



Spring in the air

Bashonto Utshab 1417 at Dhaka University

ZAHANGIR ALOM

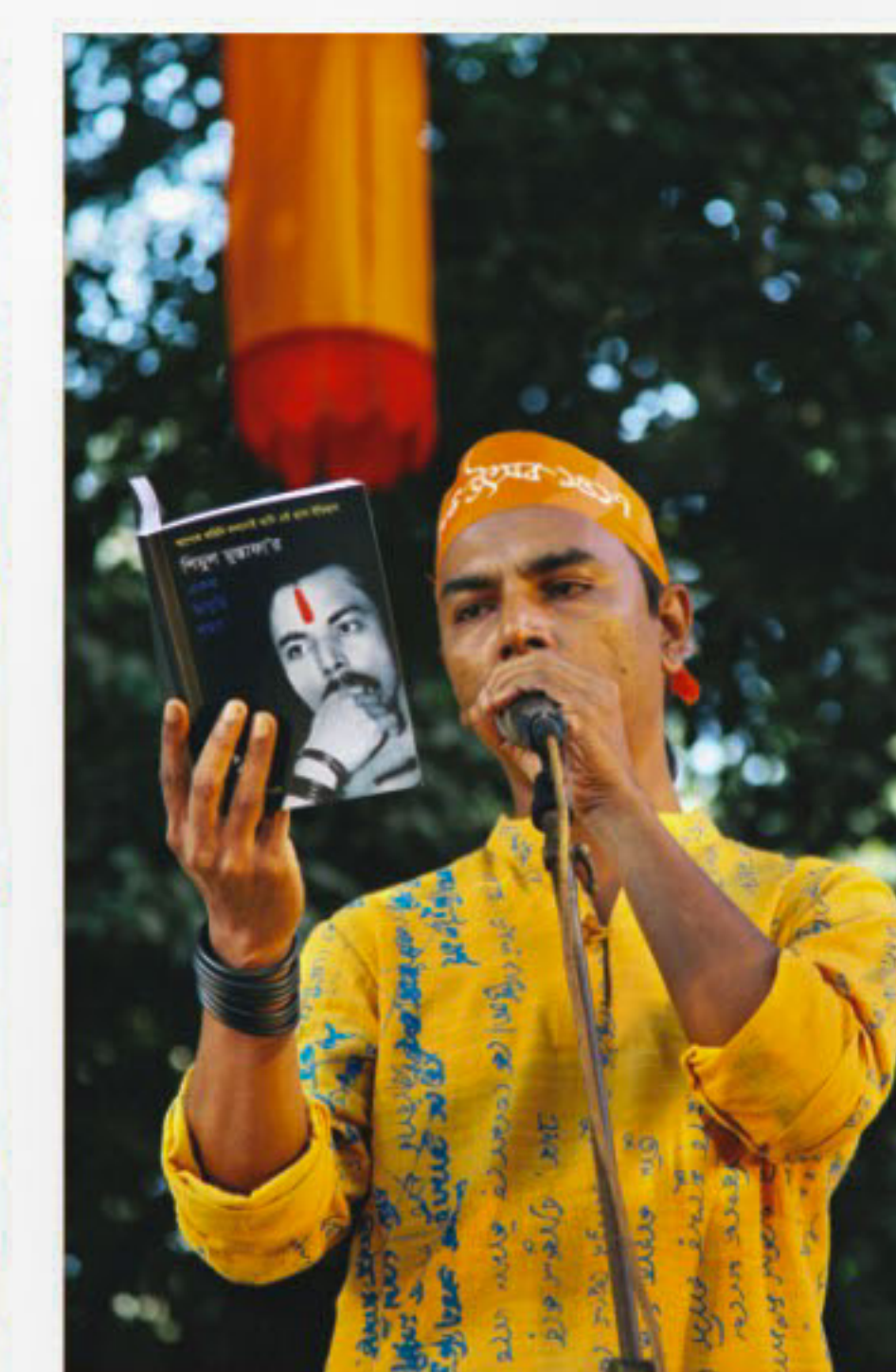
With the theme "Esho Praner Utshabey," members of Jatiyo Bashonto Udjapon Parishad ushered in Pahela Phalgun (the first day of spring in the Bengali calendar) with an elaborate cultural programme under the Bakul tree at Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) premises yesterday.

