

**Int'l Bangla Literature Conference**  
Venues: Osmani Memorial Auditorium & Bangla Academy  
Date: Jan 13-15  
Time: 2:30pm onwards



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Joratalir Chalcitra by Hashem Khan  
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Gallery, BNM  
Date: Jan 5-31  
Time: 10am-5pm



**Documentary Premiere**  
Documentary: Tokhon PoNchatter  
Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, BSA  
Date: Jan 13  
Time: 5pm



**Dhaka Int'l Film Fest**  
Organiser: Rainbow Film Society  
Venues: BNM, Public Library, RCC, AFD & Star Cineplex  
Date: Jan 12-20  
Time: 10am onwards



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Oporoop by Gopal Chandra Saha  
Venue: EMK Center (9th Floor), Midas Center, Rd-16 (old 27), Dhanmondi  
Date: Jan 13-25  
Time: 9:30am-8pm



# International Bangla Literature Conference opens today

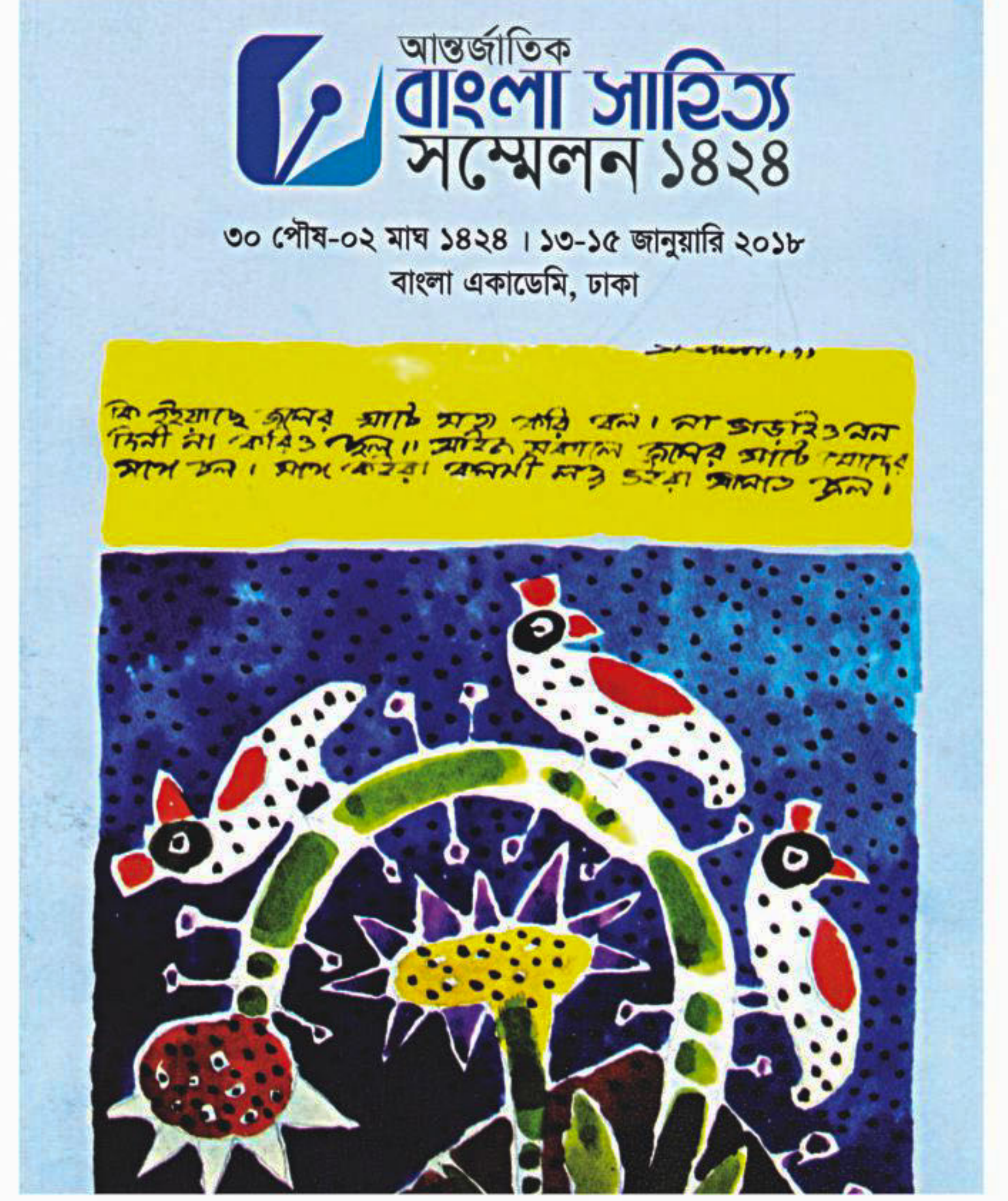
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A grand International Bangla Literature Conference begins today at the capital's Bangla Academy, bringing together eminent wordsmiths and cultural personalities from India and Bangladesh for three days of seminars, discussions and a variety of programmes.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the conference as chief guest at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium this afternoon, where noted authors such as Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, Satyam Roy Chowdhury, Pradip Bhattacharya, Sunilmoy Ghosh and Rabeya Khatun will speak. Nasiruddin Yousuff will deliver the opening address, and Hasan Azizul Haq will deliver welcome address. After the inauguration, Nirmalendu Goon will read from his poetry, while Asaduzzaman Noor will also recite. The cultural programme will include performance of solo songs by Shrabani Sen, Anima Mukti Gomez, Khairul Anam Shakil and chorus by artists of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Hasan Arif will anchor the programme.

