

Festivity

'Bashonto' celebrated with zeal

ERSHAD KAMO

Aha aaji e Bashont-e koto phool photo Koto banshibajey Koto pakhi gaye

THE spirit of romanticism in Tagore's song was reflected on the soul of every enthusiastic individual who gathered to celebrate the Pahela Phalgun, the first day of Bashonto (Spring).

The main attraction of Pahela Phalgun was the cultural event at Bakulatala premises of Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Renowned cultural activists of the country under the banner of Jatiyo Bashonto Ushob Ujjapan Parisad arranged the programme.



The colourful celebration at Charukala premises

PHOTO: STAR

Shyama Rahman, Khairul Anam Shakil, Masum Zahid Khan and Mahmud Selim rendered songs

general of the organisation, discussed the elaborate activities planned on the special occasion.

while Hasan Arif and Pragna Laboni recited poems on Spring. Moreover, singers of Chhayanaut, Shurer Dhara, Dhrubotan, Udichi and Sangeet Bhaban rendered chorus songs on the season.

Besides, several TSC-centric students' organisations such as Jayodhwani, Ka Jona, Dhaka University Musical Academy, Baikantha, Prakash, Muktohdhara, and others rendered songs at the TSC Auditorium.

Several students' organisations of Jahangirnagar University arranged programmes to celebrate the first day of Bashonto as well.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To mark Valentine's Day, Channel-i will air a special play titled Baji tonight at 10 pm. Selected from 1909 stories submitted in the 'Nescafe Coffeemate-Weekly 2000 Contest of Romantic Stories 2006', the plot by Qazi Zebunnisa has been adapted for the play by Anisul Huq, Arif Khan has directed the play.

Baji revolves around Aadil and Ratri. Aadil is a young man who is popular with women. However, he has yet to find the woman of his dreams. Ratri has heard of Aadil. One day she accepts a dare from her friends -- to make Aadil fall for her. Does she win the bet?

Nobel and Aupi Karim have donned the lead roles in the play. There is also a quiz contest based on the play. Viewers can send their answers to vglp2006@yahoo.com or can SMS to 0171405020 and 0171405010.



Aupi Karim and Nobel in a scene from Baji

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and Aupi Karim at the Radisson Water Garden. The third prizewinner will get a gift voucher for Taka 5,000.

Thoughts for the day

RUNA LAILA

Valentine's Day is a special day when one expresses his/her special feelings for that special someone. In that sense, one's Valentine can also be a dear friend. My Valentine is obviously my husband, Alamgir.

I usually like to celebrate the day with a quiet dinner with my husband and we exchange gifts. Celebrating Valentine's Day originated from the western world and it's a recent phenomenon in our country. However, I don't see anything wrong with doing something special for the one you love on February 14.



This Valentine's day I'll be busy performing in two concerts at Nandan Park and Wonderland.

TARANA HALIM

Valentine's Day is for one person--in my case my husband, Ahmed Rubel. However, I prefer to regard it as an occasion to remember other loved ones as well, such as one's children, parents and in-laws.

As for Valentine's Day being a western concept, it is not a bad introduction. If we can have occasions like Mother's Day, Father's Day, what's wrong with adopting Valentine's Day. Rubel and I will not exclude the children on this day. If we can we will go to the Jamuna bridge resort. If for some reason--exams and so on--we cannot go out we will dine out.

AYUB BACHCHU

I don't believe in a "special" day to celebrate love. I consider myself a

loving, caring and passionate individual who believes love should be celebrated every day of

the year. I guess in that sense one can say I'm indifferent when it comes to celebrating Valentine's

Day. However, I do appreciate others celebrating this day.

The best days in the lives of Lala Rukh and Tawfiq

FAYZA HAQ

Lala Rukh Selim and Tawfiqur Rahman met when they were students at the Institute of Fine Arts, DU. "It was easy to get to know Tawfiqur intimately as we went out together for outdoor sketching. He was three years senior to me. That is the way we got to know each other. After 10 months of courtship we got married. I was in the second year while Tawfiqur was in the fifth year," recalls Lala Rukh.

Lala Rukh says that her family did not favour their marriage as they were so young. However eventually they agreed to the match as the young couple were clear about their aspirations. As it happened, Lala Rukh says, her family didn't go in for arranged marriages. Her most romantic moment was her marriage but such moments keep occurring even now. "That is the fun of having a long-standing relationship," she says. "Since we got married so young we grew up together," she continues.



Lala Rukh and Tawfiqur sharing a moment of bliss

"We understand how the other person feels and thinks."

She says that you could count their romantic moments from when they began going together, such as when they went to Sonargaon on a

rainy day. There were other great moments, as when they learnt they were going to have their child. Right after they got married they went to Chittagong and this was exhilarating indeed. They went to India, a year

after their marriage, to Ajanta and Ellora, Delhi and Kolkata and these were memorable moments for them.