Women, as well as young girls wearing red, yellow, orange and saffron saris, and men in panjabi started arriving at FFA early in the morning. Though the city has not witnessed much crimson Shimul or Polish blossoms yet, marigold and roses were there to compensate. Here and there, students of FFA were painting bright designs on the cheeks of children and

eager revellers. As the crowd grew larger, the mood turned merrier. Inspired by initiatives of iconic figures such as poet Shamsur Rahman, and Tagore exponent Wahidul Haque, Jatiyo Bashonto Utshab Parishad started celebrating Pahela Phalgun in the city more than a decade back. The celebration is open to all, uniting people from all sections of the society. The daylong programme was divided into two segments. The first segment of the programme began at 6:45am with a classical dance. Arristes of Dhruwad Kala Kendra presented the piece. Spring was welcomed with a number of solo and choral renditions by artistes of Chhayanat, Rabirag, Sursaptak, Bonhishikha and other organisations. Renowned Nazrul Sangeet artiste Ferdous Ara per-

formed two solos amongst others. Chhayanaut General Secretary and noted Nazrul Sangeet artiste Khairul Anam Shakil rendered "Kuhu Kuhu Koyelia" based on Raga Khamaj; renowned Tagore artiste Fahim Hossain Chowdhury performed "She Bhalo Shei Bhalo". Artiste Sujit Mustafa performed a romantic number "Ke Tumi Tandra Horoni" while Shaful Alam Raza sang a Bhawaiya song "Phul Phutiley". Director of Music and Dance department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, RA Mahmud Selim, with the organisers roamed among the audience rendering the song "Aha Ki Anando Akashey Batashey". Bhaswar Bandopadhyay, Shimul Mustafa and others recited poems at the event. Bhabna, Nriyana Nandan, Nriyam, Spondon and

Nataraj performed dances on the occasion. Joint convener of the festival, Safuddin Ahmed; Member Secretary Kazi Arif; RA Mahmud Selim and others spoke on the occasion. Manzarul Islam recited the declaration for the year. Kajal Debnath presided over the discussion. Kazi Arif said, "We hope that narrow-mindedness and gloom will be removed from the society as the cuckoo declares the onset of spring." The first half of the programme ended with a vibrant rally brought out from the FFA premises. The programme resumed in the afternoon. As part of the festival, Jatiyo Bashonto Utshab Parishad held a programme at Rabindra Sarobar on the same day. Bangalink sponsored the programme.



Notes on a Conflicted Reality

Dr. Selina Hossain's latest novel provides an insight into Ghalib's life

On February 12, 2011, the Indra Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka organised a programme where the latest novel by Dr. Selina Hossain, "Jamuna Nadir Mushaira" was launched. The novel, on the life and works of the legendary poet, Mirza Ghalib, was launched by the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Rajeev Mitter, at the cultural centre in Gulshan, Dhaka, according to a press release.

Through "Jamuna Nadir Mushaira", Dr. Selina Hossain has attempted to see Indian modern history through the eyes of Mirza Ghalib. The book is a wonderful amalgamation of accomplished Bengali literature and historical facts. The story commences with the birth of Mirza Ghalib in Agra and the subsequent accounts of his childhood and



(From left) Professor Anisuzzaman, Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam, Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Mitter, Dr. Selina Hossain and Pragna Laboni at the book launch.

youth. Dr. Hossain has traced Ghalib's arrival in Delhi after his marriage and given a detailed account of his lifestyle in the city where the great poet roamed around writing poems, attending poetry sessions, indulging in his infamous drinking habit and enjoying the company of dancing girls.

