

WHAT'S ON

Art Exhibition
 Title: Serenading Suchitra
 Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, Dhanmondi
 Date: April 6-19
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Theatre
 Title: Konjush
 Troupe: Loko Natyadal
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: April 4
 Time: 6:30pm



Art Exhibition
 Organiser: Pintu's Fine Art School
 Venue: School premises, 61/2 Lake Circus, Kalabagan
 Date: April 3-15
 Time: 3:30pm-6pm

Prize & Cultural Program 2014
 4th April 14 Friday at 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.



Torun Kobi O Lekhok Puroshkar 2013
 Organisers: Kali O Kalam & HSBC
 Venue: Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Auditorium, Bangla Academy, Dhaka



Album Launch
 Album: Hridoye Rabi
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhanmondi
 Date: April 4
 Time: 6:30pm



Hasan Hafizur Rahman

a multifaceted personality

Hasan Hafizur Rahman was a poet, journalist and critic. He was born in 1932 at his maternal uncle's residence. His ancestral home was in the village of Kulkandi under Jamalpur district. He completed his BA and MA in Bangla Language and Literature in 1951 and 1955 respectively from the University of Dhaka.

April 1 marked the 31st death anniversary of the poet.

Rahman's had a full and diverse professional life. He began his career in 1952 as assistant editor of the weekly Begum. Subsequently he worked for Saogat, Ittehad, Dainik Bangla and others. In 1972, he was elected president of the editorial board of the Dainik Bangla. He was also a Professor of Bangla Language and Literature at Jagannath College, and worked at different missions of Bangladesh abroad.

Rahman started writing while still a student. In 1946, while studying at school, his first short story, "Asrubheja Path Chalte", was published in the Saogat. In 1949, the Sonar Bangla published his first poem. During that time, he became associated with the Dhaka Progressive Writers and Artists Association. He actively took part in the

Revisiting the golden years of cinema

National Film Day celebrated



Shakib Khan is interviewed on the red carpet.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) premises wore a festive look when National Film Day was celebrated yesterday. Visitors who milled around recalled the golden era of Bangla cinema while viewing the prints of rare posters of decades-old films.

Several legendary film artists also revisited their golden days through the posters.

BFDC chalked out various programmes to celebrate the day.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu inaugurated the programme. Among others, managing director of BFDC, Pijush Bandyopadhyay, also a renowned

actor, addressed the gathering.

Addressing the function, Hasanul Haq Inu said that the National Film Day is a great achievement for those associated with the industry. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had declared the special day for the people of the film industry, he said.

"We are very proud the institution of National Film Day. I am truly grateful to the premier for this," said Pijush Bandyopadhyay.

With the release of balloons, a Mongol Shobha Jatra (procession) was brought out by the members of the film industry.

To mark the occasion, a movie fair was held on the premises of BFDC, where the stall of old film CDs attracted many. The tea stall of film

artistes Ferdous and Moushumi was also very eye-catching where their upcoming film "Ek Kap Cha" was promoted in a big way. Puppet shows, merry-go-round and bioscope were also arranged for children.

Noted stars of the industry attended the event in the afternoon to a red carpet welcome.

A special souvenir was also published on the occasion.

Patronised by Diamond World, ATN Bangla telecast the daylong programme live. Event management firm Pathik, organised the event.

A special cultural programme was held in the evening. Later, the celebrations wrapped up in Hatirjheel through a fanush (paper lantern) and fireworks display.



Preparations underway for Pahela Boishakh

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Every Boishakh -- the first month of the Bangla calendar, people wish to shake off the previous year's gloom and prepare to usher in the New Year with renewed vigour. Boishakh brings with it a whole new flurry of festivities and celebrations, the biggest of which are Chhayanaut's Borshoboron and Charukala's Mongol Shobhajatra.

Leading cultural organisation and school Chhayanaut has been welcoming Pahela Boishakh at Ramna's Boto-mul since 1967. It has become an essential feature of the Bangla New Year celebrations. The first day of Boishakh begins with people getting up early in the morning attired in new Boishakhi saris and panjabis to go to Ramna Park to enjoy the songs, dances and recitations by the esteemed organisation. The theme for this year's celebration is "Swadesh O Samprity", and is set to begin with a sarod recital at 6am.

Another significant celebration programme is the Mongol Shobhajatra that starts from the Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA) premises of Dhaka University. This year's Mongol Shobhajatra will start at around 9:30 am and will parade several streets adjacent to the FFA. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor and FFA Dean -- along with artists and teachers will lead the procession.

