

**WHAT'S ON**

**Amar Ekushey Book Fair**  
Organiser: Bangla Academy  
Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan & Bangla Academy Premises  
Date: Feb 1-28  
Time: 3-9pm (Sun-Thurs), 11am-9pm (Fri-Sat)

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Antorjatra  
Artist: Karu Titas  
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-7, Rd-13 (New), Dhanmondi  
Date: Feb 16-Mar 2; Time: 3-8pm

**Int'l Sufi Fest 2017**  
Venue: Nandan Mancha, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: Feb 23-25  
Time: 3-10pm

**Photography Exhibition**  
Faces of Empowerment  
Artist: GMB Akash  
Venue: La Galerie, AFD  
Date: Feb 20-26  
Time: 3-9pm (weekdays) 10am-12, 5-8pm (weekends)

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
The Red Thread of Bangladesh  
Artist: Tarshito  
Venue: Bay's Park Heights, Kalabagan  
Date: Feb 23-Mar 9  
Time: 10am-8pm

**Theatre**  
Circus Circus  
Troupe: Prachyanat  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA  
Date: Feb 26  
Time: 7pm



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# National Gambhira Festival ends

ROKON SHAHRIAR

A two-day National Gambhira Festival began on Friday (February 23) at Bakultala of Charukala (Faculty of Fine Arts), Dhaka University. Chapai Nawabganj-based cultural organisation Diar, who have been working to promote folk genres such as Gambhira and Alkap, held the festival for the second time.

Rakib Uddin and Kutubul Alam, a unique pair popularised Gambhira by their performances. Rakib Uddin's daughter Rajina Aktar Rita and Kutubul Alam's son Shujatul Alam Kallol were invited to speak at the event.

Inaugurated by ATM Fazle Kabir, member, Law Commission, the programme began with a speech by Anwar Hoque the secretary of Diar who said that the organisation will effectively work on for the revival of Gambhira and other folk genres of music. Prof. Momtaz Uddin Ahmed launched a publication of Diar.

In all, 10 Gambhira troupes are per-

forming at the festival. Five groups of the first day were - Chapai Gambhira, Lok Gambhira, Sangeeta Chapai Gambhira, Nabab Gambhira and Roshkosh Gambhira. The other five teams, who performed yesterday, were Proyash Folk Theatre Institute, Chapai Nakshi Gambhira, Bholahaat, Adi Gambhira and Surya Diganta Gambhira.

Speakers underpinned the necessity of working for the revival of Gambhira and other traditional folk genres. Poet Apel Abdullah said, "Diar is committed to give Gambhira and other folk genres a strong platform." Mokhesur Rahman Mukul, the president of Diar, said that Gambhira centres on a unique style and its objective is to satire the social dogmas.

Gambhira has characteristics of a comic conversation between a grandson and his maternal grandfather, accompanied by songs of a specific pattern in a local dialect and folk get-up, all with an objective of satire against social irregularities. Very often the grandson has a

name 'Gudha' who has an obsession of getting married whereas the grandfather tries to resist that, resulting in a ripple of laughter. They carry on attacking a certain social taboo, or raising awareness for some specific cause.

A group of musicians and singers sit behind, supporting the nana-nati pair with vocal and typical music accompaniment such as harmonium, tabla, dotara, banshi (bamboo flute) and mandira.

Originated in Malda of India as a Hindu ritual song and later transformed as a satirical folk performance in Chapai Nawabganj district by active influence of a cultural worker namely Sufi Master, Gambhira is now a well-reputed folk genre of music in Bangladesh especially in the north-western part, and one of the most popular forms of Bangladesh folk music.

The author is a freelance contributor to The Daily Star.

## SHAON CHOWDHURY'S "The Agonized Soul" published

A CORRESPONDENT

Acclaimed singer Shaon Chowdhury first turned poet through publishing his first Bangla anthology of poetry titled "Jiboner Kheyaghatay" last year. This year, the artiste has achieved another milestone by composing an English anthology of original poetry titled "The Agonized Soul", published by Arwa Book Corner for the Ekushey Book Fair 2018.

