

WHAT'S ON

Commemorative Programme
Poet Fazal Shahabuddin
Venue: Chhayamati, Dhanmondi
Date: April 19
Time: 5pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Death Trap
Photographer: Abr Abdullah
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: April 10-24

Art Exhibition
Artist: Ifat Asa Dewan
Venue: Bengal Lounge, Gulshan
Date: April 13-27
Time: 12pm-8pm

Photography Exhibition
Title: Exile in Calcutta
Photographer: Thomas Meyer
Venue: Drik Gallery
Date: April 15-21

Art Exhibition
Title: Sennadisa Sachita
Venue: Shilpaangan Gallery, H-7, R-13 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: April 6-25
Time: 12pm-8pm

Indigenous communities engage in water play
Boisabi in Chittagong Hill Tracts

ZAHANGIR ALOM, writes from Cox's Bazar

Scorching heat is one of the unwelcome aspects of Boisakh. Yet, people pour in on the streets every year to usher in the festival. This is reflective of the Bangalees' true love for their cultural roots. But, in the hilly districts of Chittagong, Boisabi celebrations vary among indigenous communities.

The water festival of the Marmas or the Rakhaines' Jolkeli are very similar. Both communities are followers of Lord Buddha and celebrate the Sangrain festival marking the New Year. There also lies a linguistic similarity between both the indigenous groups as they trace their roots to Arakan, Myanmar. The Marmas represent the largest indigenous community in Bandarban while the Rakhaines are the majority in Cox's Bazar while the Chakmas take the spot in Rangamati.

The water festival stretches for several days marking Sangrain. This year, local communities along with the Bangalees and tourists gathered at the Puraton Rajar Math in Bandarban on April 15, to take part in the water festival. The traditional belief is that gloom and the unsavoury past can be washed away and a refreshing start be made in the New Year.

Young boys and girls standing face to face in groups, splashed water on each other at the water festival. Government high-ups, including the deputy commis-



Indigenous children indulging in the joys of Jolkeli. PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

sioner, the district police super, the district judge and public representatives along with their family members also participated in the festival to share in the refreshing custom of the indigenous people.

A cultural programme followed, where local artists and bands performed folk, patriotic and indigenous songs. The amiable Marmas even greet strangers with jets of water. On a full moon night (April 15),

School premises of Chokoria, Cox's Bazar. Unlike the Marmas, the Rakhines live in the plain lands of Cox's Bazar. To best know the culture, traditional lifestyle and festivities of the Rakhines, one may visit the remote Rakhine Palli of Harbang, Mogbazar of the district. It is one of the prominent pallis and people living there are amazingly hospitable, cultured and educated.

All the Rakhines, especially the young boys and girls, gathered at the venue to celebrate the water festival. They sang, swayed and danced to their traditional songs while splashing and spraying water on everyone. Local and several guest artists from Cox's Bazar performed music while the jubilant crowd immersed in fun and merriment.

Apart from Harbang-Mogbazar Rakhaine Palli's celebrations, several such water festivals were also held in Cox's Bazar yesterday (April 17).

Like the Marmas, the Rakhines aim to wash away the sin and dilapidation of the past and seek the blessings of Lord Buddha for a refreshing start to the New Year. The water festival is the biggest and the most exciting segment of the two communities' Sangrain. Anyone can join the festival and have their share of happiness and blessings. It is an opportunity to make friends even with strangers. Everyone is determined to start with renewed hope.

Commemorative programme on
Fazal Shahabuddin



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A commemorative programme on the recently deceased poet Fazal Shahabuddin, will be held tomorrow at the Chayamati auditorium in Dhanmondi. The programme will feature a discussion, poetry recitation and musical soiree. At the event, eminent poet and writer Syed Shamsul Haque; senior journalist Towab Khan; Mahbub Jamil, former adviser to the caretaker government; artist Quayyum Chowdhury; Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, former governor, Bangladesh Bank; architect Shamsul Wares; poets Hayat Saif, Mohammad Nurul Huda, Zahidul Haque, Azmeri Shahabuddin (wife of the poet) will speak at the programme. Elocutionist Hasan Arif will give a recitation at the event, where the book launch of the poet's last book "Ekjon Kobi Ekaki" will also be held.

The poet was born in Dhaka in 1936. He was founder editor of the weekly "Bichitra" and published Binodan magazine in 1964. He worked in the Dainik Pakistan and the Bangladesh Observer and became popular in the 1960s as a poet. His first book was published in 1965. Fazal received Ekushey Padak Bangla Academy Award and many national and international awards for his outstanding contribution to literature.