Tawfiqur says they were friends from the outset as Lala Rukh was keen on studying sculpture. "One morning Lala Rukh came to my house in Shaymoli. At that time it was a very romantic place, surrounded by waterways. I didn't know at that time if that was simply a gesture of friendship or whether it indicated love. Through the window we could see the wet scenery around us. Incidentally, Dhali Al Mamun was also visiting me. At that time we realised we were in love."

"We often went out in the rainy seasons, having dalpuri and tea. When we'd gone to Sonargaon we didn't even have an umbrella, and protected ourselves with a banana leaf. We got married in one of her friend's house; and had our honeymoon in Dhali Al Mamun's place in Chittagong under a torn mosquito net which Lala Rukh spent half the night stitching," Tawfiqur adds.

KARIM WAHEED

Its that time of year again folks. February 14 -- a day when star-struck lovers all around the world shower each other with some TLC (tender love and care). The tradition is catching on in our country as well.

If one contemplates, it becomes apparent that "a special day to celebrate love" has been handily placed on the calendar -- the second day of Bashonto (Spring). A perfect (almost) day to celebrate love with blossoming flowers, tweeting birds and a soothing southern breeze. The fact that the object of your affection gets a chance to further doll up herself with flowers of the season, wearing bright colours and the whole nine yards, does have an extra kick. Not just the ambience, added delights of the day include special cultural

programmes, dinners and gifts. One can rightfully assume Valentine's Day is fast becoming a part of our urban culture.

Now all amorous thoughts aside, let's be rational. Do people in love really need a "special" day to celebrate their affection for each other? With divorces/separations on the rise, and 'puppy love' becoming invalid in just days, love affairs have become more fragile than a Bollywood superstar's career/romance.

A senior citizen watches a starry eyed young man buying a cell phone as a Valentine's Day gift for his paramour at Bashundhara City Mall and jadedly remarks between chewing betel leaves, "Kids today! In my day, we didn't have anything called 'Valentine's Day'. As students we didn't have enough money to splurge. We just used to write poems or thoughtful



notes to our beloved and that seemed to work just fine. We didn't need a 'special day' to celebrate love." Good point: if it's true love we're talking about, everyday should be regarded "special".

"But what about some of us, who are still doing the 'solo act' (intentionally or unintentionally)? How come there is no special day for us?" -- asks a college student who has reasons

to be bitter. "How come it's always us, guys, who have to get expensive gifts?" -- asks a perturbed 25+ shopping for a gift for his girlfriend.

Hallmark and similar others are cashing in on cards and gift items targeting Valentine's Day; this day is candy makers' dream come true. Clubs, theme parks are putting together romantic evenings that include dances and musical performances by popular artistes singing mushy songs. TV channels are coming up with "special" plays. Why? Because we don't get enough of sappy TV plays where 30 something actors playing college-goers deliver cheesy romantic dialogues with panache.

The question still remains; do we need a "special" day to celebrate love? Or is it just another commercial move by lucrative organisations in the guise of altruistic promotion for love?

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

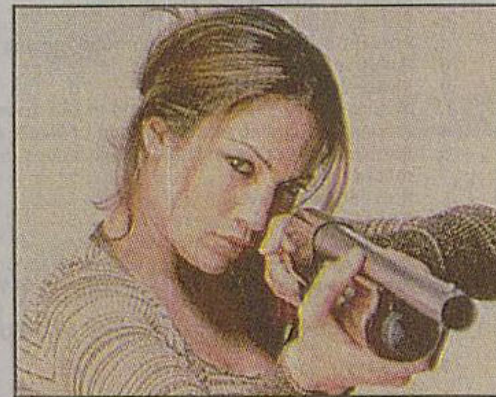


Labonya Probha

On ntv at 08:25

Drama Serial

Cast: Tanvin Sweety, Fazlur Rahman Babu



Out Of Sight

On HBO at 9:30 pm

Genre: Drama

Cast: George Clooney, Jennifer Lopez, Ving Rhames

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm. News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm. News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm. Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATH BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm. News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm. Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm. Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

09:05 Smritimoy Archives: Shaehwato Jibon Satellite broadcast 10:00 Shastho Talleya Computer Round 10:15 Shokalek Pakhi Shongesta 10:30 Prottyasha Alo 10:35 Talk Show: Mithochkriya 10:40 Shondhyamaloti 10:45 Special discussion on Ekushey 10:50 Musical Programme: Gaan Shudhu Gaan Ekush Amar Ahongkar 10:55 Protdim Bangladesh Drama Serial: Kachher Manush 10:55 Drama Serial: Aronya Anador 11:00 Taktel Theke Tetulia 11:05 Shonali Shokal

