

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 and
Photo Exhibition
Venue: National Art Gallery
Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 25-27
Time: 11am-7pm



Theatre
Play: Prometheus
Troupe: Mohokal Nattyto
Sampraday
Venue: National Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: Feb 27, Time: 7pm



NEWS bytes

Guitar virtuoso Paco de Lucia dies

World-renowned Spanish guitarist Paco de Lucia has died aged 66 in Mexico, reportedly of a heart attack while playing with his children on a beach. The death of one of the most celebrated flamenco guitarists was announced by the mayor's office in Algeciras in southern Spain, where he was born.

Famous for a series of flamenco albums in the 1970s, he also crossed over into classical and jazz guitar. He also worked on films by Spanish director Carlos Saura, notably appearing in his 1983 version of "Carmen", which won a UK Bafta award for Best Foreign Language Film in 1985.

Algeciras is to hold two days of official mourning, a city spokesman was quoted as saying by Reuters news agency.

Source: BBC



IT'S TRUE!



Abanindranath Tagore was the first major exponent of swadeshi values in Indian art, thereby founding the influential Bengal school of art, which led to the development of modern Indian painting. Popularly known as 'Aban Thakur', he was also a noted writer, particularly for children. He sought to modernise Mughal and Rajput styles in order to counter the influence of Western models of art, as taught in Art Schools under the British Raj and developed the Indian style of painting, later known as Bengal school of art. Such was the success of Tagore's work that it was eventually accepted and promoted as a national Indian style within British art institutions under the epithet of Indian Society of Oriental Art.

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Ananya's tireless endeavours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted publishing house Ananya has been in the business for over two decades. Ananya's proprietor Monirul Haque started the publishing business following his father's footsteps.

Ananya has published over 1,500 books, including 37 by late writer Humayun Ahmed. Its publications boast a majority of famed authors of the country, including Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Imdadul Haq Milon.

At this year's Ekushey Book Fair, Ananya has published "Samajik Byabasa" by Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus, among 75 books.

It published Humayun Ahmed's first Himu novel "Moyurokhi" and the novel "Nurjahan" of Imdadul Haq Milon.

At the fair, many readers picked up Professor Muntasir Mamun's volume "Dhaka: Smriti Bisritir Nogori" published by Ananya.

Apart from this, the publication house has published over 100 books on the Liberation War and several others on the Language Movement.

Asked why only a handful of books had been published on the Language Movement, publisher Monirul Haque said, "Very few writers have penned books on the issue, which explains the shortfall."

The warriors gone unsung ...

"War and Colonies" brings vivid pictures of World War I



FAHMIM FERDOUS

Memory, particularly historical memory, is selective. And for a historic event -- the First World War in modern history -- that happened a century ago, it is more 'convenient' to do so. There is very little reference in contemporary history texts to the colonial troops from Asia and Africa who were deployed in various capacities during the War, and their sacrifices are commemorated only in a handful of events.

On the centenary of the First World War, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD) is holding a photo exhibition titled "War and Colonies, 1914-1918" at its La Galerie, as a tribute to the colonial troops engaged on both sides of the conflict. Michel Trinquier, the French Ambassador to Bangladesh, graced the inauguration of the exhibition on February 24 as chief guest, while Dr. Ferdinand Von Weyhe, Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy in Dhaka and KH Masud Siddiqui, Secretary of the Liberation War Ministry of Bangladesh, were present as special guest and guest of honour respectively.

The exhibition, although featuring just

35 photographs, is an enriched display, featuring brilliant textual references, statistics and historical facts interspersed throughout the gallery. Beginning with the Indian troops and the follower ranks of the Indian Army, the exhibition displays photos and information on Irish troops, Africans deployed in the European colonial armies -- the Askaris, French colonial troops -- Annamese and Senegalese and Moroccan soldiers and infantrymen.

The photos -- although presumably taken for documentation and not from a photographic aesthetics perspective -- are striking. The war's unmistakable marks of strife on their faces and uniforms are evident, be it in arranged group photos or candid ones of them sitting in a trench and reading newspapers. A rear view of Moroccan Spahis on horseback with a rocky hill on the background is almost cinematic; their huddling around a machine-gun, learning its operation strikes the contrast of the punch of reality. While some photographs show them in non-combat activities such as trench-digging, repairing roads, even wounded soldiers working in the kitchens, some show more frontline activities like gun-training and cleaning, or even in combat.



