

WHAT'S ON

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

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

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

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

Pahela Baishakh
Organiser: Rabirag
Venue: H-50, R-2/A, Dharmamandi
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

BAISHAKHI THOUGHTS



Jaya Ahsan

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Jaya Ahsan's laid-back Pahela Baishakh...

Pahela Baishakh comes once a year, bringing with it much joy to everyone. I am no different, as I also celebrate the occasion. I wear a new sari on the day; the whole look for the day is very traditional Bengali. This is a day for wishing only good things for other people.

A special menu is cooked at home, while there is no shooting on the day. Every year, this day turns out to be perfect and I hope it will be same this year.

I usually go to Uttara on Pahela Baishakh, to spend time with my sister. We have fun, enjoy food together and have long chats. Shubho Nabo Barsho to all my fans and well wishers!

Sharmin Lucky on Baishakhi getup...

Throughout my college years, I was a regu-



Sharmin Lucky

lar at Chhayanaut's Bangla New Year celebrations. The joy of ushering in the New Year would've been incomplete, if I missed the opportunity to go there. However, busy schedules do not allow me to attend the public celebrations nowadays. However, I will share the joy by watching the celebrations on TV.

This year I will spend Pahela Baishakh in Dhaka with my family.

I'll put Beli flowers on my hair on the occasion and wear a Taant or a Jamdani sari. The colours will be that of the season.

Fresh green mango sherbet will be on my table for the day, while the menu will include llish and other Baishakhi specials.

I'll make an appearance on Independent Television on the day; I will recite poetry. I will also host a programme for MTV and also recite a poem on New Year.

No matter how busy I get, I will not forget to exchange season's greetings with my close ones. I'll also have some gifts ready for my loved ones.



Brindaban Das

Brindaban Das on rural Baishakhi mela...

Rural Baishakhi mela (fairs) have left a big imprint on my mind and that influence is often demonstrated in my plays. I was born in Pabna's Chatmohor-- home to the traditional Charak Mela. This fair ran for three straight days and ended on Pahela Baishakh. Thousands of people from districts all around thronged the fairs every year. It wasn't only the Hindus who participated in the festivities. The Charak Mela still happens. We used to take a month's preparation for the fair, which featured puppet dance, circus, Nagordola etc. Puppet dance was my favourite. Sometimes I get nostalgic thinking about those golden days.

The fair from my childhood years had many other attractions. We were always excited about buying knives, which was essential for cutting fresh mangoes. The special knives were only available at the mela.

The fair drew in such a large crowd that

children almost regularly got lost at the venue. There was a special corner reserved for the lost children.

On some years, the rural fair even went on for two straight months. Relatives from distance places used to come to be a part of the festivities.

Shahnaj Khushi and her special menu on Pahela Baishakh...

I prepare a special Baishakhi menu on the day, with all Bengali foods to satisfy our palates. The Pahela Baishakh celebrations begin from Chaitra Shangkranti night, when Chanchal Chowdhury, Mosharraf Karim, AKM Hasan, Shamim Zaman come to our home along with their families. We celebrate Chaitra Shangkranti together, and at one past midnight, we enjoy Bengali dishes to usher in the New Year. Our *adda* session that follows, usually lasts till 4 in the morning.

A fresh menu is prepared for the following morning, with llish a must on the table.

Relatives come over on the Pahela Baishakh evening, a time when we enjoy special TV plays and later criticise our own works.

Tisha awaits the fun day...

Pahela Baishakh brings a different kind of joy as the day is very special to me. With the arrival of the Bengali month Chaitra each year, I begin to wait for Pahela Baishakh. On this day, I usually wear a white sari with red border. Bangles matched with the sari are a must, while a red *tip* adorns my forehead. I like to dress up for the occasion.

As there is no shooting on the first day of the New Year, I am relieved.

Before getting married, my routine for the day was different. It was my mother who ran all the chores. I used to love the food cooked by my mother.

Now that I'm spending the Pahela Baishakhs with my husband, it is I who cook, while both of us shop together for the occasion. I hope the Pahela Baishakh this

year will bring joy to everyone.

Monalisa considers sharing the joy of New Year with street children...

Pahela Baishakh brings a message of joy for all Bengalis, including myself. I wait for the day eagerly and welcome its arrival.

A new sari for the occasion is a must for me and I have already bought a red one this year. I will wear the sari to go out and have fun, while I'll also enjoy the occasion with my mother and sisters at home. When I go out on the street all dressed up, it pains me to see the sufferings of the street children. Their sufferings are a stark contrast to our ongoing celebrations. The affluent should start thinking about how to help these street children. At least it should be ensured that they get to enjoy a good meal and new clothes on the first day of the year.

I also want to contribute to these efforts. When I have the ability to help, I will definitely work for the betterment of street children.



Shahnaj Khushi



Tisha



Monalisa

Documentary on Pahela Baishakh



A scene from the documentary.

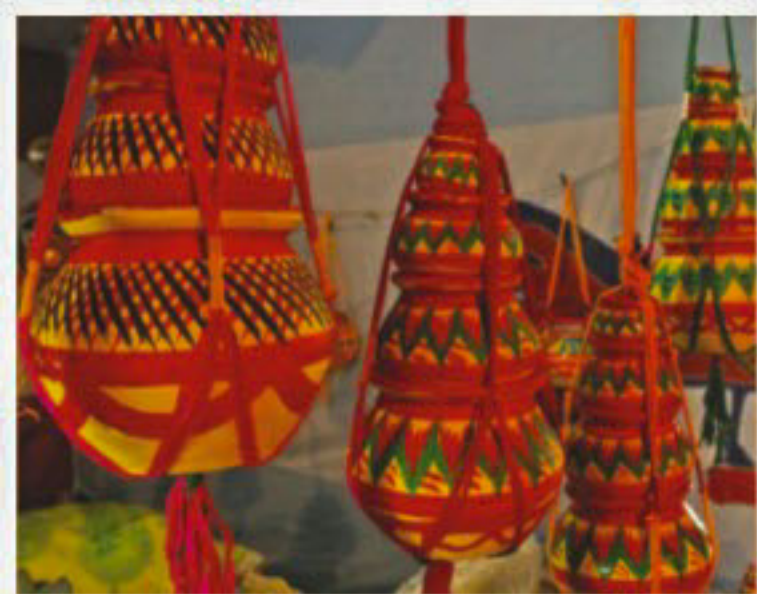
PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Now savour Pahela Baishakh on the big screen. A documentary on one of the most important cultural events in the life of a Bengali will be screened at the Public Library Auditorium at Shahbagh, Dhaka at 4:30pm on April 20, said its director Zafar Siddique.

The 55-minute documentary, jointly made by Siddique and Sanu Manik, portrays different facets of Pahela Baishakh and its ties with Chhayanaut. Siddique said in a press release that the film also explains why there is a gap of one day between Pahela Baishakh celebrations in Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal.

The documentary contains interviews with Chhayanaut president Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Bangla Academy director general Shamsuzzaman Khan and intellectual Muntasir Mamun, according to Siddique.

Actress Chitralekha Guha has lent her voice for the documentary's narration while the poems have been recited by eminent elocutionist Bhawar Bandopadhyay. The music has been composed by Sayed Shabab Ali Arzoo.



BAISHAKHI MELA AT NATIONAL MUSEUM AWAITS TURNOUT



The fair seldom gets the much-needed publicity or enough turnouts to ensure good sales.

JAMIL MAHMUD

During the Bangla month of Chaitra the city dwellers get chances to attend several fairs featuring traditional artworks. Commonly known as 'Baishakhi Mela', these fairs are an early celebration of Pahela Baishakh. Like previous years, Bangladesh National Museum, under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, has been arranging a Baishakhi Mela at its premises.

The fair, which started on April 11, is one of several initiatives by the museum to promote local artisans and their heritage. The fair features art and crafts by artisans from across the country. Apart from the wares, this year the fair also features pittha (homemade traditional cakes).

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Pramod Mankin inaugurated the fair as chief guest.

Every year these rural artisans come from remote corners of the country with their crafts and commodities, hoping that they would have decent sales as this fair can provide them with major turnouts. But to their utter disappointment, the fair seldom gets the much-needed publicity or enough turnouts to ensure good sales.

Suchitra Shutraddhar, who comes from Sonargaon with her miniature replicas of birds, said that she usually attends this kind of fair every year. But she is disappointed with the turnout this year. "May be people will attend in great numbers at the Bangla Academy fair that will start from tomorrow," says Suchitra.

She has been selling the birds as well as handmade fans that cost between Tk 10 and 150.

Traditional items such as *shokher hari*, *puti mala*



(beads), woodcraft, earthen pots etc are the main attractions at the fair. Shushanta Kumar Pal, an award-winning artisan from Rajshahi, is taking part at the fair with his *shokher hari*. Like Suchitra, he brings his products to these fairs every year. He said that the authorities should take initiatives to display and sell the rural artworks on a regular basis.

Pal also informed that once over 4000 families in his area were involved with this profession but at present he is the only recognised artisan in the locality.

