

WHAT'S ON

Pahela Baishakh Celebration
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Ramna Bazar, Ramna Park
Date: April 14

Mangal Shobhajatra
Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts premises
Date: April 14
Early in the morning

Group Art Exhibition
Title: The Voice of Time
Venue: Institute of Art & Culture, H-2, R-1/A, Gulshan-1
Date: April 17-26
Time: 12pm-8pm

Chaitra Sangkranti & Pahela Baishakh Celebration
Organiser: Shwetana, Channel i
Venue: Bangabandhu Int'l Conference Centre
Date: April 13-14

Pahela Baishakh
Organiser: Rabirag
Venue: H-50, R-2/A, Dhanmondi
Date: April 14
Time: 6:30pm-11pm

Pahela Baishakh Celebration
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 14
Time: 7pm

Grand Group Art exhibition
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, Gulshan-2
Date: April 7-May 8
Time: 10am-8pm

Dhaka Art Summit
Venues: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and National Museum
Date: April 12-15
Time: 11am-7pm

Runway comes to Dinajpur and Nilphamari

After a series of successful screenings in January, "Runway", the last film directed by the late filmmaker Tareque Masud, is being screened once again in various parts of North Bengal, says a press release. A two-day screening session began yesterday at Dinajpur Loko Bhaban Auditorium.

The screenings are being organised by Bhumisuta (Dinajpur) in association with Srutichitro. In Dinajpur, another screening will be held on April 14 at Dinajpur Medical College Lecture Gallery. This programme is being organised by local cultural organisation, Oikotan, along with Srutichitro.

After the Dinajpur screenings, "Runway" will travel to Nilphamari on April 15 and April 16. Organised by Bhumisuta (Nilphamari), "Runway" will be screened at Nilphamari Shilpakala Academy Auditorium. In addition to "Runway", Tareque and Catherine Masud's "Naroshundor", a short fiction film set in 1971, and "Ekush", a visual presentation on International Mother Language Day, will be screened as added attractions.

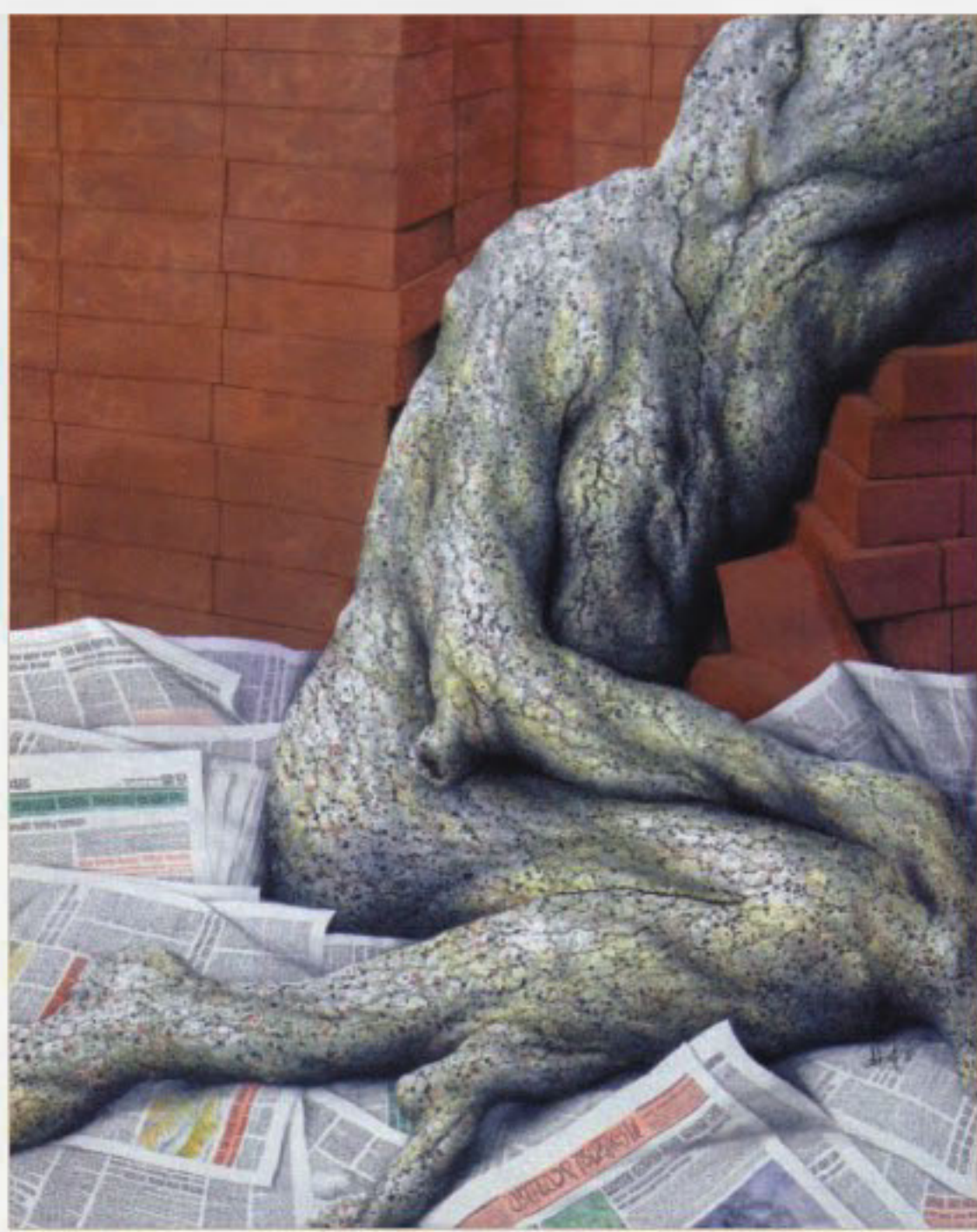
After the successful Dhaka release of "Runway" in February, the film is still continuing its journey to various parts of the country to meet the ongoing audience demand. In addition to the continuing countrywide shows, "Runway" is also showing at various venues in Dhaka city, particularly at private and public Universities.



PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

Dhaka Art Summit kicks off

Young Bangladeshi artists in the limelight



TAKIR HOSSAIN

Shahabuddin Ahmed as well as others. Paintings of Ranjit Das, Ahmed Tajuddin, Mohammad Eunus, Mohammad Muniuzzaman, Sheikh Afzal, Mohammad Iqbal, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Laila Sharmeen and others have enriched the summit.

Many young artists are taking part in the summit with their paintings, prints, installations, photo installations, video installations and sculptures. Among the young participants, some notable names are: Mahbubur Rahman, Tayeba Begum Lipi, Ronnie Ahmed, Anukul Chandra Majumdar, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Ashrafur Hasan, Ripon Saha, Ratnashwar Sutradhwar, Mohammad Wahiduzzaman, Sanjib Datta, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, Proshanto Karmakar, Subrata Das, Titu Dev Nath, Nagarbashi Barman and Kamruzzaman.

At the summit, Ripon Saha's work is seemingly inspired by Pop Art. In his painting, many encircled patterns are noticeable, which highlight human movements from different perspectives. As an urbanite, the painter feels the progress of technology has greatly influenced his personal life. He works with the motifs that have accompanied him throughout his life. He has closely observed urban life, its merits and pitfalls.

As an enthusiastic observer of nature, Mohammad Shazzad Hoshen Khan has passionately experimented with birds and animal forms. The painter is seemingly concerned about the extinction and endangerment of some species of animals in Bangladesh.

Ratnashwar Sutradhwar's mode of expression is figurative. His themes include social-political instability, road accidents and deterioration of law and order in the country. The painter's use of innumerable square pixels, where two images intertwine, is novel.

Anukul Chandra Majumdar's works delve deep into motherhood, childhood and unadulterated rustic elements. His figures are replete with substance. The artist likes to portray human emotions. The artist is keen on the relationship between mother and child.

Sanjib Datta, from Chittagong, is a powerful painter. His protagonists on canvas are usually neglected urban characters. His works mirror the bitter realities of the current socio-economic and political scenes. Tokai (street children) collecting garbage from a bin, near a high-rise, is one of his images at the summit.

Ashrafur Hasan is one of the brighter painters of his generation, and has made a strong impact on the recent Bangladeshi art scenario. His canvas features superb

detailing with powerful drawings and a strong sense of articulation and composition of figurative and non-figurative expressions.

Nagarbashi Barman's print depicts the agony and ecstasy of fishermen. It's evident from the details that the artist is searching for perfection. He brings in subjects like fish, fishing tools and boats.

