

WHAT'S ON

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

Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Symphony of Colours
Artist: Syed Abdullah Khalid
Venue: Gallery Kanya, 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-9pm

Celebration of Pohela Boishakh
Organiser: ArCAAB and ArCSA
Venue: BUET Premises
Date: April 14
Time: 7am-10pm

Robi-Channel / Boishakhi Mela
Venue: Channel 1 Premises, Tejgaon
Date: April 14
Time: 10am-4pm

Boishakh Utshab
Venue: Level-2, Westin Dhaka, Gulshan-2
Date: April 13-15
Time: 3:30pm-4:30pm

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

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

Call for National Recognition of Poet Sheikh Fazlul Karim

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Everyone knows the lines "Kothaye Shorgo, Kothaye Norok, Ke Boley Ta Bohudur/ Manusher Majhey Shorgo Norok, Manusetey Shurashur", but many don't know the poet who penned them. Poet Sheikh Fazlul Karim wrote the verses.

Today marks the 128th birth anniversary of the poet. Karim was born into an affluent family at Kakina village in Lalmonirhat district in 1883.

No government or personal initiative has been taken to observe the birth anniversary of the poet in Lalmonirhat district, despite the fact that poems written by Karim are included in text books. At least 55 books of the poet were published from Calcutta (now Kolkata).

Kobi Sheikh Fazlul Karim Girls High School in Lalmonirhat town and a reading club were founded at the poet's native village Kakina. Except these two establishments, no initiative has been taken to protect and preserve the poet's home.

The poet's grandson Wahedunnobi Islam, 70, said, "People from different areas regularly come here (Kakina village) to visit the poet's home and his final resting place. But no initiative has been taken to protect and preserve the poet's home."

The headmaster of Kobi Sheikh Fazlul Karim Girls High School, Sekandar Ali Sarker said that the poet deserves national recognition and the government should take necessary steps to keep his memory alive.



Bengali HERITAGE & Pahela Baishakh

Md. ANWARUL KABIR

Following the Bengali calendar when the Pahela Baisakh comes and we step into the New Year, we try to search our souls with a view to rediscovering our cultural heritage originating from this delta land mingled with the Bengali ethnicity. On this day, most Bengalis, especially those from the middle class, are engrossed in nostalgia, appreciating the glorious past of our nationhood.

Indeed, once upon a time we had a colourful cultural spectrum. Agro-based village society of the land had multi-dimensional cultural aspects. Literally we observed, "Baro mashey tero parbon" (thirteen festivals in twelve months) based on various features of six seasons, religious festivity and other social issues. In a secular manner once all Bengalis celebrated many festivals like Nabanna, Poush Mela, Chaitra Sankranti, Eid, Muharram, Durga Puja, Kali Puja and so on. Among these festivals, many were purely secular (e.g. Nabanna, Poush Mela) and some were religious. However, some of the secular festivals have been sent to the museum at the point of history when most of the solvent middle class people were urbanised keeping behind their past peasant roots in remote villages.

In the past, the boundary between religious communities was blurred, especially during festivals. Hindus invited their Muslim friends to their pujas; conversely Hindus also participated as guests in Muslim events and at that time there was no social taboos as we sometime observe in our 'modern' time. In those days, no one raised any question whether that particular festival originated from Hindu religion and whether Muslims should be debarred from participation. The reason behind this lay in the way of preaching Islam which began in around the 14th century in this region. Most of the people who were converted into Islam in the erstwhile East Bengal were inspired

by the 'Pir' / 'Aulia' who followed Sufism. This Sufism stressed a spiritual union with God and did not require its newest adherents to abandon their traditional beliefs and practices totally. So, the influence of the indigenous Bengali cultural practices is predominantly evident among the Muslim community in this region. For this, the majority of the Bengali Muslims maintained liberal outlook and traditionally believe in the principle of peaceful coexistence with other religious communities.

Though over time, we have lost some of our traditional festival days, still we can be proud of our addition of Ekushey as a very special day which grew out of love for our mother-tongue Bengali. Language is the most powerful instrument for smooth propagation of cultural heritages from generation to generation. The Bengali language in the recent past has reached such a position where we can confidently assert that this is one of the richest languages of the globe. Bengalis from both Bangladesh and India have promoted Bengali to an extent where we are about to establish Bengali in all aspects of our life, starting from education to other private and public domains.

