hands". The 20-minute show, a multimedia community-based performance, intended to capture the experiences and lives of hundreds of former political prisoners in Myanmar. Through casting the arms of former prisoners in plaster of Paris, Htein Lin commemorates and shares their sacrifice and highlights their lives, before, during and after their imprisonment, as well as bringing in his own experience of over six years' custody.

Nikhil Chopra of India portrayed "Blackening VI", an act of transformation. Nikhil presented an 8-hour performance where he used charcoal to transform himself and the space he occupied. The walls, the floor and his body, all became surfaces on which he drew.

Rahul Anand, with 10 performers of Bangladesh, presented a 40-minute piece "Sound in Silence" that explored the parallel existence between the concept of emptiness and fulfillment through sound and the absence of



sound, the reciprocity of continuity, and above all the balance of these two.

Arko Suman of Bangladesh presented his performance titled "Sat on a Chair". The five-minute performance represented an interesting equation. For Arko, to make a choral chord, it necessitates at least three notes -- the people, the planet and nature -- and all are part of the journey of musical notes.

Yasmin Jahan Nupur of Bangladesh displayed her piece titled "Sat on a Chair". The three-hour performance emphasizes the direct unmediated bond between the performer and consultation. Nupur wished to explore the feeling of vertigo and engaged the audience as she fastened herself atop a tall pillar.

Reetu A Sattar of Bangladesh performed her piece titled "Unknown". The sound and body performance explored the fear that consumes her daily life. The piece focused on the meta-physical argument with the sensory of fear.

Sunil Sigdel of Nepal showcased his performance art titled "My Blood, Your Script and Bull Tongue". In his 20-minute performance, Sigdel portrayed how Nepalese administration and the British government manipulated Gurkha soldiers, and how illiteracy and unemployment prompt them to risk their lives in foreign lands.

Over the years, the language of art -- both the artists' and audience' tastes and the direct influences of globalisation and corporate cultures -- has considerably changed the approach of arts production and presentation. Post-modern approaches are predominant in most of the cases.

A man of many hues

Syed Mujtaba Ali's 40th death anniversary

Dr. Syed Mujtaba Ali (1904-1974) was a Bengali author, academician, scholar and linguist. Today marks the 40th death anniversary of the versatile litterateur.

Ali was born in a prominent family in Sylhet. His father, Syed Sikandar Ali, was a sub-registrar. Ali studied at various educational institutions on account of his father's frequent transfers. As a school student, Ali wrote a letter to Rabindranath Tagore, who promptly sent an inspiring reply and invited him to study at Shantiniketan. He had the honour to be taught directly by Tagore.

