

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2016
 Organiser: Bangla Academy
 Venue: Bangla Academy premises,
 & Suhrawardi Udyan
 Date: February 1-29
 Time: 3-8pm & 11am-8pm
 (Fri & Sat)

Solo Art Exhibition
 Censored Image
 Artist: Wakilur Rahman
 Venue: Kalakendra
 Date: Feb 3-23
 Time: 12-8pm

Duet Art Exhibition
 Title: Fragments of the Anthropocene
 Artists: Zihan Karim & Shimul Saha
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge,
 60, Gulshan-1
 Date: Jan 30- Feb 27
 Time: 12-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Unknown Spirit
 Artist: Esperanza Romero (Spain)
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115,
 Lane-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
 Date: February 20-29
 Time: 12-8pm

Khamkheyali Sobha
 Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium
 Date: February 19
 Time: 6pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Esperanza Romero
 Title: Unknown Spirit
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos
 Date: Feb 20-29
 Time: 10am-8pm

Musical Soiree
 An Evening of Sitar Recital
 Organiser: IGCC
 Artist: Ebadul Huq Shaikat
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural
 Centre, Gulshan-1
 Date: February 20; Time: 6pm



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"Ekush fills our hearts with spirit"

YOUNG ARTISTES IN CONVERSATION

SHAH ALAM SHAZU and SAURAV DEY

Ekushey February holds a special place in the heart of every Bangladeshi. This is the month when Bangladesh celebrates the Language Movement of 1952, which the entire world celebrates today as International Mother Language Day. Upcoming artistes Sabbir, Liza, Naureen, Rashed, Poluk and Luipa are some of the common faces in our music scene who have their own take on what the month means to them. Here's what they had to say:

What does Ekush mean to you?

Sabbir: Ekush means happiness. When this month finally comes, I feel happy that we can speak freely in Bangla. If there were no Ekush, we wouldn't have been speaking in Bangla.

Rashed: Our country is like a mother. Ekush is the month of our mother language and we are a nation that shed blood for the freedom to speak our mother tongue. Ekush inspires us to keep our heads high and take pride in our country and language.

Naureen: Ekush means singing out loud "Amar Bhai Er Rokte Rangano Ekushey February". When I sing this song I experience the same emotions when singing our national anthem. Ekush means walking with pride.

Pulok: Ekush means pride; Ekush means not lowering our head. Ekush means an uprising which has a great outcome.

Luipa: I feel different as this is the month we celebrate our lan-

guage. I feel proud to be a citizen of this country.

Liza: Ekush means everything. We achieved so much because of this month. Ekush inspires us to go ahead.

How do the songs of Ekush inspire you?

Sabbir: We love our country and these songs inspire us. These songs evoke patriotism. We draw new spirit from these songs.

Rashed: We did not see the war or the Language Movement and yet we feel moved listening to these songs. It inspires us to sing for our country. I think these songs will pass on to future generations and keep inspiring them.

Pulok: These songs have been inspiring us for years. They are patriotic and I believe they will guide us to the future.

Luipa: Many things inspire us to sing. There is something in these songs that motivates us to go further. There is a deep melancholia in these songs.

Liza: These songs inspire us in many ways. Since I am a singer I can say the songs are a source of inspiration for me.

How can youths play a role in preserving our culture?

Sabbir: I believe youths will lead the country and take it further. If they are positive everything turns beautiful. Youths of this country will help preserve its culture and spread it further if they safeguard a healthy cultural environment.

Naureen: Our elders say if youth are on the right track the country is on the right track. I agree. Youths are the lifeblood of a country. And they are the people who will be beacons of our culture.

Rashed: I think we need support from our seniors.

Luipa: I agree with them. And as a youth I am happy.

Pulok: Youths are leading everywhere. They are dominating the music industry. The main



theme is that if youths are united and they have a positive attitude, the country will prosper and so will our culture.

Liza: I am happy that I am a youth. Youths are full of life, and they will win in the end. However, if they get distracted the country runs a risk. Youth should sing for truth and beauty, and have noble thoughts. They should have patriotism and spirit to uphold the culture of our country.

NEWS bytes

RDJ's "Pinocchio" ropes in Ron Howard



After losing Paul Thomas Anderson from the director's chair, the Robert Downey Jr.-starring remake of "Pinocchio" looked like it was in deep trouble. But within a few short months, a brand new director has found their way to the helm of the classic children's tale: Ron Howard.

The Tracking Board broke the news that Ron Howard is now attaching himself to the project that has seen both Paul Thomas Anderson and Ben Stiller attached to direct at one point or another, before breaking it off.

This is a great opportunity for Howard, who is coming off of a box office flop with "In The Heart Of The Sea", but hoping to return to pleasing the crowd with this fall's "Inferno" - the latest entry in the Robert Langdon series starring Tom Hanks.

No release date or production start date, however, are in play for "Pinocchio".
 Source: **Cinemablend**



SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

A two-day Zainul festival began in Barisal on Wednesday.

Charukala Barisal, the sole fine arts institute of the city, organised the programme on the occasion of the 101st birth anniversary of celebrated artist Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin.

On the first day, an exhibition of 68 paintings and 70 dolls was inaugurated by artist and engineer Moinul Abedin, son of the Shilpacharya, at Barisal Ashwini Kumar Hall.

Besides Charukala Barisal Shilpalaya, an art gallery

Two day long Zainul festival in Barisal

at Charukala Barisal was inaugurated by Artist Shamsul Alam Azad, principal of Narayanganj Charukala Institute.

Among others, sculptor Aminul Hasan, artist Dr. Kazi Mozammel Hossain, cultural activists advocate S M Iqbal, Shanti Das and Shubhangkar Chakraborty were present at the programmes.

A painting competition for children and young people was held on this occasion.

A discussion on the life and achievements of the Shilpacharya and reception to artist Jagonnath Dey was also arranged with Dr. Gazi Md. Saifuzzaman as chief guest.



Prominent dance school Shadhona staged the 47th episode of their regular dance programme "Nupur Beje Jaye". This episode, held at the Chhayanaut auditorium on February 17, was titled "Radharamir Oshto Prohor", and based on Bangla Vaisnava Padavali kirtans sung during the Nata-palpas of the Manipuris of Bangladesh. It was conceptualised and directed by Sweetie Das Chowdhury, under Lubna Marium's artistic guidance. Two other later segments, featuring Kathak, Manipuri and dances based on a range of Rabindra Sangeet were also presented.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"Hero 420" releases today



A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-India joint venture film "Hero 420", starring Nusraat Faria, Om and Ria Sen, releases in 86 cinemas of the country today. Jointly produced by Eskay Movies (Kolkata) and Jaaz Multimedia, the

film is directed jointly by Bangladesh's Shaikat Nasir and India's Sujit Mandal.

The film released ahead of Valentine's Day on February 12 in West Bengal, and after receiving a no-cut censor certificate from the Bangladesh censor board, is releasing on its pre-determined release date of February 19.



Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), jointly organised a dance evening featuring Arno Kamolika on February 16 at IUB auditorium in Dhaka. Arno Kamolika performed a Bharatanatyam interpretation of Rabindranath Tagore's dance drama "Shyama" at the event.