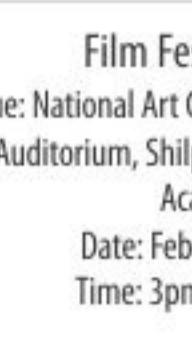


WHAT'S ON



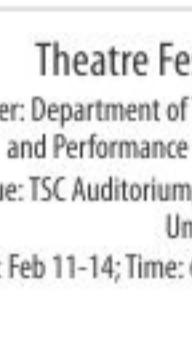
Omor Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Surwardy Udyan and
Bangla Academy
Date: Feb 1-28
Time: 3pm-9pm



Film Festival
Venue: National Art Gallery
Auditorium, Shilpakala
Academy
Date: Feb 12-20
Time: 3pm-7pm



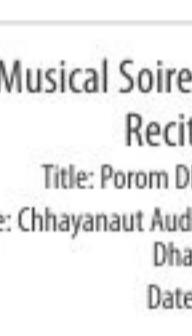
Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Sanjib Datta
Venue: Bengal Shilpalya, H-
42, R-16, Dharmundi
Date: Feb 11-20



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Department of Theatre
and Performance Studies
Venue: TSC Auditorium, Dhaka
University
Date: Feb 11-14; Time: 6:30pm



Duet Art Exhibition
Title: Dui Bangla
Artist: Husmen Khan and Mohammad Iqbal
Venue: Gallery Rennet, D-10,
Dharmundi
Date: Feb 6-Mar 1



Musical Soiree and
Recitation
Title: Ponnuru Hey
Venue: Chayanaut Auditorium,
Dharmundi
Date: Feb 14



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Prodanta Karmakar Buddha
Venue: Shilpangan, H-7, R-13, New
Dharmundi (Sobhannbagh)
Date: Feb 14-23
Time: 12pm-7pm

NEWSbytes

"Akash Koto Durey" releases today



Samia Zaman's second feature film

"Akash Koto Durey", a film made on

grants from the Bangladesh government,

is releasing today at Star Cineplex and

Blockbuster Cinemas.

The story of the film revolves around

Ankan, an orphan who escapes his

orphanage and gets involved in a crime

ring. He meets Faria, another victim of

the crime world, and their fates cross one

another's.

Written by Zulfiqer Russel, the film is

produced by Impress Telefilm and Versa

Media. "Nayak Raj" Razzak, Sharminy

Ahmed, Mostafa Prakash, Faria, Misha

Saudagar and Anka feature in the film.

Zulfiqer Russel has also written the

screenplay, dialogues and lyrics,

Ibrar Tipu and Belal Khan have composed

the songs that have been sung by Kona, Ibrar

Tipu himself, and Kheya.

