



Ahead of the Ekushey Boi Mela, Banglabazar turns vibrant with the sounds of printing machines and the smell of new books. Home to three hundred publishing companies and fifteen hundred book shops, about three hundred books for the Boi Mela are published in Banglabazar every year.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

BUSTLING BANGLABAZAR ahead of EKUSHEY BOI MELA

Publishers, writers, cover artists and workers are busy preparing for the Ekushey Grantha Mela or as it is endearingly referred to - the Boi Mela - which is set to commence tomorrow.

SHAH ALAM SHAZI

As it turns out, workers have been skipping their lunches because of the workload!

The manager of Panini Printers mentions that this is the busiest time of the year. However, everyone is in high spirits for the fair. Azam, a binding worker, who has

been in the business for the last 35 years, says, "I do my job with utmost care. The feeling is priceless when the bounded books look good."

The cover artists are equally busy. Some of them finish their work at Banglabazar, while others stay at their workplaces. According to the publishers,

along with new books, popular old books by Humayun Ahmed and Muhammed Zafar Iqbal are also being re-printed.

Monirul Hoque, owner of Ananya Prokashoni, and Hasan Zayed Tuhin, owner of Pearl Publications says that everyone starts preparing for the Boi Mela from November of the previous year. However, the

madness starts from January.

"The Ekushey Boi Mela plays an essential role in shaping the minds of the youth of our country. We work hard to contribute to the cause," says Farid Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Gyan O Srijonshil Prokashok Samity, an association of publishers of knowledge-based and creative books.

Government hands over Rs 10 crore for Bangladesh Bhavan



PHOTO: STAR

SUBRATA ACHARYA, from Kolkata

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, along with her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Bangladesh Bhavan, handing over the responsibility of the building to Visva Bharati University in Shantiniketan, India, in May 2018. The Bangladesh Bhavan is a symbol of the cultural ties between the two countries.

It features a museum that showcases Rabindranath Tagore's association with the

country, the Liberation War of Bangladesh and Indo-Bangla relations.

Recently, the government of Bangladesh provided a fund of Rs 10 crore for the maintenance of the building. Toufiq Hasan, Deputy High Commissioner, Deputy High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kolkata, and Professor Bidyut Chakrabarty, Vice-Chancellor, Visva Bharati University, were present at the programme.



Renowned baul singer Farjana Akter Nipa performed at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Combatting extremism with baul music

ZAHANGIR SHAH, from Manikganj

With an aim of creating awareness about violent extremism, a musical programme that presented Baul songs was organised at the Government Boys' High School's playground in Manikganj recently.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), in association with the People's Advancement

Social Association (PASA), organised the event.

Renowned singers including Akkas Baul, Siddikur Rahman, Shahnaz Poli, Farjana Akter Nipa, Mohua Akter Muna, Chandan Hawlader and Urmila Akter performed beautifully at the programme. Gaurab Sarker played the tabla. Amullo Rajbangshi was on the guitar, Ali Hossain was on the keyboard,

Ujjal Hossain was on the pad and Farhad Hossain was on the dhol.

Furthermore, a discussion on the topic of violent extremism amongst the youth was held at Manikganj Sadar Upazila Parishad's auditorium. Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) of Manikganj, Md Babul Mia and several other eminent personalities spoke at the programme.

Grand Finale of 'Rodoshree Presents Amar Prithibi Tumi' held



PHOTO: COURTESY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The grand finale of Rodoshree Presents Amar Prithibi Tumi was held successfully at the Rose Dell Convention Center recently. After a successful and rigorous campaign, a winner from the top 10 couples was awarded. The couples were asked to share their stories and experiences at the event.

Couples belonging to different backgrounds from all over the country took part in the event.

Sabina Yeasmin, editor of Rodoshree was present at Rose Dell Convention Center to hand over the award to the winners. Rowshon Ara Zaman Mili and Solaiman Hossen, the co-editor and associate editor of Rodoshree respectively, were also present.

"Although Rodoshree is a female-oriented magazine, it aims to help both men and women understand each other and learn about the aspects of a successful relationship," said Yeasmin.

A cultural programme, featuring songs and dances, was also organised on the occasion.

Mahmudua Sari House, Raymond, O2, Best Catering Events, Lingering Look, La-Pizzaria, Manmo and Signet were partners of the event.