Poet Aminur Rahman and Shajal Arefin will arrange the event.

PALLAV BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The director of a movie based on the true story of an assassinated Muslim lawyer-cum-human rights activist earned the best director's award and a biopic on one of India's best-known athlete bagged the honour of best popular film, as the Indian National Film Awards for 2013 were announced here on Wednesday.

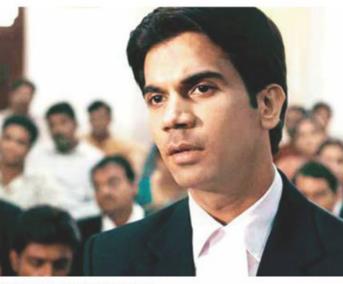
Bengali film "Jaatishwar" earned four awards -- best music direction by Kabir Suman and playback singer for Rupankar for the number "E Tumi Kemon Tumi", best costume "realising effectively the texture of colonial Bengal up to the modern period" and best make-up in "the etching of the characters played by Prosenjit".

Hansal Mehta was adjudged the best director for his Hindi film "Shahid" which depicts the story of a Muslim lawyer-cum-rights activist; it also co-won the coveted best actor award for Rajkumar Rao who played the lead role.

"The film 'Shahid' is about people wrongly implicated as terrorists. It would have been a disservice to ignore this film," said Saeed Akhter Mirza, chairman of the seven-member jury which chose the films for the 61st edition of the awards.

"A remarkably handled film that traces the true story of a slain human rights activist and a lawyer Shahid Azmi against the backdrop of communal violence unleashed in Mumbai. It is the story of an impoverished Muslim strug-

The best of Indian Cinema
Indian National Film Awards 2013 announced



Rajkumar Rao in "Shahid".

gling to come to terms with injustice, inequality and rise above his circumstances. It is an inspiring testament to the human spirit", said an official statement on the film.

The best popular film, providing wholesome entertainment, was bagged by Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's "Bhaag Milkha Bhaag" in which Farhan Akhtar plays the role of India's former athlete Milkha Singh. The best actor award was shared between Rajkumar Rao and Suraj Venjaramoodu

for Malayalam movie "Perariyathavar". According to Saeed Mirza, the performances by both the actors were so incredibly good that the jury was unanimous that this much-sought-after award needs to go to both of them.

"Suraj has played a municipal sweeper but it is an incredibly dignified performance. He excels in comedy but in this film Suraj has brilliantly played a reticent character. I would not have been able to sleep had his name not been in the list of awardees," said Mirza, after announcing the winner at a press conference organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting here.

Actor Geetanjali Thapa bagged the best actress award for Hindi film "Liar's Dice" while Saurabh Shukla has got the best supporting actor for his performance in "Jolly LLB". "If ever an actress could merge completely into a role and look the character to perfection, it is Geetanjali Thapa. Her searching eyes and vulnerability are breath-taking", the statement said.

Bilingual movie "Ship of Theseus", a film of a blind photographer who depends entirely on her intuitive creative power, an erudite Jain monk and a young stock broker, has won the best feature film.

The Nargis Dutt award for best feature film on national integration was won by Tamil movie "Thalaivuraigal", a sensitive tale about the breaking of walls of orthodoxy and religious and linguistic bias in a small village of southern state of Tamil Nadu.

NEWS bytes

Third Hobbit film could be re-titled



Production house New Line is apparently mulling over a name change for the third film in the Hobbit series, with the next instalment possibly becoming "The Hobbit: Into The Fire". The film is currently titled "The Hobbit: There And Back Again", but according to TheOneRing.net, New Line has just had the alternative title officially registered.

As for the significance of the new moniker, it refers to a chapter title in Tolkien's original novel, and is also spoken in the film, in the context of "out of the frying pan".

Of course, it's possible that New Line has registered the new title for some other purpose, such as a videogame release, but it would seem to fit the final film quite nicely.

The film is set to open in the UK on December 12 this year.

ERRATUM

Because of an oversight the following paragraph was not included under the heading "Programmes of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad" in yesterday's supplement on the 44th Anniversary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, published on page 10.

Training, Research and Library Sub Committee
Training is given to members to enhance their knowledge and skill about the method of work of the organization and on legal affairs. Professionals from the respective fields conduct the training sessions. A quarterly certificate course titled "Gender Development and Empowerment of Women" has been introduced in 2011. Reading circle is arranged to involve the young generation to lend more impetus to all kinds of women movements. The BMP library has a rich collection of reference materials.

