MD. ANWARUL KABIR

Following the Bengali calendar when the Pahela Baisal

comes and we step into a New Year, we try to search our

souls with a view to rediscovering our cultural heritage

originating from this deltaic land mingled with the Ben

those from the middle class, are engrossed in nostalgia

spectrum. Agro-based village society of the land had

observed, 'Baro mashey tero parbon' (thirteen festivals

in twelve months) based on various features of six sea-

sons, religious festivity and other social issues. In secula

manner once all Bengalis celebrated many festivals like

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

the secular festivals have been sent to the museum at t

point of history when most of the solvent middle class

people were urbanised keeping behind their past peas

In the past, the boundary between religious com

munities was blurred, especially during festivals. Hir

dus invited their Muslim friends to their pujas; con-

versely 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 partic-

whether Muslims should be debarred from participa

tion. The reason behind this lay in the way of preach

ing 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

Kamal Lohani and members of Azimpur Old Friends Association installed a replica of the first

constructed on February 23, 1952 by the then students of Dhaka Medical College.

Shaheed Minar at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 5. The original Shaheed Minar was

ular festival originated from Hindu religion and

Indeed, once upon a time we had a colourful cultura

gali ethnicity. On this day, most Bengalis, especially

appreciating the glorious past of our nationhood.

multi-dimensional cultural aspects. Literally we

Nabanna, Poush Mela, Chaitra Sankranti, Eid,

ant roots in remote villages.

Chaitra Shangkran

Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Aly Zaker

The Final Chapter

Bats: Human Harvest

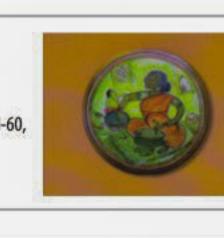
07:00 Tobey Tai Hok

On Z Studio at

Genre: Crime/

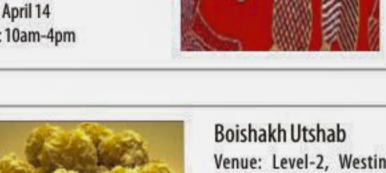
Cast: Tom Cruise,

All programmes are in local















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 anniinto an affluent family at Kakina village in Lalmonirhat district in

tive 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

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 to keep the poet's memory alive has been taken.

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

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

Ringing in the New Year

Baishakhi preparations in full swing



Shabdaboli Group Theatre at

Chander Haat at Barisal TB Clinic

park premises and local entrepre

neurs at Hatkhola have arranged

and Sur Lahori Sangeet Bidyalay

Parantik Sangeet Bidyalay, Anirban

Shilpi Gosthi at Aswani Kumar Hall

programmes for Pahela Baishakh at

Jugantor Swajon Samabesh has

organised mobile cultural teams who

division. Their event will end with an

Gano Shilpi Sangstha will perform

The local administration and law

will make their way through eight

points of three districts of Barisal

open air concert at Kuakata beach.

Baishakh afternoon.

premises, have arranged cultural

Baishakhi Mela from April 12.

field, Planet World Children's Park at

Udichi Shilpi Gosthi at BM School

Barisal Central Shahid Minar,

The denizens of Barisal city are gearing up to enjoy colourful programmes for 'Chaitra Sangkran and 'Pahela Baishakh' to bid farewe 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 Bangali folk and everyday life. The organisation will accord a reception to an eminent folk craftsman of the

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

folk songs and plays in front of A three-day Baishakhi Utshab wit Barisal Aswani Kumar Hall on Pahela fair and cultural functions is also or the cards. The event has been arranged by Udichi at BM School

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

enforcement are firming up security

measures for the event. They have

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 (JKKNIU) 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, 'Manga Shobhajatra', which will be taken out from the university campus and parade the Trishal upazila headquar ters. Masks of different shapes and designs as well as replicas of 'charki'

by Professor Md. Nazrul Islam of Economics Department of the uni 'ektara', 'hand fan' and horses will be

attractions of the procession The teachers of the Fine Arts Department, Safin Omar, Emdadur

Rashed and Tapon Kumar Sarker are guiding the students in their prepa-On the other hand, students of the Music Department are in the midst

of rehearsals so that Pahela Baishakh can be ushered in with melodious ines and rhythm. Safin Omar told this correspon-

dent that the aim is to highlight the pulent Bengali tradition and cultur hrough the procession. Some 80 students have been working for a month to add colour to the celebra tions, he added. Traditional musical instrument

like dhol, flute and shanai will add to the appeal of the procession, said Emdadur Rashed, another teacher of

A committee to celebrate Bengali

New Year has been formed, headed



Marking the celebration, the tional motifs. These aesthetic works of art will be carried at the 'Mangal the Bengali New Year.

> 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

premises by the district administra Chapai Gombhira; Udichi Shilpi Gosthi; Mahananda Sangeet

organisations have arranged special

programmes to usher in the New

programme. The programme includes bringing out a colourful rally in the town, bull fights, kite flying and cultural programmes. Baishakhi Mela will be held at Shaheeb Quarter Park area in the

Preparations are on in Chapainawabgani town to celebrat Pahela Baishakh.

organisations and students of the fine arts department of various universities are working round the clock Year.

to make artworks featuring tradi-

A 37-member celebration commi tee was formed headed by Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Lokman Hossain Miah to celebrat the biggest secular Bengali festival.

