

WHAT'S ON

Amor Ekushey Book Fair

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

Photography Exhibition

Title: War and Colonies 1914-1918  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi  
Date: Feb 25-Mar 9  
Time: 3pm-9pm

Duet Art Exhibition

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

Film Screening

Film: Jibondhuli  
Venue: Bangladesh Film Institute Auditorium, Lake Circus, Kalabagan  
Date: Feb 22-28  
Time: 3pm-7pm

Film Screening

Title: Amar Bhashar Chalachitra  
Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka University  
Date: Feb 22-27  
Time: 10am-6:30pm

NEWS

bytes

Wall Street film triggers lawsuit

The producers of Oscar-nominated film “Wolf of Wall Street” are being sued for \$25m by a former stockbroker who claims he has been depicted as a ‘depraved’ drug-fuelled criminal.

Andrew Greene has filed court papers in New York claiming the character Nicky ‘Rugrat’ Koskoff is based on him. Greene worked at Stratton Oakmont, the brokerage house founded by Jordan Belfort, played by Leonardo



DiCaprio.

Paramount and Red Granite Pictures, however, have not commented on the case.

In the movie, Rugrat Koskoff -- played by actor PJ Byrne -- assumes significant control at Stratton Oakmont following Belfort's resignation.

The film has been a major box office hit and has been nominated for five Oscars, including best picture and best actor for Leonardo DiCaprio.

Source: BBC

IT'S

TRUE!



The Zapruder film is a silent, color motion picture sequence shot by private citizen Abraham Zapruder with a home-movie camera, as US President John F. Kennedy's motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963, thereby inadvertently capturing the President's assassination. It was an important part of the Warren Commission hearings and all subsequent investigations of the assassination, and is one of the most studied pieces of film in history. Abraham Zapruder is sometimes presented as a forefather of all citizen journalists.

Hasan's poetry recital evening



A solo poetry recital evening featuring Hasan Arif was held at Dhanmondi Bengal Shipalaya on Saturday. Sponsored by Bengal Foundation, the programme focused on love poetry.

Hasan Arif began his performance with a recitation of “Kichhu Kotha Onek Diner, Kichhu Kotha Ajker”, an excerpt from the poem “Kothar Kotha”.

He recited to a packed audience, 40 excerpts from the poems of five poets: Nirmolendu Gun, Sohail Anwar, Aminur Rahman, Ramchandra Pal and Shuvro Das Gupto.

Syed Shamsul Haq at 79

POETIC RIPPLES



The poet cuts the cake.

SHAYAN S. KHAN

It was an evening of revelry and much rejoicing recently at the Garden Gallery, as diplomats, artists, poets, litterateurs, and other cultural personalities gathered for a belated celebration of eminent poet Syed Shamsul Haq's 79th birthday.

On a pleasant Falgun evening ushering in the commemoration of the Language Movement, Ekushey February on the next day, the poet himself started off proceedings in earnest following an introductory note by Enayetullah Khan, Managing Director of the Cosmos Group of companies.

It was inarguably the highlight of the evening. As the evening call to prayer from a nearby mosque died down, Syed Shamsul Haq stood up to reel off a riveting set of recitations, featuring some of his most celebrated poems from a

career spanning five decades. Mindful of the impending commemoration of the Language Movement of 1952, the charismatic poet -- renowned as one of the finest exponents of the Modernist movement in Bangla poetry -- regretted the present generation's lack of reverence for the Bangla language. He relayed the story of one of its legends, Michael Madhusudhan Dutta of Jessore, who grew up with dreams of writing in English, and went on to compose some fine sonnets in the language of the erstwhile colonial masters. But later in life, Dutta suffered a premonition while teaching in Madras (now Chennai) that made him realise the treasure bestowed on him by birth, that he had ignored all his life, and returned to compose some of the finest poems ever recorded in the language.

The poet ended his recital by thanking the audience for main-

taining “an ocean of silence that every poem needs”, after which the Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs, Dr. Gowher Rizvi, spoke of his admiration for the way Shamsul Haq has throughout his career maintained the “con-science” of Bangladesh. The evening wrapped up with Enayetullah Khan reciting his own favourite poem from the poet's oeuvre, after which Mrs. Anwara Syed Haq, the poet's wife and herself an accomplished psychologist, joined her husband to cut the cake.

Side by side with the celebrations, there was a sale of artworks from the collection of Gallery Cosmos and the Atelier-71 Printmaking Studio, part of the Cosmos stable. Part of the proceeds from the sale will be donated to the charity Assistance for Blind Children. All in all, it was an enlightening evening for everyone present.

