

WHAT'S ON

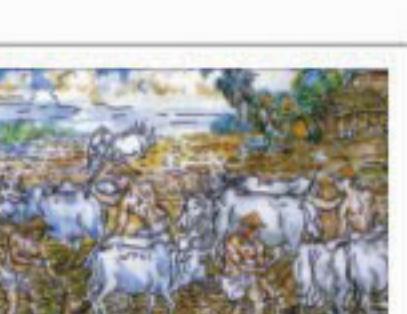
Shora Painting
Exhibition
Painter: Sukumar Pal
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60,
R-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: April 11-16



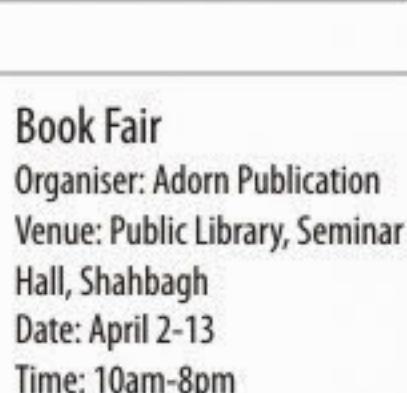
Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Symphony of Colours
Artist: Syed Abdullah Khalid
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, R-16, S-4, Uttara
Date: April 12-29



Grand Group Art
Exhibition
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DCC
Market, Gulshan-2
Date: April 1-30
Time: 10am-8pm



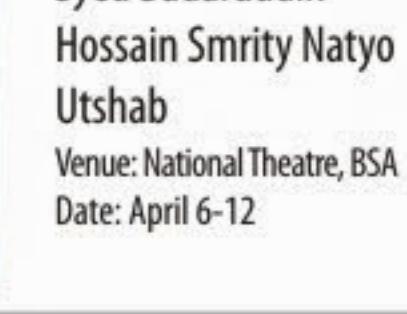
Book Fair
Organiser: Adorn Publication
Venue: Public Library, Seminar
Hall, Shahbagh
Date: April 2-13
Time: 10am-8pm



Art Exhibition
Title: Time Eternal
Venue: Alliance Francaise de
Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: April 15-28
Time: 5pm-8pm



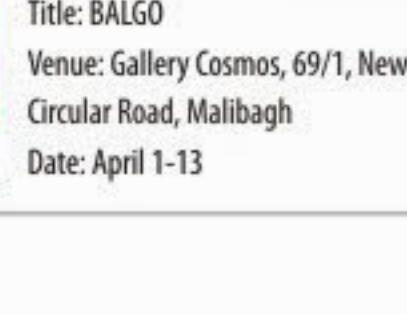
Syed Badaruddin
Hossain Smriti Natyo
Uthshab
Venue: National Theatre, BSA
Date: April 6-12



Musical Soiree
Artist: Chanchal Khan
Venue: IGGC, H-24, R-2,
Dhanmondi
Date: April 15
Time: 6:30pm



BALGO
Contemporary
Australian Art Exhibition
Title: BALGO
Venue: Gallery Cosmos, 69/1, New
Circular Road, Mollibagh
Date: April 1-13



Le Bangladesh à Paris

Festival featuring Bengali arts and culture draw French interest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Le Bangladesh à Paris" -- a month-long festival featuring Bangladeshi arts and culture -- is now on in Paris, France. Jointly organised by Alliance Française de Dhaka and Chittagong, Bangladesh Brand Forum and Fondation Alliance Française, the festival marks the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence. The festival opened earlier this month.

The festival includes a photo exhibition featuring 15 contemporary Bangladeshi photographers. A heritage and craft exhibition featuring fabrics, embroidery, tapestry and jute materials is being held at the Galerie de la Fondation Alliance Française in Paris. A painting exposition of works by 18 Bangladeshi artists opened on April 7 at Cité Internationale des Arts. The exhibition will continue till April 22. Bangladeshi band Don't Ask performed at the opening ceremony, held at the Theatre of Fondation Alliance Française.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Information and Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad; Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mizarul Quayes; Enamul Kabir, Bangladeshi Ambassador to France; Jean-Claude Jacq, Secretary General of the Foundation Alliance Française; Salihah Lefevre, director, Alliance Française de Dhaka; Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, president, executive committee of Alliance Française de Dhaka and Adil Husain, president, executive committee of Alliance Française de Chittagong, among others, were present at the opening ceremony.