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Local artists, painters of differen

Shobhajatra' (rally) on the first day of The district administration will

bring out a 'Mangal Shobhajatra from DC office premises on the

Harimohon Government School

Niketan; Youth Engagement Society group of Sachetan Nagorik Comittee, a unit of Transparency International Bangladesh; Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad. Chapainawabganj unit; Bangladesh Shishu Academy and other cultural

11:30 Snakes on a Plane

National Geographic

02:30 Nat Geo Wild

Discovery Channel

10:30 Future Weapons

11:30 | Shouldn't Be Alive

10:30 Destroyed in Seconds

12:00 Time Warp

09:05pm Cricket Rongo

09:50pm Neel Josnaay Kalo

11:30pm Naame Bhari Jomidar

08:20pm Ohongkar

05:20pm All Rounder

BANGLAVISION

07:30 | Didn't Know That

Call for National Recognition of Poet Sheikh Fazlul Karim

Venue: Gallery Cosmos, 69/1, New

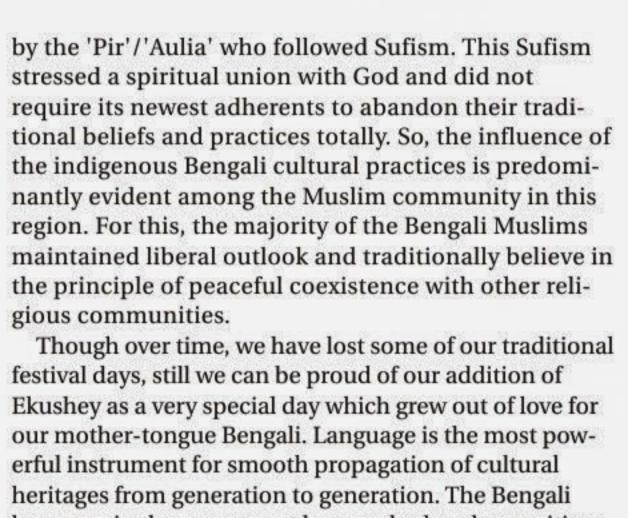
S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

versary of the poet. Karim was born No government or personal initia-

from Calcutta (now Kolkata).

The poet's grandson Wahedunnobi Islam, 70, said, "People from different preserve the poet's home."

steps to keep his memory alive.



& Pahela Baishakh

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 instil 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.

BAISHAKHI BOUNTY

bers include Rahmat Ali,

Agun, Shamima Naznin

and Tahsin. About the

Special play by Humayun Ahmed

Ahmed says that every

writer believes art imi-

based on that concept.

tates life. The play is

was shot at Nuhash Palli

and Dhaka and it prom-

ises wholesome enter-

tainment.



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 . 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 tem-

ple 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 Khagdahor Ghat. Many voluntary organisations and individuals set up reception camps for the benefit of pilgrims coming for the 'astami snan'.

School students of the district par-

gave away books as prizes among the

Documentary on HARRY POTTER to be out soon

instalment of the wizarding franchise hits screens in July -- an access-all areas documentary is set for release.

Barron says, "He went behind the

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

Source: Internet



Fans of Harry Potter can look forward gloss and everybody's happy. It's

to more movie magic after the final real... At the same time, it's really,

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

scenes and had incredible access t 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 or actors and crew. It's not just pure

12:30 Total Sportsn Diganta TV DRAMA SERIAL TN BANGLA

BANGLAVISION

09:05 Shudhui Gaan

Bangla Feature Filr

Dur-er Janala

Amar Oitijjo

Ghure Darao Banglades

NEWS BULLETIN

News (Bangla) at 7:30am. News (English) at 10:00am, ate Night News (Bangla a 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm telecast on all Bangla News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm atn Bangla

am, 4:00 am

4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm. NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00

Desh TV Boishakhi TV

12:10pm Ei Shomoy

12:00am Zero Hour

BANGLAVISION 06:05pm Front Line 11:45pm Shoja Kotha

TALK SHOW 10:40am Tarokalap ATN BANGLA 07:40pm Our Democracy 10:30am Lead News CHANNEL i 09:45am Tritiyo Matra 12:30pm Taroka Kathon

ticipated in the cultural programmes "Shopno Ebong Shopno A 15-day book fair to celebrate the 40th held at the fair premises every day. Bhongo", a single-Independence Day of the country Discussions were also arranged where episode play written by ended recently with a cultural educationists, teachers and noted Humayun Ahmed and programme and discussion, among members of the society spoke. directed by his wife The cultural programmes included Meher Afroze Shaon will Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner's dances, a play on the Liberation War, be aired on Pahela office organised the book fair in front of songs and recitation. Baishakh on Channel i at Dinajpur Central Shahid Minar. Md. Abdul Mannan and Jasim 7:50pm. Md. Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Deputy Uddin, Divisional Commissioner of The story follows a Commissioner of Dinajpur, inaugu- Rajshai and Rangpur respectively, were writer, played by Gazi plot of the play, Humayun Shaon adds that the play rated the fair on March 26 as chief present at the closing programme and Rakayet. Other cast mem-

Around 30 publication houses from students and the participants at the

the district and across the country took cultural programme.

Food for Thought

Book Fair in Dinajpur ends

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur