

RECOMMENDATIONS

Anniversary

September 4
DRIK family celebrates its 13th founding anniversary through a formal ceremony at the DRIK office (gallery building) at Dhanmondi in the city at 6 p.m.

Cinema

September 1 to 5
Chalachitram Film Society and Goethe-Institut have organised a 5-day special filmshow programme titled, 'A Bondage of Partnership' at the Goethe auditorium on the occasion of 20 years of Chalachitram Film Society (1982-2002) and 40 years of Goethe-Institut in Bangladesh (1961-2001).

Virtual art show

August 25-November 01
Artist A. Rahman holds a virtual art exhibition at www.filmstudiobd.com/arahman. The virtual display is first of its kind in Bangladesh by artist A. Rahman.

Architectural designs' show

Aug. 17-Sept. 09
An exhibition goes on at the National Museum at Shahbagh in the city to reveal the unfolding drama of the design and construction of Sher-e-Banglanagar. Timetable: 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Saturday to Wednesday), 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. (Friday). The show is closed on Thursday.

Dance festival

September 15-17
Nriya Dhara, a dance institution hosts 'Bangladesh Dance Festival', a 3-day event that schedules to display dance disciplines of several origins from across the country, in cooperation with the Bengal Foundation. State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Begum Selima Rahman inaugurates the festival at Bangladesh National Museum in the city.

Festival

A fresh notion in gastronomy specialty

First international British Bangladesh fusion food festival continues in the city

AZIZ AMIRUL

THE recipe tasted mildly tangy, had a rich spicy aroma of the subcontinent and was more than enough to serve the appetites of the food connoisseurs. Some of these were of British-Bangladeshi, and others originated in Europe and other continents. The dish being spoken of was Chicken tikka masala, a firm favourite of the British community. This had been included besides dozens of other varieties of dish at the ongoing British Bangladesh fusion food festival that began at the Sheraton Hotel in the city on August 1.



Mouth watering fried rice

Acting British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Robert Gibson declared the tastefully decorated ceremony open with the presence of several hundred enthusiastic and curious guests, who waited in patience to receive a taste of the culinary innovations, representing the glorious gastronomic traditions of both Britain and Bangladesh. 'The Bangladeshi chefs based in Britain have brought a revolutionary change in the dietary habit of the British community through their magical culinary preparations of fusion foods, those of Bangladeshi spicy taste with improvised addition of European aroma and ingredients', he said.



Relishing mugh tikka

British Bangladesh Chef Association, a three-year old union of leading chefs and master chefs of British-Bangladeshi origin, initiated the arrangement of the festival in cooperation with the Sheraton Hotel of Dhaka. Mohammad Azad Hussain, President of the association, along with Rois Ali, Fokhrul Islam Dewan and Mohammad Eahia Hussain had arrived in Bangladesh with active involvement of Syed Belal Ahmed as the festival coordinator, who is also a working journalist, a bureau correspondent based in London of a vernacular Dhaka daily.

The festival has been organized as part of the British Bangladesh Chef Association's (BBCA) objective to promote the hard work, innovation and passion that chefs have so far provided in creating a masterpiece in a pan, and an artistic adornment on a platter through transformation of a humble meat or vegetable curry specialty into an esteemed dish. As said by Azad Hussain, President of BBKA, the ongoing festival was the first of its kind in the world that would provide Dhaka inhabitants a taste of the real British Bangladesh fusion food. 'The roles and activities of Bangladeshis abroad have usually been seen in a negative manner by the western world, so that the extraordinary achievements of the chefs from

Bangladesh in Britain have been helping to change the attitude of the international community towards Bengalis', added Azad.

A press conference was held earlier at Sheraton, on August 31 that highlighted various aspects, motives and facts of the festival and the organizers hoped that the festival would bring together a large number of food lovers from across the city. As the speakers at the meet revealed, a total of approximately ten thousand Indian restaurants existed across Britain of which 85% have been owned by members of Bangladeshi origin. 'The festival sought to promote the rise of new innovative and imaginative British Bangladesh chefs that have gone from strength to strength and helped turn a small cottage industry into a two billion pound sterling business in just under a period of three decades in the United Kingdom', said one of the organizers.

