

Nationwide celebrations on Pahela Baishakh

A CORRESPONDENT

As a regular annual programme to usher in the new Bengali year, Chhayanaut is holding Barshoboron 1417 today at the historical Ramna Batomul, in the city. Channel i will telecast the day's programme live from the spot, while Telnet, Grameenphone's sister concern, will disseminate the detailed programme on the website "www.chhayanaut.org" so that anyone can log into it. Grameenphone is patronising the programme.

On the occasion, a press conference was held at Chhayanaut Shongshkriti Bhabon on April 12. Secretary General and joint secretary of Chhayanaut Khairul Anam Shakil and Pradip Nag respectively, head of communications of Grameenphone Aman Ashraf and chief executive officer of Telnet Altaf Hossain were present at the press conference.

The day's programme will begin at 6:15am with an instrumental (Raaga Bairagi on esraj) followed by morning Raaga based renditions of Panchakobi (Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, DL Roy, Atul Proshad and Rajanikant) at 6:30am, patriotic songs, recitations and renditions of folk numbers.

One hundred and fifty students (both current and former) and teachers of Chhayanaut have ceaselessly rehearsed for over a month to bring about the programme. Security is being beefed up circling the

Barshoboron 1417 programme. To celebrate Bengali New Year-1417, Banglalink is arranging colourful cultural events today for Bangladeshis across Dhaka, Chittagong, Bogra, Jessore, Barisal, Khulna and Sylhet, according to a press release.

Similar to previous years, Banglalink has taken various initiatives to celebrate Pahela Baishakh nationwide. In Dhaka, Banglalink has organised a cultural event in Dhaka University (DU). Titled 'Banglalink Baishakhi Utshab', the event is being held at Raju Bashkarja (in front of TSC, DU) featuring leading bands and artistes of the country. The Baishakhi programme in Chittagong is being held at DC Hill, Nazrul Square. In Bogra, the Pahela Baishakh celebration is being held at Din Bodol-er Moncho on Temple Road, and in Jessore, the Baishakhi event is being organised by Jessore Udichi at the Pouro Uddan.

Banglalink is sponsoring a Baishakhi fair organised by Barisal Udichi Shilpi Goshthi at BM School Field in Barisal, and a Baishakhi event organised by Nagar Samajik and Sanskritik Kendra at Shahid Hadis Park in Khulna. In Sylhet, Banglalink is sponsoring a Pahela Baishakh event organised by Sruti, at Blue Bird School and College in Subidbazar.

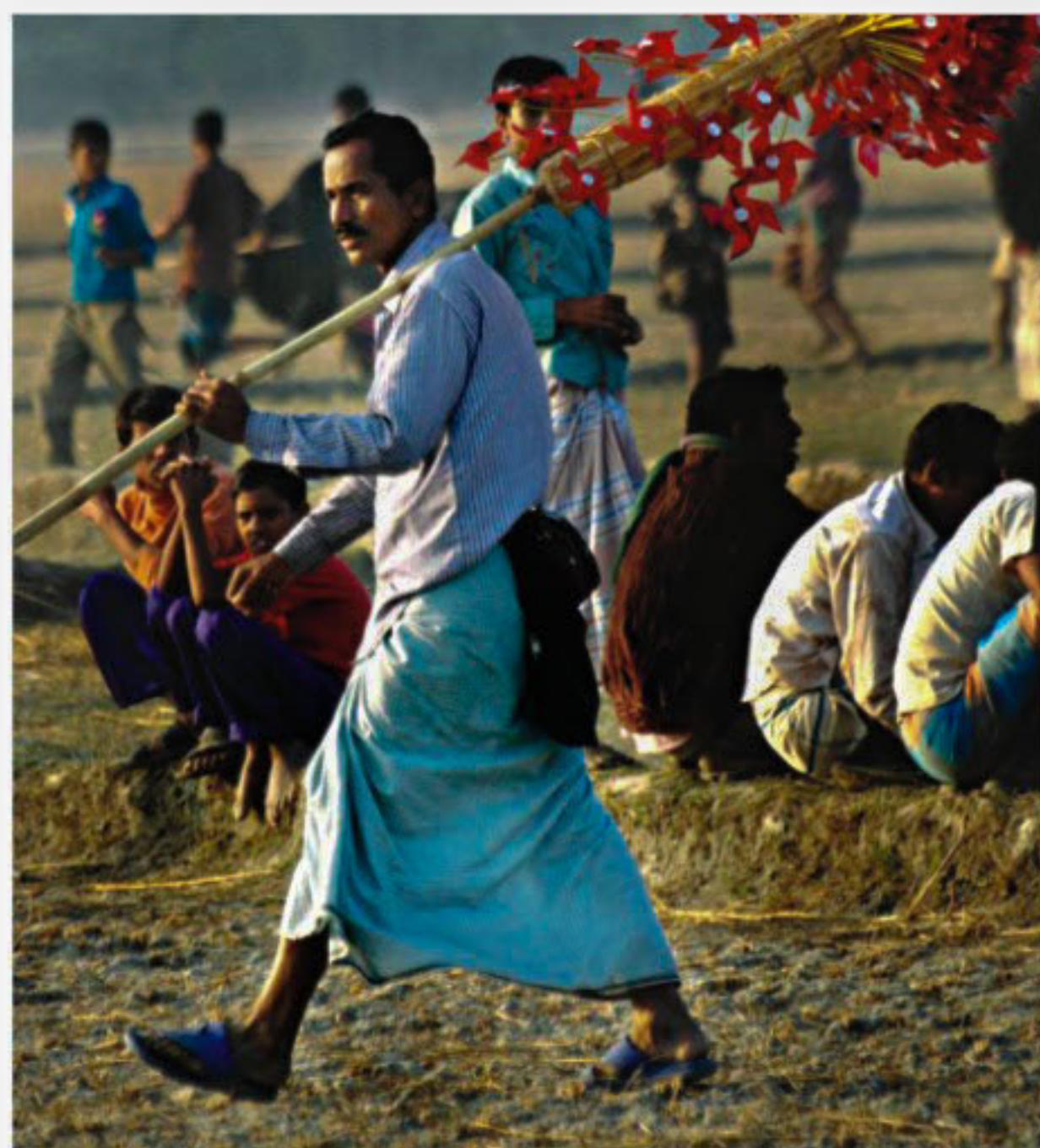
Banglalink CEO Ahmed Abou Doma said, "This year, we are proud to be associated with some of the most prestigious events on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh all over Bangladesh. We wish everyone a very prosperous Bangla New Year."