PHOTO COURTESY: AFD

Apart from them are a few that show life went on amid the war, with one showing a soldier grinding coffee with a bottle or a shell, and a delightful snap of Senegalese infantrymen doing a tribal dance, with one man jumping mid-air while spectators form a circle around.

The exhibition -- and an international conference on the same title that took place on February 25-26 at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building of the Dhaka University -- is an earnest effort to fill the lapse in memory where these troops' contributions have been pushed into. In the photos taken a century ago, the human element is of monumental significance; there is no sensationalisation, just men thrown in a tumultuous scenario fighting it out, be it on the battlefield or beyond.

Institut-Francais (Fonds d'Alembert for the exchange of ideas) the French Embassy in Bangladesh, the Mission du Centenaire, Dhaka University, Liberation War Affairs ministry, ECPAD and Omni Books are partners to the event, sponsored by Monagut French Fashion Knitting and GETCO.

The exhibit continues till March 9 at the AFD, and March 11-18 at the Liberation War Museum.

Bangladeshi and Indian painters' exhibition in Kolkata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Under the title "The Bridge Across", Bengal Foundation, the Deputy High-Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) have jointly organised a group art exhibition, featuring the works of several Bangladeshi and Indian painters. The exhibition is now on at the Rabindranath Tagore Centre in Kolkata.

Prominent Indian artist Jogen Chowdhury and Bangladeshi artist Qayyum Chowdhury jointly inaugurated the exhibition on February 26.

The Bangladeshi participants are Qayyum



A painting by Monirul Islam.

Chowdhury, Tahera Khanam, Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam and Kalidas Karmakar.

The Indian participants are

Sanat Kar, Dhiraj Choudhury, Sunil Das, Amitabh SenGupta, Shekhar Roy, Sukhamoy Majumder,

Chandana Hore, Kuntal Dutta, Dewashish Das, Eleena Banik, Partha Pratim Mondal and Sumana Ghosh.

About the exhibition, Subir Choudhury, director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts said, "The exhibition brings together a body of work which was produced during an art camp in Kolkata, in November 2013. For the past three years, Bengal Foundation and the Deputy High-Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata, have joined hands to organise art camps and stamp a presence of Bangladeshi art in Kolkata. This is the first time the works produced in the joint art camp are being exhibited."

The exhibition ends on March 2.

Social causes beckon **Rahul Bose**

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It would be a gross understatement to say that actor Rahul Bose is socially conscious. As he would like himself to be called, he is socially active. That was why one had seen Bose, who set up NGO The Foundation, rushing to Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal to help the people there in the wake of the devastating Tsunami in December, 2004 and then following up the projects he had launched from time to time, taking time off from his tryst with cinema.

As a further reinforcement of his unflinching commitment to social causes, Bose, 45, organised an auction on February 22 in Mumbai, of 16 iconic memorabilia donated by celebrities to raise funds for charity work of his NGO.

Among the memorabilia were an autographed sarod used by maestro Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, which fetched Rs 16 lakh, a pair of tablas used by Ustad Zakir Hussain and his father Allah Rakha Khan for a total of 28 years, the gold medal actress Shabana Azmi won as a student of Film Training Institute of India, the handwritten poems written by the father and grand father of Bollywood lyricist-script-dialogue writer Javed Akhter and the gun used by India's gold medal winner shooter Abhinav Bindra in the Beijing Olympics.

"This instrument (tablas) belonged to abba. After he passed away, I started performing with it. It has travelled the length and breadth of half the world



PHOTO: STAR

with me and also bears the signatures of some of the world's greatest musicians whom I've had the pleasure of playing with -- Carlos Santana, Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter. It's brought me indescribable pleasure to play with these tablas and it gives me even greater pleasure to donate them to this auction," said Zakir Hussain.

Bindra donated for the auction his second gun with which he shot in the Beijing Olympics for the auction. "The first one is in the Olympic museum in Lausanne," said Rahul.

Also included in the auctioned memorabilia were works of prominent cartoonist RK Laxman, sonnets by writer Vikram Seth an autographed edition of his novel "The Golden Gate", Nobel Laureate economist Amartya Sen and the jacket used by Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan in his film "Lagaan".