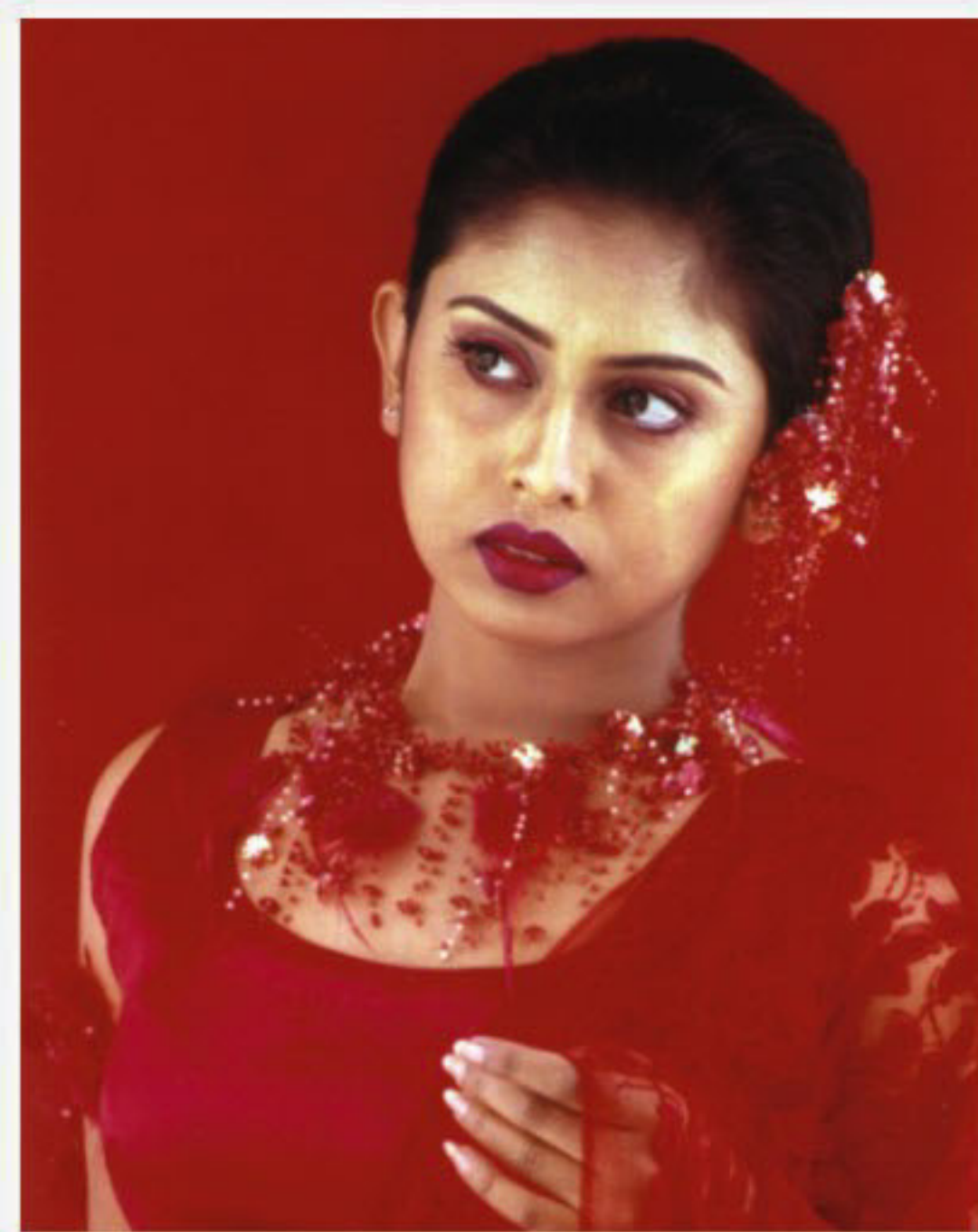
Dr. Hossain has liberally used several poems of Ghalib in her latest novel thereby highlighting moments of sorrow, laments induced by penury and the influence of the dignified Turkic lineage in the poet's life. She has aptly brought out the pathos in Ghalib's life -- from his un-