The dignitaries joined French art connoisseurs, enthusiasts and Bangladeshis living in Paris at the gala opening of the festival.



Information and Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad (left) at the photo exhibition in Paris.

The Season of Red & White

Gearing up for Pahela Baishakh

From the beginning of April, the shopping scene at Dhaka faces a complete overhaul. Western beats are replaced by the traditional sounds at all the major shopping malls including Pink City, Genetic Plaza etc. Tops, dresses and even frotas make room for the classic saris, shalwar-kameez sets and panjabis and most importantly, red and white rule supreme.

Any female who has crossed over the '14-year-old' borderline is most likely jumping in anticipation for a chance to wear and wander around in a sari. You can get special Pahela Baishakh red and white saris in cotton, jamdani, half silk and silk.

Nine out of the ten boutiques of Deshi Dosh (at Boshundhara Mall) have geared up for the occasion with special discounts and offers. Here you can find cotton saris ranging from Tk 750-1500 and at the other end silk saris starting from Tk 2000 and going as high up as Tk 5000. In this range you will find many other saris of various materials.

If cotton or silk is not your style and you crave something which oozes sophistication, make a trip to Jamdani Kutir, Tangail Sari Kutir or Taant Ghar. Here your budget needs to be from Tk 3500 to 15000.

If you want a break from the toilsome travelling around in a sari on a hot and humid day, no worries. Shalwar-kameez sets, especially for the red and white celebration, have taken over the shelves of even the traditionally non-traditional retailers such as Yellow, Smartex, Infinity, Trendz and others.

Here you will find the appropriate clothing around Tk 1200, providing you with the basic red and white combination on cotton or synthetic material. If you decide to go up to Tk 6000, you'll get some decorative embroidery or thread work on your dress.

Traditional three-piece retailers such as Kay Kraft, Bangla Mela or Aarong. Prices can range from Tk 800 to 6000.

Now we all know that the love birds in Dhaka city are heavily deprived of scopes to share special moments. Hence, just like Valentine's Day, Pahela Baishakh gives these couples the opportunity to go out and have a good time. Keeping this in mind, local designers have come up with the idea of creating outfit for couples -- panjabi

like Kay Kraft, Bangla Mela or Aarong. Prices can range from Tk 800 to 6000.

When the going gets hard in the daily hustle and bustle of life, the city dwellers seek days when they can take a break and celebrate life, and what better day to indulge in celebration than the Bangla New Year?

As one of the shoppers enthusiastically told

us, Pahela Baishakh is an event created and developed by the masses, and is a perfect outlet for our cultural expression. The vibrant colours, the intoxicating music, even the heavy traffic on the day are all part of the festivities. So shop, walk, eat and share the joy.

Chhayanaut Ready to Usher in the Bangla New Year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Starting from 1967, Chhayanaut's 'Barshoboron' [ushering in the Bangla New Year] at Ramna Park in the city has become a tradition. BTV, BTV World and Bangladesh Betar will air the programme live on Pahela Baishakh [April 14]. Telnet, Gramophone's sister concern, will cover the detailed programme on the website www.chhayanaut.org. Gramophone is sponsoring the programme.

Private TV channels will also telecast the programme live.

The day's programme will begin at 6:15am with an instrumental recital (Raga Ramkali on violin) by Sheuli Bhattacharya, followed by renditions of morning raga-based songs of 'Pancho-kobi' [Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, DL Roy, Atul Prasad and Rajanikant], patriotic songs, folk numbers and recitation.

Students [both current and former] and teachers of Chhayanaut with several guest artists have rehearsed for over a month for the programme. Security is being beefed up circling the 'Barshoboron 1418' programme.

