

<b>Ekushey Book Fair</b> Organiser: Bangla Academy Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan Date: February 1-28 Time: 3-8pm	<b>Bengal Sangskriti Utshab</b> Organiser: Bengal Foundation Venue: AMA Muhith Sports Complex, Sylhet Date: Feb 22-Mar 3 Time: 4pm onwards	<b>Theatre</b> Play: Crutch-er Colonel Troupe: BotTala Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium Date: Feb 24-25 Time: 7pm	<b>Concert</b> Jatra Biroti Live Sessions Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani Date: Feb 23-25 Time: 7pm	<b>Theatre Festival</b> 3rd Ekushey Natyotsab Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan Date: Feb 1-28 Time: 4pm
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# BENGAL SANGSKRITI UTSHAB GATHERS MOMENTUM

FAHMIM FERDOUS, writes from Sylhet

The 10-day Bengal Sangskriti Utshab continued to draw audiences on its second night on Thursday, with a number of entertaining musical performances, while a literary conference by Kali O Kalam opened yesterday morning, in presence of noted litterateurs at the AMA Muhith Sports Complex in Sylhet.

Thursday's festival began with a film screening at the Syed Mujtaba Ali Mancha. Zahidur Rahman Anjan's film "Meghmalla", based on Akhtarzaman Elius short story "Raincoat". An enthusiastic audience enjoyed the Liberation-War based film, starring noted actors Shahiduzzaman Selim, Jayanta Chattopadhyay and Aparna Ghosh. Later in the evening, the same stage saw the staging of Manipuri Theatre's play "Kohe Birangana" - a monodrama starring Jyoti Sinha, divided in four parts.

The evening's musical performances began at the Hason Raja Mancha with a performance of Bhajan Baul. A true practitioner of the baul tradition, Bhajan spread philosophical messages like "Amare Ki Rakhben Guru Choron Dashi", "Aj Akhaye Kwopni De Go Bharoti Goshai" and "Bhojo Re Anonder Gourango" of Lalon Shai, explaining the deep meanings of the lyrics in between. He also sang more popular numbers like "Namaj Amar Hoilo Na Aday" by Sylheti bard Durbin Shah, and Lalon song "Cholo Jai Anonder Bajare".

Artistes of the Bengal Parampara Sangeetaly then took the stage, to present a group tabla recital. Accompanied by the harmonium, their lahora displaying technical dexterity and enthralling rhythms seemingly impressed the audience.

Manomay Bhattacharya, a reputed vocalist from India, then came to the stage, opening with his strongest repertoire, Nazrul Sangeet. His presentation of "Srijono Chhondo Anone Nacho Notoraj" and "E Kon Modhu'r Sharab Dile" were impeccable, following which he performed another Nazrul song, "Sati Hara Udashi Bhairav KaaNde", based on a Raga Nazrul created to compose this particular song, Udashi Bhairav. He then went on to display his versatility by performing two Rabindra Sangeet numbers

- "Aji Gobhiro Pobone" with a dramatic, orchestral arrangement, and the more familiar "Tumi Robe Nirobe". Manomay then switched to Adhunik songs, singing his short stories like "O Re Mon" and "Dishaheen" (from the soundtrack of film "Rangbaaz"), and covers like RD Burman's "Shono Mon Boli Tomay" and Shyamol Mitra's "Jodi Kichu Amare Shudhao".

One of the top folk singers of the country, Chandana Majumdar was the



Chandana Majumdar and Shatabdi Roy perform at the event.

final performer of the day, and she brought along her able successor, daughter Shatabdi Roy to perform on stage with her. The mother-daughter duo took turns singing popular folk songs - from Lalon to Hason to Shah Abdul Karim -- "Dhonno Dhonno Boli Tarey", Radharaman's "Amare Bondhuar Mone Nai", "Tin Pagoler Holo Mela", "Manush Bhojle Sona'r Manush Hobi", "Mati'r Pinjiray", "Sona Bonde Bhuilo Na Amare" and more, as the crowd sang and

danced along. The other aspects of the festival - crafts fair, architectural exhibit, a display of sweets of Bengal, a bioscope for children, the art camp and traditional delicacies from various regions, were also thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

Yesterday morning, literary magazine Kali O Kalam's three-day literary conference also opened at the Syed Mujtaba Ali Mancha, where the inaugural session was addressed by Bengal Foundation DG

# Drawing inspiration from the Liberation War RA Mahmud Selim on receiving Ekushey Padak

ZAHANGIR ALOM

RA Mahmud Selim is a prominent cultural personality, organiser and singer. This year he has been named along with 16 other eminent personalities as the recipient for the Ekushey Padak 2017.

"The Liberation War continues to be the greatest inspiration to my cultural evolution," says Freedom Fighter RA Mahmud Selim. Following the gruesome killing of Bangabandhu, like minded personalities, would gather at Abdul Bariq Chowdhury's residence and discuss ways and means of restoring secularism in the country in line with the spirit of Liberation War.