09:35 Aronney D/Rockstar Special play: Baji 09:05 Drama Serial: Labonyaprobha 09:30 Nabo Falguner Diney 10:05 Bihina Swader Khobor 10:30 Banglar Thikthak Cinegan 11:00 Gombhira 12:02 Single episode drama 01:00 Muktagonj Special Programme: Valentine's Day Gallery 04:25 Anpar Jigyasha 05:20 Shubho Shondhya Musical Programme: Bhalobasha Boshonto 08:25 Drama Serial: Labonya Probha 09:10 Drama Serial: Andhokarer Aloy Tumi Dindarpan

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11:25 ATN Bangla 10:30 Anyodritshi Hundred Years Of Bangabhaban 12:15 Amar Computer 12:50 Gan Shurey Tarunya 01:30 Cine Gaan 02:30 Bhalobasha Drama Serial: O Amar Chokhu Nai 03:45 Bhalobasha Gaan 04:20 Bishshashey 04:45 Ispahani Pure Snax Quiz Time 05:10 Aj Tumi Bhalobasho Jodi

05:45 Islami Sawal O Jobab 06:20 Bhalobasha Diney 08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhnagor Apartment 08:30 Panch Foran 09:00 ATN Taroka Tarokader Taroka (Acting) Mukto Shonglap

08:00 Oishi 08:30 Snigda Shokal 08:40 Shuprovat Bangladesh 07:15 Bridget Jones: The Deceit of Reason 09:30 Out of Sight 12:00 Conspiracy Theor

03:00 Telefilm: Cheque 06:05 Documentary Film Bhalobasha Valentine 08:30 Drama: Joto Dur Jai Fer Dekha Hobey Bol Mele Protdim 11:00 American Pie: The Wedding 12:00 Punch-Drunk Love 02:00 Seed of Chucky 03:45 Welcome to Collinwood 05:30 The Secret Life of Zoey 07:15 Bridget Jones: The Deceit of Reason 09:30 Out of Sight 12:00 Conspiracy Theor

11:30 Shanti 12:00 Maan 12:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeel 02:30 Shabhi 02:30 Kesar 03:30 Saarrhi 05:00 Shagun 06:30 House Of Mouse

01:00 Frasier 01:30 The A Team 02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show 03:30 Bold And Beautiful 04:30 General Hospital 05:30 Desperate Housewives 06:30 The Simpsons 07:00 King Of Queens 07:26 Touch On Japan 07:30 Friends 08:00 Seinfeld 08:30 Kevin Hill 09:30 The O.C. 10:00 North Shore

07:00 Hercules Film Topper 07:25 Kurkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan 08:00 Akkad Bakkad Bambeey Bo 08:30 Mum Tum Aur Hum 09:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay Milee 09:30 Kavyanjali 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Char Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Kahin To Hoga

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06:30 Showreal Asia 09:30 National Geographic's Taboo 10:30 Air Crash Investigation S2 11:30 Spine Chillers 08:30 Bull Riding Pro Bull Riders Association Bull Ford Tough Series 2005 Ft Lauderdale 10:00 Gillette World Sports Special 2006 (R) 10:30 Five / Six Nations Championships Royal Bank Of Scotland Six Nations 2006 Italy Vs England Round 2(T) 12:30 English Premier Football League 2005/06 Middlesbrough England Mid Dierlding Vs Chelsea 02:30 Brazilian Football 2006 International Motorsports News 05:30 Tna Wrestling (R) 06:30 Gillette World Sports Special 2006 10:00 Sportscenter India Update (T) 10:02 Cricket Classics Close Encounters (R) 11:30 Sportscenter India Update 11:32 Indian Premier Hockey League Pfi Premier Division Chandigarh Pu India Hyderabad Sultans Vs Bangalore Re Lions Tier I(T)

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09:13 Tri-Series In Australia Vb Series Brisbane Australia 3rd Final 1st Session (If Nec)(L) 01:00 Icc Cricket World (R) 01:30 Tri-Series In Australia Vb Series Brisbane Australia 3rd Final 2nd Session (If Nec)(L) 05:00 In The Driver's Seat Harley Davidson Finals (T) 05:30 Winter X-Games Winter X-Games X-Day 1 Pt 2 (T) 07:30 Football Focus (S) 08:30 Sportscenter Sportscenter India 09:00 Sportscenter Sportscenter Asia 09:30 English Premier League Highlights (R) 10:30 Sportscenter Sportscenter India 11:00 Sportscenter Sportscenter Asia 11:30 Cricket Classics Sehwag's Best 12:00 Tri-Series In Australia Vb Series Brisbane Australia 3rd Final Highlights(S)

06:30 Legends 07:30 Gamer TV 08:00 WWE: Raw 10:00 Italian League Highlights 11:00 Trans World Sports 12:00 Caribbean Classics 02:00 Legends 03:00 Pakistan V India : 3rd ODI H/Ls 05:30 WWE: Smackdown 10:00 German League Highlights : Ep 21 11:00 WWE: Smackdown