

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

WHAT'S ON

**Solo Musical Soiree**  
Title: Shur-er Badhone  
Artist: Shreya Guhathakurta  
Venue: BRAC Centre Auditorium, Mahabhalhi  
Date: April 16

**Documentary Screening**  
Title: Rukya Sakawat Hossain Memorial School, One Hundred Years After  
Venue: Bengal Shikshaya, H-42, R-10/Well, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 17  
Time: 6:30pm

**Art Exhibition**  
Title: Eminent Printmakers of Bengal  
Venue: Gallery Chitra, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 10-20  
Time: 10am-8pm

**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

**Musical Soiree**  
Title: Rajee Apun Shur  
Venue: Chhayanaut, Shangkriti Bhaban, H-72, R-15A, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 20

**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Butterflies of Bangladesh  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15A(New), Dhanmondi  
Date: April 15-21  
Time: 3pm-9pm

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



# USHERING IN 1419

## Celebrating the biggest Bengali secular festival

ZAHANGIR ALAM

The nation celebrated 'Pahela Baishakh', the first day of the Bangla year 1419, last Saturday amidst vibrant pageantry, leaving behind the gloom of the past and pledging to uphold the nation's opulent cultural heritage.

Hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life, in traditional clothes, poured into the streets, parks and open spaces across the capital and elsewhere in the country from early morning to welcome the Bangla New Year.

The tradition of celebrating the Bangla New Year -- in relation to closing of the annual tax collection -- started during the rule of Mughal Emperor Akbar (1556-1605AD). Traders and shopkeepers open 'haal khata' (new account books) on this day and offer sweets to clients.

In the course of time, it evolved into a day of celebration and an integral part of the Bengali culture, now considered the biggest secular festival as people irrespective of religion and class celebrate the day.

Chhayanaut, one of the leading cultural organisations of the country, has been holding their 'barsho boron' (New Year celebration) since 1967. On April 14, 2012, the New Year celebration at Ramna Botomul began with a choral rendition of Raga Bhauro, a morning raga, by the artists of the Department of Classical Music, Chhayanaut.

Chhayanaut gurus -- Asit Dey, Anup Barua and Dr. Rezwan Ali -- led the bandish, 'Guru Nath Shrawan Ki'. The melody of the raga stirred the senses as the sun slowly emerged and gleamed behind soft white clouds.

Teachers, alumni and students of Chhayanaut presented solos, duets and group renditions and recitations at the event. Aside from renditions of morning raga-based songs of 'Pancho-kobi' (Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, DL Roy, Atul Prasad and Rajmankar), the artists also

rendered several folk numbers on the occasion.

Accomplished vocalist Priyanka Gope captivated the audience with her solo performance of the song 'Ami Notuner Abhilashi'. The song seemingly inculcated a bright beginning on the first day of Bangla year. Noted folk singer Chandana Majumdar made the audience sway with her sonorous rendition of a Lalun number 'Jekhaney Shai'r Baramkhana'. Solo performances by renowned singers -- Mita Haque, Laisa Ahmed Lisa and

Chhayanaut Secretary General Khairul Anam Shakil -- were moving too.

In her speech, President of Chhayanaut, Dr. Sanjida Khatun said, "We cannot forgive certain crimes. Those who demean humanity in the name of religion have to be punished. Dehumanising others is one of the most heinous crimes. We must be honest and more responsible to environment, society and state. We must become broad-minded for the betterment of the state."

Later, Dr. Sanjida Khatun recited a verse, "Ami je dekhechhi gopon hingsha...", from Tagore. The event wrapped up with the rendition of national anthem.

BTV, BTV World and Bangladesh Betar aired Chhayanaut's celebration live.

A festive spirit took over the capital and other parts of the country. Women in white saris with red borders and men in panjabi -- decorated with Baishakhi motifs -- ushered in the New Year.

Many had panta bhaat with fried hilsa, daal, green chilli and onion at home, restaurants and fairs. Youngsters had their cheeks painted with folk-themed emblems that added further colours to the celebration.