If we really want to portray ourselves as a self esteemed nation, we must uphold the inherent essence of Bengali nationalism - secularism and the Bengali language. We have a long way to go. Michael Billing, a contemporary sociologist of the UK, in his book entitled "Banal Nationalism" has suggested that if a nation wants to uphold its culture and heritage in the psyche of its people, continuous upholding of the cultural aspects of that nation is a must.

So, if we want to instill our cultural heritage and traditions into the mindset of the people, we need to practise our cultural ethos in our everyday life.

Md. Anwarul Kabir is an educationalist, working at the Computer Science Department of AIUB.

Ringling in the New Year

Baishakhi preparations in full swing



attractions are firming up security measures for the event. They have arranged for power supply at night, the deployment of mobile patrol teams, check posts at sensitive and key points and continuous vigilance against pickpockets and miscreants.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

To celebrate Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bengali New Year, the students of Fine Arts Department of Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) in Trishal are busy putting the last minute touches on their artworks.

The students are busy painting earthen ware and masks to be seen in a colourful procession, 'Mangal Shobhajatra', which will be taken out from the university campus and parade the Trishal upazila headquarters. Masks of different shapes and designs as well as replicas of 'charki', 'ektara', 'hand fan' and horses will be

ground and will be sponsored by Banglalink. Shabdaboli Group Theatre at Barisal Central Shahid Minar, Chander Haat at Barisal TB Clinic field, Planet World Children's Park at park premises and local entrepreneurs at Hatkhola have arranged Baishakhi Mela from April 12.

Udichi Shilpi Gosthi at BM School and Sur Lahori Sangeet Bidyalay, Parantik Sangeet Bidyalay, Anirban Shilpi Gosthi at Aswani Kumar Hall premises, have arranged cultural programmes for Pahela Baishakh at dawn.

Jugantor Swajan Samabesh has organised mobile cultural teams who will make their way through eight points of three districts of Barisal division. Their event will end with an open air concert at Kuakata beach. Gano Shilpi Sangstha will perform folk songs and plays in front of Barisal Aswani Kumar Hall on Pahela Baishakh afternoon.

The local administration and law

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The denizens of Barisal city are gearing up to enjoy colourful programmes for 'Chaitra Sangkranti' and 'Pahela Baishakh' to bid farewell to 1417 and welcome the Bangla New Year 1418 on April 13 and 14.

Barisal Charukala has arranged a 'Mangal Shobhajatra' (New Year rally) from BM School ground on April 14 morning with motifs of Bengali folk and everyday life. The organisation will accord a reception to an eminent folk craftsman of the region.

To observe Pahela Baishakh, the Barisal district administration has announced three-day programmes including a folk festival by district Shilpakala Academy, cultural competitions by Shishu Academy, discussion and cultural programmes.

A three-day Baishakhi Utshab with fair and cultural functions is also on the cards. The event has been arranged by Udichi at BM School



Preparations are on in Chapainawabganj town to celebrate Pahela Baishakh. Local artists, painters of different organisations and students of the fine arts department of various universities are working round the clock

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

to make artworks featuring traditional motifs. These aesthetic works of art will be carried at the 'Mangal Shobhajatra' (rally) on the first day of the Bengali New Year.

The district administration will bring out a 'Mangal Shobhajatra' from DC office premises on the morning of Pahela Baishakh. Different socio-cultural organisations will take part in the rally.

On the occasion, a three-day Baishakhi Mela will be held at Harimohon Government School premises by the district administration.

Chapai Gombhira; Udichi Shilpi Gosthi; Mahananda Sangeet Niketan; Youth Engagement Society of Sachetan Nagorik Committee, a unit of Transparency International Bangladesh; Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad, Chapainawabganj unit; Bangladesh Shishu Academy and other cultural organisations have arranged special programmes to usher in the New Year.

Astami Mela in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Marking the ritual of 'astami snan' (holy dip), a mela (fair) was held at Durgabari and Swadeshi Bazar area in the town on April 11. Fairs were also held at different parts of the district, including Sadar uapzila.

Food vendors drew a huge number of visitors of all age groups and strata of society who wanted a taste of delectable traditional food items like 'binni khai' (rice puffs), 'batasha' (made of sugar) and 'khaja' (made of sesame seeds and sugar). Stalls of clay toys were a major attraction for children. The celebration is not only religious, it is also a meeting place for people of different creeds and religions, said Biplob Kumar Deb, a resident of the area.