successful marriage and poverty to attempts to overcome that through extravagance. Dr. Hossain has been able to reflect that though being impoverished and dissatisfied with life, Ghalib could never accept the reality because of his family heritage. This conflict resulted in Ghalib's moving poetries -- giving them a timeless relevance. At book launch, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman and Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam spoke as guests of honour, giving critical analysis of the book. Pragna Laboni read out a few pages of the book, while the High Commissioner of India spoke extensively on Ghalib and the manner in which his entire life was brilliantly depicted in Dr. Hossain's latest novel.

Valentine's Day Specials on TV



Farah Ruma



Chandni

A CORRESPONDENT

Tomalika Karmakar, Chandni, Farah Ruma and Sohana Saba are teaming up for the first time this Valentine's Day, to dance on a show celebrating the occasion. Tomalika will pair up with actor Russell; the duo will portray the legend of Laili-Majnu. The delightful frolic of Radha-Krishna will be enacted by Chandni and Anisul Islam Hiru. Farah Ruma and Shohag will portray the roles of Mumtaz-Shahjahan, while Shahed and Sohana Saba will be Romeo-Juliet.

Chandni, who came up with the programme's planning, said it originated from her intention of making something special for Valentine's Day. She expressed hopes that people will like the programme, directed by Pappu. Tomalika said she is both excited and nervous -- as she hasn't danced on TV since her winning of the Notun Kuri award for dancing.

Shahed is also excited about the programme, as it is being done on a massive scale. Great expectations are also being fostered by Farah Ruma, as she only dances on special occasions.

Ekushey Television will air this special programme. Ekushey Television's Valentine's Day offering also includes Chayanika Chowdhury's "Tumi Ami Tinjoney" -- a play written by Faria Hossain. Tarin, Apurba and Tutul act in the play to be aired tonight at 10:10pm.



Tomalika Karmakar



Sohana Saba

Selling Love to the Loveless

RAISAA TASHNOVA

Valentine's Day. Flowers everywhere. Card and gift shops are offering enticements products and the lounges are decked in red. Amid all this special attention to that special someone, being single can be a downer. If it helps, you are not the only lonely one out there and at least you aren't trading your desperation to find that 'Man' or 'Woman' for the ratings of one particular TV show. Yes, I'm talking about "The Bachelor/Bachelorette".

nothing to! To complete the charade, there are meetings with the families, and giving the audience an impression that family opinion actually matters to the bachelor/bachelorette. Did I mention that the bachelor is always a millionaire? Now that raises the question, are these women after love or money or more importantly, publicity? They all seem to give away their hearts fast and easy, evident from the amount of tears they each shed when eliminated. I mean, come on girl, you knew what you were



"A bachelor/bachelorette (deemed eligible) and a pool of romantic interests (typically 25), which possibly includes a potential wife/husband." This is how Wikipedia describes the show. Even the unbiased wiki-people failed to keep sarcasm out when talking about this show which makes a huge mockery of 'finding love'. Watching this show is like watching hormone-crazed teenagers cooped in a room for a while. The inevitable 'oh I love him so much' escapes the lips of all of the 10 final contestants. The bachelor himself, apart from being a supposed millionaire, has to be a marvelous actor for seemingly being so in love with all the contenders he takes out on dates and whispers sweet getting into! "The Bachelorette" is no better, though it is minus a lot of water works. The men, all brawny and buff, are soft as clay in the inside. Now that may seem to be an 'aww' characteristic to some girls but personally I think it's just sad that these men are such failures in their real love-life that they had to come to the show for one last attempt. Don't get me wrong. I am not anti-love or anti-'finding the special someone' but such blatant mockery of love is humiliating for any person (even the audience) involved. So this Valentine's Day, make a grand gesture by celebrating love at its raw form - that is honest, unadulterated and best of all, un-televised.