For the love of Lalon's music
Beauty's new album released

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Beauty drew attention of millions of music lovers with the melody of her voice at home and abroad. Hailed as "Lalon Konya" by her fans for her mystic voice, the former Close-up 1 champion released a solo album "Dui Chokhete Lalon Amar" on Pahela Boishakh. She spoke to The Daily Star about the project and other issues.

This album has come after a long hiatus. Why so?

Beauty: Yes, it has been more than two and a half years since my last release. I made a great effort to release the album under the banner of G-Series. My effort will be successful only when the listeners will receive it warmly. Tell something about the project...

Beauty: All the songs on the album were tuned and composed by Lutfur Hasan and Shan respectively. I hope it will entertain the audience.

What's your expectation from the album?
Beauty: I am very hopeful about it, as the songs have been performed differently this time, con-

sidering the taste of the new listeners.

What is your connection to Lalon songs?

Beauty: My love for the mystic bard's songs is beyond words. Everything I am today is only for Lalon songs. I wish to sing his songs for as long as I can; I just want to spread his music around the world.

Do you have an 'ultimate musical dream'?

Beauty: Music is everything in my life. I can't think of doing anything other than this. I want to do music until I die.

Could you share a memorable moment of performing live?

Beauty: Once when I was performing in USA, and as soon as I left the stage, a fan hugged me, with tears in her eyes and gave me a gold chain. It left me speechless for a moment. It still resonates in my mind.

How was your Boishakh celebrations this year?

Beauty: I went through a hectic schedule all day long. I started the day with a live performance on Rtv. Then I performed songs at Uttara Club. Later, I went to Tangail and Pabna for stage shows.



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

The Water, Ink and Paper of Salauddin Ahmed's sketches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The act of drawing is a way of seeing. They are sketched so that they may be brought to the unfolding of the world. There is such authority in the journey of an architect, that he can perhaps help others understand the way we have experienced the world around us. The compilations of the collages, and writings in the books are such that viewers can empathize with what has been written, says Salauddin Ahmed. The display titled, "Water, Ink and Paper" held recently at Dhaka Art Centre, reflected on the journeys of an architect.

We see stones, semi-circles and four bamboo poles leading to the layered temples. There are two phases of the temple, one sideways and one front-wise. There are two enormous structures of Buddha with hair and necklace. We come across a photograph of the picture of the monastery that is being built from the ground. We see shoes of different styles and sizes.

As we go on further, we approach five windows. We see trees leading on. We confront the monastery itself from the front and the side. We then see it from a boat. Various poles, segments of the constructions go on to a view of a child playing with a fish.

There is a rising tower and five pillars of Buddha. Sections of houses are seen, and these lead on to the temple.

In 1996, Salauddin received a scholarship from his school in Philadelphia

that took him to Japan for three months. In the summer of 1996 he recorded his observations in a sketch form. Looking at them 18 years later, I feel the empathy of his record of Japan culture.

Along with architectural renditions, he tries to capture life around him—shoes, pots and pans, a variety of food, carpentry work. One sees the variety of ways one sees the whole culture of Japan. It is important says Salauddin—, that one should understand that architecture is just not about bricks and water but to see the culture between the minds.

In the sketchbook, the pen in ink and water, he incorporated the Japanese technique. There are bamboo woods, a Japanese garden in sections. He was not trying to make some picturesque images but an analytical study of the culture of Japan. He went into a Buddhist temple and drew. He went to different cities and these are from Kyoto, and he was trying to study the sectional ways the corridors were built. This is a quick drawing of the roof top of the temple and these sketch books are continuous work as the pages are attached. You can see the drawings overlap from one page to the other.

You see the Japanese team house and how they worked without electricity there. You can see the screens too that were used. This collection of pictures is termed, "Tourist and Absolute Japan". Food, chopsticks and everything is portrayed from Kyoto to Nara. There is a traditional silk factory. They no longer produce silk there. "It is like a museum", says Salauddin. There is a cemetery and the drainage system is clearly shown. The stone chips on the floor are what the writer has experienced in the royal gardens.

Dabir Saheber Songshar entertains movie-goers

A CORRESPONDENT

"Dabir Saheber Songshar", a film that made its country wide debut over the weekend, has received favourable feedback from movie-goers, despite not doing exceedingly well at the box office.

