

WHAT'S ON

Ekushey Book Fair
 Organiser: Bangla Academy
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan
 Date: February 1-28
 Time: 3-8pm



Bengal Sangskriti Utshab
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: AMA Mubith Sports Complex, Sylhet
 Date: Feb 22-Mar 3
 Time: 4pm onwards



Theatre
 Play: Crutch-er Colonel
 Troupe: BotTala
 Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium
 Date: Feb 24-25
 Time: 7pm



Concert
 Jatra Biroti Live Sessions
 Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani
 Date: Feb 23-25
 Time: 7pm



Theatre Festival
 3rd Ekushey Natyotshab
 Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan
 Date: Feb 1-28
 Time: 4pm




BSA DG Liaquat Ali Lucky along with foreign guests place wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking International Mother Language Day, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised a two-day programme at Central Shaheed Minar and BSA premises. Artists from 12 foreign missions and embassies took part in a cultural programme. Several ambassadors also performed songs and poems in their own languages at the event.

BSA DG Liaquat Ali Lucky together with all the guests went to the Central Shaheed Minar to place wreaths at the altar of Shaheed Minar as homage to the Language

Martyrs. Liaquat Ali Lucky delivered the welcome address while all rendered the National Anthem of Bangladesh and the timeless Bhashar Gaan "Amar Bhai-er Rokte Rangano".

A nine-member troupe, led by Miz Karma, from Bhutanese High Commission performed songs and dances while Swedish Ambassador Johan Frisell rendered a solo song. Wange Qinglin of Chinese Embassy recited poetry. Children of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia presented Angklung. Amparo Porta of Spanish Embassy and Dr. Farhad Doroud Garian of Iranian Embassy recited poems at

the event.

Vincent Meyer of French Embassy gave song renditions, while Mi Seol Park of Republic of Korea recited poems. Santosh Kumar Misra of Indian High Commission also rendered songs. International Turkish Hope School represented Turkey and rendered Bangla songs. Dhaka Shangkritik Dal performed songs in 25 languages at the event at Central Shaheed Minar.

Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Mario Palma and his deputy Giuseppe Semenza enacted roles in "A Livella", based on a poem written by Totò, an Italian

comedian, film and theatre actor, writer, singer and songwriter.

Zhao Jing of Chinese Embassy also recited poems. Khryapin Fyodor and Khryapina Aksana of Russian Embassy sang a duet. Iranian Embassy's Ahsaun Habi recited poems while Miz Kim of Republic of Korea rendered song at Nandan Mancha of BSA.

Later, Bangladeshi artists from various music and dance troupes and artists from indigenous communities -- Chakma, Tripura, Bom, Garo, Tongchanga, and Marma -- displayed their respective cultures through music and dance performances at the event.

Unity in Diversity

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy celebrates Int'l Mother Language Day

"Doob" releases first look poster

A CORRESPONDENT

It is no doubt that "Doob" is one of the most anticipated films this year, and the film has released its official first look poster. The India-Bangladesh joint venture is produced by Jaaz Multimedia and Eskay Movies, with Irrfan Khan as co-producer.

The Mostafa Sarwar Farooki directed venture recently came into the spotlight amidst much controversy after its suspension from Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC), only a day after having been cleared by the censor board and issued a no-objection certificate from BFDC.

The Irrfan Khan- starrer also includes Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Rokeya Prachy and Parno Mittra as part of the main cast.



The Art of Words

IN CONVERSATION WITH MOHAMMAD RAFIQUZZAMAN

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

The romantic lyricist Mohammad Rafiquzzaman turns 75. Music organisation Nibedan felicitated the lyricist with a special programme conferring a citation on him, discussion and an offering of his compositions.

Back in 1965 it was undoubtedly a turning point for the budding lyricist Rafiquzzaman, hardly in his early 20's at that time. "Recognition of such magnitude for the song 'Mugdho amar ei chokh jokhon', among music connoisseurs was a catalyst to draw me closer to the world of lyrics and it soon became an inseparable part of me," says a soft-spoken Rafiquzzaman.

Among his over 1,000 songs that have created ripples are "Amar Mon Pakhita Jaye Re Urey", "Amake Ekti Doyel Bolechhey" by Runa Laila; "Paharer Kanna Dekhe" by Subir Nandi and countless hits by Sabina Yasmin such as "Jodi Moroner Porey Keo Proshno Korey", "Tumi Eshechho Bohudin Por"; "Shobai Boley Joto Shorbonasher Muul" by Nargis Perveen; "Amar Baul Moner Ektara Ta", a duet by Rafiqul Alam and Shammi Akhter and more ---it would not be an overstatement to say that Rafiquzzaman is the most accomplished among the contemporary lyricists.

A student of literature, Rafiquzzaman was irresistibly drawn to music. Like most amateur writers, Rafiquzzaman penned his first lyric, a parody, for a college function in 1961. He was then studying at his hometown in Jessore. Soon the joined Bangladesh Betar and set sail on his journey to the world of timeless songs.