It should be mentioned that this year Chhayanaut will celebrate its golden jubilee.



Bob Marley: Beyond Famous

Scots director Kevin Macdonald says Bob Marley was "beyond" famous, as he prepares a documentary marking the 30th anniversary of the music icon's death.

The Oscar-winning filmmaker behind "The Last King of Scotland" says he is making the film, "Marley", because of the star's "continued resonance around the world."

"He's gone beyond being a famous musician, he's now a philosopher and prophet," he adds.

The feature-length documentary is due later this year.

Macdonald, who won an Oscar for the 1999 documentary "One Day in September", said the artist's ubiquitousness is one of the most interesting things about his musical legacy.

"I think that's what is so intriguing is that he's almost become lift music in the UK and America, you hear him so much. It's hard to hear it fresh."

"But recently in places like India or Tunisia, Marley is kind of the soundtrack to the revolution.

He speaks to people politically in a way that is very important.

"In the slums of Nairobi, there are murals of Marley and people quote the lyrics to you."

The film's executive producers include Island Record founder Chris Blackwell and

Marley's son Ziggy.

The musician's face continues

to appear on bootleg products

across the world, and in

February last year, the Marley family signed a deal with a private equity firm to secure merchandising rights to the brand.

Since then, alongside hoodies



Images of Marley appear on numerous products.

t-shirts, fans can purchase children's books and even Marley coffee on the singer's official website.

"It's easy to get on your high horse about that," says Macdonald. "But I think actually what is more interesting is that it has taken them 30 years."

"It's certainly not the case with The Rolling Stones and The Beatles and Michael Jackson."

"Elvis Presley's estate is making 30 million a year and they say that Marley shouldn't be, but he is from a much poorer part of the world and a lot more people need the money."

"I think that is important what he says to people around the world. He manages to be a serious political figure to some, but he can also be an icon of rebellion."

Source: BBC

India-Bangladesh Meeting on Cultural Cooperation

Secretary level discussions on India-Bangladesh cooperation in the field of culture was held in New Delhi on April 7, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Jawhar Sircar, secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Bangladesh delegation was led by Surya Begum, secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of Bangladesh, according to a press release.

India and Bangladesh share close historical, cultural and ethnic links. The cultural agreement between the two countries was first signed in Dhaka in December, 1972. The India-Bangladesh Cultural Agreement covers a range of areas of cooperation including art, mass-media (TV, radio, films and press), sports, archaeology, museums, libraries/archives and educational activities. The objectives enshrined in the cultural agreement are realised through the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP).

The current Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2010-12 between India and Bangladesh was signed on January 11, 2010 in New Delhi in the presence of the Prime Ministers of the two countries when the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina paid a state visit to India. One of the significant agreements was to jointly celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore.

At the recent discussions, the two sides highlighted the common cultural heritage of the two countries and emphasised the need to build on these shared links. The areas of discussion were: monuments and archaeology; museums and visual arts; national science museums; films and media; library and archives; performing arts; joint nominations of Intangible Cultural Heritage for UNESCO and joint commemorations of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Tagore's 150th birth anniversary celebration in Bangladesh will open on May 6, 2011 in Dhaka, with participation of an Indian VIP and artists. The celebration in India will kick off on May 7, 2011 in New Delhi, with participation of a Bangladeshi VIP and artists.



