

EVENT

Manipuri Handloom Project

SINCE the 1970s, Oxfam has been working in Bangladesh through different projects to reduce poverty. Seven months ago, one such initiative was taken on by Oxfam – the “Manipuri Handloom Project.” The Manipuri people in Bangladesh have always excelled in the art of handloom and for the longest time all their requirements were self-met. With the local partner Ethnic Community Development Organisation (EDCO), Oxfam set out to train these people to take their art onto a stage where they can make a sustainable livelihood out of it. With that in mind, Oxfam started working with the people in Sylhet and Moulvibazar to build the capacity of Manipuri women under the guidance of noted designer Chandra Shekhar Saha.

On 8 April, 2015, just months after the conception of

the project, the Exposition of Manipuri Textile Products was inaugurated at the Krishibid Institutions Complex in Khamar Bari, Farmgate. The program started with an indigenous dance performed by Manipuri girls. The welcome speech of Saikat Biswas, the Project Co-ordinator of Oxfam started the inauguration officially. The Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Md. Abul Quasem attended as the chief guest. Managing Director of SME foundation Dr. Engr. Syed Md. Ihsanul Karim, Country Director of Oxfam Snheal V. Soneji, and Actress Afsana Mimi were also present.

The exposition showcased different handloom and textile products made by the Manipuri women with focus on their traditional motifs and designs. The exposition opened for all on 9 April, 2015 and continued from 10:00am to 9:00pm and drew a diverse crowd.



CHECK IT OUT

Celebrate the New Year at Sonargaon

IT'S that day of the Bengali year again when Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka adorns itself in the festive colours of Pohela Boishakh. Sonargaon Hotel has arranged a scintillating line-up of activities for its guests.

Witness the traditional 'mela' at its lobby -- ornamented with a number of colourful stalls offering Bangladeshi handicrafts, clothes and souvenirs along with light Bengali snacks.

Like every year, the hotel's most popular restaurant, Café Bazar, is offering an array of traditional Boishakhi mouth-watering foods at the Bengali Food Festival, which is taking place alongside the mela. There will be the all-time favourite Bengali style hilsha fry and 'shutki bharta', along with



several 'chutneys' and side dishes. The salad bar will be featuring cucumber and yoghurt salad, tomato and spring onion salad, eggplant salad, etc. The desserts include different types of fresh fruits, 'pithas', 'shemai', 'firni', sweet yoghurt, 'gur payesh' and a lot more.

You definitely would not want to miss the live music show of traditional baul songs and the special dance performances by artists, held at the Café Bazar Restaurant during lunch and dinner. Buffet prices are fixed at Tk. 3500 per person. For children (below 12 years of age), the price is Tk. 1800.

So go and enjoy a delightful outing at Sonargaon this Pohela Boishakh with your family and friends.

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