Kamruzzaman's figures look immobile. His themes and approaches are closely connected to physiological experiments. Well-known painters of silence like Edward Hopper and Johannes Vermeer have seemingly influenced Kamruzzaman's prints.

Titu Deb Nath wants to portray pain, excitement and moments in human life. He has used colours for his expressions, and has tried to denote various states in peoples' lives.

A thoughtful painter, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa gets inspired by nature when deciding on colours. Hence the shades are the most significant aspect of her works. She likes to experiment with colours and applies them directly, piling up thick layers on the canvas. The layers provide a unique texture to her work and that is why her canvas carries a personal hallmark.

Mohammad Wahiduzzaman is one of the gifted artists in the generation. He is the Grand Prize Winner of the 14th edition of Asian Biennale. His works plunge deep into varied social, political and cultural dilemmas. The artist is greatly inspired by Pop Art.

Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan's sculpture shows a man toiling his way to a certain point or goal. The movement, in a circle, is a visible struggle against an unbalanced society.

Nazia Andaleeb Preema's "Conversation with Light", denotes the power of light. Light is the predominant aspect of her project and the artist has tried to highlight life's strengths and potentials.

Proshanto Karmakar's print, "Waiting for Space-2", depicts the Beder (gypsy) community's lifestyle.

Promotes Das Pulak is much concerned about war, political instability and varied social issues. He was one of the Bangladeshi participants at the Venice Biennale in 2011. At the summit, his AK-47 (shoal flowers, wire mesh and steel wire) was quite interesting for its dichotomy that lies between the organic, natural element of the flower in contrast with the manufactured, rigid structure of the AK-47 gun.

The exhibition will continue till April 15.



The Tagore Project

KAVITA, New Delhi

The complex relationship between poet Rabindranath Tagore and his sister-in-law Kadambari Devi remains in the realm of speculation. While it is well known that she was his companion and muse, much remains unsaid about whether the relationship was entirely innocent.

Well known Indian theatre personality Feisal Alkazi approaches the controversial relationship with delicacy in his new production, "The Tagore Project". The play, the first in a trilogy, draws on Tagore's books, short novellas, poetry and Rabindra Sangeet to explore the subject.

"The Tagore Project" also draws on a comprehensive biography of Tagore by Krishna Kripalani, who was married to Tagore's granddaughter.

Prose, poetry and Tagore's music come together effortlessly in "The Tagore Project". Apart from the three main characters -- Kadambari, her husband and Tagore's brother Jyotirindranath and Tagore himself, the others are acapella (unaccompanied) singers and narrators of the story.

"Tagore and Kadambari had a complex



A scene from the play.

relationship. She was married, childless and two years older than him. They had a close relationship for 10 years," says Alkazi.

It is no wonder that the duo were close to each other. Jyotirindranath was 13 years older than Kadambari and always busy with his work. Kadambari was married into the Tagore household at the age of 9 when Rabindranath was seven years old. The neglected and lonely Kadambari and Tagore

formed a symbiotic relationship. He depended on her for her comments and valuable insights into his work, while he filled a vacuum in her life. He dedicated four books to her.

In "The Tagore Project" the bantering between the 21-year-old Tagore and Kadambari often takes a serious turn when he expresses his love for her through his poetry. The play ends with a forlorn

Kadambari left alone as Tagore steps on the threshold of fame.

Kadambari was devastated when Tagore married. Four months after his marriage she committed suicide for unrevealed reasons. Tagore was deeply affected by her death and wrote a number of poems expressing his pain after she took her own life.

"The Tagore Project", largely based on Tagore's own writing is a "trailer" for a larger production says Alkazi. The full-scale production to be staged in November ends with Kadambari's suicide. The play will by then, hopefully, have a title, says Alkazi.

Tagore has always been close to Alkazi's heart. He is familiar with a large number of the poet's works and translations. He has written an activity book "Tagore for Today" for children that will be launched in August.

Alkazi's book is opportune. In North India, children's knowledge of Tagore is confined to the national anthem, his story "Kakubiliwa" and his immortal patriotic poem "Where the mind is without fear..."

Alkazi believes there is much more to Tagore. His short play is evidence enough of his longstanding ambition to make Tagore come alive in this part of India.