The writer is a senior editor of UNB.

Adorn's focus on a varied genre of books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adorn Publication is offering 67 new publications at the ongoing Ekushey Boi Mela. It publishes educational, academic and scholarly books -- both in English and Bangla. The publishing house has published books by many writers, poets, researchers over the decades. They have published essays, memoirs, poetry, novels and research works on political history, economics, environment, agriculture, gender issues, Language Movement, Liberation War and more. This year, Mahfuzur Rahman has received Bangla Academy Award for his autobiography book “From Naogaon to New York”, published by Adorn.

Syed Zakir Hossain, publisher and chief executive officer of Adorn Publication, said, “I'm always eager to take part in the Ekushey book fair. For the last 16 years, we have been taking part in this major event. As a nation, we are highly emotional about the fair but we could not garner a sufficient readership. To create a healthy reading environment, publishers, writers and policymakers should work together. My main concerns are the quality of the books, their images, illustrations and quality of editing. Unedited books are available at the fair. Badly edited works are likely to mar the reputation of the publishing house. Both publishers and writers should be more professional and careful about their works. I also feel that we need better translators. We need to establish an institution that can provide efficient editors and publishers.”

The house regards editing to be crucial. “We have a skilled editorial board, which



comprises noted academics, scholars and writers. Before publishing a book, we send the documents or manuscripts to the editorial board for close reviews.

“It is a good decision to hold the fair at Suhrawardy Udyan. But many writers and visitors criticised some flaws that exist in the new arrangements. The event management is very poor,” he said.

Some notable publications are Shamsad Mortuza's “I Spy”, Shaolee Mahboob's “Western Theories in Eastern Eyes”, “Essays on Gender and Feminism”; Anwar Dil and Afia Dil's “Women's Changing Position in Bangladesh”; Rabindranath Tagore's “Gitanjali” (introduction by Professor Anisuzzaman); Joyanal Hossain's “Prangoney More, Toka Dairy-r Patha Theke”; Rathindranath Thakur's “Amar Baba Rabindranath”; Selina Hossain's “Between Two Worlds”; Anika Aditi's “Something That You Forget”; Mahboob Sadiq's “The Sweep of War”; Siraz Uddin Sathi's “Koran-er Kotha O Kahini”; Mohammad Maruf Khan's “The Mother Tree”; Afia Dil's “Bengali Language and Culture”; Mahmud ur Rahman Choudhury's “From Language to Civilization”; Anu Mahmud's “Good Governance and E-Governance: Combat Corruption in Bangladesh”; Hasnat Abdul Hai's “Italia” and Bulbul Sarwar's “Istanbul”.

The publication has brought out several works by veteran writers and academics -- Abu Rushd, Dr. Anisuzzaman, Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Anisur Rahman, Mahfuzur Rahman, Hasnat Abdul Hai, Justice Golam Rabbani, Rashed Khan Menon, Shamsur Rahman, Syed Shamsul Haq, Dr. Abdul Matin, Biprodas Barua, Abul Kasem Fazlul Haq, Dewan Shamsul Arefin and Urmi Rahman, among others.

Music of the Moment

Mahaphon Clang intrigues and enthralls Dhaka audience

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The idea of performing arts is fast-changing in Europe; music, theatre dance and film are overlapping each other to produce arts that are more open-ended, both in terms of performance and audience reception. In the past year or so, a number of German groups and artistes -- the likes of Felix Ott, Anika Bendel, Thomas Lehmen and Ben J Riepe -- have come to Dhaka and given the audience here a glimpse of the evolving arts scene of the West.

Mahaphon Clang -- the German-South Indian collaboration was the latest in line of that set, consisting three members of the German band Lautstark!4 -- Jan Friedrich Kurth (vocals), Matthias Kurth (guitar) and Lutz Streun (saxophone, clarinet) teaming up with veteran South Indian percussionist Ramesh Shotham for a band that is too wide open to be classified into a genre. They closed their “Mela Thing 2014 Tour” with a performance at the Goethe-Institut Dhaka on Sunday.

The performance spanning a little over an hour -- was intriguing, to say the least. Ramesh Shotham brought a versatile range of percussive pieces in his performance, playing a drums set with various types of symbols and hi-hats mounted while sitting on a cajon (percussion box), and every now and



Mahaphon Clang in the zone.

