

WHAT'S ON

Omor Ekushey Book Fair

Organiser: Bangla Academy

Venue: Surawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy

Date: Feb 1-28

Time: 3pm-9pm



বিশ্বালা

Film Festival

Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy

Date: Feb 12-20

Time: 3pm-7pm



চলচ্চিত্র উৎসব

Film Festival

Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Sanjib Datta

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi

Date: Feb 11-20

Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Proshanta Karmakar Buddha

Venue: Shilpangan, H-7, R-13, New Dhanmondi (Sobhanbagh)

Date: Feb 14-23

Time: 12pm-7pm



Book & Heritage

Duet Art Exhibition

Title: Dui Bangal

Artists: Hashem Khan and Mohammad Iqbal

Venue: Gallery Twenty One, Dhanmondi

Date: Feb 6-Mar 1



NEWS bytes

"Jibondhuli" premieres today

A CORRESPONDENT

Tanvir Mokammel's latest feature endeavour, "Jibondhuli", premieres today in Dhaka. The film, based on the Liberation War, delves into the life of a 'dhuli' (folk drummer) during the struggle for independence in 1971. The film features Shatabdi Wadud, Ramendu Mazumdar, Wahida Mollick Jolly, Chitrakleha Guho and Pran Roy in the central characters.

The premiere of the film, made on a grant from Bangladesh government, will be held at the National Theatre Hall of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Earlier, a press show of the film was held at the Shawkat Osman auditorium of the Public Library.

The crew of the film include Mahfuzur Rahman Khan in cinematography, Uttam Guho in art direction, Syed Shabbab Ali Arzu in music direction, and Sagir Mostafa as the chief assistant director.

Sultan Utshab begins in Narail

PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

A two-day 'Sultan Utshab-2014' began yesterday at Sultan Complex premises in Masimdia village under Narail Sadar upazila, amid great enthusiasm. The event is jointly organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and District administration.

The programme include replica art exhibition of Sultan, children's art camp and exhibition, workshop, seminar, discussion, cultural festival, acrobatics exhibition, a 'pitha utshab' and film screening.

About five hundred children participated in this art camp. Later in the afternoon, children were taken to visit River Chitra on boat, while the cultural programme and discussion were held at the Shilpakala Academy premises. Dr. Gawhar Rizvi, the international affairs advisor to the prime minister addressed the programme as chief guest. Among others, adv. Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, MP, Narail-2 and Abdul Goffar Khan, deputy commissioner, Narail were present as special guests. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's Director General, Liaquat Ali Lucky be presided over the meeting.

World-renowned painter SM Sultan was born on August 10 in 1923, in a poor family at Masimdia village of the district. His father, Sheikh Messer was a mason by profession. He was conferred with the 'Ekushey Padak' and the Cambridge University declared him as the 'Man of Asia' in the same year in 1984. The Bangladesh government accepted him as the resident artist. He passed away died on October 10, 1994, at Jessore Combined Military Hospital after suffering from a prolonged breathing illness.

A Valentine's treat on the big screen

Star Cineplex premieres "Frozen" with a hundred couples



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Star Cineplex, the first multiplex cinema theatre of the country, arranged for a special Valentine's Day for a hundred married couples, with the premiere of animated Hollywood blockbuster "Frozen" in 3D. The Golden Globe-winning film was screened on yesterday afternoon, where the couples -- who were chosen through a campaign on Facebook -- enjoyed the films and took home gift hampers.

"Frozen", directed jointly by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee, is a heart-melting story of two princess sisters, loosely based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale "The Snow Queen". Within 13 weeks of release, it has climbed to the sixth spot of the highest-grossing animation films of all time, and is being hailed by many as the Disney's best film since the studio's renaissance era, and has been nominated for two Oscars, along with winning a number of major accolades.

In memories and melodies

The Daily Star's musical tribute to Suchitra Sen



(Clockwise from top left): Parveen Sultana, Iffat Ara Nargis and Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Nasima Shaheen Fancy, Munir Chowdhury, Ferdous Ara and Aniruddha Sengupta (bottom) sing at the august gathering.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

To revisit the musical memory lane of the 1960s and '70s when legendary actress Suchitra Sen was at the height of her popularity, The Daily Star yet once more organised a musical tribute to her at its AS Mahmud Seminar Hall on Pahela Falgun (February 13).

The featured artistes at the event included Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Iffat Ara Nargis, Ferdous Ara, Parveen Sultana, Nasima Shaheen Fancy, Aniruddha Sengupta and Munir Chowdhury.

