

WHAT'S ON

Book Fair
Organiser: Oritjijo
Venue: Central Library premises, Shahbagh
Date: April 24-May 20
Time: 9am-9pm

Group Art Exhibition
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhamondi
Date: May 12-18
Time: 12pm-8pm

Film Festival
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Rd
Date: May 12-21

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Ifrat Ara Dewan
Venue: Bengal Gallery, H-27/5, R-27, Dhamondi
Date: May 5-15
Time: 12pm-8pm

Satyajit Roy Retrospective
Organiser: Indira Gandhi Culture Centre
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
Date: May 13-16

Celebrating Tagore's Birth Anniversary
Title: Shishu Bol Mela
Venue: Bashundhara City, Panthapath
Date: May 5-15

Group Art exhibition
Title: Rabindranath Tagore
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: May 6-15
Time: 11am-6pm

Jatio Shishu-Kishore, Adibashi Natyo Utshab
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: May 9-19
Time: 4:30pm



It seemed nothing short of the Bangladeshi Boishakhi Mela transplanted in the heart of London.

SADYA AFREEN MALICK writes from London

Grim foggy London was finally waking up to spring. From my living room at Canary Wharf, the Thames sparkled like jewels. The seagulls perched lazily by the waterfront, thawing out after a cold winter. Young couples took to boating, cycling or jogging beside the river. Trees discarded their dead branches for lush green foliage, resembling huge roadside chandeliers.

On the way to the Royal London Hospital, appreciating the delightful change in nature, I caught a glimpse of the posters by the busy roads. Colourful picturesque masks like those that crop up at every Boishakhi Festival in Dhaka. Did I see it right? But this was London! I looked through the rear window and confirmed that Boishakhi Mela was to be held on the 8th of May on Brick Lane. Brick Lane in East London, referred to as Bangla Town, is an authentic area for Bangladeshi cuisine and the one place in the UK where street names are etched in Bengali.

Unsure of what to expect, I finally decided to make the 10 minute walk and pay a short visit with friends. The mela had already started at 12 noon, marked by a colourful procession brought out by the local youth

and community groups. I reached the massive park at 5pm, half expecting that the crowd had dispersed by then.

To my surprise, I watched the crowd in awe -- there must have been over 100,000 people munching, dancing, slurping and singing on a bright, sunny day.

"People have come from all over Europe," said poet Shameem Azad. The Boishakhi Mela (New Year Festival), organised by the Tower Hamlet, has been held for the last 14 years," added Azad, the chairperson of the London Branch of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra.

At the entrance of the carnival, children were screaming in delight as the roller coasters soared perilously towards the sky. The stalls offering phuchka, chatpati, cotton candy, kulfi, khichuri, biriyani set all around the mela premises were packed with eager foodies. It seemed nothing short of the Bangladeshi Boishakhi Mela transplanted in the heart of London.

"We have come to introduce our children to the Boishakhi Mela that we miss so much," said a housewife, Rehana Perveen. "Our children love the *deshi* items such as *phuchka* and *chatpati*. Even though the price is exorbitant we want them to enjoy it," added her husband, Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal.

I watched from afar, the stream of ladies dressed gorgeously in white and red jamdani saris, and men in colourful panjabis, the toddlers clad in yellow, flowers bedecking their hair -- all rushing to the mela ground. This was no different than what we see and experience back home in Bangladesh on Pahela Boishakh.

A huge stage at the furthest corner was set up for the cultural programme. Different organisations performed Bangla songs, starting from Tagore, Nazrul, Hason Raja to the contemporary hits. "Next year we plan to stage jatra," added one of the organisers. Young girls and boys danced to the tune of "Baula ke banaila re", a Hason Raja composition.

A deep sense of pride filled my heart. We were among a handful of artistes (as part of Chhayanaaut) who had started celebrating Pahela Boishakh in Dhaka. It has now stretched far and wide and is being observed with much festivity at the other side of the world!