Thousand voices usher in Pahela Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 1,000 artistes will perform in a chorus to usher in the first day of the Bengali year 1419, at a programme organised by Channel i and Shurerdhara. The programme will be held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, today and tomorrow.

The programme will commence this evening to mark Chaitra Shangkranti, to say adieu to the passing year, and will continue till tomorrow afternoon.

The organisers gave detailed information about the programme at a press conference held at the Channel i Centre in Tejgaon, on April 11.

Noted Tagore singer and chief of Shurerdhara, Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna, also co-ordinator of the programme, said that her organisation has been arranging programmes on Pahela Baishakh and Chaitra

Shangkranti over the last seven years. On the other hand, Channel i has been credited with airing celebrations on Baishakh over the years.

Noted artistes including Runa Laila, Sabina Yasmin, Ferdous Ara, Kanak Chanpa, Syed Abdul Hadi, Kiran Chandra Roy, Farida Parveen, Rafiqul Alam, Abida Sultana and Ayub Bachchu will perform at the programme.

The event will highlight songs from "Pancha Kobi" as well as other traditional numbers. Several songs from Tagore's "Gitanjali" will be performed during the Chaitra Shangkranti phase.

The programme will be aired live on Channel i across the six continents, and as such Bengalis all across the globe will be able to be a part of the celebrations.

Among others, Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director, Channel i and Impress Telefilm Ltd and Shykh Seraj, head of News, Channel i, were present at the press conference.



Shykh Seraj speaks at the press conference.

Villagers ready for Chaitra Shangkranti

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Villagers, especially rural Hindus in Thakurgaon, are gearing up to observe Chaitra Shangkranti, the last day in the Bengali calendar.

To celebrate the day with festivity, the organisers arrange Charak Puja in different villages and collect donations from the people.

Though the rural Hindus used to observe Chaitra Shangkranti following the old Bangla calendar, this year they have decided to observe the festival in the district according to the Bangla Academy calendar, and organise Charak Puja on April 13, said Arunagshu Datta, president of Thakurgaon district Puja Uddhapan Parishad.

Ranjan Roy, one of the organisers of the festival, told this correspondent that they arrange the festival and a daylong mela (fair) at Lokhipur High School premises. Several teams fan out in different villages and collect funds for the fair. "We organise the event to promote our rural traditions among the younger generation," he said.

To mark the day, the organisers gather at open spaces at different villages. A wooden pillar is erected at the centre of the field and ropes with iron hooks are attached to the pillar. Two devotees then pierce their



PHOTO: STAR

backs with the hooks and stay suspended. Supposedly, their passion and devotion overcome their bodily senses and they feel no pain.

One or more individuals in the getup of the goddess Kali dance at the venue of Charak Puja. Some devotees even walk on burning charcoal. Thousands throng the venue to witness the miracles. On the occasion, fairs are set up at those venues. Traders put their goods, including sweets and

toys on display.

In the past, Charak Puja was held in many places of the district and people enjoyed the festival. But with changing times, these folk traditions are losing ground. Local cultural activists and enthusiasts fear that if mass awareness and interest in rural traditions are not generated, celebrations like Chaitra Shangkranti may soon become a festival of the past.

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

Chaitra Shangkranti is today. This day has a special significance for the rural Hindu community in Moulvibazar district. Punnya Snan (holy bath), Charak Puja and village fair are the main attractions during this festival.

People have embarked on fund collection by forming a team of singers, traditional instrumentalists and dancers. Two people in the garb of Lord Siva and Goddess Gouri collect funds going from door to door. Lord Siva and Goddess Gouri perform dances to the accompaniment of music. The organisers usually traverse long distances to collect funds and do so till the day before Chaitra Shangranti.

Charak Puja is observed with elaborate rituals. An interesting sidelight is that a male don's guise of Goddess Kali comes to the Charak Puja venue and perform dances on burning coal at the puja ground. This dance is locally known as "Kali Naach".

Every year, this occasion was held at different areas of the district. But over a passage of time the venues have changed. Charak Puja of the 'Chhay-Siri' Dighir Paar under Rahimpur Union of Kamalganj upazila in Moulvibazar is famous for its traditional Charak Puja.



Traditional fair in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A day long traditional Kali fair was held on the banks of Dharla River at Kulaghat village under Lalmonirhat sadar upazila on Saturday.

Thousands of devotees from different parts of the Rangpur region, other parts of the country and even India flocked to the fair.

