

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Street Theatre Festival
Organiser: Bangladesh Patha Natok Parishad
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar
Date: March 1-7
Time: 4pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Rashid Amin
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dhanmondi
Date: February 18-March 5
Time: 12pm-8pm



Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Haq Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2
Date: March 15-28
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Call of Eternity
Artist: Nurul Islam
Venue: Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 1-6
Time: 11am-8pm



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

The programme featured renditions of Tagore songs on spring and dances choreographed by Sharmila Banerjee and Belayet Hossain.

Ode to spring

Programme by Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the advent of spring, the Dhaka Metropolitan branch of Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan Parishad arranged a programme at the 'Mukto Mancho' (open stage) of Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi on March 1.

Titled 'Basantatshob 1416', the programme featured renditions of Tagore songs on the season as well as dance performances by artistes of Nriyannandan.

The event started with a group Bharatnatyam performance. Noted

danceuse Sharmila Banerjee and Belayet Hossain jointly directed the dance number. Several dance compositions were staged throughout the programme, all of which were directed by Sharmila and Belayet.

Attired in sari and panjabi, the singers took the stage together and rendered group and solo songs.

The first song rendered at the programme was "Aji Dakhin Duar". It was followed by a solo rendition of "Akash Amay Bharlo".

Other group renditions at the programme were "Orey Bhai Phagun Legechhey", "Jharo Jharo", "Phagun

Hawaye" and "Rangiye Diye Jao".

Solo renditions included "Ei Udashi Hawar Pothey", "Ami Tomar Shongey", "Jodi Tarey Nai Chini", "Jey Kebol Paliye Beraye" and "Modhuro Bashonto Eshechhey".

Upcoming as well as noted singers performed at the programme.

Papiya Sarwar, Mahiuzzaman Chowdhury, Swapan Dutta, Susmita Ahmed, Hasanuzzaman Kallol, Tania Mannan, ATM Jahangir, Himadri Shekhar, Shukla Paul, Nur-e Rezia Momo and Nandia Yasmin, among others, rendered songs at the programme.

Desh TV aired the programme live.

Chinese Spring Festival held at BRAC University

Chinese Spring Festival 2010 was celebrated at the BRAC University last Sunday amid much enthusiasm. Centre for Languages of BRAC University and the Embassy of China in Bangladesh jointly organised this celebration with a view to strengthen the cultural bridge between two neighbouring countries.

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor of BRAC University, was the chief guest at the function. Professor Md. Golam Samdani Fakir, Pro-VC of BRAC University and Qian Kaifu, cultural counsellor of the Chinese Embassy, among others, attended the celebration.

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury said the Spring Festival is one of the most important cultural celebrations in China. Terming China "one of the closest friends of Bangladesh," Professor Choudhury said that China has been contributing to many sectors to see Bangladesh as a developed nation.

Qian Kaifu said that cultural events like these would enrich the existing relations between the two countries.

Lady Sayeda Sarwat Abed, director of Centre for Languages, BRAC University, gave a vote of thanks at the function. A colourful cultural performance was also held on the occasion. The traditional "Tiger Dance" was the prime attraction of the celebration. Students of Centre for Languages and Chinese nationals living in Dhaka jointly performed at the cultural soiree.

Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. It consists of a period of celebrations, starting on the first day of the Chinese calendar.



Traditional "Tiger Dance" at the programme.

Bangladeshi students observe Int'l Mother Language Day in Illinois

Bangladeshi Students Association at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, observed International Mother Language Day through a 'Bangladesh Festival' on February 26, 2010 with a goal to present a glimpse of Bangladeshi language and culture.

A total of almost 200 guests, including Bangladeshis and non-Bangladeshis, attended the programme, according to a press release. The two-and-half-hours

long programme started with a rendition of the ever-familiar song "Amar Bhai-er Roktey Rangano". Students also screened a video they made for the festival. It was shot in the computer science department, and features students and professors saying "I love to speak in my mother language" in their own languages.

Professor Mir Ali (Architecture) spoke on 'International Mother Language Day'; Professor Salim Rashid (Economics)

spoke on 'Diversity in Bangladesh' and Professor Marina Terkourafi (Linguistics) spoke on the 'Importance of Mother tongue'. This session was conducted by Professor Taher Saif (Mechanical Science and Engineering).

The cultural programme featured Baul, Tagore, Nazrul, patriotic and folk songs (both chorus and solo), poems on the Language Movement, traditional Bengali dances, and plays.

A 15-minute documentary on major festivals of Bangladesh, including Ekushey Book Fair, Eid, Puja, Pahela Baishakh and Nabanna was screened.

There was also an interactive session, which highlighted cultural practices in Bangladesh. Students put henna and alpona on guests' hands and faces, displayed Bangladeshi handicrafts, posters on Bengali movements and more.

An interesting feature was the 'wall of emotions' where people wrote their feelings in their own languages.

Different kinds of authentic Bangladeshi food such as khichuri, jhalmuri, chotpoti, mishi doi etc offered at the festival were well-liked by non-Bangladeshis.



Students sing at the festival.

Holi: The festival of colours

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Holi, the Hindu festival of colours, was celebrated in Dinajpur and adjacent districts on March 1. The gaily spilled out on the streets with

youngsters sprinkling colours on their friends and relatives.

The festival began with the worship of Radha-Krishna at temples in the district after which a rally was taken out by dignitaries and locals attired in colourful turbans.

Meanwhile, members of

the Jain community of the district celebrated the three-day Holi festival, which concluded today.

To add to the festivity of Holi celebrations, tiny tots recited rhymes and rendered songs depicting the festival of colours. Like their elders, they thoroughly enjoyed the festival by smearing colours on each other.

The grand finale of the celebration was a lovely dance by the children of Hindu and other communities of the districts.

Parimal Chakrabarti Tapan, general secretary of Dinajpur Unit Puja Udjapan Committee said that even though Holi is celebrated throughout the country, the festival of Dinajpur has a unique significance.



Youngsters thoroughly enjoy the festival by smearing colours on each other.

Workshop on documentary direction

An eight-day workshop on documentary filmmaking by Bangladesh Documentary Council (BDC) and British Council will be held from March 19, according to a press release. Noémie Mendelle, director, Scottish Documentary Institute and Sonja Henrici, head of Development, Scottish Documentary Institute will conduct the workshop.

Bangladeshi graduates -- aged between 20 and 26 -- will attend the workshop.

The workshop will focus on developing the participants' understanding of documentary filming from creative and technical perspectives. The participants will get opportunities to work with audiovisual equipments, supervised by the tutors. Certificates will be awarded to participants who complete the workshop successfully.

Manzare Haseen Murad, adviser of BDC, hopes that through the British Coun-

cil and BDC partnership the participants will learn about international filmmaking and be exposed to the contemporary documentary filmmaking process.

Charles Nuttall, director of the British Council says, "We are delighted that two important Scottish filmmakers will be coming to Bangladesh to conduct this workshop, working closely with our partner, the Bangladesh Documentary Council."

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