Another artisan Fakhrul Alam, who comes from Kishorganj with beads jewellery, informed that he learnt the craft from his mother. Considering his mother as his mentor, Alam said that he wants to see such ancestral heritage to survive and thrive.

The fair will continue till April 15.

Pahela Baishakh specials on TV



A scene from "Sharer Lorai".

A CORRESPONDENT

Tele-film "Sharer Lorai" on ATN Bangla

Baishakh special tele-film "Sharer Lorai" -- directed by Syed Shakil and written by Brindaban Das -- is set to be aired at 3:05pm today on ATN Bangla. The cast of the tele-film includes Chanchal Chowdhury, Shahnaj Khushi, Nadia, Fazlur Rahman Babu etc.

Chanchal Chowdhury says that the story is set in a village, and he will play the role of Beka.

Shahnaj Khushi plays the role of Furfuri, Nadia plays Pori and Fazlur Rahman Babu acts as Kocha. Shahnaj Khushi says that the tele-film offered plenty of chances to put her acting skills to the test. Nadia meanwhile said that like all other Brindaban Das productions, this tele-film also offers a different kind of humour.

Other actors include Rahmatullah, Rumi, Majnun Mizan, Mithun, Shirin Alam.

Director Syed Shakil says that "Sharer Lorai" was shot in Manikganj.

Brindaban Das on the other hand said that although writing comedies are tough, he tried his best to form a story that will provide wholesome entertainment with a message.

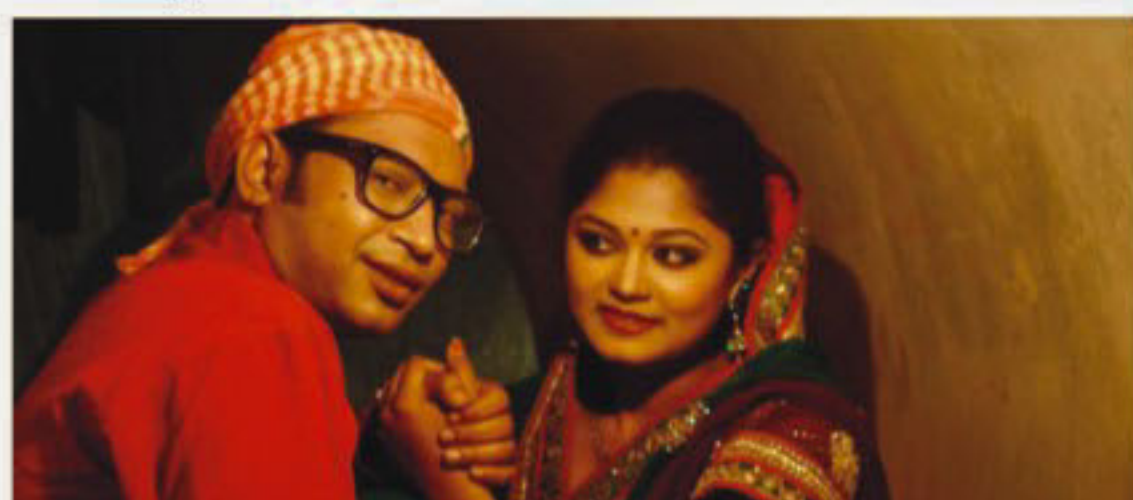
Humayun Ahmed play "Rupkotha" on Channel i

"Rupkotha", a new play written by Humayun Ahmed and directed by his chief assistant director Jewel Rana, will be aired on Channel i at 7:50pm tonight.

The play stars Pran Roy and Mousumin in lead roles. It was recently shot at different locations inside Dhaka.

Humayun Ahmed, who is currently in US for medical reasons, wrote the script recently.

The plot of "Rupkotha" is based on Shafiq, who comes from an affluent family but wants to earn a living as a painter. The conflict between father and son forces Shafiq out of his house and he has to live on the streets. There he meets a girl name Mitu, whom he later marries.



A scene from "Rupkotha".

Organized by
The Daily Star

Supported by
Standard Chartered

Once again The Daily Star and Standard Chartered have launched another round of competitions under "Celebrating Life"

Theme : Celebrating the Youth of Bangladeshi

Tell the world how good you are with your films, photographs and lyrics

over 7 lacs in prize money

details at : www.celebratinglifebd.com

Partners
desh TV, music, CHANNEL i

Background image: DANCING TO FREEDOM by Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Honourable Mention, Celebrating Life Photography Contest 2010

