

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)

Group Paining Exhibition
Title: Taste of Light and Darkness-2
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi
Date: Feb 26-Mar 8
Time: 3pm-9pm

Felicitation to Shaheen Samad
Organiser: Aamra Surjomukhi
Venue: A.S. Mahmud Auditorium, The Daily Star Centre
Date: February 26
Time: 6pm

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

Solo Paining Exhibition
Title: Of a Poetic Vision of Life
Artist: Ranjit Das
Venue: Shilpanjan
Date: February 26-March 12
Time: 12pm-8pm

Shutter Stories: Tales in Pixels

UIUPC's inter-university exhibit at Drik

SAURAV DEY

"In photography there is a reality so subtle that it becomes more real than reality."

This quote by American photographer Alfred Stieglitz, a pioneer of modern photography, clearly captures the essence of photography. And the evolution of photography in Bangladesh in recent times is evidence that photography is not only a medium but a powerful form of visual art.

United International University Photography Club (UIUPC) is a platform that not only encourages youths to look through the lens, but also engages photography enthusiasts through various activities.

UIUPC is currently holding "Shutter Stories, Chapter-01" --the first inter-university photography exhibit of the club at Drik Gallery in the capital.

Professor Dr. Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of UIU, and Suman Ahmmed, Director of Student Affairs inaugurated the

exhibit along with other guests on February 22.

This exhibition strives to bring out the latent creativity and talents of university students from different corners of the country. There are 88 single photos and two photo stories by 54 participants on display. The images are diverse in subject and matter, and deserve close attention.

Acclaimed photographers Mohammad Rakibul Hasan, Hasan Chandan, and Syed Latif Hossain along with curator Fahad Al Alam have selected the photographs from

a whopping 1780 submissions. In addition to showcasing photographs, the exhibit features a contest on an open theme, and a series of talks by emerging lensmen.

Shihabul Arefin from UIU won the Best Photo Story award, while Pankaj Raj Dey from Beanibazar Govt. College, Sylhet and Tariq Mahmud Naim from UIU have bagged the Best Photo Awards in colour and black & white categories.

The exhibit ends today (February 25).



Some of the photographs being displayed at the exhibit.

Int'l Mother Language Day celebrated at SAU Delhi



Students perform at the programme.

A CORRESPONDENT

Students of all eight SAARC nations studying at South Asian University (SAU), New Delhi observed International Mother Language Day on February 21.

The programme began at the first minute of February 21 as the students hostellers gathered in front of the Shahid Minar built by SAU students under the supervision of Samapti Chakma, a final year MA student of Sociology. The students paid tribute to the Language Martyrs by placing wreaths at the Shahid Minar.

The main programme began in the morning with an opening speech by Dr. Kavita Sharma, president of SAU. Students of eight countries presented a choral rendition of "Amar Bhai-er Rokte Rangano" upholding the spirit of Ekushey. The event also featured poetry recitation, songs and dances themed on

different languages and cultures.

"We have thousands of languages throughout the South Asian countries and we are learning here how to pay respect to everyone's mother language," said Shameen Manicson, a Maldivian student from the Department of Sociology.

A visual documentation was screened at the programme. It was made by two Bangladeshi students, Sourabh Sinha and Amirul Islam Sujon.

"We made it because we should let them (other students) know what actually happened in Bangladesh on February 21, 1952. This day is not only about our pride, joy and celebration, but also about the heartbreak for the Language Martyrs' family," said Sourabh Sinha.

The students from different countries made colourful posters for their own languages and posted these on the photo exhibition wall of SAU.

Radio Shadhin goes 'Beyond Sound' FM station's tribute to Int'l Mother Language Day

A CORRESPONDENT

History is testament to how important language is to the human phenomenon. Our nation's movement for our language on February 21, 1952 has become the torchbearer for the love of language everywhere, culminating in the date becoming the official day for celebrating one's mother tongue across the world. Yet, our concept of language is still stuck in the oral, verbal communication of everyday, whereas the art of language has more dimensions than that. For this year's International Mother Language Day, Radio Shadhin 92.4 FM celebrated one of these other dimensions: the art of sign

language.

Shot in the premises of the Dhaka Bodhir High School in the capital's Bijoyogor area, this emotional video, released on the internet, shows the visit of the Shadhin family to the school, where they learn the words of Altaf Mahmud's immortal song "Amar Bhai er Rokte Rangano Ekushe February", entirely in sign language, from the students.

Beyond Sound was Radio Shadhin's theme for February 21 this year, and an ongoing philosophy that Shadhin is not only a radio, or a medium, but an idea by itself. The video, posted on Radio Shadhin 92.4 FM's official Facebook and YouTube pages, have garnered over 650,000 views in less than four days.