The theme for this year's Mongol Shobhajatra is "Jagrot Koro, Udyoto Koro Nirbhoy Kore Hey". The colourful procession will predominantly zoom in on the country's prosperity. Folk motifs including ducks, shoal of fish, fawn, mother and child, tigers, cats, owls, clay-pan paintings and more will be showcased at the Mongol Shobhajatra.

Three honours batches -- 13th, 14th and 15th -- of FFA are steering the wheel of this year's Pahela Boishakh celebrations. Bioscope is a new addition for the year. Work is already underway in creating exquisitely made papier-mâché masks; enthusiastic preparations are on at the FFA to celebrate the country's biggest cultural festival. Students, teachers and alumni are seen working on the paintings, pottery, traditional dolls, decorated pots, masks and more at the faculty premises. They were seen busy working on huge bamboo frames of the folk motifs that will be among the main attractions of this year's Mongol Shobhajatra.

On April 13 evening, a "Chaitra Sangkranti" programme will be held at the Bakultala of FFA, where students will



FFA students busy in prep for the celebrations; (right) Papier-mâché masks for the Mongol Shobhajatra.

perform in a cultural programme. There will also be a puppet show at the faculty throughout the Pahela Boishakh celebrations. Apart from this, a traditional jatrapala will be staged at FFA premises.

People from all walks of life will contribute to make this day a special beginning. There are those who work hard to bring out the festivities and it's up to the rest of the people to make it worth all the effort, by simply visiting and participating in them with open hearts.



OUR PICK

Hok Kolorob: Mellifluous melodies

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Shayan Chowdhury, better known as Arnob, made a strong first impression in the country's music scene with "Chaina Bhabish" in 2005. His music had depth, the arrangements were uncommon, and his lyrics were poetic and reflective; yet, it did not attain booming popularity. The reason, some said, was that it was not music that everyone could easily relate to or hum along. His second album, "Hok Kolorob" (2006, Bengal Music Company) made up for that, and some.

The album opens with the simple, happy tunes of "Bakshey Bakshey". The tune is catchy, and the song somewhere feels connected to the Malvina Reynolds/Pete Seeger classic "Little Boxes".

The next song, "Tomar Jonno" is a beautiful romantic song, done on a plucked acoustic guitar. The lyrics speak of a man's young, blossoming love and the things he feels and dedicates to his paramour.

The title track is up next, and is a little bit more flavoured like his debut album, but on a happier note. The lyrics are somewhat nonsensical, almost Sukumar Roy-

ish, and leaves the audience swaying.

"Tui Ki Janish Na - 1" is the next song, a gripping instrumental track with serious, poetic lyrics of the yearning to express the innermost feelings to a beloved. Sahana's backing vocals add a lovely dimension to the song. The percussive arrangement is also wonderful on this one.

"Bhalobasha Tarpor" is next on queue, and begins on a melancholic note with vocals very prominent on a soft guitar-keys track, and gets expressive as it moves along in a simple yet wonderful melody, with the lyrics delving in the respite that love brings in our lives, despite the sadness and struggles.