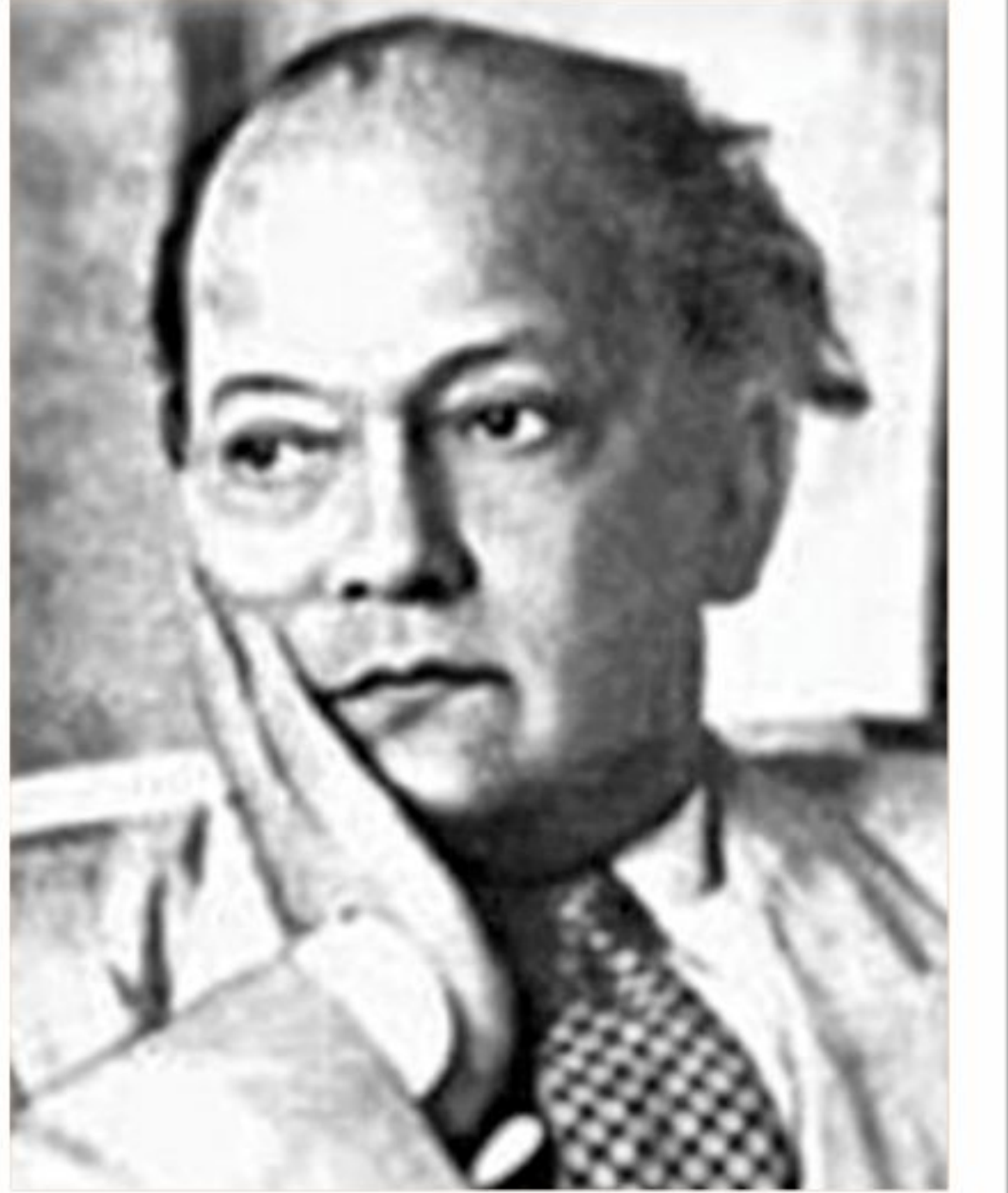
From 1929 to 1932, Ali studied at universities in Berlin, London and Paris. He earned a PhD in comparative religious studies from Bonn. In 1934-1935, he studied at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo. Subsequently, he taught at colleges in Baroda (1936-1944) and Bogra (1949). After a brief period at Kolkata University (1950), Ali became secretary of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and editor of its Arabic journal "Thaqafatul Hind". From 1952 to 1956 he worked for All India Radio at New Delhi and Patna. He then joined the faculty of Visva-Bharati University (1956-1964).

Ali was a brilliant conversationalist and storyteller. When Ali was in his mid-40s, the Dosh editor encouraged him to write "Deshe-Bideshe" and it instantly catapulted him to fame.

The multilingual Ali knew 15 languages: French, German, Italian, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit, Marathi, Gujarati, Pashtu, English and several dialects of Bengali.

After Partition in 1947, Ali went from India to then East Pakistan, his motherland. He was a language activist and a supporter of Bengali as the national language of East Pakistan. In 1948, as principal of Azizul Huq College, Bogra, he wrote an essay, "The State Language of East Pakistan", which was printed in "Chaturanga" of Kolkata. At the time, the West Pakistani rulers were trying to impose Urdu as the only state language of East Pakistan while Bangla was spoken by most of the people. The government of Pakistan sought an explanation from Ali, who promptly resigned and moved to India.

The great scholar breathed his last in Dhaka on February 11, 1974. He was an outspoken critic of the British rulers. His writings are profuse in sarcastic comments about the colonial rulers. He published 25 immensely popular volumes of novels, stories, essays and columns. He smoothly mixed Arabic, Farsi and Sylheti words in his works. Then he dipped it in his great wit, brilliant satire and incomparable scholarship. He was always interesting and never dull. He researched extensively on religion but was secular and progressive. He was cosmopolitan as well as deeply rooted in the Bengali ethos.



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শুদ্ধ সঙ্গীত উৎসবে

অংশগ্রহণেঃ

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গৌতম ও নিলয়সহ আর অনেকে

সেলিম আল দীন মুক্তমঞ্চঃ

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

১৩ ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০১৪

সন্ধ্যা ৬ টা - ভোর ৬টা

আয়োজনে: ছাত্র শিক্ষক কেন্দ্র, জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

