

WHAT'S ON

**Theatre**  
 Play: Chitrangada  
 Troupe: Swapnadal  
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA  
 Date: April 16  
 Time: 7pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Title: Destination & Departure  
 Artist: Professor Monsur Ul Karim  
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara  
 Date: Apr 11-21; Time: 11am-8pm



**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Title: Notation, Reconstructed  
 Artist: Kazi Ghiyasuddin  
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts  
 Date: April 18-26  
 Time: 12pm-8pm



**Album Launch**  
 Album: Prangone Mor by Chanchal Khan  
 Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall, The Daily Star Centre  
 Date: April 18  
 Time: 6:30pm



**Theatre**  
 Play: Champak Nogorer Upokatha  
 Venue: Natmandal, Dhaka University  
 Date: April 13-16  
 Time: 7pm



# PAHELA BAISHAKH CELEBRATIONS IN DHAKA

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Thousands of people assembled under the Bodhi Vriksha (A holy tree under which Lord Buddha got enlightenment) of Ramna Park to hail Pahela Baishakh. This year, Chhayanaut's Borshoboron programme, themed on "Peace, Humanity and Rights of Human Beings", set off with sitar recital on Raga Parameshwari (created by Pandit Ravi Shankar) by Ebadul Huq Shaikat.



Chhayanaut's Borshoboron and Mongol Shobhajatra (below) are two biggest celebrations on the day.

PHOTO: STAR



The event featured performance of songs composed by Poncho-kobi, folk songs, songs of the contemporary time and recitation of poems. Chhayanaut artistes' rendition of the songs especially "Dhwanilo Rey" and "O Alor Potho Jatri" echoed the speech delivered by Dr. Sanjida Khatun. "Behaviours devoid of morality are hindrances to peace of people, society, country and the world at large. We want peace, harmony and safeguarding of all our rights as human beings," said the cultural icon.

Rabirag held a celebration programme inside Ramna Park to welcome Pahela Baishakh. Artistes of the troupe started off a choral performance with a medley of Tagore songs. Sadi Mohammad's performance of "Gram Chhara Oi Ranga Matir Poth" was beautiful, as was Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb's

rendition of Nazrul Sangeet "Porodeshi Megh". Nriyanchal artiste Rachel Priyanka Perris danced to a Tagore song "Oi Je Megher Kol-e" while Monira Parveen with co-artistes performed another group dance at the event.

One of the hubs of the Baishakhi celebration in the capital was the Faculty of Fine Art (FFA) of University of Dhaka. The Mongol Shobhajatra, brought out by the students and teachers of FFA has been one of the major attractions of Pahela Baishakh since 1989. The theme for the year was "Onek Alo Jalte Hobe Moner Ondhokar-e". The colourful procession contained the replicas of a royal elephant delineating Jamini Roy's famous folk motif, tiger, lion, birds, fish, tepa putul, goats, horse and various colourful masks. What drew atten-

tion was a fistful hand that gouged the throat of evil forces. A good number of foreigners joined the Mongol Shobhajatra. Artistes and troupes including the popular band Joler Gaan rendered songs on the Chaitra Sankranti night at Bokultola, while FFA artists staged a traditional jatrapala to celebrate the occasion.

Artistes of Wrishij Shilpi Goshthi welcomed the Bangla New Year with the performance of music, dance and recitation by noted and promising artistes and famous folk troupe Dohar. The event was held at Narkel Bithi Chattar near Shishu Park). Wrishij's 33rd year of celebration of Pahela Baishakh attracted a huge crowd, thanks to the Fakir Alamgir's performance of folk songs.

## AWAITING THE DAWN ... Dhaka stays up in Noboborsho anticipation

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Pahela Baishakh, since the nineties, has had a boom – in terms of participation, grandeur, outreach and possibly 'urbanisation' of the festival. The growth of Pahela Baishakh celebrations has reached to the night before as well. While Chaitra Sankranti is yet to become a mainstream celebration in the cities, the spill-over of urbanites' anticipation to the buildup of the festivities are being accommodated more and more.