By 6pm we reached Oxford House where more surprise awaited us. Bishwa Shahitya Kendra UK had arranged a special programme celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Tagore and a Boishakhi Book fair. The beautiful brochure with a painting by

Celebrating Home, Away from Home

Boishakhi Mela in London

Khadija Rahman said much about the capabilities of the members. Bangladesh High Commissioner to London, Dr. M Sayeedur Rahman Khan, inaugurated the event. Former High Commissioner of UK to Bangladesh, Anwar Chowdhury, along with Sayeedur Rahman lit a mongol prodeep before declaring the festival open.

The welcome dance and song were followed by an interactive storytelling on the bard by poet Shameem Azad. Eminent writer Belal Mahmood, the man instrumental in sending out the message of independence immediately after the crackdown of Pakistan, later gave away the Tassaduk Ahmed Award to the best volunteer at the event.

This was followed by a theatre adaptation of Tagore's "Debotar Grash", directed by Saklain. The play began with Moitra, an affluent man, preparing for a pilgrimage. As a team sets out for the journey, a young widow, Mokkhoda, begs Moitra to take her along. But the story gets a twist when her only child Rakhal is fascinated by the idea of a sea voyage, and refuses to get off the boat. The play focuses on the defeat of humanity and logic at the hands of superstition.

The amateur cast fascinated the audience with their performances. "We performed a play at Edinburgh to the Bengali community recently," said one of the organisers, Zakir Hossain. Dia Chakravarty's (granddaughter of poet Sufia Kamal) performance of Tagore songs was highly appreciated by the audience. A book launching session followed next.

At the end of the programme, the audience was treated to Tagore's art and a fashion show. The show highlighted the "fashion statement" created by the Jorasanko Thakurbari during Tagore's time. The current style of wearing saris in pleats also evolved from the experiments made by the ladies of the Tagore family. One by one the characters Labonya and Amit of "Shesher Kabita"; Nikhilesh and Binola from "Ghorey Bairey"; Binodini from "Chokher Bali", Nandini from "Roktokorobi" and more sprang to life attired in the style Tagore sketched himself. Ronny and Urmee Mazhar narrated the background during the catwalk.

It was late and we had to return home. One could sense the feeling of pride rippling through in the audience, a quiet confidence that despite being miles away from home, the cultural roots had not withered away in neglect. This was home away from home, or as the saying goes "home is where the heart is."



Winning Reunites

Grand concert celebrating 28th anniversary of the band

TANZIN CHOWDHURY

Winning, a band that has given contemporary music aficionados several hits, was formed in 1983 by five young men -- Ranjan, Shelly, Haider, Mitul and Famid. Over the years, musicians Babu, Chandan, Biplob, Tipu and Mobin joined in.

Despite being hugely popular, this band has so far launched only two albums in almost three decades.

Winning's self-titled debut album (released in 1992) was the bestseller of the year. Music lovers welcomed the band's melodious soft rock numbers like "Dur Paharer Dharey", "Shonar Meye" and "Hridoy Jurey". Even today people look for that album at music stores.

The second album, titled "Ochena Shohor" that came out in 1995, also was a success.

To celebrate its 28th anniversary, all members of the band have come together to reconnect, relive and rejoice through a musical reunion.

The reunion concert is scheduled to take place at Winter Garden, Hotel Ruposhi Bangla (formerly known as Dhaka Sheraton) today, starting from 5:30pm.

All ten members who are to perform at the reunion concert were jamming at a practice pad in Eskaton last evening. The crew seemed and sounded nostalgic, happy and sad -- all at the same time. The band strolled down memory lane, remembering their first fan club, their albums, their time together and the loss of Mobin.

It's been 11 long years since Winning last performed live, they said.

The vocalist Chandan left for abroad in 2002, and since then the band had become inactive, explained the members.

"We have a unique style of music, it's not for everyone," said Chandan. "We have a fan base that is accustomed to our style. We could not risk alienating them by experimenting with another vocalist after Chandan left," added Biplob, the keyboardist.

"Our fans are dedicated and they've patiently waited years to hear us live," said Ranjan, drummer and vocalist.

The crew said that they are all very excited about the musical reunion today. They promised an unforgettable show and an evening of melody dedicated to all their fans and well

wishers.