Mela: Unadulterated fun

Nothing denotes festivities in Bangladesh like mela (fairs). Originating from rural Bengal, these modest expositions have gone through some makeover and now get much fanfare in the urban areas. Unsurprisingly, mela is a big part of Pahela Baishakh celebrations. Be it the informal neighbourhood congregation, the major event where the crème of Dhaka hobnob, or the vibrant, delightfully gaudy rural affair -- mela gives us an opportunity to let go of our mundane worries for a while and soak up all the fun elements of it -- live music, jatra, putna naach (puppet dance), nagordola (a smaller indigenous version of Ferris wheel), snacks, sweets, clothes, churi (glass bangles), toys and much more.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



The beat of Baishakh

How rockstars celebrate the Bangla New Year

MAINUL HASSAN

Chhayanaut's annual Barshobaran and other cultural organisations' special programmes for Pahela Baishakh are on, much to the delight of music aficionados.

Baishakhi concerts, featuring several leading and popular bands, will add another note to the celebrations. So what did the bands and rock musicians have up their sleeves for Pahela Baishakh?

Ayub Bachchu (LRB):

We have a regular adda session on Pahela Baishakh. Musicians and band members come to our studio AB Kitchen and take part in the adda. On the menu are Hilsa fish fry with panta.

This year we have a very busy Pahela Baishakh. We have a total of three concerts lined up for the 14th -- at Water Kingdom, Dhaka University and Banani Society Ground. There's a lot to do.

At the Baishakhi concerts we celebrate the occasion with Bangla songs.

James (Nogorbau):

Pahela Baishakh is the biggest secular



James

event in Bengali culture. It is a colourful festival, which is celebrated with vibrant programmes. This year on Pahela Baishakh we have two concerts -- at Fantasy Kingdom and one in Pabna.

Any major celebration is incomplete without music. Concerts are bonus for people out to have a quality time on the first day of the year.



Tipu

Warfaze:

Today Warfaze will be rocking the Dhaka University (DU) campus. Apart from Warfaze, the concert at DU will feature performances by Hyder Husyn, Aurthohin and Maksud O Dhaka.

"The concert at DU will be treat on Pahela Baishakh, we will celebrate the occasion with Bengali songs" said Tipu,



Cezanne

drummer and leader of the band.

Cezanne (Artcell):

On this Pahela Baishakh we will perform at Banani Society Ground but luckily our performance is in the evening. I will spend the morning with my family. We have plans to go to the Ramna Park and other places.

These days concerts have become



Jahan

an important part of Baishakhi celebration.

Jahan (Black):

This Pahela Baishakh we're not performing at any concert. I have my exams going on. However, I plan to spend the day hanging out with my friends and visiting popular venues in the city.



Ayub Bachchu

A musical message on New Year

A CORRESPONDENT

"Hindu na Musalman, Bouddho na Christian, shob bhuley jao eshey gechey Pahela Baishakh": The song calls everyone to come together -- irrespective of religion -- to celebrate Pahela Baishakh, the biggest secular Bengali festival.

Radio Amar and abc radio will air the song all day today as part of their special Baishakhi programme.

The song has been recorded by upcoming singer I.K. Razon, who has also composed the song. The song has been written by Nakkhatra, son of I.K. Razon.

Talking about the song, the artiste said, "Through this song I want to disseminate a message of harmony and invite everyone to take part in the celebration."

"The song also describes Baishakhi mela and other aspects of the festival," said the musician.

Razon is a graduate of Govt. College of Music and Chhayanaut in classical music and Nazrul Sangeet.



I. K. Razon

