

WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEKGroup Art
Exhibition

Venue: Bengal Gallery
of Fine Arts, 275/F
Road-16, Dhanmondi
Date: 16-30
Time: 12pm-8pm

Group Art
Exhibition

Venue: Dhaka Art
Centre, H-60, R-7/A,
Dhanmondi
Date: April 10-19
Time: 3pm-9pm

17th Young
Artists' Art
Exhibition 2010

Organiser: Bangladesh
Shilpakala Academy (BSA)
Venue: Nation Art Gallery
Plaza, Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 2-19
Time: 11am-7pm (Friday
3pm-8pm)



Boats Exhibition

Title: Traditional Boats
of Bangladesh
Venue: Nalinikanta
Bhattachali Gallery,
Bangladesh National
Museum
Date: March 23-April 19
Time: 10am -5pm



Ushering in 1417: 'Pahela Baishakh' celebrations in Dhaka



Singers perform at Chhayanaut's Barshoboron in Ramna Park.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The nation welcomed 'Pahela Baishakh', the first day of the Bangla year 1417, on Wednesday amidst lively pageantry, leaving behind the gloom of the past and pledging to uphold the nation's cultural heritage.

Tens of thousands of people from all walks of life dressed in traditional clothes poured into the streets, parks and open spaces across the capital and elsewhere in the country from early morning to welcome the Bangla New Year.

Tight security measures were ensured around the main venue of the

celebration, Ramna Park in the capital. Cooperating with the security forces people stood in long queues to enter the venue.

The tradition of celebrating the Bangla New Year -- in relation to closing of the annual tax collection -- started in the Mughal era. Traders and shopkeepers

open *halkhata* (new accounts) on this day and offer sweets to clients.

In the course of time, it evolved into a day of celebration and an integral part of the Bengali culture, now considered the biggest secular festival as people irrespective of religion and class commemorate the day.

Chhayanaut, one of the leading cultural organisations of the country, has been organising their *barshoboron* (New Year celebration) since 1967. On April 14, the New Year celebration at Ramna Botomool began with an instrumental recital on *esraj* by Ashit Biswas. Biswas played "Raaga Bairagi" -- the melody stirred the senses as the sun slowly emerged.

Teachers, alumni and students of Chhayanaut presented solo and group renditions at the event. Apart from songs of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Lalon Shah, artistes also performed songs of Atul Prasad, Jyotirindranath Tagore, Dwijendranath Tagore, Gyanprakash Ghosh, Salil Chowdhury, Sachin Deb Burman, Bhupen Hazarika and Momtaz Ali Khan.

Secretary general of Chhayanaut Khairul Anam Shakil and teachers -- Sumon Majumdar, Chandana Majumdar, Priyanka Gope and Bipul Bhattacharya -- also performed on the occasion.

President of Chhayanaut Dr. Sanjida Khatun emphasised on fortifying our cultural foundation through ceaseless practice and passion. She also urged concerned personalities to properly use cultural elements in the media.

A festive spirit took over the capital and other parts of the country. Women in

pristine white *saree* with red borders and men in *panjabi* -- decorated with *Baishakhi* motifs -- ushered in the New Year.

Many had traditional *panta bhat* with fried *hilsa*, *daal*, green chilli and onion at home, restaurants and fairs.

Youngsters had their cheeks painted with the country's map and other emblems that added further colours to the celebration.

They thronged the main venue in Ramna. The festivities stretched over to Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka University and Dhanmondi Lake areas, bringing the city traffic system to a standstill. Many foreigners clad in traditional Bengali clothes were also seen in and around the venues of celebration.

Wrishiz Shilpi Goshtti hailed *Noborsho* through music and dance at Narikel Bithi Chattar (in front of Shishu Park). Legendary *jatra* artiste Jyotsna Biswas inaugurated the festival, saying, "Bangalir jai hok, Banglar jai hok." Founder of Wrishiz Fakir Alamgir, singer Mina Barua, actress Aruna Biswas and Mithu Biswas were present at the event.

Aside from performances by the members of Wrishiz, artistes of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra and others performed on the stage.

The festival was dedicated to the memories of Baul Shah Abdul Karim, Gaziul Haque, KG Mustafa and Probal Chowdhury.

People also thronged *Baishakhi mela* (fairs) showcasing various handicrafts and traditional items.

The crowd turned into a human sea in the afternoon when the temperature came down slightly.



The Mongol Shobhajatra brought out by FFA students and teachers.

