

**WHAT'S ON**

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



**Solo Recitation**  
Elocutionist: Hasan Arif  
Venue: Bengal Gallery,  
Dharmundi  
Date: Feb 22  
Time: 6:30pm



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



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



**Musical Soiree**  
Artist: Kiran Chandra Roy  
Venue: IGCC, Gulshan-1  
Date: Feb 22  
Time: 6:30pm



# Celebrating glory and creativity

## Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy turns 40

ZAHANGIR ALOM

To commemorate the 40th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA), a two-day celebration programme began on February 19 at the open premises of BSA.

Through ringing of bells, illuminating candles, releasing of balloons and phanush, together with dazzling fireworks display, the opening day's programme was set off. A choral rendition of the National Anthem followed -- by the artistes of BSA. Apart from discussions and reminiscences, the opening day's event featured a vibrant cultural programme coupled with an acrobatic show. The cultural event comprises solo and choral rendition of songs; group dance performances, recitations presentation of patriotic songs and band music performance by Joler Gaan.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, MP graced the occasion as chief guest while first Director General of BSA, Dr.



Asaduzzaman Noor speaks; artistes perform at the programme.

Mustafa Nurul Islam inaugurated the yearlong programme at the event. Secretary to the cultural affairs ministry, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc, eminent artist Hashem Khan and renowned theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar were present as special guests on the occasion. Director General of BSA Liaquat Ali Lucky presided over the inaugural programme.

"Father of the Nation" Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman founded Bangladesh



PHOTO: MAHMUDA TULI

Shilpkala Academy in 1974. Following his assassination the next year, BSA went through mayhem. The values of Liberation War were intentionally decayed one after another. Yet, the artistes and the cultural activists of this country, centering on BSA, resisted the vested quarters with all their might. It has not been a walk in the garden for artistes and cultural activists of this country; poets, artists and litterateurs of this country haven't just built castles

in the air, but faced the harsh realities," said Asaduzzaman Noor.

Artistes of Dhriti Nartanalay danced to a Santali folk song "Dhitang Dhitang Bole" while five dancers of Rewaz Performing Arts performed a Kathak piece at the event. Promising artistes of Dhrubo Shishu Kishore Sangathan presented two patriotic songs eulogising both motherland and mother tongue. Artistes of Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad

presented choral Tagore songs at the event.

Noted folk singer Chandana Majumdar swayed the crowd with her beautiful musical treat. The artiste first performed a Fakir Lalon Shai song "Boli Ma Tor Charon Dhorey", and beautifully performed a Baul Shah Abdul Karim song "Boshonto Batastey". Chandana's larger-than-life voice coupled with pulsating beats of Dhol artiste Dashrath Das mesmerised the audience. Members of the Band Joler Gaan also won hearts with their popular compositions and instrumental fusions.

Among others, renowned folk artiste Kiran Chandra Roy and eminent Tagore singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya rendered solo songs at the event. Noted elocutionists Ahkam Ullah and Dahlia Ahmed recited poems on the occasion. Later, BSA acrobatic troupe showcased their corporal arts. The second day's (February 20) event also featured a cultural programme together with an acrobatic show at the same venue.

## Slum children paid homage to Language martyrs



PHOTO: STAR

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Srimangal

Slum kids may be deprived of many opportunities, but nature has given them the ability to feel and enjoy everything.

Some of those kids put their talent on display at a culture programme at the Municipal area of Srimangal Upazila in Moulvibazar district yesterday.

They also paid homage to martyrs of the historic Language Movement by placing floral wreaths at the Srimangal Upazila Central Shaheed Minar at around 7am, as they sang the immortal song -- 'Amar Bhayer Rakte Rangano Ekushey February'.

Spectators were in awe watching the excellent performance of the boys and girls in art and cultural competitions, held at the playground of Municipal area of Srimangal Upazila.

Organiser of the event, Srimangal municipal slum development officer Md. Azizul Haque said they feel very happy by the performance of the slum students. He added that he takes care of all the slum students in the Srimangal Municipal area, helping 70 kids for education in kindergarten to class six.