PHOTO: STAR LIFESTYLE ARCHIVE

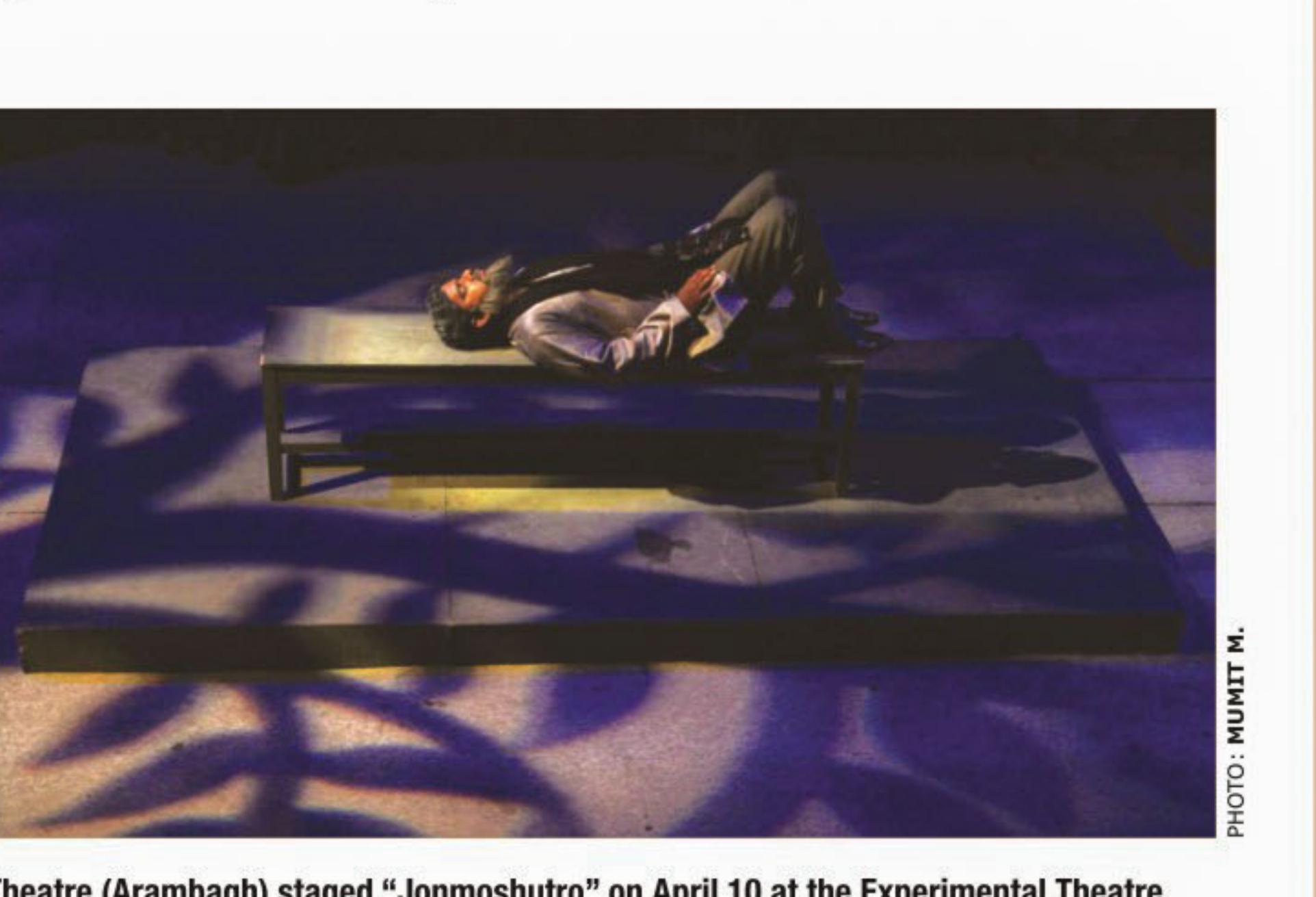


PHOTO: MUNIY M.

Syed Abdullah Khalid's solo exhibition at Galleri Kaya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Galleri Kaya (in Uttara, Dhaka) is holding a solo painting exhibition featuring celebrated painter Syed Abdullah Khalid. Titled "Symphony of Colours", the exhibition opens today and will continue till April 29.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith will inaugurate the exhibition. Architect and art critic Shamsul Wares and poet Rabiu Hussain will also attend the inaugural programme.

Khalid is recognised for his nature themed paintings. He prefers large canvases for portraying landscapes, greenery, picturesque beauty and still life. Forests and blossoming flowers are recurring features in his artworks. Around 40 paintings will be displayed at the exhibition -- mostly done in acrylic, and a few oil paintings.

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