They thronged the main venue in Ramna. The festivities stretched over to Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka University, Dhanmondi Lake area and Sher-E-Banglanagar bringing the city traffic system to a standstill. Many foreigners clad in traditional Bengali clothes



were also seen in and around the venues of celebration.

The crowd turned into a human sea in the afternoon when the temperature came down slightly.

Another major attraction was the decorated procession called 'Mongol Shobhajatra', brought out by the students and teachers of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. The theme for this year's 'Mongol Shobhajatra' was our achievement, aspira-

tion and failure. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique with DU proctor, treasurer, teachers and cultural personalities led the procession.

The 'Shobhajatra', featuring a giant replica of a sampan (40 feet long) with several oarsmen in it, symbolised the recent victory in maritime boundary demarcation. In a bid to wipe out the war criminals forever from Bangladesh, two giant replicas representing raskars (war criminals) were included in the



Clockwise (from top-left): Chhayanaut artistes perform at Ramna Botomul, Dr. Sanjida Khatun (C) speaks at the event, Tamanna Rahman and co-artist dance at Rabindra Sarobar Mancho, Artcell performs at Dhaka University and the highlight of this year's 'Mongol Shobhajatra' was a giant replica of a sampan.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

## Dhaka Art Summit 2012

Bangladesh emerging as a new player in South Asian Art

AFRIDA MAHBUB AND RAISA TASHNOVA

In Bangladesh, struggling artists -- driven solely by their passion -- keep painting as long as economic responsibilities can be evaded. Finally a day arrives when they are forced to face reality, put down their paintbrush and resign to an office job, locking up and slowly killing the creative flare that defined them.

Fortunately Samdani Art Foundation extended a helping hand to the art scene of Bangladesh. Hosting the 1st edition of Dhaka Art Summit (from April 12-15) in collaboration with Bangladesh National Museum and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Samdani Art Foundation is striving to create an international platform for Bangladeshi artists. The summit features 249 Bangladeshi artists; exhibitions are on at 19 art galleries.

The Samdani Art Foundation, that started as Rajeeb and Nadia Samdani observed the absence of Bangladeshi artists in the international art market, is perhaps the leading promoter of Bangladeshi artists. Their investment in the art infrastructure of Bangladesh includes the Samdani Artist Development Award of BDT 10 lakh and Samdani Young Talent Award worth BDT 5 lakh. They also provide a 6 month-long residency programme, where the artists are provided a studio and all required materials to work with. At the end of the programme, the foundation organises a solo exhibition for the winning artists. The Dhaka Art Summit is the latest and largest of the Samdani Art Foundation initiatives till date.

"We wanted to organise an event in Bangladesh which would draw global attention to the vibrant art scene in Bangladesh," says Nadia Samdani, CEO of Samdani Art Foundation. "Through this summit we want to establish Bangladesh's emergence in the global art market. The 1st edition of the summit focuses on local artists and galleries. In future, international artists and galleries will also be invited to



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

exhibit their works at the summit along with the local ones. This is just the beginning and we hope that it only moves forward from here," she adds.

The summit also addresses a core problem that Bangladeshi artists face -- lack of gallery representation. "None of the galleries in Bangladesh represent individual artists," says Rajeeb Samdani, "this is why despite having many talented artists, Bangladeshi art does not get the exposure it deserves internationally." He feels that once gallery representation becomes a trend in Bangladesh, the artists will obtain financial liberation and focus on their creative output, providing the country and the world with masterpieces.

Modelled after the Indian Art Fair, an event that should be given the credit for contributing greatly to the recent boom in the Indian art scene, Dhaka Art Summit is expected to positively change the international presence of Bangladeshi artists.

A number of art experts and enthusiasts from all over the world -- from renowned museums, galleries and auction houses -- have graced the summit. Representatives from Tate Modern Museum, UK, visited Bangladesh last year following their announcement of opening a South Asian wing of the museum in London. This year, the summit has given a golden opportunity for

the local artists to display their works elaborately so that the international art connoisseurs and specialists can examine the works intricately and decide to give the pieces a place on the international stage. As Kyla McDonald, Assistant Curator of International Art at Tate Modern, puts it, "I was pleasantly surprised to see the immense potential of Bangladeshi artists and the passion they have for their work. It has indeed been a pleasure to see such a diverse array of artists coming together and I believe that Bangladesh will go a long way given the right kind of boost."