The Jazz Multimedia film has attracted people on account of its genre -- as a norm, full-fledged comedy films are not common in the current Bangladeshi scenario. CEO of the production house Sheesh Monwar said their primary target was to provide a change for the audience, and that he's happy with the response the film has received.

Popular on-screen couple Bappi and Mahi feature in the central cast of the film, directed by Zakir Hossain Raju, along with newcomer Rose. All three play the roles of domestics in the home of Ali Raz.



The retired doctor with a surrealist art treasure trove

A retired general physician and councillor from Leeds, UK, has amassed what is thought to be the largest collection of British surrealist art. It normally adorns his home but is now going on public display.

Every wall of Dr Jeffrey Sherwin's house is crammed with frames containing bright colours and contorted shapes. More pictures lean up against the walls, waiting for space.

On the floor, they jostle with all sorts of strange sculptures. Unnervingly, there is a middle-aged man's head with a false beak on a pole, by John Davies; and a large, menacing stone-carved face by Irish artist FE McWilliam, which looks like an evil Barbara Hepworth sculpture.

It is surrealist art, obviously, but it is also a little strange to find it in the suburban home of a former doctor and Conservative councillor. He is a pillar of the community, albeit one with a collector's obsessive nature and perhaps a mildly eccentric streak.

"I'm just an ordinary bloke who collects pictures, basically," Dr Sherwin says. "They're on the wall, some of them are leaning up against the wall, some of them are stored in the spare bedroom."

His pockets are certainly not as deep as Saatchi's - but British surrealist artists have never been as fashionable, or as expensive, as their continental cousins, such as Salvador Dali or Rene Magritte.

His collection is significant enough, though, to have



sent works on loan to the Tate in London and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, as well as galleries in France, Spain and Germany.

And Dr Sherwin has written a book on the history of surrealism in the UK.

"The thing about surrealism -- and British surrealism in particular, is that it takes an everyday situation and turns it on its head," Dr Sherwin says.

Dr Sherwin and his wife began collecting after seeing

an exhibition at Leeds Art Gallery in 1986, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first surrealist exhibition in the UK.

"We'd never spent £1,000 on a picture before and we stood on the pavement outside the gallery (a specialist gallery in Cork Street, London) and, for the first time for many years, my fingertips perspired with fear and concern," Dr Sherwin says.

Dr Sherwin's collection also includes a painting by pop artist Sir Peter Blake and an early collage by Damien Hirst, who is not normally thought of as a surrealist.

Concerned about security, Dr Sherwin is reluctant to talk about how much his collection is worth. "The value is irrelevant," he says flatly.

Over the years, this mild fascination has grown and in the process he has become an unlikely authority on art.

The collection now dominates the home. Mrs Sherwin says: "I will have to sort of nag at Jeffrey about certain things in the house, like the bathroom is getting very rusty, or there's a hole in the carpet."

The response, she says, is usually: "Oh, it's all right."

Much of his collection has now been temporarily moved to Abbot Hall Gallery in Kendal, Cumbria, UK, where it will be shown in an exhibition titled British Surrealism Unlocked, from April 11 to June 21.

Source: BBC

Summer breeze of familiar melodies

Baul Batash at The Daily Star Centre on Saturday



STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To celebrate the advent of the Bangla New Year 1421, Star Melodies is organising a musical programme, featuring popular artists of the country performing folk and Bangla classics from a bygone era. Kiran Chandra Roy, Chandana Majumder, Fahmida Nabi, Krishnokoli, Nasima Shaheen, Chanchal Chowdhury, Kona, Bizon Chandra Mistry and Close Up-1 stars Liza and Sabbir, among others, will perform at the event at the AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre tomorrow (Saturday) at 6pm.

Those interested in enjoying the event may contact the Administration Department of The Daily Star on 9144330 (Hunting) or 8124944 between 11am-5pm tomorrow to enroll their names, on the basis of accommodation availability. Seats are limited.



Cardiff International School organised various programmes at its premises on April 14, to usher in the Bangla New Year 1421. The festivities -- including a rally, cultural programme, a fair and various traditional delicacies -- was attended with enthusiasm by the teachers, students and their family members.



On the occasion of the Pahela Boishakh, Swajan -- a cultural organisation arranged a cultural programme on the premises of Rabindra Sarobar in Dhanmondi. Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, MP was present as the chief guest. Shajahan Kamal MP, Mahbubur Rahman Ratan, president of Swajan and others members of the organisation were also present at the programme.