"We decided to have an auction from 16 great Indians, who with their talent and world-view uphold the value of 'The idea of India'. The idea behind the auction is that India should be a secular inclusive democratic state without discrimination of any kind," according to Rahul Bose.

"These people are compassionate, generous and they don't discriminate on the basis of gender, caste, colour, age and religion. Auctions also help us in raising money for my NGO."

The actor said he came up with The Foundation as an effort to fight all kinds of discrimination prevailing in the country.

The other author in the contributors to the auction is Amitav Ghosh, who has given away handwritten passages from his book "The Hungry Tide", Laxman's hand-drawn originals of "Six decades of the common man" and musician Zubin Mehta's autographed baton that he used in his concerts.

SAARC Literary Fest Dhaka begins today

Programme Schedule

Date: February 27th

Venue: Bangladesh National Museum, Dhaka

Inauguration Ceremony

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|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30 am | Guests take their seats |
| 10:28 am | Arrival of the Prime Minister |
| 10:30 am | National Anthem |
| 10:32 am | Recitation of Shamsur Rahman's "Shadhinata Tumi" with Translation |
| 10:37 am | Welcome Address: Selina Hossain, President, WRITE Foundation |
| 10:42 am | Address: Ajeet Cour, President, Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature |
| 10:47 am | Address: Syed Shamsul Huq, Special Guest |
| 10:52 am | Address: Asaduzzaman Noor, Cultural Affairs Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh |
| 10:57 am | Vote of Thanks: Rubana Huq, General Secretary, WRITE Foundation |
| 11:02 am | Address by the Chief Guest: Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh |
| 11:17 am | National Anthem |
| 11:20 am | Departure of the Prime Minister |

Presentation of Academic Papers

by Abhi Subedi, Ravishankar Bal, Sukrita Paul Kumar and Kamala Wijeratne
Chaired by Syed Manzoorul Islam

Partition Literature

With Sukrita Paul Kumar, Mofidul Hoque, Selina Hossain, Hoshang Merchant and Professor Refaqt Ali Khan, Moderated by Dr. Niaz Zaman

Presentation of Academic Papers

By M.A. Nuhman, Bal Bahadur Thapa, Prakash Subedi and Shiva Rijal
Chaired by Shamsuzzaman Khan

Historical Fault Lines and Reconciliation

With Syed Shamsul Haq and Samaresh Majumdar
Moderated by Syed Badrul Ahsan

Poetry Session: South Asian and Bengali Poets

Chaired by Kamal Chowdhury

February 28: Venue: Bangladesh National Museum, Dhaka

Presentation of Academic Papers

By Pratibha Ray, Farheen Chaudhury, Keshab Sigdel and Prakash Subedi, Chaired by Nurul Huda

Poetry Session: South Asian and Bengali Poets

Chaired by Asad Chowdhury

Publishing in South Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

with Ritu Menon and Hamidul Mishbah.
Chaired by Mohiuddin Ahmed
Moderated by Dr. Fakrul Alam

UPL Book launch

"1947, 1971 and Modern South Asia: Partition's Post Amnesias" by Ananya Kabir

Poetry Session: South Asian and Bengali Poets

Chaired by Habibullah Shiraji

Emerging Writers

with Anis Ahmed and Maria Chaudhury
Chaired by Dr. Fakrul Alam.

Launching of the new monsoonletters.com anthology, published by UPL
Recitation by 5 new poets

Closing Ceremony

Addresses by Samaresh Mazumdar, Fakrul Alam and Kamal Chowdhury
Performance and poem by Ibrahim Waheed

Awards giving of the Muse Masters competition, organised by British Council and

TV WATCH

"Aji E Boshonto Shondha" on ATN Bangla



A CORRESPONDENT

A vibrant cultural programme titled "Aji E Boshonto Shondha" will be telecast live from Bogra Cantonment tonight on ATN Bangla from 7:30pm. Organised jointly by The 11th Infantry Division of the Bangladesh Army and ATN Bangla, the programme will feature musical performances by Rabi Chowdhury, Akhi Alamgir, Porshi and Imran, and dance performance by noted artists.