

WHAT'S ON

Amor Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Suhrawardy 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



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha
Venue: Shilpangan, H-7, R-13, New Dhanmondi (Sobhanbagh)
Date: Feb 14-23
Time: 12pm-7pm



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



NEWS bytes

Rock overtakes pop in UK album chart

Rock music overtook pop in UK album sales last year, winning a bigger share of the market for the first time in five years. Rod Stewart's "Time" was the best-selling album to be classified as rock by the Official Charts Company, followed by Arctic Monkeys and Bastille.

In total, rock accounted for 33.8% of album sales, compared with 31% for pop, said industry body the BPI. However, pop records still held the lead in single sales. Some 36.2% of all single track sales were classed as pop, led by the



likes of Katy Perry, Pink and Ellie Goulding.

Dance music also fared well in 2013, recording its highest share of album sales since 2006 with 8.3%, but R&B dropped to its lowest share since 1995 with 5.7%, while hip-hop accounted for 3.6% of album sales.

Overall album sales in the UK dropped by 6.4% to 94 million. It was the first year since the early 1980s that no album sold a million copies.

Source: BBC



World Press Photo Awards announced

Rana Plaza photos bring two honours to Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's World Press Photo Awards have been announced, with Taslima Akhter and Rahul Talukder of Bangladesh winning third prizes in the 'Singles' and 'Story' sub-categories of the Spot News category. Taslima's image, of a man and a woman in a fateful final embrace inside the rubble of Rana Plaza garment factories, is arguably the most iconic single photograph of the disaster. Rahul Talukder's series is also a powerful, touching set of photos, showing the aftermath of the disaster, rescue efforts, survivors and deceased workers.

The Photo of the Year Award of the 2014 World Press Photography contest went to USA's John Stanmeyer (National Geographic), which also won the first prize in Contemporary Issues (Singles). Philippe Lopez (AFP) from France took home the top honours in Spot News (Singles).



The Photo of the Year (Top); an image from Rahul Talukder's winning series.

PHOTO COURTESY: WORLD PRESS PHOTO

A musical treat

Joler Gaan enthralled at Bokultola

FAHMIM FERDOUS

With St. Valentine's Day coinciding with the weekend, Dhaka was in an altogether different gear on Friday. Couples -- from the married for decades to the college sweethearts -- took the opportunity to spend a day with their special one, roaming around the city. So it would be no surprise that the Dhaka University area would be the busiest throughout the day, and Joler Gaan, the incredibly talented and equally quirky musical ensemble that has seen immense popularity within a short span of time, decided to present the crowd with their small musical gift. In association with fashion house Deshal and titled "Amar Shona'r Bangla" as part of their promise to fans to perform live once every two months, the event at the Bokultola of the Charukala (Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University) was the cherry on top for many who had already been having a good day.

Even before the scheduled start time, the



Joler Gaan doing what they do best.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

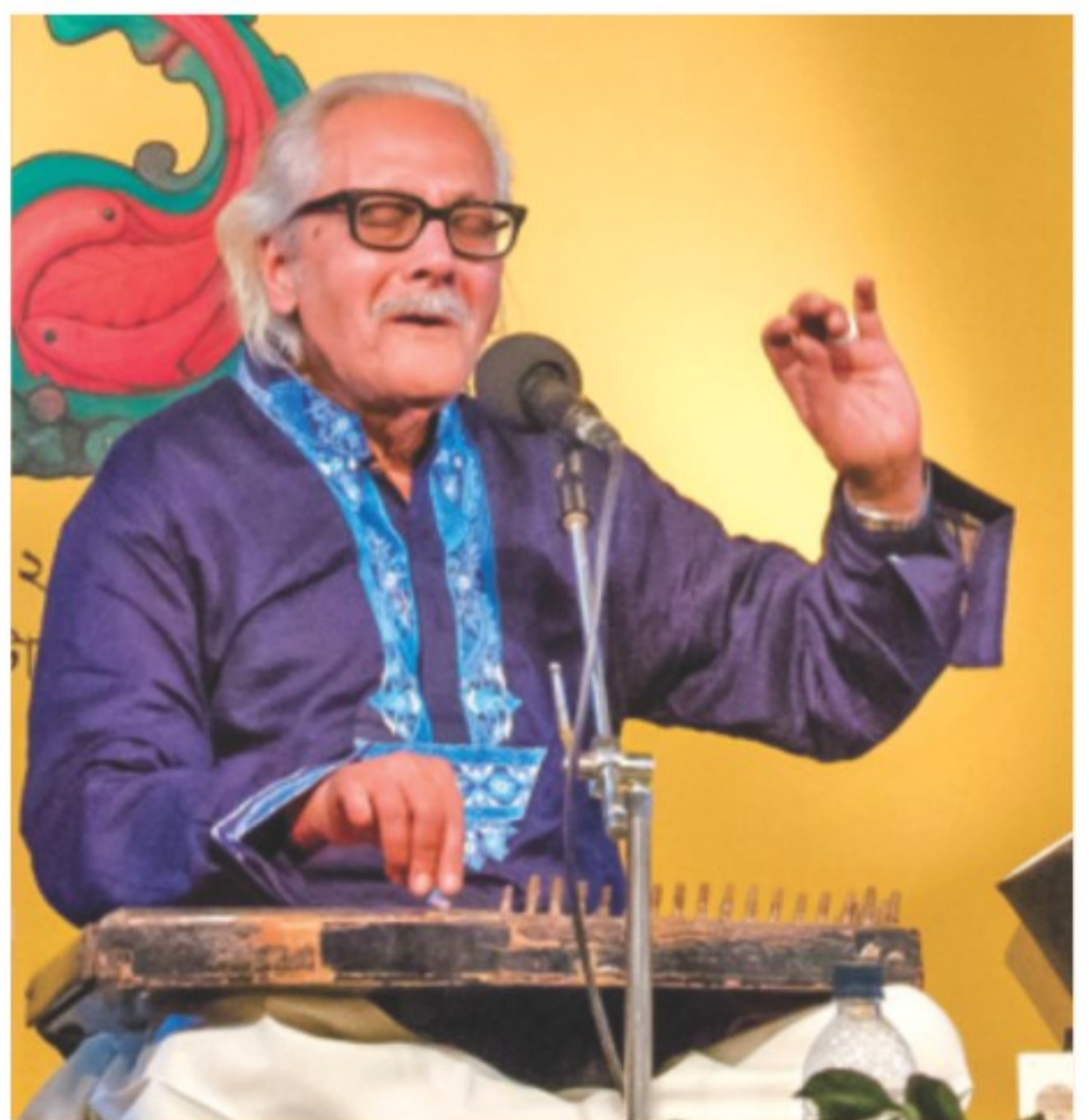
place had filled up to the brim, as the stage looked set with paper birds hanging from the Bokul tree. The band, many of whose members are alumni of Charukala, looked at home, as they made a typically theatrical entrance. They opened with "Bokul Phool", and got the crowd to sway in no