PHOTO COURTESY: GOETHE-INSTITUT

then pulling out a new shaker from a bag, and a small daf (hand drum). His playing styles ranged from rock drumming to tabla bol uttered vocally, expertly motoring the tempo of the pieces. Jan Friedrich Kurth uttered words in just one of the six pieces played, while in the other ones he just uttered sounds -- sometimes yodelling, sometimes chanting verses that sounded shamanic, and sometimes expressing horror and grief through muffled screaming. He often used a

megaphone for a radio-like effect, and generated strange but expressive tones through it. Matthias, the guitarist, also complemented the experimental and spontaneous nature of the pieces, just plucking through the strings in some parts, while playing full-fledged electric solos in others, and in the last piece, using an archtop guitar to play a sweetly melancholic, almost-Eastern folk-like melody. Lutz Streun on the wind instruments was one of the strongest performers of the night, playing

airblown notes to muted ones to bass notes that sounded like a slapped bass guitar, performing the most number of melodic pieces of the night.

What was thoroughly enjoyable was the way the band walked through their pieces without a prior set plan; one member would bring about a sudden transition in the playing and the others would follow suit. They also did not have a set plan for how and where each performance would end; for instance, in the last performance, the whole band walked off the microphones and came to the front of the stage -- Ramesh bringing his cajon to the front and playing on it, Matthias laying his guitar down, picking up the drum sticks and playing them on the floor of the stage, and Lutz and Jan going full acoustic with their sax and voice. At one point, the members all just walked out of the auditorium singing and playing their instruments, only to come back two minutes later and taking position on stage to resume the same melody.

The audience was kept guessing the whole time of what was to come next; many of them switched seats, some left midway, failing to communicate to the music, but those who remained burst into applause and cheers every now and then, more out of amused surprise than anything else.

Bangladesh First finale on Maasranga

A CORRESPONDENT

The finale of “Bangladesh First” -- the popular trivia and quiz show on Bangladesh -- will air on Maasranga TV at 8:40pm tonight. The four finalist teams will compete for the trophy, in front of a 600-strong audience comprising parents, teachers and other participants.

Education minister Nurul Islam Nahid will be the chief guest at the event, and will hand over the champion's trophy; The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam will be the special guest for this episode. Top officials from Unilever Bangladesh, Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh and Maasranga TV will be there as well to encourage the participants and handover crests to the winners.

“Bangladesh First”, was launched nationwide by The Daily Star and e-learning portal champs21.com in September 2013. The programme, titled “Rin presents Bangladesh First -- powered by Standard Chartered Bank”, started its



Guests with the finalists at the programme.

journey with the aim to encourage the younger generation to learn more about our motherland. The eight contestants from the four finalist teams have made it this far after leaving behind 8,000 students of classes six to ten, from 80 champs21.com partner Bangla and English medium schools.

The final contestants come from the

Joypurhat Girls Cadet College, Joypurhat; Mirzapur Cadet College, Tangail; Cantonment Public School & College, Mymensingh and Paramount School and College, Rajshahi.

The champion team will win the coveted Bangladesh First Trophy an Education grant worth of 5 Lac and runner up team will win education grant worth of 3Lac.

Celebrating 40th anniversary of BSA and RCSC

Russian Centre of Science & Culture (RCSC) in Dhaka in cooperation with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), Dhaka will organise the inaugural ceremony of a three- daylong presentation of Russian history, culture and tradition to celebrate the 40th anniversary of BSA and RCSC in Dhaka on 25 February at 6 pm.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general, BSA and Alexander P. Demin, head of the RCSC in Dhaka will inaugurate the ceremony.

Chayanika adapts book from TV plays

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular drama director Chayanika Chowdhury's first book “Mayaghar” was published on Pahela Falgun, the first day of Spring, at this year's Ekushey Book Fair, from publication house Shabdashilpo. Chayanika directed two acclaimed plays “Mayaghar” and “Khelaghar” during the Eid-ul-Azha. The book was written based on the dramas.

Dhrubo Esh has done the cover of “Mayaghar”.

“As the storylines of the plays are my favourite, I based my book on them,” said Chayanika. She further said she started writing the book at the request of Sharif, publisher of Shabdashilpo. Expressing her emotions about publishing her first book, Chayanika said that writing gave her feeling of great happiness.

The play “Mayaghar” is based on the theme of family life as an illusion. Meanwhile, “Khelaghar” narrates the story of an altercation between the husband and wife with adverse ramifications on their children.

Chayanika Chowdhury has directed more than two hundred one-hour plays and telefilms, and 12 drama serials so far.

TV WATCH