The president of the Fair Celebration Committee, Jagdish Chandra Roy, said the traditional Kali fair dates back around 50 years. A local religious leader launched the fair and since then the fair is held on the Bangla month Chaitra or the first day of every Bengali year.

Beside Hindus, the members of the Muslim community also enjoyed the fair where they picked up a variety of items and essential commodities.

ATN BANGLA			Maasranga Television		
03:05	Bangla Feature Film	10:02	Bangla Feature Film	05:02	Square Hospital Doctor's Chamber
05:00	Gram Gonjer Khabar				Cine Nama
08:00	Reality Show				Fusion Music
CHANNEL i			Fox Movies		
01:05	Proketti O Bibon	06:30			
01:30	Hidoyee Gaan				
05:00	Jangadee Khabar	01:55	Everything Must Go		
09:35	Drama Serial: Lonka Kandha	03:40	Man of the House		
		05:25	127 Hours		
		07:00	Homeland		
		09:40	Tucker & Dale Vs Evil		
		11:10	Hancock		
ETV			HBO		
10:02	Sonamoni Shukh-e-Oshukh-e	12:15	Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone		
01:30	Bangla Feature Film				
06:30	Musical Programme: Tanana	03:25	Liar Liar		
		05:10	Megamind		
12:05	Phone O Live Studio Concert	07:15	Step Up		
		09:30	Step Up 2: The Streets		
		11:35	The Scorpion King: Rise		
BANGLAVISION					
10:10	Bhalo Thakun				

RADIO			
abc radio FM 89.2		12:00	Boier Poka
06:00	Bhorer Janajaly	02:00	Forti Unlimited
09:00	Mukhorito Jiboney	06:00	Bumper to Bumper
12:00	Darun Dupury	10:00	Club Forti
03:00	Dumeta Shikhy	01:00	Back to Back music
05:00	Shoudhatar	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6	
07:00	Shajer Maya	06:00	Green FM
09:00	Raat-er Akashy	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
11:00	Gonjer Shesh Nel	11:00	Flash Back
RADIO FOOTI		12:30	Islamic Program
08:00	Addabazi	02:15	Rupali Gaan

Istikutum
On Boishakhi TV at 08-10pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Tania Hossain, Hassan Masud

The Scorpion King: Rise of a Warrior
On HBO at 11:35pm
Genre: Action, Adventure
Cast: Michael Copon, Karen David

Rongila
On ETV at 09:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shahiduzzaman Selim, Nawshreen

11:05	Amader Rannaghar	of a Warrior
06:15	Gaan O Fun	
11:25	Amr Ekhon Ki Korbo (Live)	Star World
		Desperate Housewives
		Touch
		Supernatural
		Criminal Minds
		Jury
		Raising Hope
		National Geographic Channel
		Deadliest Warrior
		Snake Wranglers
		Dangerous Encounters
		I Predator
		Fight Science
		Breakout
		Discovery Channel
		Food Detectives
		Man vs. Wild
		Dual Survival
		Revealed
		I Shouldn't Be Alive
		Tattoo Hunter
		BBC World

DRAMA SERIAL		
ATN BANGLA	Boishakhi TV	
09:20pm	Motijheel C/A	08:10pm Istikutum
11:00pm	Hawai	BANGLAVISION
	Mithai	08:15pm Harkipity
		09:45pm Gulshan Avenue
		Desh TV
		08:15pm Kushtar Ordhotkar
		Maasranga Television
		09:02pm Sontoron

NEWS BULLETIN

BTV News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm. News (English) at 10am, 6pm, 10pm.	Boishakhi TV News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm. News (English) at 9am, 6pm.
ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm. News (English) at 9am, 6pm.	BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm. News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
CHANNEL i News (Bangla) at 2pm, 5pm, 10:30pm.	Rtv News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
ntv News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	Desh TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
ETV News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	Maasranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 11pm.

TALK SHOW		
ATN Bangla	12:05pm	Moha Shatto
12:30am	Lead News	Al-Quran
	09:05pm	Moner Katha
CHANNEL i		
01:00am	Tritio Matra	Rtv
Boishakhi TV	10:40am	Tarokalap
Desh TV	07:45pm	Mukh O Mukharota
11:00pm	Saatkathon	
12:00am	Zero Hour	
BANGLAVISION		Maasranga Television