Sadya Afreen Mallick, Editor, Arts and Entertainment of The Daily Star, compered the event, sharing anecdotes and trivia of films enacted by Suchitra Sen and Uttam Kumar.

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, together with Iffat Ara Nargis, set off the musical journey through the popular duet "Ei Poth Jodi Na Shesh Hoy". The performance, along with the visual of the song, evoked romance in the hearts of the audience. The beautiful rendition of solo songs -- "Amar Swapne Dekha Rajkanya Thake", "Shurer Akashey Tumi Je Go Shukotara" and "Aj Dujonar Dutti Poth" by Fahim Hossain Chowdhury followed. Fahim Hossain's captivating rendition of "Shurer Akashey" earned him plaudits.

Iffat Ara Nargis' repertoire at the soiree included "Tumi Na Hoy Rohite Kachhey", "Phuler Kaney Bhromor Aney" and "Ei Modhu Raat Shudhu Phul



Papiar". The singer showed her prowess while performing "Ei Modhu Raat" from the film "Sagarika".

Ferdous Ara wove a garland of melody with a lovely song, "Ei Shundor Swarnali Sondhaye", from the film "Hospital". She performed two other songs, "Ke Tumi Amarey Dako" and "Aar Jeno Nei Kono Bhabona", at the event.

Parveen Sultana's is a voice with a striking resemblance to the legendary Sandhya Mukhopadhyay's. The artiste started off with "Ghum Ghum Chand". She also performed "Ami Swapney Tomaye Dekhechhi" in her captivating voice. Parveen Sultana did justice to the rather difficult song "Gaan-e Mor Kon Indradhonu" from the film

"Agniporikkha".

Aniruddha Sengupta impressed the audience with his performance of "Surjo Dobar Pala". The artiste's rendition left the audience enthralled.

Munir Chowdhury impressed with his solo rendition of the song "Jhor Utthechhey Baul Batash". The number, originally recorded by Hemanta Mukherjee, was from the film "Shapmochan". A melodic symphony was created towards the end of the rendition while the singer, with the keyboardist, did a musical high.

Nasima Shaheen with Aniruddha Sengupta mesmerised the packed hall with a duet, "Neer Chhoto Khoti Nei". The artiste later superbly performed "E Shudhu Gaan-er Din", beautifully mingled with a harmonic synchronisation with instrumental accompaniment.

Nasima Shaheen wrapped up the musical soiree with "Jani Na Furabey Kobe".

Every artiste, attired in the colours of Spring, stood out at the event.

Former adviser to the caretaker government Rasheda K. Chowdhury, former ambassador Syed Muazzam Ali, retired civil servant Sakawat Hossain, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and Executive Editor Syed Badrul Ahsan were among others who recalled the various facets of the life and times of Suchitra Sen.

Idylls in watercolour, and more

Sumon Wahed returns from Shantiniketan

FAYZA HAQ

Sumon Wahed is fresh back from Shantiniketan, where he had gone on an Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship. His ideas and sense of form and figures are unique, as was evident from a recent exhibition of his works at the Dhaka Art Centre, titled "Academic-Postacademic".

The painting which moved me the most was of prisoners being taken from BDR. Their faces looked wan, and they clung on to the bars with hopelessness and misery. The haunted look in their eyes reminded one of Oscar Wilde's "Ballad of Reading Gaol". The police bus was broken and battered. The frames of the two windows were done by applying pieces of wood which was painted over. There was a cross-like image, also 3-D, which connected the two window images.

As for his watercolours of a village scene and the dockyards, they were moving too. The scenes were from places like the other side of Buriganga and Keraniganj. The beauty of haystacks, the Santals of North Bengal, thatched mud huts or with corrugated roofs were captured with imagination and accuracy. The cycles and rickshaw carts appeared idyllic with Sumon's brushstrokes. The jade and emerald trees, the barren trunks of trees' hedges and ponds at the Faculty of Fine Arts, DU appeared places of repose.

There is a depiction of Gabtoli, with the sandbags. It is pearly grey due to the enveloping fog. Men, boats and houses in the background are visible despite the overwhelming mist. Waves of grey and white depict the pearly waves in front.

A Dinajpur scene depicts North Bengal, with mud and thatched houses. Inviting trees can be seen at the back.

In Ishwardi, we see a simple tea stall, with people in hitched-up lungis and van-carts. A few thatched houses are included. From Thakurgaon comes the serene scene of chicks and men in dhotis.