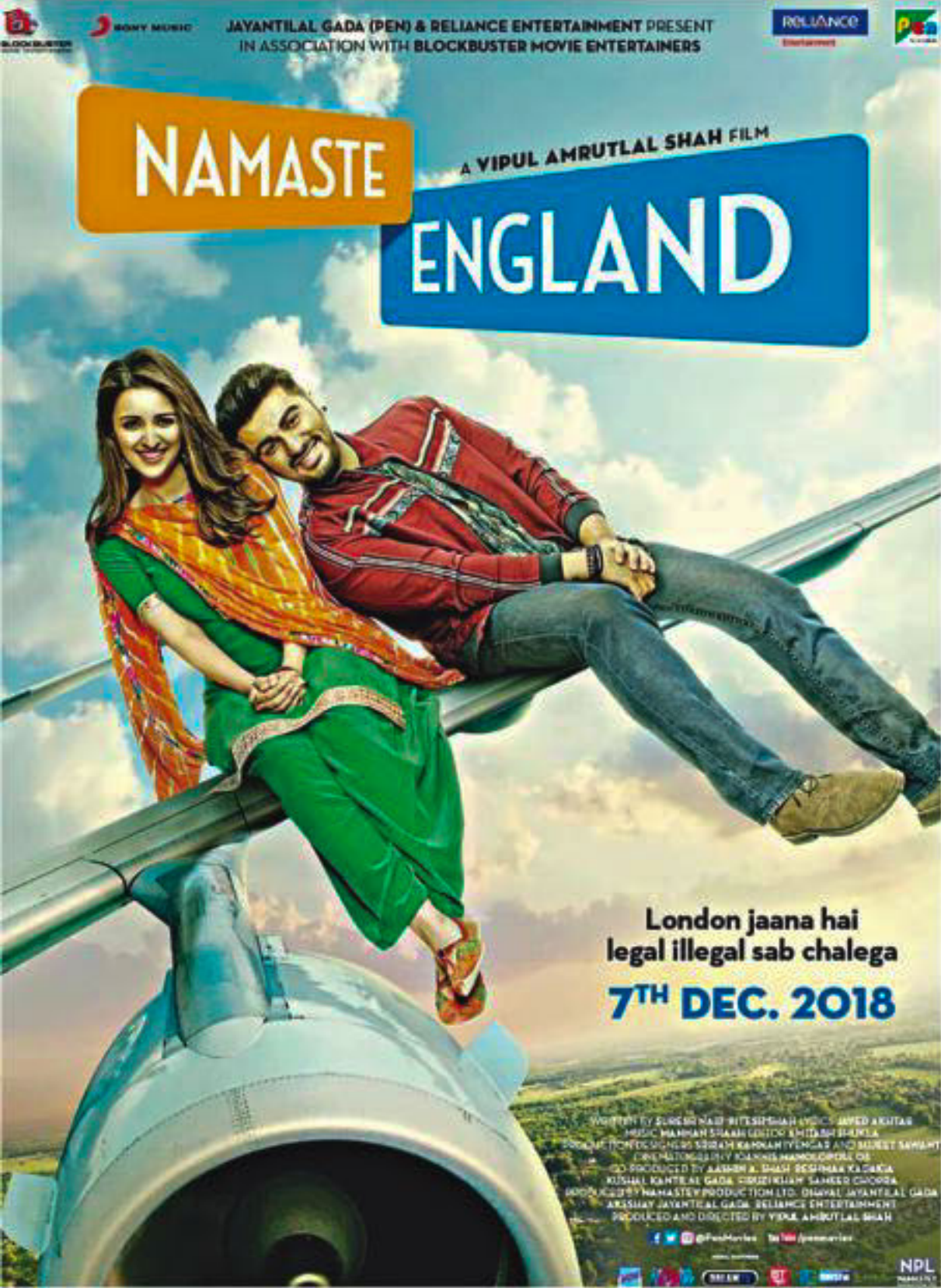
The anthology contains 100 original poems by Shaon Chowdhury, who is a singer of the semi-classical genre with 13 musical albums to his credit.

He has also achieved a number of national and international awards in music both at home and abroad. Regarding the book, Shaon Chowdhury says, "This is one of the best accomplishments in my creative life so far, and I hope that erudite readers will enjoy the poems in this anthology."



## Arjun Kapoor, Parineeti Chopra to shoot film in Dhaka?

"Namaste England" reveals first posters



Bollywood actors Arjun Kapoor and Parineeti Chopra, who are reuniting on-screen after six years for "Namaste England", have shared the first posters of the film. The shooting for the film began Friday in Amritsar, Punjab and is set to release on December 7.

Directed by Vipul Amrutlal Shah, "Namaste England" traces the journey of Jasmeet and Param, their love story across the landscapes of India and Europe.

Talking about his film, Vipul had earlier said, "From Amritsar, we move to Ludhiana and Patiala. We are filming at more than 75 locations spread across these three cities. Later, we'll also be shooting in Dhaka, Paris, Brussels and finally in London. That's how the love story progresses," according to Hindustan Times.

He further elaborated on his lead characters, "Both their characters are from Punjab and this is the first time that Arjun and Parineeti will be playing genuine lovers. Away from the camera, they are good friends and are always joking and pranking. There's a lot of camaraderie and it's going to be fun working with them."

Arjun and Parineeti both made their Bollywood debuts with "Ishaqzaade" in 2012.



Guests hand out certificates to workshop participants.

## "India@Bangladesh" art camp held at JU

MD. ASADUZ ZAMAN, JU

The High Commission of India in Bangladesh, in association with Jahangirnagar University (JU), recently organised a three-day art competition titled "India@Bangladesh" for young and talented art students on the campus.

A total of eleven universities and specialised art institutions took part at the competition at the Fine Art department, JU.

Fifty participants were selected for the competition, drawn from the University of Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University, University of Development Alternative, Shanto Mariam University of Creative Technology, Jagannath University, Khulna University, Jatiya Kabi

Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Narayanganj Art Institute and Dhaka Art College.

A prize distribution ceremony was held on February 19 at Old Arts Building, where Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla and JU Vice chancellor Prof. Farzana Islam distributed prizes to the winners.

The winners of first, second and third were respectively Didarul Hossain Limon of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Rafat Ahmed Badhon of JU and Tamanna Akter of Dhaka University.

MM Maizuddin, chairman of Fine Arts department chaired the programme while JU treasurer Sheikh Md. Monzurul Huq and eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi were present as the special guests.

## IGCC holds folk music soiree Fakir Alamgir and Monira Islam Pappu perform

A CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) organised a musical evening of folk songs by Fakir Alamgir and Monira Islam Pappu on February 20 at Kobi Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, Dhaka.

The event started off with a duet performance of the song "Amar Bhai-er Rokte Rangano Ekushey February." Monira Islam Pappu rendered several songs including "Ami Ki Ek Achin Pakhi", "Pubali Batasey" and "Kancha Banshe Bhromor Esehche" while Fakir Alamgir rendered "Bhoy Ki Moroney", "Manusher Sathey Bosobash Kori", "Mayer Ekdhar Dhuder Daam" and "Mujib Amar Swapno Sahos" at the event.



Artistes of Chhayanaaut ushered in Spring through a musical event at its auditorium on February 23. The event featured performances of solo, duet and choral songs coupled with the presentation of dances with live music, composed by Rabinranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Atul Prasad Sen.