Chandan quickly added, "All our fans, who are abroad or can't make it to the reunion, can watch the show on Boishakhi TV or hear it on Radio Today."

"Don't miss it! This concert is going to be grand," said Tipu, drummer and percussionist of the band (also drummer of Warfaze).

The band members also broke the big news: Winning's third album will be launched by next year.

The crew said that the new album will feature Winning's familiar style of music. "However, on this album we're fusing some new flavours -- keeping younger audiences in mind," said Babu, the senior-most guitarist of the band.

No compromise will be made with the lyrics though, because "that's what makes our songs complete and unique," Chandan said.

The band conveyed special thanks to Shojol, a long-term friend and well wisher of the band, who initiated the idea of this reunion.

Carnival Events, an event management firm run by Tipu and Emon, has taken the initiative to host the concert.

Avant-garde Art in Old Dhaka



"Unclaimed Letters" by Wakilur Rahman (top-left); "The golden days of the golden nights..." by Ronni Ahmed.

AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN

A recent exhibition of installations, titled 'Longitude Latitude 4', showcased at Beauty Boarding, on Sirish Das Lane, in Old Dhaka featured the works of contemporary artists. The choice of the venue, by a dingy lane, may seem a little unusual to many. But the group of artists who put together the event wanted "an art happening at Beauty Boarding." The term "happenings" was coined by American painter Allan Kaprow in the late 1950s and his counter cultural, interactive works shaped much of the course of late 20th century art. In his

views, the distinction or hierarchy between artists and viewers are superfluous and viewers' reaction determines the art piece, making each "happening" a unique experience. Blurring the lines among different genres, the installations usually involve different mediums of art at a single event.

Walking into the age-old premises of Beauty Boarding, one could hear the voices of opera legends Enrico Caruso and Maria Callas. Ronni Ahmed's fairly large installation, titled "The golden days of the golden nights..." was set at the yard. The blackened bamboo structure, holding

a lot of objects, wrapped up in flashy golden paper created a spectacular effect by echoing the yellowish discolour of the surrounding building. Back in '60s and '70s, most of the progressive writers and thinkers of our country used to hang out in this area. "The golden days of the golden nights..." reflected the spirit of that period, according to the artist. Nostalgia and retro (without arguing for a possible future) are some of the many defining characteristics of post-modernism. Like some of his earlier works, this one was also post-modern in essence.

Wakilur Rahman's installation was

brilliant in its artistic endeavour to represent the memories of the numerous boarders of this place. He put worn-out clothes, toothbrushes, old suitcases, cheap cosmetics and a lot of everyday objects and accessories that invoke the image of working class people who stayed in the room over the decades. Letters written on postcards -- hung in the air over the bed, gave the whole set up a human touch. However, the refined language that seemed rather inconsistent with the overall theme and intended effect of the installation.

Samsul Alam Helal's series of photographs, titled "Hijra", was displayed in a newly painted room with a flashy green ceiling. The glittery clothing of the hijra (eunuch) in the photos could not have

been a better match for the setting. Alam's work could also have become an effective artistic resistance against the dehumanisation of transgender individuals in our culture, had it attempted to provide an insight into the transgender community, rather than sensualising them.

Digital prints on the second floor had a strong anti-war message alluding to the conflicts that shaped the history of 20th century and also the ongoing wars around the world.

Filmmaker Yasmin Kabir screened her "Last Rite", a documentary on the ship-breaking industry of Bangladesh and its negative impact on the environment and the workers.

Dia Alam and Arfan Ahmed's works were among the many other installations at the exhibition.



PHOTO COURTESY: MUNEM WASEF

Female Perspectives

Zahir Raihan Film Society celebrates 25th anniversary with festival featuring women filmmakers



Clara Law's "Temptation of a Monk" is one of the featured films at the festival.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zahir Raihan Film Society is celebrating its 25th anniversary on May 16. On the occasion, the film society is holding a festival, titled "A Tribute to Women Filmmakers of the World" -- screening 38 films by 34 female filmmakers from as many countries.