Samia Zaman said she tried to tell a

story people of all ages can relate to, and

expressed hopes that the audience comes to

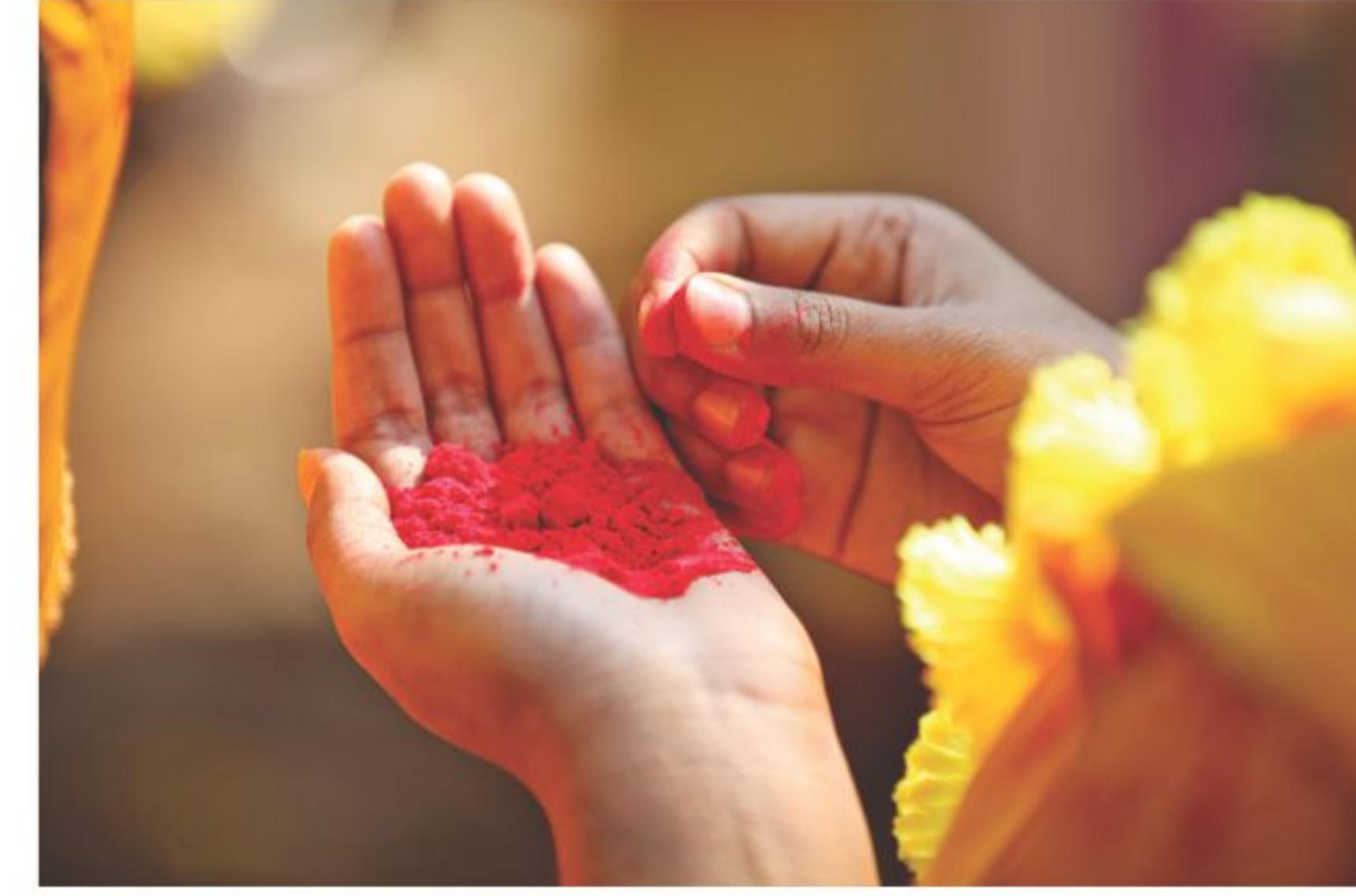
watch it on the big screen.

Earlier, the film was premiered on

February 11 at Blockbuster Cinemas, with

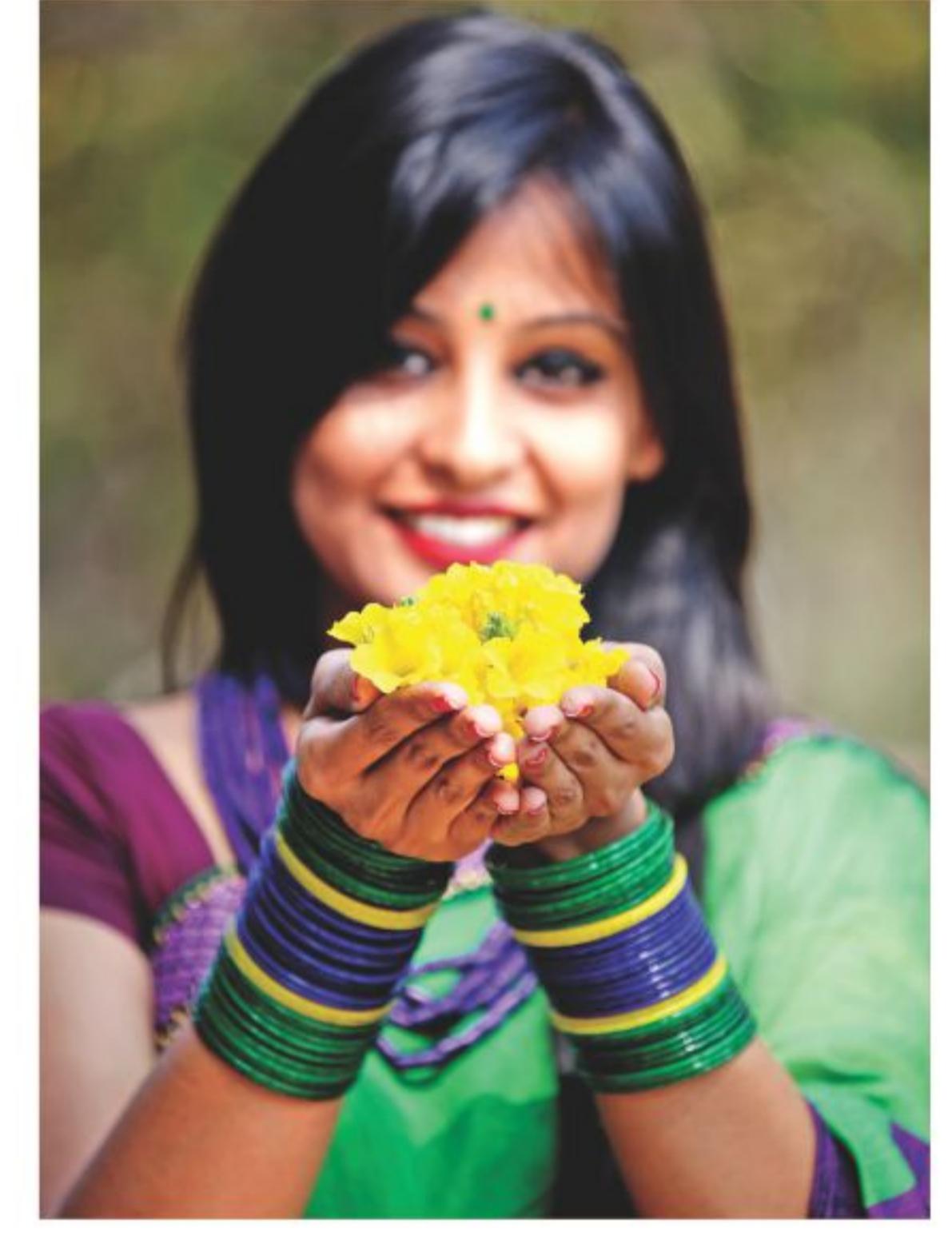
Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu

present as chief guest, says a press release.



The Colours of Spring Boshonto Utshab celebrated in the capital

FAHMIM FERDous



Winter is the time of hibernation; a long, deep sleep for many animals through the harsh weather. The end of winter, therefore, marks the awakening of nature; new leaves bloom out on trees, flowers blossom and bees hover around in search of nectar, as new life is injected in the air, and all the gloom and mist of winter is left behind. Though such an image may not be very relevant in a city as Dhaka, but the citizens of the 'concrete jungle' have found a way to metaphorically express the advent of Spring.

Pahela Falgun, or the First Day of Spring, has grown in size and fervour immensely over the last decade or so. It's safe to say it is not one of the oldest celebrations, especially in the city, but it has found character and expanded very quickly to become a major festival. As with most traditional Bangladeshi festivals, it has its epicentre at the heart of Dhaka University. The Faculty of Fine Arts, fondly called Charukala, is the place to be on this day. However, this year, the Latyo Boshonto Utshab Udiappon Parishad (JBUUP) decided to decentralise the celebration, rightly anticipating the pressure of people at the small venue that is the Bokultala of Charukala. Apart from the prime venue, Dhammion Shah Park featured group dances, solo and choral songs. The programmes were broadcast live on Channel i, ntv and Ekaton TV.

But the music, dance and poems were just the accessories for an enhanced experience, as people of all ages and classes walked out today to breathe in the fresh air of a new season. Bushra Mahabeen, a lecturer of a private university, said it's easy to get alienated from nature in the busy metropolitan life, so to celebrate a bright episode of nature is always a special feeling. Towhidul Islam Khan, a journalist by profession, meanwhile said the celebration gives us a chance to connect to the brightness and freshness of Spring, through the beautiful music and poetry written on the season.



It's the fragrance of the flowers, the wind blowing from the South ... the hues are getting brighter. Spring has arrived.

TV WATCH

Tahsan and Agnila in a scene from "Close-Up Kachhe Ashar Golpo". Three mini-TV plays on the campaign will be screened tonight on Banglavision at 8:45pm. The other two mini-TV plays feature Jon and Aparna in the central roles in one, and Elita and Abir in another.

Star couple Omar Sunny and Moushumi will be the special guests on the Valentine's episode of Maasrange TV's morning show "Ranga Shokal". The duo will talk about their conjugal life, and share memories with the audience in the live programme, at 7am. The programme will be hosted by Kebrina and Aditi, and produced by Rakibul Alam Rusu and Zobayer Iqbal.