There were also dramatic, overwhelming pieces, with Tagore, Ramkinkar, Binod Bihari and Nanda Lal Bose and other gems of painting from the past.

An experimental work at the exhibition also includes the sex and violence that surrounds us in the city.



Artworks on display.

Celebrations of Spring across the country

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Dwellers of the port city celebrated the first day of the spring on Thursday amid traditional fervour, fanfare and festivity.

To mark the day, thousands of people -- women in conventional colourful yellow saree and men in yellow Panjabi -- thronged at DC hill premises and District Shilpakala Academy premises, where different cultural organisations organised programmes.

Bodhon Abritti Parishad, a leading organisation working on elocution in Chittagong, arranged a day-long festival titled "Boshonto Utsab" at DC Hill premises. It started with a group performance of different musical instruments followed by a choral rendition of a Tagore song. The festival featured solo and group renditions of songs and recitations of poems based on the season.

On the occasion, a colourful procession paraded the thoroughfares in the city where hundreds of people of all ages in traditional attire participated with festoons and banners dancing to the tune of 'dhak' (folk drums). Ghungur Nrityakala, Mayabi Dance Academy, Sanchari Nrityakala Academy, The School of Folk Dance, Natoraj Nritangan and different cultural organisations performed

at the festival.

Another main venue of celebration of the day was District Shilpakala Academy. In association with the Academy and Indian Assistant High Commission, Proma Abritti Sanghaton organised a vivid programme there. Local daily The Dainik Azadi editor MA Malek inaugurated the programme as chief guest at the open stage of the academy. Indigenous dance, group dance, songs and recitation also featured. Led by Priatosh Barua, The Violinists Chittagong performed instrumental music that kept the audience spellbound at the programme.

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

A two-day Boshonto-kalin Shahitya Utshab (Spring Literature Festival) was celebrated at the Mukterpara area of the district town on Thursday and today Friday, marking Pahela Phalgun. Netrakona Shahitya Shomaj organised the event.

The programmes included a rally, discussion and a cultural function at the premises of the Public Library, inaugurated by writer and researcher, Ali Ahmed Aiub.

A discussion was held on Thursday on "Language of fiction and Selina Hossain". Presided over by Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, president of

Netrakona Shahitya Shomaj, the discussion was addressed among others by writer Professor Jatin Sarker; Social worker Begum Rokeya, poet Gazi Mobarak and poet Shimul Milky.

On the occasion, Netrakona Shahitya Shomaj also presented the 18th Khalekdad Chowdhury Literary Award, to noted writer Selina Hossain. Writers, poets and intellectuals from across the country attended the festival.

A vibrant cultural programme

was held on Friday, to close the festival.

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Students of the government Nurun Nahar College in Jhenidah brought out a colourful rally in the district town on Thursday, to usher in the first day of Spring.

People from all walks of life

participated in the rally that paraded the streets of the town. A cultural show was held where local singers performed songs to an enthusiastic audience. Shusendu Kumar Bhaumik, principal of Nurun Nahar College, presided over the programme.

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

Boshonto, the 'King of seasons' received a warm welcome in

Barisal city on Thursday. Pahela Falgun, the first day of spring in the Bangla seasonal calendar, brought colour and festivities in the minds of people, lighting up the spring on hearts of all, irrespective of age, life and living. Barisal Natok and Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Barisal arranged the traditional Boshonto Boron Utshab at the Jagadish Saraswat Girls School ground, while students of

Barisal Govt. Women's College and BM College arranged programmes at their campuses.

Songs, dances, recitation and exchange of greetings and gifts kept the air festive throughout the day.

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

The advent of spring was celebrated amidst festivity in Panchagarh district on Thursday with different programmes. To celebrate the Pahela Falgun, students of Bengali Department of Moksbulur Rhaman Government College in Panchagarh organised a cultural programme at the college premises. The programme included a discussion, unveiling cover of a wall magazine, songs and dance performances. Dr. Abdul Khalek, Principal of Moksbulur Rhaman Government College, inaugurated the programme as chief guest.

Prior to the discussion six wall magazines cover were unveiled at the same venue. Later, a vibrant cultural programme was held, with artists of different departments of the college. The event featured several solo and group songs, dances and recitations. Besides, Vumiz theatre brought out a colourful procession in the town to celebrate the occasion. They also organised painting, recitation and essay competitions for children.



Dancers of the port city usher in spring.

PHOTO: STAR