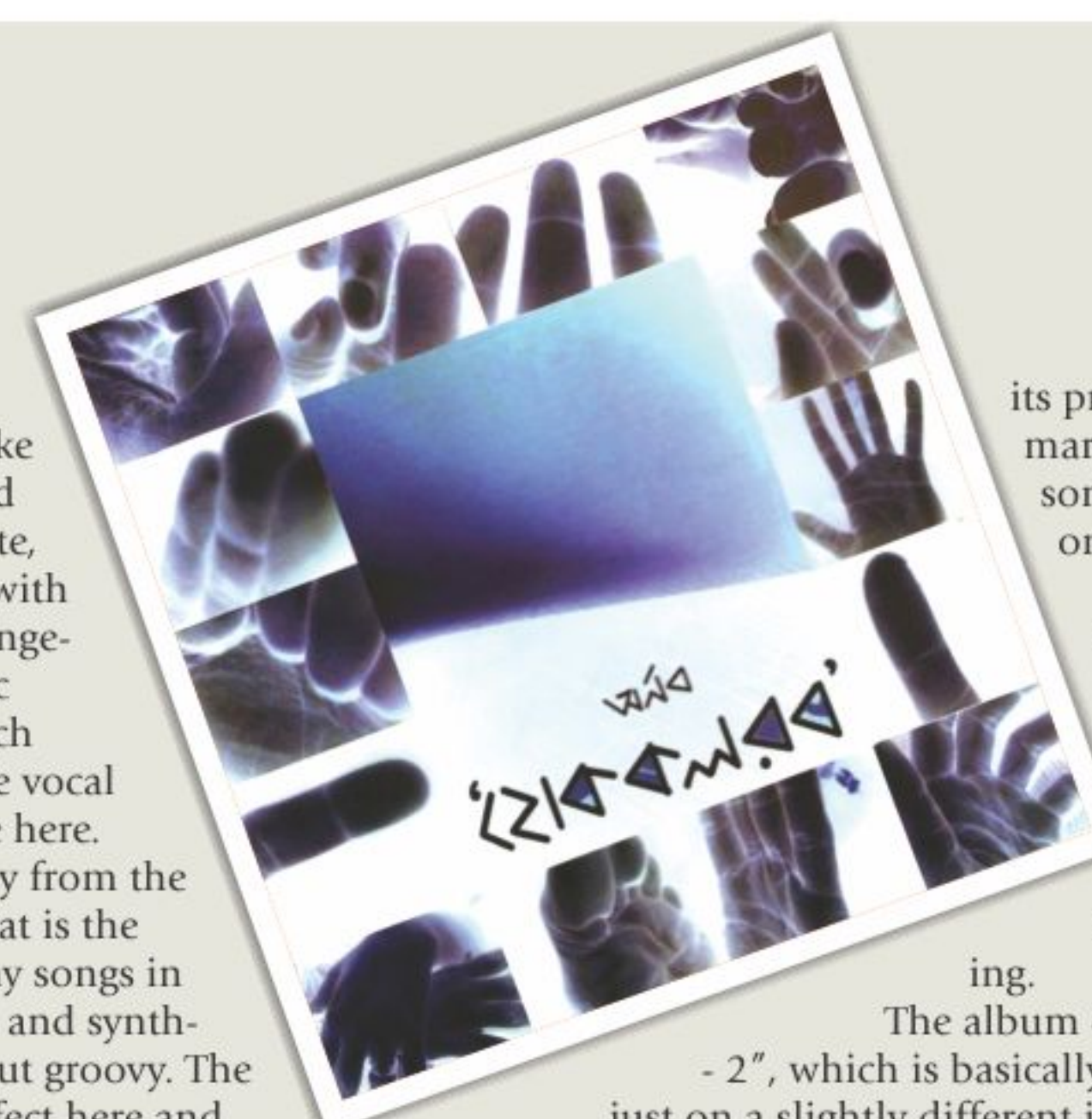
"Tor Jonno" goes back to the charming, funky element back the album promised in the beginning. The subtle use of electronica-type effects plays along perfect with the purposefully juvenile lyrics.

The next song deceptively opens like a serious, contemplative number, before going into a funky, carefree and sort of rappy lyrics that changes the mood altogether. "Shomoy Kaate" has a wonderful groove to it, and the middle part that speaks of a lazy youth's daily routine feels incredibly relatable.

"Chalak Tumi", the song to follow, is more like a heartfelt letter to a loved one on a melancholic note, but the music is upbeat, with electronic percussive arrangement and muffled electric guitar works without much distortion. Arnob's subtle vocal works also get an exercise here.

"Muhurto" moves away from the typical guitar-plucking that is the staple constituent of many songs in the CD, and is more keys and synth-based. The track is soft, but groovy. The vocals get a little radio effect here and there, for a nice variation.

However, "Prokrito Jol", the next song, sort of takes back the listener to the "Chaina Bhabish" ambience. There's ambient sound of pouring water, a hollow-chamber clay instrument creates an eerie sound, and the bass-line is prominent. The lyrics are abstract and poetic, and the vocal output is in a different gear from



its precedents. Jalal Ahmed's marvelous flute-playing takes the song elsewhere, particularly the one long solo.

"Shobdo" is another soothing number with the typical mildly-strummed acoustic guitar, and a female vocal humming in between verses. One of the more 'comforting' tracks of the album, if not the most striking.

The album closes with "Tui Ki Janish Na - 2", which is basically the same as the first song, just on a slightly different instrumental arrangement, among which is a cute baby-voice in between the song, and a more electronic-styled arrangement.

Overall, the album is a relaxing mix with no track requiring a skip; perfect to be playing in the background as one sits in a rocking chair on a balcony on a weekend afternoon, or drives to the outskirts of the city for a breath of fresh air.