The six seminars that took place during the event highlighted the potential of South Asian Art in the international market and the role Bangladesh can play in it. The seminars were conducted by representatives from internationally renowned houses like Christie's, Rossi & Rossi. The perspective of corporate houses that can lend a hand in promoting and sponsoring art in Bangladesh was also included in the seminars.

The Dhaka Art Summit can thus open a new window for the local artists' works to get displayed in the international market, increasing the reach and volume of the sector in terms of both quality and quantity, as the young artists can now develop their talents further and seasoned ones can broaden their dimensions.

## Baishakhi extravaganza in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bengali New Year-1419, was celebrated at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) in Tangail on April 14 amidst much festivity.

The students, teachers, officials and employees of the university brought out a procession at the campus in the morning. Later, Sammito Sangskritik Jote organised a cultural function on the open stage at the campus.

Rotaract Club of Mawlana Bhashani of Tangail arranged traditional games such as kabadi and cockfight at the campus on this occasion.

Photography Society in MBSTU organised a photography exhibition at the campus. The MBSTU Debating Society organised a regional debating competition in the afternoon.

Chalachitra Sangsad of MBSTU screened film shows "Jago" and "22-e Srabon" at the campus.

## Kite festival in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Shatadal Samajik O Sangskritik Sangathan, a local organisation, organised a kite festival on the banks of the river Jamuna in Manikganj on Saturday to celebrate Pahela Baishakh.

Kites of many hues and varieties, including 'Koirai', 'Dol' and 'Mourponkhi' fluttered in the sky. Abdus Shukur Biswas, president of Shivalaya upazila unit of Sushasoner Jonno Nagarik (Sujon) and former

teacher of Shivalaya Government High School, Mozammel Haque, head teacher of Teota Academy, Abdus Sattar, head teacher of Dashchira Government Primary School, journalist Shahjahan Biswas, Faruk Mustafiz, convener and Shahidul Islam, member secretary of Shatadal Samajik O Sangskritik Sangathan were present at the event.

Hundreds of people from different parts of the upazila and outside the upazila gathered to share the celebration.

The organisation has been holding the festival annually for the last four years.



To mark the Bangla New Year 1419, Bengal Foundation organised a two-day festival, titled "Bengal Baishakh Utshab" at Banani Playground, Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Dhaka. On the first day of the festival, Animesh Bijoy Chowdhury (from Sylhet) and his troupe performed several songs. Kotha Abriti Sangathan recited poems and noted singers Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Sharmin Sathi Islam, Jhuma Khandakar, Nasima Shaheen, Mahiuzzaman Chowdhury, Priyanka Gope and MA Shoabir rendered songs at the event. In the evening, Baul singers Shafi Mondol, Rob Fakir and Baby Akhter performed several songs. Krishnokoli, Arnob, Limon, Nobonita, among others, also rendered songs. On the closing day (April 14), artistes performed songs of different genres. Artistes, painters, social and cultural activists also attended the event.

## Programme on Radharomon, Hason Raja and Shah Abdul Karim

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A three-day commemorative programme on the mystic bards -- Radharomon Dutta, Hason Raja and Baul Shah Abdul Karim -- concluded at the Shaheed Abul Hossain Auditorium in Sunamganj town last Friday. A discussion on Radharomon Dutta was held on the first day. Dr. Mohammad Ali Khan, Additional Secretary, LGRD was s chief speaker while Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet, ANM Zeaul Alam and cultural activist ATM Saleh took part in the discussion.

Lawmaker MA Mannan attended as chief guest. Local artistes later presented popular songs of Radharomon that are still popular across the country.

The speakers said that Radharomon songs are exuberant with mysticism while the great bard had also inducted the Sylheti regional essence in his compositions.

Radharomon is a name well known even after 100 years to the people of all ages in Sylhet region as well as in the other parts of the country for his amazing compositions, they added.

As a devoted soul, Radharomon entered the arena of folk and mystic songs at an early age. Dutta is also the initiator of 'Dhamail' songs.

