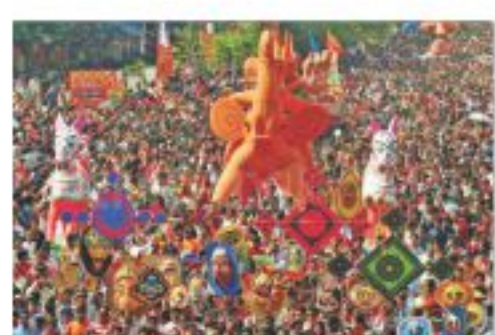


**Pahela Boishakh Celebration**  
Organiser: Chhayanaut  
Venue: Ramna Batomul, Dhaka  
Date: April 14  
Time: 6am



**Mongol Shobhajatra**  
Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka  
Date: April 14  
Time: 9am



**Chaitra Sankranti Programme**  
Organiser: Shurer Dhara  
Venue: Bangabandhu Int'l Convention Centre  
Date: April 13



**Shaatkahon Rongila Mela**  
Organiser: Jatra  
Venue: Jatra Dhanmondi outlet, Rd 27  
Date: April 10-14



**Bengal Boishakh Utsab**  
Organiser: Bengal Foundation  
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi  
Date: April 13-15



**NEWS bytes**

**Katherine Heigl sues US pharmacy**



Actress Katherine Heigl has sued a chain of US pharmacies for \$6m in damages. She has accused Duane Reade Inc of using a picture of her leaving one of its shops in promotional material.

Heigl is famous for her roles in films including "Knocked Up" and "27 Dresses" and also won an Emmy for playing the character of Izzie Stevens in medical drama "Grey's Anatomy".

In documents submitted to the court, Heigl says she was recently photographed by paparazzi in New York City as she left a Duane Reade pharmacy. She says the company is exploiting her image for commercial gain despite her objection.

Heigl's complaint also says she plans to donate any damages she may receive to a charity that helps animals.

Source: BBC

**IT'S TRUE!**



Bollywood diva Madhuri Dixit has won the hearts of millions in India and across the globe, with her disarming smile, graceful dancing and powerful acting. A group of her fans in 2012 went as far to name a star in the Orion constellation after the superstar. Madhuri was presented the plaque from Star Foundation - that allows people to buy the rights to name a star. She was presented the wooden plaque certifying the naming at the sets of a dance reality show she was judging, in June 2012.

**Chittagong gears up for Bengali New Year**

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Excitement is building up in the port city as the Bengali New Year comes up. The arrival of "Pahela Boishakh", the first day of the Bangla calendar and popularly known as "Noboborsho", is being heralded with special preparations by cultural organisations and educational institutions of the city. The festival dates back to a tradition introduced by the secular Mughal emperor Akbar.

On a visit to the Institute of Fine Arts of Chittagong University at Chatteshawri Road in the port city, students were busy making mammoth structures of scarecrows, pigeons, elephants, owls and oxen.

Many were making three-dimensional and flat masks and varied replicas for Mongol Shobhajatra, a procession to observe Pohela Boishakh.

Omar Faruque, a final year student of the institute, told The Daily Star that 150 students of the institute had been working in shifts over the last two weeks to make the masks and replicas.

Wooching Thoai Rakhaine, also a final year student, said the students of the institute were celebrating the New Year with daylong programmes in the insti-



Students of Institute of Fine Arts, CU, busy in preparation of Mongol Shobhajatra. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

tute premises with funds raised on their own.

"The programme will feature different folk sports like Hadudu, cockfight, breaking pots, releasing fanush (paper lanterns) and a classical music evening," he said.

Like every year, the audience at DC Hill premises will enjoy programmes from a gallery built on the slopes of the hill. The event is the main attraction for the city dwellers on the day.

Sammilito Pahela Boishakh Udjapan Parishad will organise a two-day cultural programme at

the venue to bid farewell to the old year and welcome the Bengali New Year. The programme will feature classical music, recitation, group and solo dances, and tribal dances. A total of 36 local groups will perform at the programme.