Another main attraction was the decorated procession called 'Mongol Shobhajatra', brought out by the students of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

The *Shobhajatra* featuring giant replicas of *mayur ponkhi*, tiger, deer, elephant and huge colourful masks seeks the well being of all. Thousands of people joined the procession, dancing along with the beats of *dhul* and other musical instruments.

There were scores of cultural shows arranged by different organisations, keeping the university area alive with heavy rush of people. It was a day of pure, unadulterated fun and merriment.

'Chaitra Shangkranti': Bidding farewell to 1416



Prachyanat members perform at FFA.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University
Students of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka

University arranged a musical programme at Bakultala premises on campus to bid farewell to the Bengali year 1416. The 'Chaitra Shangkranti Utshab' featured renditions of songs by

guest artistes and troupes as well as students of FFA.

Theatre troupe Prachyanat's musical production "Phul Pakhi O Nodir Gaan" was one of the highlights of the programme. Members of the troupe rendered popular songs from its major productions. The performances included "Dekha Diona Kachhey Niona", "Gulabi Gulabi", "Bakul Phul" and an instrumental, "Bhraman". Among invited artistes and troupes, Shourav (of the band Meghdol) played flute and musical troupe Trimatra performed songs at the programme.

Shurer Dhara

Cultural organisation Shurer Dhara arranged a programme to mark 'Chaitra Shangkranti' (last day of the Bengali year) at the Lalmatia Girls' High School on April 13. Titled "Banglar Utshabey Shurer Dhara," the programme featured traditional Bangla songs.

Founded in 1992, Shurer Dhara has

been organising cultural programmes regularly. This event stood out from the organisation's past arrangements, as it was more elaborate and featured a diverse range of songs.

Apart from Rabindra and Nazrul Sangeet, the programme also featured patriotic and folk songs, compositions on different seasons and celebrations, and continued till midnight.

Led by Rezwana Chowdhury Bonya, the programme started with a group rendition of the Rabindra Sangeet, "Shobarey Kori Ahban" by the members of Shurer Dhara.

The programme was divided into several phases -- such as 'Bhasha Utshab', 'Bijoy Utshab', 'Bashontotshab', 'Sharadotshab', 'Loko Utshab' and 'Bibaher Gaan'. Every segment lasted about 35 minutes. Members of the organisation as well as noted singers of the country rendered popular songs.

Renowned personalities spoke on the featured genres before each segment. Among others, educationist Professor Anisuzzaman, journalist Matiuir Rahman,



Artistes of Shurer Dhara sing at Lalmatia Girls' High School.

poet Asad Chowdhury and litterateur Selina Hossain spoke at the programme.

The highlight of the programme was rendition of songs by several

underprivileged children. They rendered patriotic songs. The organisers informed that the children had an eight-month training to prepare for the programme.

LUMIX Click to Fame

Three-day photo exhibition at Russian Centre of Science & Culture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Panasonic has recently launched the first reality TV show on photography, "LUMIX Click to Fame". This is the first photography based reality show in the subcontinent as well, according to the organisers.

The event started from March 16, with registration. The second phase of the competition is a three-day exhibition featuring 100 photographs that have been chosen from the 6500 entries. The exhibition was held at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Dhanmondi from April 12 to 14.

Noted photographer Dr. Ansaruddin Ahmed inaugurated the exhibition. Photographs on display feature diverse subjects, as there was no particular theme for the primary selection round. Rural life, rivers, agrarian society, busy city life (both at day and night), portraits, indigenous



Photographs by Mohammad Moniruzzaman (left) and Tania Shukrana.

life in the hilly regions and much more have been highlighted.

From the featuring 100 photogra-

phers, a panel of judges -- consisting eminent photographers of the country -- will select ten photographers for the



TV round. The organisers said that the TV round would start on Channel i from April 23.

The TV round will have the finalists battling it out in both indoor settings and outdoor expeditions across the

country.

The Grand Winner will receive a Lumix GH1, a cash reward of Tk 1,50,000, will be the brand ambassador for Panasonic Lumix, get the opportunity to have a photo exhibition and internship in two leading magazines.

The jury board for the competition includes renowned photographers Munira Morshed Munni, Dr. Md. Rashid-un-Nabi (EFIAP), Hasan Saifuddin Chandan (EFIAP) and Khademul Insan. Veteran photographer Anwar Hossain will be the online judge of the event.

Leading advertising agency MACOMM has conceptualised the event. Channel i is the associate partner.

Panasonic LUMIX has organised the reality show to inspire and create a platform for photography enthusiasts in Bangladesh.