A nostalgic Rafiquzzaman recalls the golden days of music. "The talented Abu Zafar was my contemporary. My elder brother Dr. Mohammad



Muniruzzaman; Professor Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal; Abul Hayat Mohammad Kamal and Fazle Khuda were acclaimed lyricists when I started," he continues.

Eminent composers Abdul Ahad, Satya Shaha, Dhir Ali, Khondokar Nurul Alam, Azad Rahman and others created timeless gems that remain unmatched.

"Film songs are situational," adds the lyricist. "It is a combined effort of lyricists, music composers, artistes, musicians and the recordists. We would spend hours together with the music composers and the artistes would attend regular

rehearsals before a song was created," he added.

"Many of my popular songs such as 'Dukkhko Amar Bashor Raat-er Palonko', by Sabina Yasmin; 'Bondhu Hotey Cheye Tomar Shotru Boley Gonno Holaam' by Subir Nandi, 'Eto Shukh Shoibo Kemoney' by Nilufar Yasmin were included as playbacks," he went on saying.

Rafiquzzaman was awarded the BACHSAS and National Awards for lyrics for "Tumi Emoni Jaal Petechho Shongshar-e" (Shubhoda) by Subir Nandi; "Jonom Jonom Dhore Prem Piyashi" by Sabina Yasmin (Debdas); and "Phuler Bashor Bhanglo Jokhon" by Probal Chowdhury (Chandranath).

Apart from scriptwriting for movies and directing quite a few films, Rafiquzzaman has penned a book on the technique of lyric writing, titled "Adhunik Bangla Gaan Rochonar Kolakoushal".

Rafiquzzaman is not totally disheartened about contemporary writers. "We have distanced ourselves from them, and so have they. This has inevitably created a vacuum in the field. If only we nurture the latent talents, we would be able to create a new generation of song writers," he said.

"In our country the lyricists become a forgotten chapter when a song becomes a classic," notes Rafiquzzaman.

"I prefer the word 'Geeti-kobi' to 'Geetika', which is musical on its own," he adds with a smile.

"Once we appreciate the meaning of the word 'geeti-kobi', and get the right inspiration, lyricists will once again be proud to have their name associated with at least one timeless piece of work in their lifetime, rather than a thousand one-day hits," he concludes.

Painting competition in Bogra

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

A painting competition was held by Bogra Press Club on International Mother Language Day at its campus in Bogra town on Monday afternoon.

Following the competition, a discussion and prize giving ceremony were held in the evening.

Lawmaker of Bogra-1 constituency, Abdul Mannan was chief guest at the discussion, presided over by the president of Bogra Press Club and editor of The Daily Karatoa Mozammel Haque.

Other guests were BFUJ central committee vice-president Prodip Bhattacharya Shankar, Press Club vice-president Zia Shaheen and Abdus Salam Babu, secretary Arif Rehman, executive member Mir Sazzad Ali Shantosh, Amzad Hossain Mintu, Mohosin Ali Raju, and others.

Speakers said that future generations can be enlightened by knowledge of the Language Movement and the consequent martyrdom of many Bangladeshis.

Judges of the painting competition, Prodip Bhattacharya Shankar and Belal Ahmed, gave away prizes to the winners.

43rd founding anniversary of BSA

"Mahua Sundari" staged in Mymensingh



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy organised a cultural show, marking the 43rd founding anniversary of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on Sunday evening.

The day's programme included a discussion and colourful rally in the town. Artistes of the academy staged the dance drama "Mahua Sundari", an important part of Mymensingh Geetika marking the event.

Adapted by Sarwar Jahan and directed by Nazmul Haque Lenin, the dance drama won over the audience.

Besides, the documentaries and photographs on the activities of BSA throughout the country were also exhibited at the programme.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Md Khalilur Rahman inaugurated the programme.

District cultural officer Arzu Parves and cultural personalities -- AKM Shahabuddin Khan, Najeeb Ashraf and SM Ali Azhar addressed the discussants, among others.

Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney reunite in studio

It's not every day two Beatles come together. But it happened Sunday (February 19) when the surviving members of the Fab Four, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, connected in the studio.

Ringo's publicist confirmed McCartney was there to contribute to Starr's forthcoming album. "Thanks for coming over and playing Great bass. I love you man peace and love," the Beatles drummer posted on Twitter with a picture of the pair at his home studio.

A tour group in Los Angeles got to witness the situation first hand. A tour guide was in front of Ringo's Hollywood home when a blue Corvette pulled up. The guide jokingly said, "Here's Ringo now!" The guests went wild when they noticed it was McCartney pushing the buzzer.

Ringo discussed with Billboard last June his follow-up to 2015's "Postcard From Paradise". The album is due early this year, but no release date has been announced.

McCartney and Starr last recorded together for the latter's "Y Not" album, released in 2010. McCartney played bass on the song "Peace Dream" and sang on "Walk With You".

Source: **Billboard**