Radha Rani who was selling handmade fans said that the rush of people from the morning made for good sales. Marking the 'astami snan', devotees from different parts of the district and outside gathered at the town the night before. Devotees in their hundreds took shelter at different temples including Durgabari temple, Shivbari temple, Jubilee Ghat temple and Loknath Ashram.

The temple authorities took necessary measures to accommodate the devotees.

The devotees performed their holy dip at different spots of the Brahmaputra river including at Old Shambhuganj Ghat, Kalibari Ghat and Khagadhor Ghat. Many voluntary organisations and individuals set up reception camps for the benefit of pilgrims coming for the 'astami snan'.



BAISHAKHI BOUNTY Special play by Humayun Ahmed

A CORRESPONDENT

"Shopno Ebong Shopno Bhongno", a single-episode play written by Humayun Ahmed and directed by his wife Meher Afroze Shaon will be aired on Pahela Baishakh on Channel i at 7:50pm.

The story follows a writer, played by Gazi Rakayet. Other cast members include Rahmat Ali, Agum, Shamima Naznin and Tahsin. About the



plot of the play, Humayun Ahmed says that every writer believes art imitates life. The play is based on that concept.

Shaon adds that the play was shot at Nuhash Palli and Dhaka and it promotes wholesome entertainment.

Food for Thought Book Fair in Dinajpur ends

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

A 15-day book fair to celebrate the 40th Independence Day of the country ended recently with a cultural programme and discussion, among other events.

Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner's office organised the book fair in front of Dinajpur Central Shahid Minar. Md. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur, inaugurated the fair on March 26 as chief guest.

Around 30 publication houses from the district and across the country took

part in the fair.

School students of the district participated in the cultural programmes held at the fair premises every day. Discussions were also arranged where educationists, teachers and noted members of the society spoke.

The cultural programmes included dances, a play on the Liberation War, songs and recitation. Md. Abdul Mannan and Jasim Uddin, Divisional Commissioner of Rajshai and Rangpur respectively, were present at the closing programme and gave away books as prizes among the students and the participants at the cultural programme.

Documentary on HARRY POTTER to be out soon

Fans of Harry Potter can look forward to more movie magic after the final instalment of the wizarding franchise hits screens in July -- an access-all areas documentary is set for release.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2", which stars Daniel Radcliffe, will bring the series to a close, but producer David Barron tells Mtv News that moviemaker Morgan Matthews filmed a tell-all during the shooting of the picture -- and it's set to be made public.

Barron says, "He went behind the scenes and had incredible access to talent and crew and has made a documentary that is not yet complete, which shows the challenges of making the film -- the tolls it takes on actors and crew. It's not just pure

gloss and everybody's happy. It's real... At the same time, it's really, really funny."

Barron also reveals further documentaries could be in the works, as cameras have been on hand to capture all the action on set since the first film, 2001's "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone".

He adds, "It was a very well-documented production. We had a crew filming behind the scenes for the entire production, which is unheard of -- and that's been for all the films. There is material, and we'll see how it's used. I'm sure Warner Bros. will package it in some form or another."

Source: Internet



Kamal Lohani and members of Azimpur Old Friends Association installed a replica of the first Shaheed Minar at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 5. The original Shaheed Minar was constructed on February 23, 1952 by the then students of Dhaka Medical College.

Table with TV channels and their programmes: ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL i, nTV, etc.

Table with Radio stations and their programmes: abc radio FM 89.2, Dhaka Radio, etc.

Table with TV shows and their details: Talk show on The Daily Star's 20th anniversary, etc.

Table with TV shows and their details: Collateral On Z Studio at 09:30pm, etc.

Table with TV shows and their details: Ghure Darao Bangladesh On BANGLAVISION at 11:25pm, etc.

Table with TV channels and their programmes: ETV, Rtv, Diganta TV, etc.

Table with TV channels and their programmes: BANGLAVISION, Desh TV, etc.

Table with TV channels and their programmes: ATN BANGLA, nTV, etc.

Table with TV channels and their programmes: NEWS BULLETIN, etc.

Table with TV channels and their programmes: TALK SHOW, etc.