The event will be held at the two auditoriums and the three open stages of Bangla Academy. An illustrious lineup of authors and cultural personalities including Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, Samresh Majumdar, Sunilmoy Ghosh, Satyam Roy Chowdhury, Abhijit Sen, Goutam Ghose, Amar Mitra, Kazuhiro Watanabe, Manoj Mitra, Jogen Chowdhury, and others will be visiting Dhaka on the occasion, among others. Noted Bangladeshi writers, academics and cultural personalities including Hasan Azizul Haque, Nasiruddin Yousuff, Rabeya Khatun, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Abul Momen, Syed Azizul Haque, Golam Mustafa, Professor Muntasir Mamun, Abul Hasnat, Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Abdullah Al Mamun, Moinul Ahsan Saber, Muhammad Samad, Anisul Hoque, Selina Hossain, Imdatul Haque Milon, Rafiqullah Khan, Tanvir Mokammel, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and many others will participate at various events of the conference.

Apart from six seminars, literary discussions and informal adda, a number of cultural programmes will embellish the conference. On the opening day, screening of two films "Surjadighal Bari" and "Padma Nadi'r Majhi" will be held while theatre production "Noddiu Natim" by



Mad Thetar will be staged. On the second day, timeless Bangla songs, folk songs and poetry will be presented, alongside Dhaka Theatre's production "Dhaboman". On the third day, there will be a traditional pala production titled "Rupchan Sundori'r Pala", and later in the evening there will be another poetry and songs session. Theatre will also stage their play "Payer Awaj Pawa Jaye" on the closing day. The closing ceremony (to be held on January 15 at the Nazrul Mancha) will be attended by former Indian president Pranab Mukherjee as chief guest. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, eminent Indian artist Jogen Chowdhury, Sarju Rai (parliamentary minister of Jharkhand)

and Bangla Academy DG Shamsuzzaman Khan. Finance Minister AMA Muhith will chair the session, while Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman will deliver the closing address. Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya will perform songs at the ceremony. The conference is being organised by the International Bangla Literature Conference Organisers' Council, convened by Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman and with Nasiruddin Yousuff as chief coordinator. It is sponsored by the Finance Ministry and Cultural Affairs Ministry of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, with assistance from Friends of Bangladesh and Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan.



A scene from the pala.

PHOTO: STAR

## "Joytun Bibi" staged in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A capacity auditorium of Mymensingh Gymnasium was enthralled at a vibrant cultural show held Thursday evening. Mymensingh district administration organised the programme, marking a development fair.

The artistes of Mymensingh Zila Shilpakla Academy performed in several dance sequences, directed by Manash Talukder. Artistes of different cultural groups and bauls of the town also rendered songs at the programme.

The most enjoyable part of the programme was a rare pala, "Joytun Bibi". Artistes of Onnesha Theatre performed the pala, the fifth staging of it.

Adapted and directed by eminent palakar Sayik Siddiquee, the highly-appreciated pala was based on the folklore of Kishoreganj. The pala, written in local dialect, amused the audience.