The visiting chefs mentioned a particular problem, that of the lack of skilled culinary experts of Indo-



Acting British High Commissioner (wears suit) poses with chefs and organisers Bangladesh origin in Britain, while the British government is very interested in receiving trained chefs from South Asia in their local restaurant industry to further develop the thriving business.

As the British Curry Industry fact file, provided at the press conference, revealed that the



Dessert specialties bring tantalizing appeal

history of Indian subcontinental food in Britain has almost been four centuries old. Regarding Bangladesh restaurants in Britain, 200 million meals are served to the clientele each year, majority of who belong to German, Gulf, American, Indian and British origin. Top of the curry dishes has been dominated by chicken tikka masala with 30 million portions consumed every year in the U.K. The British Bangladesh Chef Association has estimated that approximately 2.5 billion-pound sterling is spent in Britain on Bangladeshi food annually.

'It has given us a tremendous pleasure to host the festival for the first time in this country and we are highly optimistic of the standard of some of the most talented British Bangladesh master chefs who have already made their mark in Britain', said Ian Reid, General Manager of the Dhaka Sheraton.

The festival being held at The Vintage Room at the Sheraton Hotel serves dinner, 7:30 onwards and the price of the a-la-Carte dishes range between taka 350/- and 850/-. The festival ends on September 7.

Event

Creating colours of music

Kranti, a cultural organisation, celebrates on the launching of its newly formed governing body

HARUN UR RASHID

THE evening at the foot of the Shaheed Minar resounded with music on August 31, on occasion of the yearly general meeting of 'Kranti'-- a reputed group of cultural activists. Entitled 'Surer Rangdhonu' (The Rainbow of Music), the cultural programme celebrated the new governing committee of Kranti elected in the morning that day.

Syed Moajjem Hossain was elected the president of the new committee while Mahbulul Haider Mohon became the general secretary. The other elected were: Jahangir Alam and Nilufar Banu Lili as the vice presidents; Nazrul Islam, the treasurer; and Mujtaba Ahmed Murshed, Advocate Khurshid Alam Swapan, Shah Rezaul Mahmud, Tulip Ahmed Tuli, Sharmin Islam Subarna, Sheikh Milon, Kiran Masud, Samson Sarkar, Jashim Uddin and Khorsheed Alam-- the executive members.

The cultural function, although supposed to have been held at Nat-Mandal of Dhaka University, eventually took place at the Shaheed Minar due to some unavoidable circumstances. Also, due to sudden illness, poet Shamsur Rahman could not grace the occasion being the chief guest. The poet, however, expressed his hope that Kranti

would succeed in all their activities, in a message published in a special issue brought out on the occasion.

The programme however, was successful and a host of audience gathered at the Shaheed Minar-flooded with light and enjoying the melodies of various Bangla songs. Kranti's artistes rendered a choice of Bangla patriotic songs as well as Rabindra-sangeet, Nazrul-geeti, song of Atul Prasad, folk and modern Bangla songs. The programme obviously showed the promising talents of Kranti-- both individually and collectively. Mujtaba Ahmed Murshed announced that the programme had been dedicated for the common people, who gathered around.

Energized by its slogan, 'Let culture be the instrument for reformation of society,' Kranti has a legacy of thirty-six years of cultural activity since its formation in February 1966, by Barrister Hasan Pervez and journalist Kamal Lohani. Kranti has its contribution to the Liberation War by inspiring patriotic conscience in people. But Kranti became 'quiet' for some time in the post-Liberation Bangladesh.

In 1985, during the autocratic military rule, Kranti was, however, reorganised by Mahbulul Haider Mohon. Since then the group has been working for the cause of humanity.



New governing committee of Kranti

TV GUIDE

Table with TV channel logos (BTV, BBC WORLD, HBO, STAR GOLD, STAR PLUS) and their respective program schedules for the day.

Table with program titles and times for various channels including BBC WORLD, HBO, STAR GOLD, and STAR PLUS.

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