SANJAY DUTT walks out of jail today

Imperial Heights at Pali Hill is gearing up to welcome 'Baba' home. Sanjay Dutt is slated to walk out of prison early today, and his residence has been spruced up for his homecoming, as well as for the steady stream of visitors who will be calling on him. His favourite dish, Tandoori Chicken, will be specially prepared for him.

"According to the jail manual, the prison gates open at 7am, so he is expected to walk out any time after that. We are hoping that all the formalities are done and he steps out as soon as possible," said a source, adding, "Sanju has written letters to his sister Priya Dutt and her husband Owen Roncon to come and receive him. He wants everyone to be there when he is freed, along with Maanayata, and close pals."

Sources said Dutt is slated to arrive in Mumbai by a chartered flight. As soon as he lands, he will first head to Siddhivinayak Temple. From there, he will proceed to the Bada Kabrastan, near Marine Lines station, where his mother, actress-social worker Nargis, is buried.

Despite being a superstar whose movies earn crores of rupees in Bollywood, Sanjay Dutt will receive a meagre Rs 440 for making paper bags and khaki envelopes while serving his time in prison. As per the prison manual, a convicted prisoner has to be assigned some work so he can learn certain skills and utilise them outside jail after he completes his term. A jail officer said, "Dutt was initially given the job of making paper bags from newspapers. He was trained by a team of experts, and was tagged as an unskilled labour. Under this, he was paid Rs 45 after preparing 100 paper bags perfectly. Five months ago, he was tasked with preparing Khaki envelopes for a government office and for every 1,000 envelopes he used to get Rs50. He took two-three weeks to complete these tasks. However, he will not be paid for his work as a radio jockey (RJ), since that was meant as a recreational activity and was not labour-oriented work. He enjoyed being an RJ as he got to move out of his cell for a couple of hours and get in touch with the masses."

Another officer spoke about Dutt's role as an RJ at the jail's internal radio station. "Dutt's show began from noon to 1pm. In his show, he would discuss some movie sequences or give first-hand information about movie planning and other things. Dutt became emotional while sharing his experiences in prison," he added.

56-year-old Dutt has been serving his term in Yerawada prison since April 2013, and was kept in a secluded yard, following his conviction in a case related to the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts. He was out on furlough or on parole for a total of 118 days in his 42-month jail term.



Monira Islam Pappu Carving a niche in folk music

A CORRESPONDENT

Single-mindedly following her dream to carve a niche in the world of folk music, Monira Islam Pappu has turned her passion into a profession. The artiste shared her journey with The Daily Star. Excerpts:

Tell us about your musical journey.

Pappu: I started learning music from a young age. I treasure those memories of Ramadan, when my sister and I used to sing Hamd along with my mother. In the beginning, I was trained by my sister. Later, to polish my skills I started training under Ustad Babu Rahman, and later under Koel Dasgupta. The journey on the path of music gathered momentum in 2006 when I joined Rabindra Bharati University (RBU), Kolkata, India. I completed my Honours and Masters in Classical Music there and am now doing my PhD on folk music at RBU.

How do you think folk music can be promoted?

Pappu: Since folk music is already gaining popularity, my idea is to organise a Baul festival where Bauls from all over the country will present their rich heritage. Plus, we can honour and recognise their contributions, so that we can inspire the younger generation to develop their skills in folk music.

What can be done to popularise Bangladeshi folk music

internationally?

Pappu: Festivals help popularise folk music internationally. We also have to create a craze for folk music. If we modernise the songs without ruining their original essence, it will help in two ways. Firstly, if the songs



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

earn the tagline of popularity it will help to redefine the songs in a new manner. In my view, if we stay rigid in terms of modernising folk music, it will be tough to keep this genre alive as the number of listeners will dwindle.

NEWS bytes

Jimmy Kimmel in talks to host Emmys



ABC is in negotiations with Jimmy Kimmel to host this year's Emmy Awards, Variety reports. Kimmel, host of ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live", is a natural choice for the Alphabet, which is airing the Primetime Emmy Awards in September under the wheel system, wherein the telecast rotates each year among the Big Four networks.

The gig would mark the second time Kimmel has hosted the Emmy ceremony; his first round was back in 2012, when ABC last carried the kudos. Kimmel won praise for his performance back then. Kimmel has been the face of ABC's late-night lineup since 2003. He's also emceed numerous awards shows and industry gatherings, including the ESPY Awards, the American Music Awards and the White House Correspondents' Dinner.

This year's Emmys will again originate from downtown Los Angeles' Nokia Theater. The Television Academy has yet to specify the date beyond September.

Source: Variety

QUOTES



"All I know is that I turn on the news, and it's covering a boy drowning off the coast, or children being shown beheading videos. The horror of human nature is prevalent in our world, and I appreciate that some people want to turn on the telly for escapism – but if that's what you want, don't watch 'Game of Thrones.'"

- Natalie Dormer, defending criticisms that "Game of Thrones" is too violent.

Source: Mid-Day