Sayik Siddiquee also played the lead role of

palakar. The other cast members of the pala were Samiul Haque Akash, Monir Hossain Jibon, Moniruzzaman, Sadi Shuvo, Tushar, Amjad Shrabon and Amol Krishna Sheel.

"Joytun Bibi" is one of many palas that has also historic values as they depict the socio-economic and cultural condition of society of that time. But due to lack of proper preservation, many valuable folk elements of this region are on the verge of extinction," said Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha.

Earlier, Subir Kishore Chowdhury, Secretary of the Information and Communications Technology Ministry, inaugurated the fair as chief guest.

Mymensingh DC GM Saleh Uddin, district chairman Yusuf Khan Pathan and deputy commissioner of Mymensingh Md. Khalilur Rahman were present at the programme, among others.

## Kamal Ahmed receives FOBANA Award

A CORRESPONDENT

Federation of Bangladeshi Association in North America, (FOBANA) Canada recently conferred the FOBANA Award to Kamal Ahmed, Director of External Service, Bangladesh Betar, for his contribution to radio transmission both at home and abroad.

Based in Canada, FOBANA has a long track of patronising Bangladeshi culture in the North American Countries. Every year, they honour Bangladeshi dignitaries as part of their patriotic commitment.

Kamal Ahmed was nominated for FOBANA Award on September 2017 but could not join the event due to visa complications. He recently visited Canada with the invitation of Awami



League of Canada and Universal Victory Day Observation Committee, Canada. Co-convenor of FOBANA, Canada and secretary general of Awami League Canada, Mohammed Abdu Salam handed over the FOBANA Award to Kamal Ahmed during the visit.



Sabbir



Liza



Muhin



Beauty

# Young singers' calendars packed with live shows



Salma

**SHAH ALAM SHAZU**  
With the temperatures dropping low in the country, the music scene is heating up with activity. The winter months are a prime time for stage performances, but in recent years there has been one significant change: previously, audience members looked forward to watching senior artistes perform live, but today the stage is dominated by young musicians. Last month, Beauty added a new number to her record for stage performances, by appearing in 18 shows across the country. The New Year is looking no different for her either, as the artiste is booked for shows in various regions around the nation. Beauty is slated to perform in Mymensingh on January 15, and in Narail on January 19. On the 20th and 23rd of this month, the singer will be edging closer to the capital in a performance held at Gazipur. "I love performing in front of the audience, because you get to see the songs they really like, and interact with them. The artiste is connected closer to the people s/he strives to please, and there is no greater satisfaction," stated the singer.

Beauty also added that she had to turn down many shows to further-away district, as the journey is far too long and arduous for her infant son. Sabbir, another Closeup 1 contestant, also has his schedule full. The singer spent the first three days of 2018 in Cox's Bazar, where he entertained large throngs of listeners. The singer will have to shuttle back and forth between the capital and the beachside town again as he has to perform in Dhaka today, and Cox's Bazaar tomorrow. The singer will return to Dhaka for another show on January 16, after which he will perform within the capital and around. "There are many interesting incidents that happen during shows, which keep us on our toes. But it is greatly rewarding to watch the audience's reactions while you perform," he stated. However, few are as busy as Salma, who hardly has any time to breathe. The singer's schedule has been fully booked until January 20, before which she has been rushing between the capital and other towns around Bangladesh. On January 25, Salma will fly overseas to perform in London, where she will remain for two weeks. But while she hardly has a

moment's respite, the singer is enjoying herself immensely. "Singers live to perform, and while we may be extremely busy, our spirits are higher than ever," she said. Popular singer Muhin is also in high demand, with dates in Dhaka, Jessore, Barisal, Naogaon, Feni, Noakhali, Cox's Bazar and Savar. The singer also informed The Daily Star that while he renders his original songs, he also covers popular film tracks on audience demand. Singer Kornia is busy serenading audiences in Chittagong, Sylhet, Dhaka, Chandpur, and has her itinerary full until the end of this month. But Kornia remains tireless, adding that she performs numbers based on audience demand. Also busy until January 20 is Liza, who is expected to perform in Dhaka, Jamalpur and several regions in Noakhali. The singer will also perform live on a TV channel this month. The versatile singer will perform folk and rhythmic numbers in addition to her own songs. "We don't really have any stage shows lined up during other times of the year, so we always look forward to the winter months," she stated. The singer also added that she will travel to Australia next month to perform.



Kornia

PHOTO: SHEKH MEHEDI MORSHED