"Later, at the beginning of 1976, I wrote a Geeti Alekhyia (a musical) titled 'Itihash Katha Kou', featuring Bangabandhu's struggles in his political life, his historic 7th March speech and a chronicle of Bangladesh's history. We staged the musical at Ispahani College, Keraniganj on 16 December the same year. We were a bit apprehensive as no one would dare to play the

historic 7<sup>th</sup> March speech then. The spectators responded on a grand scale. Later, we planned to stage the production on 21 February, 1977; but the military regime did not allow its staging. We were determined to stage the production and we did so in front of Ruqaiya Hall of University of Dhaka," he mentions.

"By staging 'Itihash Katha Kou' all around Bangladesh, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi contributed greatly to making people aware of the need to rekindle the spirit of the Liberation War," he says.

"Then we launched a competition on the History of Liberation. We printed a large number of copies of the book 'Bangladesh-er Muktiyuddha: Kishor Itihash', written by Abdul Hannan, and distributed them

in different schools of Bangladesh," he adds. Mahmud Selim is adept in performing adhunik songs, *Pancha Kobir Gaan*, *Ganosangeet* and folk songs. Besides, he writes and composes songs. Mahmud Selim has been actively involved with Udichi since 1974 and is serving as vice president of the organisation.



# Celebrities share thoughts on Daily Star!

ROBINA RASHID BHUIYAN

The Daily Star has turned 26. Like many others in the cultural fraternity, magician Jewel Aich is fulsome in his praise for the newspaper. As he says:

"My relationship with The Daily Star goes beyond 26 years, and its editor has been like a brother to us for many years. Since then I have always known that whatever he does, it is always with utmost sincerity. The Daily Star has grown from its humble beginnings to become a leading English daily. Now it has such a sound reputation that people are sure about the authenticity of its coverage. And if they have made any mistakes, they are always quick to be honest about it and acknowledge it - this is something that did not exist in journalism in our country before."



Jewel Aich and his wife Bipasha Aich stop to admire a collage of photographs at The Daily Star celebrations.

# A new biography on Hema Malini

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

"Bollywood's 'dream girl' Hema Malini's journey from an actor, a danseuse and a filmmaker to a politician is being scripted in a new book which will hit the stores on her 69th birthday in October this year.

Billed as an authorised biography, "Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl" is penned by author-columnist Ram Kamal Mukherjee.

"In an industry where the male star has always driven the commercial success of films, Hema Malini was an exception, with her name alone sufficing to ensure a film's box-office glory," the



book's publisher Harper Collins India said in a statement.

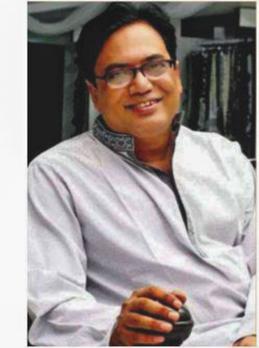
Hema Malini, a lawmaker of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, has been a filmmaker and producer, directing films and television serials, a Member of Parliament from Mathura Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh state and has performed classical dance ballets 'Draupadi', 'Radha Krishna' and 'Durga'.

This year she will be seen in Bollywood director Ramesh Sippy's love story "Shimla Mirch" with Rajkumar Rao.

Speaking about the book, Hema Malini says, "As editor-in-chief of Stardust (film magazine), Ram Kamal had done a coffee table book on me almost 10 years ago. It was a beautiful pictorial representation of my career as an actor. I wish him all the best for his latest endeavour with HarperCollins in writing another book on me."

"My first book on Hema Malini was pictorial, but this time it will be more about her achievement as a politician apart from her sojourn as an actor, danseuse and filmmaker. It will offer a new perspective on Bollywood's first female superstar," Mukherjee said.

The very name of Hema Malini used to conjure everything that was beautiful and glamorous in the tinsel world in 1970s and 80s and her fans will hopefully get a look at the life of one who got the epithet "dream girl."



# Khaled Khan's 60th birth anniversary Memorial programme at Shilpakala today

A CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 60th birth anniversary (February 9) of noted actor Khaled Khan, popularly known as Juboraj to his countless fans and colleagues, a memorial programme will be held at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at 5:30pm today.

The programme will feature performance of songs, dance, drama, documentary and discussion. Juboraj Sangho has organised the programme to pay tribute to the evergreen actor who passed away in 2013.

A dominating performer, Khaled enthralled his audience on stage and on-screen for three decades. The multi-talented personality started his career as a member of Nagarik Natya Sampraday in 1975. Since then, he appeared in more than 30 plays. Not just as an actor, Khaled also shone as a theatre director and one of the finest elocutionists in Bangladesh.

Every piece, a Masterpiece

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