ATN BANGLA	Sritikotha
11:15 Banglar Boishakh	Boishakhi Adda O Gaan:
01:15 Notuner Abhan	Aji Notun Rotone
03:05 Tele-film:	Diganta TV
Sharer Lorai	12:30 Duranto Khobor
05:45 Abhaman Boishakh	03:05 Tele-film: Mohua
08:00 Drama: Noya Pala	06:00 Nagardola
09:10 Pach Phoron	08:00 Drama: Lukochuri
11:00 Gaane Ghondey Boishakh	09:40 Banglar Noboborsho
11:30 Ronge Ronge Boishakh	11:15 Shobar Upore Desh
CHANNEL i	Maasranga Television
06:00 Hajar Konthey	09:30 Nitty Nondon
Borshoboron	10:30 Bangla Feature Film
02:40 Bangla Feature Film:	03:00 Concert
Uttorer Shur	07:30 Prime Issue
06:20 Boishakhi Ranna	08:00 Meril Prothom Alo
07:50 Drama: Rupkotha	11:00 Atpor
11:30 Abhaman Banglar Notun Din	12:02 Shajjar Baramkhana
01:00 Trinitiy Matra	Fox Movies
	01:45 Percy Jackson & the

ahr radio FM 89.2	02:00 Fourti Unlimited
06:00 Bhoror Janalari	06:00 Bumper to Bumper
09:00 Mukhorho Jiboney	10:00 Back to Back Music
12:00 Darun Dupury	RADIO TODAY FM 89.8
03:00 Duranto Boleky	06:00 Green HA
05:00 Shondhata	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
07:00 Shajer Maya	11:00 World Music
09:00 Raat-er Akashey	04:00 U Turn
11:00 Goljer Sheela Nel	07:00 Rite Sai Huk
08:00 Addabai	10:00 Raat Shor Gaan
	12:00 Hutum Pecha

Eksho Takar
Byapar
On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm
Single Episode TV
Play
Cast: Zahid Hassan, Romana

Pachphoron
On ATN BANGLA at 09:10pm
Variety Show
Directed by Shanjida Hanif

Naibedya
On Rtv at 06:00pm
Single Episode TV
Play
Cast: Shojol, Auepee Karim

ntv	Boishakhi Uthab	03:45	Olympians: The Lightning Thief
12:30	Drama: Chhayachokh	05:15	True Justice
	Jolchahap	07:00	Ramona And Beezus
02:30	Ronge Ronge Praner Mela	07:50	Titanic Part 1
04:45	Boishakhi Concert	08:45	Titanic Part 2
07:25	Ajker Recipe	09:35	The Walking Dead
08:15	Drama Serial: Bondhu Amar	10:35	Homeland
09:00	Drama: Umish Bichhor Por	09:30	Black Death
11:30	Tele-film: Amader Golpo	09:30	HBO
ETV	11:30	09:30	Scorby-Dool Curse of the Lake Monster
09:30	Robirag	11:20	Superman II
11:30	Televisioner Studio	02:05	Step Up 2: The Streets
Ebhong	Ekbisher Mela	04:10	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
09:30	Best of Monali Thakur	07:10	The Back-up Plan
10:10	Drama: Chlie Kothar Shawpno	09:25	The Scorpion King: Rise of a Warrior
11:50	Golden Moments	11:45	The Mummy
12:20	Bangla Feature Film: Noyon Bhora Jol		Star World
09:05	Roma Boishakhi Uthab	11:30	Friends
01:05	Concert	12:30	Joey
06:15	Shahaj Manush	02:30	The River
08:15	Premier Naam Bedona	03:30	Missing
09:05	Drama: Eksho Takar Byapar	10:30	Touch
11:25	Borsho Boroner Gaan	09:30	The River
Rtv	08:15	10:30	Desperate Housewives
08:45	Chhutir Shokal	11:30	Supernatural
	Kishoyan Shoboj		National Geographic Channel
	Patshala	02:30	Deadliest Warrior
10:10	Concert	03:30	Snake Wranglers
12:35	Bangla Feature Film	05:30	I Predator
03:30	Boishakhi Concert	06:30	Breakout
08:05	Drama: Nobedy	07:00	The Indestructible
11:30	Amar Priyo Gaan	08:00	Mad Scientists
Desh TV	09:00	02:30	Titanic Special
	Boishakhi Uthab	03:30	Discovery Channel
12:15	Bangla Feature Film	01:30	Curiosity
05:00	Uthabe Gaan	02:30	Mae X. Wild
09:45	Drama: Putul Nacher	03:30	2012 Apocalypse
		05:30	Extreme Machines
		08:30	Dual Survival
			Inside the Titanic

NEWS BULLETIN	
RTV	Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.	News (English) at 9am, 6pm.
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.
CHANNEL i	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
ntv	Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
ETV	Maasranga Television
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.