On the second day, poet Dr. Muhammad Sadique, also Additional Secretary of the Election Commission, was the chief speaker on Hason Raja while lawmaker Md. Matiur Rahman was the special guest. Hason Raja songs were presented by the local artistes.

On the concluding day, a discussion was held on the eventful life and works of Shah Abdul Karim. The keynote paper was presented by young writer Sumon Kumar Das. Local artistes presented a number of the popular songs of the bard, capturing the attention of the audience for hours.

Organized by The Daily Star

Supported by Standard Chartered

life FEEDBACK Concert 16 April : 6 pm

16 April : 12 pm - 2 pm, 2 pm - 4 pm, 4 pm - 6 pm

Photo Exhibition 16 April : All Day Long

বোশেখ আনে নববর্ষ, চতুর্দিকে হুড়ায় হর্ষ বৈশাখী মেলা ১৪১৯

আয়োজনে: দ্য ডেইলি স্টার

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

|            |                           |                             |                         |
|------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| ATN BANGLA | 05:00                     | Durpath                     |                         |
| 11:20      | Business and Finance      | 06:30                       | Prantojiner Shukhoktha  |
| 12:15      | Vision 2020               | 07:45                       | Sattiny 71              |
| 01:25      | Matir Shubash             | 09:45                       | Cinema Express          |
| 05:20      | Aynar Shamney             | 12:30                       | Total Sports            |
| 08:40      | Shimana Chahrye           |                             |                         |
|            |                           | Maasranga Television        |                         |
| CHANNEL i  | 10:02                     | Bangla Feature Film         |                         |
| 01:05      | Ebong Cinemar Gaan        | 05:30                       | Background Science      |
| 01:30      | Hridoyer Gaan             | 08:30                       | Drama Serial: Khonikaly |
| 06:00      | Jibon Jekhaney Jemon      | 09:02                       | Kingkorobobimur         |
| 09:35      | Drama Serial: Longkalandi | 09:30                       | Drama Serial: Ishkul    |
| 11:30      | Travel On                 | 11:00                       | Ontor Bajao             |
|            |                           | Fox Movies                  |                         |
| ntv        | 11:25                     | Titanic Part 3              |                         |
| 08:45      | Bangla Feature Film       | 02:50                       | Black Hawk Down         |
| 04:10      | Janar Achhey Bolbar       | 05:10                       | Homeland                |
| Achhey     | 10:15                     | The One                     |                         |
| 06:10      | Shubho Shondhya           | 11:45                       | Nine                    |
| 08:15      | Drama Serial: Dewal       |                             |                         |
| 09:00      | Maggi Test an Balance     | HBO                         |                         |
| ETV        | 12:05                     | The Twilight Saga: New Moon |                         |
|            | 02:45                     | Paranormal Activity 2       |                         |

|                   |                  |                     |                    |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| abc radio FM 89.2 | 10:00            | Morning Express     |                    |
| 06:00             | Bhorer Janjaly   | 12:00               | My Time            |
| 09:00             | Mukhotto Jiboney | 01:00               | No Tension         |
| 12:00             | Darun Duppoy     | 04:00               | Dhaka Calling      |
| 03:00             | Downton Abbey    | 09:30               | High Rider         |
| 05:00             | Shondhokar       | 01:00               | Back to Back music |
| 07:00             | Shajher Maya     | RADIO TODAY FM 89.6 |                    |
| 09:00             | Rat-er Akashey   | 08:00               | Good Morning Dhaka |
| 11:00             | Gejper Shesh Nei | 12:00               | Today's Adda       |
| Radio Foot        | 04:00            | U Tam               |                    |
| 07:30             | Hela Dhaka       | 07:00               | Tobey Tai Hok      |

**Pathorer Kanna**  
On Boishakhi TV at 08:45pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Chanchal Chowdhury, Alvi