## PUBLISHER'S CORNER Somoy's literary endeavours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Boi Somoyer Protithodi", Somoy has had a foothold in the publishing industry for over 25 years. Former Executive Director of Bangladesh Gyan and Srijonshil Prokashak Samiti, Farid Ahmed is the proprietor of the publication house. It has published works by nearly every noted writer in the country.

At this year's Ekushey Book Fair, it has published more than 50 books, including Science Fiction by acclaimed author Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal; "Selai" by Anisul Hoque; an anthology of novels of Al Mahmud; three writes-up by Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, "Bangladesh Civil Samaj Prothishthar Sangram" and "Kobi'r Onoshon Ebong Bangladesher Muktijuddho" by Muntasir Mamun; collection of articles by Shawkat Osman; "Manashbhromon" by Afzal Hossain and "Smitir Monikothai" by AMA Muhit.

Apart from that, Somoy has published a special



book "Ekattur Ebong Amar Baba", penned by litterateur Humayun Ahmed. In 1971, he wrote it as a diary when he was the student of Dhaka University.

However, the introduction of "Ekattur Ebong Amar Baba" was penned by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal. He also wrote a part of the diary then which was later included in the book. The brothers have never before collaborated for a book.

"The original pages of the diary were also published for the readers," said Farid Ahmed.

Farid Ahmed said he saw the book as a historical document, not a fiction.

He also considers the new set up of this year's book fair as a positive sign. According to him, Suhrawardy Uddan is the perfect location for the fair. "It was a longstanding demand of publishers to expand the location of the book fair," said Farid Ahmed.

Farid Ahmed says the Amar Ekushey Book Fair has its own identity. Although it took some times for the readers to search their selective stalls, they would come here as previous years, he hoped.

A creative and contemporary approach to arts  
Ceramics exhibition ends at Zainul Gallery



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the title "Chullighar Dot Com", a nine-day (February 13-21) ceramics exhibition ended yesterday at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) of Dhaka University.

Six artists - Soumitra Biswas, Suman Baral, Rajeeb Saha, Rabiu Hossain, Nabendu Saha and Nadimuzzaman Bhuiyan - all MFA 2nd Part students of Ceramics Department of FFA -- showcased their artworks at the exhibition. The media they used for producing the works included stoneware, raku, and ceramic texture. Each artist exhibited three of their artworks.

Alongside upholding the opulent heritage and culture of Bangladesh, the artists depicted an experimental, creative and contemporary approach to their arts. The participating artists upheld the conscience of "Amor Ekushey" together with colours and connotations of Boshonto Utshab (Spring festival) and Valentine's day through their arts.

Dean of FFA Professor Abul Barq Alvi with teachers of Ceramics Department inaugurated the exhibition on Pahela Falgun.

## Five new Ayub Bachchu songs launched by GP



The artiste speaks at the press conference.

Mobile operators Grameenphone have launched five new tracks from Ayub Bachchu's unreleased album, exclusively for their subscribers. In a press conference on the occasion yesterday, Ayub Bachchu said he has poured his heart into these songs, and has enjoyed thoroughly working for this album.

Grameenphone subscribers can set the songs as 'Welcome Tunes' or download the full tracks, says a press release.

## "Shoto Kontther Gaan" in Dinajpur



KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A cultural programme titled "Shoto Kontther Gaan" -- chorus songs of one hundred people -- was organised in Dinajpur recently that enthralled a several-hundred strong audience.

Monimela, a Dinajpur-based culture organisation arranged the programme at Dinajpur Shilpkala Academy.

Professor Ruhul Amin, Vice Chancellor of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU), was present at the programme as chief guest.

Since beginning to end, a hundred people of different ages performed some 14 songs at the two-hour programme.

## HOW CAN WE FORGET?

It can be safely said that Bangla is the most precious language in the world; for no other language and the rights of the people to speak it has been achieved through bloodshed. What remained the pride of Bangladesh is today celebrated across the World -- February 21 is now International Mother Language Day. It has been more than six decades that 'Ekushey' has symbolised undying courage and love for the country. In the hearts of us all, the respect and love for the martyrs and the veterans of the Language Movement remains alive; February 21 is just an occasion to express it.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