Fulki, a reputed educational institute for children, will host a three-day festival and cultural programme starting today at the Fulki premises. Eminent writer Selina Hossain will inaugurate the festival.

The district Shilpakala Academy will hold multiple cul-

tural events like gazir gaan, pala gaan and puppet shows performed by different troupes from the city and different parts of the country, said Moslem Uddin Sikdar, cultural officer of district Shilpakala Academy.

Termining the celebration of Pahela Boishakh "A reunion of lives", Chittagong University Vice-chancellor (VC) Anwarul Azim Arif said the festival reflects the secular traditions of the nation.

The university will also hold daylong programmes on the occasion, he added.

**Dance performance mesmerises audience**

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Mesmerising dance sequences by leading dance artistes and young ones were enjoyed by a rapt audience at the packed district Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Sunday evening.

Shilbi Mohammad, leading exponent of classical Indian dance and a renowned choreographer of Kathak; Kaniz Fatema, Snata Shahrin, Farzana Yeasmin Mili and Anika Hossain Boishakhi of Nrityanchal, Dhaka and Manash Talukder were the main performers. The performances of



Shilbi Mohammad leads Nrityanchal dancers in a group performance. PHOTO: STAR

"Swaraswati Bandana", "Guru Bandana", "Thumri", "Tarana" and more added a special touch to the evening.

The event was organised at the

conclusion of a four-day dance workshop arranged by Novice Foundation titled "Suddha Kathake Chetonar Kathakotha" in the town. Shilbi Mohammad was

the lead facilitator at the workshop.

Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqui was the chief guest of the evening.

Congratulating the participants for their excellent performance, speakers at the programme said the artistes should perfect their dance skills learnt at the workshop.

Director of Novice Foundation Faysal Ahmed emceed the event. Later, the guests distributed certificates among the participants of the workshop.

**Noborupi celebrates golden jubilee**



A scene from Tagore play "Chandalika" staged on the closing day. PHOTO: STAR

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Noborupi, a renowned cultural institution of Dinajpur, celebrated its 50th anniversary with cultural programmes and a discussion.

Marking its golden jubilee, a weeklong festival was organised from April 2 at Dinajpur institute complex.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, DG of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, inaugurated the festival by lighting a candle at the Noborupi complex.

Later, a rally was brought out in Dinajpur town.

The cultural festival also featured

an art competition, cultural programmes, staging of plays, recitation and dances by students of the organisation.

On the concluding day, a discussion was held, chaired by Noborupi president Md. Abdus Samad.

At the discussion, speakers recalled their struggle in running the organisation over the last five decades.

After the discussion, prizes were distributed among the winners of the competitions. A book was also launched at the programme.

The weeklong event wrapped up with a vibrant cultural programme.

**Nirvana, Kiss join Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame**

Grunge band Nirvana has been enlisted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, alongside the likes of Kiss and Beatles manager Brian Epstein.

REM's Michael Stipe inducted the group, saying: "Nirvana tapped into a voice that was yearning to be heard. Nirvana were kicking against the mainstream. They spoke truth and a lot of people listened."

The band's career was cut short by Kurt Cobain's death in 1994. His widow, Courtney Love, attended the ceremony.

"You know, I have a big speech, but I'm not going to say it," she said, before hugging Cobain's bandmates Krist Novoselic and Dave Grohl.

Grohl, Nirvana's drummer and now frontman of rock group Foo Fighters, paid tribute to the musicians who formed the early line-ups of Nirvana, in particular drummer Channing, who he singled out for his contributions to the band's breakthrough album "Nevermind".

Bass guitarist Novoselic added: "Nirvana fans walk up to me every day and say thank you for the music. When I hear that, I think of Kurt Cobain."

Nirvana received their place in the Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility.