Ruponti and Maznum Mizan in Valentine's special TV play "Angti". Written and directed by Sagar Jahan, the drama will be aired at 12:20pm today on ntv.



Written by Zulfiqer Russel, the film is produced by Impress Telefilm and Versa Media. "Nayak Raj" Razzak, Sharminy Ahmed, Mostafa Prakash, Faria, Misha Saudagar and Anka feature in the film. Zulfiqer Russel has also written the screenplay, dialogues and lyrics, while Ibrar Tipu and Belal Khan have composed the songs that have been sung by Kona, Ibrar Tipu himself, and Kheya.

Samia Zaman said she tried to tell a

story people of all ages can relate to, and

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watch it on the big screen.

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February 11 at Blockbuster Cinemas, with

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu

present as chief guest, says a press release.



Chemistry at work ... Tête-À-Tête with Mohammad Iqbal and Maksuda Iqbal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Celebrated artist Mohammad Iqbal and his soulmate, artist Maksuda Nipa shared their mutual understanding, love, lending a hand in each other's professional endeavours and more, in a conversation with The Daily Star ahead of Valentine's Day.

Mohammad Iqbal is working as assistant professor at the Drawing and Painting Department of Faculty of Fine Arts and Nipa is a freelance artist. The couple is blessed with two children. They tied the knot in 1993 within the three-months of their relationship. Iqbal said, "I first saw her prior to the celebration of Pahela Baishakh at Charukala. I did drawing while she did painting for the occasion. I fell for her at first sight. I admired her quiet and soft-spoken nature and attractive personality. During that time, I was the student of masters and she was the student of first year. Molla's shop at Charukala and other part of the Dhaka University were our favourite hubs."

The couple said, "At that time, celebrating Valentine's Day was very rare in the city. Very few celebrated the day. After a few years, teenagers started to celebrate the day." The couple likes to think of love and romance and sweet gestures incorporated in their daily lives, and not restrict it to a certain day.

However, the pair got the real taste of Valentine's Day when they stayed in Japan for their higher education in painting from 2000 to 2006. Iqbal said, "The youngsters of Japan eagerly wait for the day. Chocolates of varied flavours are the only significant gift of Valentine's Day in Japan. I feel that it's a wonderful day to show your loved ones that you care, and it's a way to spend time together. I think Valentine's Day should be a celebration of your love with someone else, or a celebration of independence. Presently, when both of us are very busy with our professions and managing family life, we try to celebrate the day."

About Nipa's nature and her working style, Iqbal said, "As a person, and more. Having ample space, their studio consists of several rooms and sometimes the place is best for hangouts. The painters feel that the studio is also a recreational and spiritual place for them. The accommodation helps them to rediscover and reconsider his thinking process, subject matter and procedure of application."

Artist Shameem Subrana, a close friend of the couple, said, "I have been close to the couple for over twenty years. I was one of the witnesses when they courted. The couple is very charming and friendly. I always appreciate their great hospitalities and tranquil behaviour. I enjoy their cooking and humor. When I feel lonely, their company make me lively."

Nipa is simple, friendly but uncompromised too. She is very sensitive and careful about her works. Her dedication to painting is praiseworthy. She is very cautious about using of pigments and technique. The works used to have a hyper-realistic touch. Her current works are mature and do have a scholarly touch. Her purpose has been to capture the beauty of nature in evanescent moments. Her canvases are lavish in abstract images of colour."

About Iqbal, Nipa said, "His emotion is not easily decipherable as he is very reserved. He is very supportive and caring. Though we are very different on subjects of our paintings, I am very much impressed by Iqbal's use of colours, method of the blending of colours and technical aspect of his paintings. I am very much influenced by his paintings. It is very difficult to comprehend only by visualisation."

Both the painters consider each other as a source of inspiration. "As we both had the same area of interest – arts – it has allowed us to discuss contemporary arts, subject and technique of paintings. Being the wife of an artist, it is helpful for a woman in Bangladesh for getting a congenial working place," said Nipa.

The couple has a great similarity in their love to entertain people of their surroundings. The couple is closely associated with the people of different sectors in the society like poets, architects, singers, art writers and more. Having ample space, their studio consists of several rooms and sometimes the place is best for hangouts. The painters feel that the studio is also a recreational and spiritual place for them. The accommodation helps them to rediscover and reconsider his thinking process, subject matter and procedure of application."

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