time. With the audience singing along, the band went on to sing their usual hits "Jaore Tepantor", "Lilua Batash", "Kagojer Nouka", "Jhora Pata'r Gaan", "Duure Thaka Megh", Tomar Jonno Akash Bhora Tara", "Pata'r Gaan", "Ghoror Bhetor Ghor", "Kagojer Nouka" -- along with a

few new numbers, and some instrumental jams as well.

But with Joler Gaan, it is never about just the music; it's about how they connect to the audience. The whole time band is on stage, they are in performance. Even when the crowd got a little disruptive, Rahul and the gang managed the situation smoothly, even if it was with laughs at the cost of someone in the audience. The band talked about the inspiration behind their songs, moved along merrily on the stage as they switched instruments, and like always, got the audience involved in the performance.

The best part about the whole concert was that it was not to serve any purpose; there were no tickets, it was not part of any corporate campaign, or any promotional scheme. It was more like basking, but to an arranged, louder audience. It was music for music's sake; just for their fans to enjoy a performance, without any agenda. In retrospect, it could have Joler Gaan's way of giving back to their fans, for the abundance of love and respect they have gotten from them.



Pandit Amaresh Ray Chaudhuri performs at the event.

mellowness of the misty morning by his elaboration of Raga Parameshwari.

The performances were aptly accompanied by some of the best tabla artistes of the country, including Swarup Hossain and Sabuj Ahmed. Young Sanjeeban Sanyal and Debashish Bhaumik accompanied on the harmonium and Sirajum Munir Sifat accompanied in tanpura. The programme was broadcast live on Radio Lakshyapar.

Riasat Alve makes it to NatGeo magazine

Bangladeshi amateur photographer wins Canon Explore to Inspire Contest

Kazi Riasat Alve from Bangladesh has won the "Canon Explore to Inspire" photography contest. To celebrate the occasion, an Award Ceremony was organised at the IDB BCS Computer City display center of JAN Associates, the distributor of Canon Camera in Bangladesh, says a press release. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology was the chief guest of the ceremony.

Canon's contest for amateur photographers had a staggering 16,222 submissions, from which Alve's "Playing in the muddy field", won the top prize.

Alve received a Canon EOS 5D Mark III Digital SLR camera and a trip to San Francisco to attend a photo workshop of National Geographic. The winner's photo will also be published in the March issue of National Geography magazine. At the same event, the names of three Photographers selected for Canon Japan Tour were announced. They are: Ziaul Islam, Sajjad Hossein and Mojahidul Islam Dhew.



Alve receives the camera from the chief guest.

Celebrated mime maestro Partha Pratim Majumder received a lifetime achievement award from Gulshan Youth Club for his contributions to diffusing the art of mime worldwide. Eminent Bangladeshi lyricist Gazi Mazharul Anwar also received the similar award at the programme. Entrepreneur AKM Rahmatullah, MP handed over the awards in an event held at Gulshan Park, Dhaka on February 13. Following the award ceremony, noted Indian singer Srikanta Acharya performed at the event.



Language Movement

Gantha holds discussion

To observe the Language Movement and the spirit of Ekushe February, literary organisation Gantha held a discussion recently at the EMK centre at Dhanmondi, Dhaka, says a press release.

Dr. Niaz Zaman, faculty member of the Department of English, University of Dhaka and the founder of the group, Gantha moderated the discussion.

Bhasha Shoinik Ayesha Akhter, poet Kazi Rosy, Jowshan Ara Rahman and Rita

Bhoumick read Bangla poems and extracts from their own writings.

Gantha members paid tributes to the martyrs of the Language Movement.

Discussants read out literary pieces and poems which highlighted the role of women during the Language Movement in 1952. They pointed out that women played a dynamic role in the movement and small groups of women led the march past during the first procession of the time.

Women stood at the frontlines to avoid arrest. Through all the odds they assumed a patriotic leadership role.

Gantha seeks to create a bridge between Bangla and English literature. Its prime task is to introduce English and other world literature in French, German and Russian to Bangla speaking readers. It also discusses and translates quality Bangla literature into English, adds the press release.