Surer Dhara has been bidding farewell to the Bangla calendar year for a decade and a half now, and this year was no different. In association with Channel i and powered by Sunsilk, this year's event, 'Borsho-biday' and 'Borshoboron' – held at the Bangabandhu International

Conference Centre (BICC) – paid tribute to the Poncho-Kobi (Tagore, Nazrul, Atulprasad, Rajanikanta and DL Roy). Beginning after sundown on April 13, the first half of the programme was held till midnight, and the second half on the dawn of April 14. Senior and promising artistes alike took stage one after another to sing solos mirroring our culture, language, heritage and struggles, while songs and dance performances by children, of songs like "Amra Shobai Raja" and "Ora Okarone Chonchol" captivated the audience till midnight. Pahela Baishakh's celebrations at BICC were highlighted by the chorus of "Esho Hey Baishakh", led by Surer Dhara's founder and principal Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, and had a bustling Baishakhi fair at the premises till noon.

Elsewhere, Blues Communications



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

organised "Alokito Baishakh" sponsored by Coca-cola at the Rabindra Sarobar, lighting up the Dhanmondi skies with hundreds of fanush, the lake with thousands of floating candles and the trees with pretty light-shades made of paper. The concert line-up was also impressive: while Aditi Mohsin performed an essential Tagore set – from patriotic to romantic to festive, Shafiq Mondal and his troupe took a philosophical journey on the path of Lalon and other folk numbers, James had a crowd of a good few thousands go berserk with his "Pagla Hawa", "Sultana Bibiyana" et al. past midnight, Nemesis' infectious energy transferred to the crowd, and Bappa Mazumder wrapped up the show with his melodic hits like "Baji" and "Pori". However, poor time management from the organisers meant the event – which was promised to go on till the

morning – ended at 2:30am, stranding many attendees under the open sky with nothing to do but wait till dawn to go home. A few food stalls set up on the other side of the lake, became their refuge.

Charukola also stayed awake and alive through the night, with last-minute brushwork being put on the Mongol Shobhajatra masks and structures, and students and general public alike merry-making all over the faculty premises, singing songs and enjoying themselves.

What stood out in all of the celebrations is that Dhaka'ites just need a reason to celebrate and the opportunity. That day is not far when staying up all night before Pahela Baishakh with music, lanterns and just roaming around the city in last-minute anticipation of ushering in a New Year – will become a common practice.



## "There is no secret to success"

Ananta answers fans on Facebook

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MA Jalil Ananta, the biggest sensation of Bangla film-dom of recent years, yesterday engaged in a question-answer session with his fans on the social media. The actor-producer opened a Q&A on his Facebook page at 10:10am and answered questions from his fans for a couple of hours.

The actor was flooded with questions, suggestions, advice and requests of all kinds, and responded diligently. He spoke about his upcoming film "The Spy", and about producing films with newcomers in the cast. Even when the remarks were rude, like "Please stop acting and just produce (films)", he responded with "I work much harder to improve my acting skills." A humble Ananta also attended humanitarian requests for funds for treatment of a Rajshahi University student to job-seeking ones for his company. He also weighed in on the country's shortage of movie theatres, asserting that there needs to be multiplexes in other cities as well for the film industry to flourish – and asking other industrialists to come forward.

When asked the secret behind his success in various fields, Ananta responded "There is no secret, just hard work and a little bit of luck." He also shared how his perseverance has brought him success in the garments industry, and spoke about giving back to the society.

## Cultural organisations celebrate Pahela Baishakh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Several cultural groups of Mymensingh staged colourful performances on Pahela Baishakh.

Leading cultural groups of the town including Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad(JRSSP), Novice Foundation, Sandipon Sangakritik Sangstha, Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy, Mukul Niketan

Sangskritik Academy and Mymensingh Sangeet Bidhyalaya, took part in the cultural shows organised at various venues of the town.

The cultural functions also included discussions on Pahela Baishakh, dance sequences and staging of plays.

Mymensingh Shilpakala Academy organised a cultural programme at its auditorium marking the day. The Music Department students of Jatiya

Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) in Trishal also performed at a cultural show on the campus. Different drama troupes also staged plays.

Meanwhile, organisations like Mymensingh Borshoboron Utsab Udjapon Parishad and JKKNIU authorities brought out huge 'Mongol Shobhajatra', adding colour to the festival.

A fair marking the occasion was held at the town's Shaheb Quarter Park.



grameenphone brings 3G INTERNET FOR ALL

4MB Pack / BDT 2 | 75MB Pack / BDT 30 | 1GB Pack / BDT 275

To activate, dial \*5000#

go beyond 10 MHz SUPER SPEED 7 EXCITING PACKS

grameenphone