Kiss accepted their awards without their trademark face paints: (L-R) Paul Stanley, Peter Criss, Ace Frehley and Gene Simmons. PHOTO COURTESY: BBC

Artists can only be considered for the honour 25 years after their first release. The remaining members, also including guitarist Pat Smear, were joined on stage by four female musicians to perform some of the band's best-known songs. Joan Jett sang "Smells Like Teen Spirit", Sonic Youth's Kim Gordon took on "Aneurysm", alternative musician St. Vincent performed "Lithium", while New Zealand pop star

Lorde sang "All Apologies". Other honourees at the New York ceremony included Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, 15 years after their leader was inducted as a solo artist. He welcomed the band on stage, saying: "I told a story with the E Street Band that was, and is, bigger than anything I could have told on my own." They were followed into the Hall of

Fame by Maneater singers Daryl Hall and John Oates.

Peter Gabriel was inducted by Coldplay singer Chris Martin, and made light of his elaborate stage outfits as a member of Genesis in the 1970s.

Rock legends Kiss were one of the more controversial inductees, having pulled out of a performance at the ceremony over a disagreement about their line-up.

"This is a pivotal moment for all of us," said Gene Simmons, the bass player on hits like "Crazy Nights" and "Rock and Roll All Nite".

Country queen Linda Ronstadt, who has Parkinson's disease, was unable to attend the ceremony, instead receiving a musical tribute from Carrie Underwood, Emmylou Harris, Bonnie Raitt, Sheryl Crow and Stevie Nicks.

The ceremony also saw the first ever inductions for managers of rock bands, which went to the late Brian Epstein, who guided the Beatles to stardom, and Andrew Loog Oldham, who launched the careers of the Rolling Stones, Rod Stewart and Eric Clapton. However, the former Stones' manager boycotted the ceremony.

Source: BBC

**RAFI'S**  
personal and social observations through art

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Committee on Southern Asian Studies at the University of Chicago has organised an art exhibition featuring the works of Bangladeshi artist Rafi Haque at Foster Hall on the University of Chicago's Hyde Park campus.

Titled "Journal of an Artist", the exhibition was inaugurated on April 4, and runs till May 23.

Born in Kushtia, Bangladesh in 1965, Rafi is a reputed visual artist. In the current show, the artist presents several selected works of printmaking. He often works with journals that deal in both the written and the visual.

"Rafi's journals have a mix of collages, doodles, written texts. Besides creating wonderful visual impact, these long-kept diaries document his own life as well as the socio-political, cultural ethos around him. His effortless artistry of Bangla often attracts people who appreciate writing but may not always value visual arts," writes Mandira Bhaduri, Lecturer in Bangla at the University of Chicago.

The artist received his MFA in printmaking in 1991



from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, and has been working in the medium for two decades. His works have been showcased in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including France, Pakistan, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Egypt, Russia, Malaysia, and Argentina.

The artist will be giving a lecture titled "Quest for Identity and Emerging Trends in the Contemporary Art of Bangladesh" on April 10 at the Foster Hall of the university.

**Captain America sequel set for Dhaka release**



A CORRESPONDENT

The latest Marvel superhero film "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" has taken the global box office by storm, going to the top of the US box office with a record April release turnover and taking pole position in the UK charts as well. Now, less than two weeks after it hit the big screens in the US, the Winter Soldier is set to land on the screens of Dhaka. Star Cineplex, the country's pioneering multiplex cinema hall, will release the film in 3D on April 14.

After the first film "Captain America: The First Avenger" was received rather well in the box office, the superhero launched into further fame with the 2012 blockbuster "The Avengers", where he teamed up with other Marvel heroes Iron Man, Thor and Hulk.

"The Winter Soldier" sees Chris Evans reprising his role as Steve Rogers aka Captain America, with Scarlett Johansson also donning the role of Natasha Romanoff aka Black Widow and Samuel L Jackson putting on his eye-patch to play Nick Fury (both from the Avengers film). Directed by the Russo brothers (Joe Russo and Anthony Russo).