The screening -- divided into two sessions -- started yesterday at the auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhamondi. The first session features 21 films by filmmakers from Asia, Africa, Australia and the Americas. This session will continue till May 21. Some of the filmmakers featured in this session are: Shameem Akhtar and Yasmine Kabir (Bangladesh), Deepa Mehta (India), Clara Law (Hong Kong), Cherien Dabis (Palestine), Tahmineh Milani (Iran), Lucrecia Martel (Argentina), Jane Campion (New Zealand), Moufida Tlati (Tunisia) and Dinorah de Jesús Rodríguez (Cuba).

The second session will begin on June 17 at the same venue and will feature filmmakers from Europe. The session will feature 17 films and will continue till June 25. Featured filmmakers in the session

include Susanne Bier (Denmark), Christine Crooks (Greece), Lynne Ramsay (Scotland), Nana Dzordzhadze (Georgia), Jessica Hausner (Austria), Anna Melikyan (Russia) and Doris Dörrie (Germany).

Sabbir Ahmed Chowdhury, president of Zahir Raihan Film Society, informed that this initiative is a remarkable effort in the history of the film society movement in Bangladesh. It gives the film enthusiasts of Bangladesh a rare opportunity of watching films made by women, dealing with (in most cases) women's issues.

A seminar marking the 25th anniversary of the film society will be held on May 16 at Alliance Francaise.

Zahir Raihan Film Society has so far screened about 4,000 films, and organised seminars and workshops for a better understanding and appreciation of cinema. It has also brought out publications and posters for the betterment of the film society movement in Bangladesh.

Festivals and screenings by the organisation include retrospectives of filmmakers, focuses on countries, continents, different themes, issues and topics. It has screened films by almost all the major directors of the world.



Carla Bruni-Sarkozy and Owen Wilson in "Midnight in Paris", the opening film at Cannes.

to the Renaissance.

The 75-year-old Oscar-winning director played for laughs by transporting Wilson into a Paris populated by Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, Salvador Dali and other artistic greats.

Meanwhile, in his 21st career as a screenwriter, his fiancée played by Rachel McAdams becomes exasperated by his increasingly idiosyncratic behaviour and has an affair.

French First Lady Carla Bruni has a cameo role as a present-day museum guide in three scenes, although she cancelled her planned appearance in Cannes because of "personal reasons."

Allen said he met Bruni when he was invited to have breakfast with French President Nicolas Sarkozy and asked her on the spot to join his cast in a minor role.

"She said I would like to be in one of your movies because I would like to tell my grandchildren some day that I was in the movie," Allen said.

The darlings of Europe's festival circuit -- Pedro Almodovar, Nanni Moretti, Aki Kaurismaki, Lars Von Trier and brothers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne -- are all vying for the coveted Palme d'Or prize for best picture.

So is U.S. veteran Terrence Malick, back in the limelight with only his fifth feature, the eagerly anticipated "The Tree of Life" in which Brad Pitt and Sean Penn star in a family saga set in the American Midwest during the 1950s.

Female directors feature more prominently in the main competition than in the past, although they still account for only four of 20 entries.

Belgium's Dardenne brothers have a chance to become the first directors to scoop the Palme d'Or three times with "The Kid With A Bike" and festival favourite Almodovar will aim to lift his first Golden Palm with "The Skin I Live In."

Source: Internet

BTV	09:35 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry	Boishakhi TV	Bheshey
11:05	Bhalobashar Galpo	03:30	Tele-film
03:05	Bangla Feature Film	04:15	Shorashori Doctor
08:35	Documentary: Shochitro Bangladesh	05:15	Boishakhi-CNN
09:00	Magazine Programme		Sharabihwa
ATN BANGLA		08:45	Drama
10:30	Ranna Ghar	11:30	Boishakhi Binodon O Sanskriti Sangbad
02:45	Meril- Prothom Alo Award '10		
06:15	Anna Korta Joy	10:02	Sonamuni Shukhe
08:00	Meghe Dhaka Tara		Oshukhe
10:45	Bihango Kotha	01:30	Bangla Feature Film
11:00	Musical Programme	08:20	Paddokuri
		09:40	Drama: Kuhak
CHANNEL i			Phone O Live Studio Cover
11:05	Tele-film		
02:45	Meril- Prothom Alo Award '10		
05:30	Campus Hero	01:30	25th Hour
07:50	Khude Gaanraj	03:35	Saving Private Ryan
		07:15	The Truman Show