Star Arts & Entertainment would like to apologise to its readers for not being able to hold the 'DS Café' session (as scheduled) yesterday as the celebrity guest Ayub Bachchu did not turn up.

Rabindra Theatre Fest by Prangane Mor Begins

JAMIL MAHMUD

To celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, a weeklong theatre festival featuring adaptations of Tagore's literary works, began at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 12. Organised by theatre troupe Prangane Mor, the festival features 13 plays by 12 groups, including four from India. On the opening day, Indian troupe Naya Natua staged its latest production "Nana Rangey Robi".

An inaugural programme was held outside the National Theatre Hall prior to the show. The festival was inaugurated by 18 young theatre directors. Noted author Selina Hossain was the chief guest, while Liaquat Ali Lucky, chairman, Bangladesh



A scene from "Nana Rangey Robi."

PHOTO: MUMTI M.

Group Theatre Federation, was the special guest. Ananta Heera, chief of Prangane Mor, conducted the ceremony. Naya Natua's "Nana Rangey Robi" is a compilation of poems and short plays of Tagore. The play follows the narrative style and is depicted through different

roles and dances. Gautam Halder is the director of the play and has also acted in it. The cast included Dewti Ghosh, Riya Das, Shastika Dhar, Shantanu Ghosh, Bidesh Hajra, Srijan Mukherjee, Sumona Bose, Mono) Prashad and Shoumadev Bhattacharya. Gautam Halder designed the set,

Galpo 12:05 Once Upon A Crime

ETV 12:30 Ekushey Business
12:40 Drama: Sada Mon, Dikar
12:50 Pribi
06:30 Shudha Tomar Janno
10:10 Drama: Tumi Ami Tinjane
12:00 Bangalink Ekushey Raat

Rtv 12:05 Protidin-er Gaan
02:40 Drama: Life Partner
05:40 Amader Bol Mela
09:00 Drama: Radha Tumi Kaar
11:25 Valobasar Manuch

BANGLAVISION 09:05 Shudha Gaan
01:05 Concert (Live)
08:15 Drama: Ami Shudhu
Meyetke Chiti Dite
Cheyechhilam
Amar Ami
11:25 Hriday Chhaya

Desh TV 04:00 Desh Janopad
05:30 Daryapat
06:25 Phaguree Melat
07:45 Rastvor Valobasa

Boishakhi TV 07:30 Bhor Holo Bibhaboni
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
05:15 Boishakhi-ON
Starabishwa

ATN BANGLA 08:30am Char Okkhor-er
09:30am Bangla Shubho
09:35am Ek Janome
09:35pm Maar Chhokka
02:30pm Labonno Prova

CHANNEL I 11:05 Valobasar Dine Valobasar
07:50 Drama: Odekha Megher
Kabbo
12:00 Gramephone Akjer
Shangbadpoto

ntv 08:45 Bangla Feature Film
01:00 Shubho Pradise
04:00 Prane Prane Mil Kore Dao
06:45 Ogrojo
07:20 Sholana Bangalana
09:00 Drama: Kachhe Asar

abcradio FM 89.2 06:15 Choy Moy
09:30 Adik Odik
02:05 Oporazita
03:00 Duranto Barley
03:30 Adik Odik
04:30 Rhalo Thelo Sange Thelo
05:30 Kachhokha
Radio Foorti 07:30 Hello Dhaka

10:00 Morning Express
12:00 My Time
01:00 No Tension
04:00 Dhaka Calling
07:15 Radio Today FM 89.6
09:00 Today's Adda
08:00 Today's Hit
11:00 Fast Blue Gaan
12:00 Today's Happy Moments

ATN BANGLA 11:05 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Gram Gejer Khabor
05:20 Valobasi Valobasi
08:00 Drama: Kingbanari Fire
Aso
10:45 Bihongo Kotha
12:30 Gramephone Lead
News

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