**Death Race 2**  
On HBO at 11:45pm  
Genre: Action/Thriller  
Cast: Luke Goss, Lauren Cohan

**Long March**  
On BANGLAVISION at 09:30pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Mosharrar Karim, Tisha

|              |                            |                                 |                      |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 06:30        | Modhu Mala Modon           | 06:25                           | Sanctum              |
| Kumar        | 08:45                      | On Her Majesty's Secret Service |                      |
| 07:50        | Drama: Ekti Beyer Gelpo    | 11:45                           | Death Race 2         |
| 09:30        | Beni Madhob                |                                 |                      |
| 11:50        | Golden Moments             |                                 |                      |
| 12:20        | Studio Concert             | Star World                      |                      |
|              |                            | 02:30                           | Desperate Housewives |
| Boishakhi TV |                            | 03:30                           | Supernatural         |
| 11:10        | Bangla Feature Film        | 03:30                           | The River            |
| 03:30        | Shudha Cinemar Gaan        | 10:30                           | Doxy                 |
| 04:15        | Shorashori Doctor          | 11:30                           | Joey                 |
| 08:00        | Drama                      | National Geographic Channel     |                      |
| 11:00        | Reporters Dairy            | 03:30                           | Snake Wranglers      |
| BANGLAVISION |                            | 01:00                           | Predator             |
| 01:05        | Bangla Feature Film        | 09:30                           | Fight Science        |
| 05:20        | Shyamol Bangla             | 10:30                           | Bruce Lee Lives      |
| 08:15        | Drama Serial: Ladies First | 11:30                           | Deadliest Warrior    |
| 11:25        | Probashi Mukh              | Discovery Channel               |                      |
| RTV          |                            | 02:30                           | Man vs. Wild         |
| 11:10        | Bangla Feature Film        | 03:30                           | World's Worst Mom    |
| 05:00        | Cinema R Gaan              | 08:30                           | Dinosaur Revolution  |
| 08:20        | Drama Serial: College Road | 10:30                           | I Shouldn't Be Alive |
| 09:50        | Bridal Show                | 11:30                           | Tattoo Hunter        |
| Desh TV      |                            |                                 | BBC World            |

|              |                 |                 |                      |        |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------|
| ATN BANGLA   | 08:00pm         | Palash Poth Nei | 09:20pm              | Barpar |
| 08:40pm      | Rupantar Manach | 09:00pm         | Long March           |        |
| CHANNEL i    |                 | RTV             |                      |        |
| 07:50pm      | No Mans Land    | 09:05pm         | Boya Paribar         |        |
| ntv          |                 | 11:30pm         | House Number 138     |        |
| 09:45pm      | Priyo           | Desh TV         |                      |        |
| 11:30pm      | Terminal        | 08:15pm         | Sat Kahon            |        |
| Boishakhi TV |                 | 08:00pm         | Maasranga Television |        |
| 08:45pm      | Pathorer Kanna  | 08:00pm         | Sat Sawdagor         |        |

|              |   |  |
|--------------|---|--|
| BTV          | News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.           | News (English) at 10am, 6pm, 10pm.               |
| ATN BANGLA   | News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.    | News (English) at 9am, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.            |
| CHANNEL i    | News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.             | News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.            |
| ntv          | News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.          | News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm. |
| Boishakhi TV | News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.                | News (English) at 9am, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.            |
| BANGLAVISION | News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.    | News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.            |
| BANGLAVISION | News (Bangla) at 14:00m, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.       | News (English) at 2pm, 7pm, 10:30pm.             |
| ETV          | News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm. | News (English) at 7pm, 11pm.                     |

|              |               |                      |               |         |            |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|---------|------------|
| ATN BANGLA   | 11:30pm       | Je Kotha Kru Boboi   | BANGLAVISION  | 06:25pm | Front Line |
| 12:30am      | Lead News     | RTV                  |               |         |            |
| CHANNEL i    |               | 10:40am              | Tankalop      |         |            |
| 09:45am      | Tritio Matra  | 07:40pm              | Our Democracy |         |            |
| 12:30pm      | Taruka Kothon | Desh TV              |               |         |            |
| ntv          |               | 11:45pm              | Shoja Khatun  |         |            |
| 12:10pm      | Ei Shomoy     | Maasranga Television |               |         |            |
| Boishakhi TV |               | 07:30pm              | Prime Issue   |         |            |
| 12:00am      | Zero Hour     | 12:02am              | Shamprotik    |         |            |