RADIO

abc radio FM 92.2	12:00	Boier Pola	
09:00	Mukhonto Shoney	02:00	Forti Unlimited
12:00	Duran Durgury	06:00	Bumper to Bumper
03:00	Duranta Bairey	10:00	Club Forti
05:00	Shondhata		
07:00	Shajer Maya	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
09:00	Raat-er Akashy	11:00	Flash Back
11:00	Gulper Shesh Nei	12:30	Islamic Program
		02:15	Rupai Gaan

Meril-Prothom Alo Puroskar '10
On CHANNEL i at 02:40pm
Award Giving Ceremony
Host: Zahid Hassan

War of the Worlds
2D Studio at 12:00am
Genre: Action/Adventure
Cast: Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning

Buri Chand Gedhej Bhujhi Benojol-e Beshley
On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Fazlur Rahman

11:30	Fun Club Tournament	09:30	How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days
12:00	Ajker Shangbadpatro	12:00	War of the Worlds
Ntv			
10:30	Aaponar Jiggasha	HBO	
02:30	Tele-film	03:30	House of Wax
05:30	Titin-e-Fake	05:45	Reality Bites
06:45	Roop Madhuri	07:45	Along Came Polly
11:30	Hip Hip Hurray (Live)	09:30	Friday the 13th
		11:15	Land of the Lost
Rtv			
10:10	Career Today	Star Movies	
03:10	Cinema R Gaan	01:55	Deadly Impact
05:00	Music R Music	05:10	Christmas with the Kranks
06:00	Star and Sports	07:00	F.I.S.T
07:40	Drama: Boukap	09:15	Reign Of Fire
11:30	Ghure Darao Bangladesh	11:05	Deadly Impact
BANGLAVISION			
09:05	Lal Golap	Star World	
10:10	Bhalo Thakun	10:30	Community
02:20	Nupur-er Dhanai	11:30	Two And A Half Men
04:05	Music Together	03:30	Mr. Sunshine
06:05	Gaan O Fun	10:30	Dexter
11:25	Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo	12:00	Family Guy
Desh TV			
11:00	Desh Amar	Discovery Channel	
03:00	Bangla Feature Film	02:30	Swords
06:00	Desh Inajad	08:30	Man vs. Wild
07:45	Ja Kichhu Prothom	09:30	Toughest Military Jobs
09:45	Drama: Buri Chand Gedhej Bhujhi Benojol-e	11:30	Destroyed in Seconds

ATN BANGLA	Rtv
09:20pm	Haat-er Reikha Kotha
09:50pm	Boley
CHANNEL i	BANGLAVISION
09:35pm	Phanush
ntv	09:05pm
08:15pm	Rumali
09:45pm	Ojana Gantabbi
	Desh TV

BTV	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm	1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm	10:30pm
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels)	News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm
NEWS (Bangla) 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (English) at 6:00pm
CHANNEL-i	News (Bangla) 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
NEWS (Bangla) 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:30 pm, 9:00 pm	News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:30pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
ATN BANGLA	News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:30pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
NEWS (Bangla) 7:00 am, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am	ETV
01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm	News (Bangla) 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm
News (English) 9:00 am, 6:00 pm	

ATN BANGLA	Rtv
08:30am	Islam Ki Bole
12:30am	Amo Ki Kori
01:00am	Lead News
01:00am	Vision 2020
09:45am	Trico Matra
12:05pm	Kara Alap
05:30pm	Shamoyiki
	10:40am
	Tamkalap
	Boishakhi TV
	10:50pm
	Sat kahon
	12:00am
	Zero Hour
	BANGLAVISION
	12:05pm
	Moha Shutta
	Al-Quran