

WHAT'S ON
Inauguration Ceremony of Photo Exhibition
 Title: Too young to wed
 Photo Journalist: Stephanie Sinclair
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise
 Date: 17th April-30th April, Time: (3pm-9pm)



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



Solo Art Exhibition
 Title: Dust to Dust
 Artist: Mahbubur Rahman
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: Apr 11-May 2
 Time: 12pm-8pm



CELEBRATING LIFE

launches music albums and photography books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Celebrating Life", a Standard Chartered Bank-The Daily Star tie-up to award talents in the sphere of photography, lyrics and film, arranged a launching ceremony of seven audio CDs and two photography books at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital on April 15.

Cultural Affairs minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended the event as chief guest while CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Abrar A Anwar and Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam were present as special guests. A number of musicians, photographers, artists, theatre activists and cultural personalities attended the programme.

"We are celebrating 110-year operations in Bangladesh. We would like to uphold the rich culture and heritage of Bangladesh, and that's why the theme for this year's Celebrating Life is 'Celebrating the Heritage of Bangladesh'. We are very happy to be a part of it and our partnership with The Daily Star is very valuable," mentioned Abrar A Anwar, CEO Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh.

The two persons who played the most significant roles in implementing the project for the last seven years are Bitopi Das Chowdhury [of Standard Chartered Bank] and Rafi Hossain [of The Daily Star]. The duo talked about various aspects of Celebrating Life journey.



"Many talented lyricists from underprivileged rural backgrounds have emerged through this competition. The Daily Star is an English Daily while Standard Chartered Bank is a foreign bank, but we are working on promoting Bangladeshi culture and heritage reaching towards the young creative minds



that portray Bangladesh positively and beautifully with their photographs," said Bitopi Das Chowdhury. "Although we declare 12 awards in photography category, we have selected 40 beautiful images for each photography book that has become a documented piece of work. The book, reaching

towards people of Bangladesh and abroad, will uphold my country positively. At the same time, 10 to 12 songs have been recorded for each CDs. Noted singers including Runa Laila and Sabina Yasmin recorded the winning lyrics while renowned musicians composed and directed music for the albums," she added.

"We are often amazed to receive lyrics and photographs from remote areas. A madrasa student got awards twice while a female lyricist stood first in the lyrics contest. I believe that reaching the unsung and unheard talents is a great success. When we first approached Runa (Laila) Apa, she was initially unsure to record songs for the mixed album, but just after knowing of our initiative, she was instantly convinced. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also lauded our initiative immensely and are thinking of holding Celebrating Life Festival in Bangladeshi embassies around the world," said Rafi Hossain.

Later, Armeen Musa and her troupe performed songs at the event. Celebrating Life is an annual contest that invites film, photograph and lyric entries on a given theme each year, that showcase various aspects of life in Bangladesh. Organised by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank, it is an attempt to provide participants with a platform for creative expression.

Touching gold

Aamra Surjomukhi to celebrate Shaheen Samad's musical journey



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Nazrul singer Shaheen Samad has touched the milestone of 50 years of her singing career this year. To celebrate the achievement of the noted singer and to congratulate her, cultural organisation Aamra Surjomukhi is organising a programme at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum at 6pm tomorrow (April 18). A list of distinguished guests including Dr. Gowhar Rizvi, Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, will attend the event.

About her singing career, Shaheen Samad said, "I began singing at the age of 12. It was mostly radio and television then. I used to listen to the top Nazrul singers of that era. There was Laila Arzumand Banu, Feroza apa, Ferdousi apa and many others. All of them inspired me. The variety of songs and the magic of their voices helped me learn a lot of things. In addition, I took inspiration from my guru Ustad Mohammad Hossain and Fazlul Haq."

Asked about the present scenario of Nazrul Sangeet, she said, "The practice of Nazrul Sangeet has vastly expanded, and it is gradually becoming richer. Many singers, with outstanding voice and singing prowess, are coming out. Organisations like Nazrul Institute and Chhyanaut are working hard to enrich Nazrul Sangeet and nurturing the new generation.

"But I think there's a lack of proper devotion and practice in many of them. This happened because of the pressure of media, as the young generation want to be popular quickly instead of working really hard. We are committed to music without even thinking about name and fame. Fame follows excellence," she added.

About the developments she went through as a singer, Shaheen Samad said, "I am still learning. Music feeds my soul, and my life is one with the tunes. It taught me to love, to pray and to inspire people. Everything around us has its own tune; I find melodies in nature, in universe and in the people around me."

The singer will perform tomorrow at the programme. She will present four songs of 1971, a few mira bhajan and Kabbogeeti by Nazrul, songs of DL Roy, Atul Prasad and Rajanikanta Sen, songs from the golden days and more.



Star-studded Baishakh celebration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a star-studded scenario at the Trust Auditorium in the capital on Pahela Baishakh as hundreds of celebrities gathered at the venue along with their families. Veteran and upcoming actors like Abul Hayat, Mirana Zaman, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Chitralekha Guha, Shahed Sharif Khan, Natasha Hayat,

Shanta Islam, Sharmili Ahmed and Chanchal Chowdhury were seen exchanging greetings. There was a lighter side too as Richi Solaiman, Dipa Khandakar, Badhon, Bonna Mirza, Tanvin Sweetey, Shanarei Debi Shanu were busy taking selfies. Production house Telehome has been arranging the programme for the last 20 years on the first day of Bangla New year.

Naboborsho in Delhi

Farida Parveen delights audience

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The weather in the Indian capital was just right for ushering in the Naboborsho - cool breeze, chunks of clouds gliding across an azure sky and the smell of rain in the distance.

But what was even more in sync with the advent of the New Year was the enthralling performance of Lalon songs by one of its exponents Farida Parveen at the Pahela Baishakh function this year at the Maitree Hall of the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

The nearly two-hour function was a tribute to Lalon Fakir, whose message of religious tolerance is more relevant than ever in the subcontinent today - when bigotry often tends to rear its ugly head. Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali set the mood by welcoming the packed audience

comprising diplomats of different countries, Indian officials, cultural activists and Bangladeshi expatriates and students studying here. He said while the harvesting of crops mark the beginning of New Year and is celebrated with much joy and fanfare in Bangladesh, in Delhi "We will try to share some of the joy with you this evening."

The mood was enhanced when Farida Parveen, flown from Dhaka

along with her troupe specially for the function, belted out several folk and baul songs; "Ei Padma, Ei Meghna", "Shey Ekhon Ghomta Pora Kajol Bodhu", "O-hey Doyaban", "Bari'r Kache Arshi Nagar", "Parey Loye Jao Amaye", "Khanchar Bhitore Achin Pakhi", "Roopkotha'r ei Nouka", "Shob Lokey Koy Lalon Ki Jaat Songsarey", "Teen Pagoley Holo Mela", "Milon Hobey Koto Diney" and "Somoy

Geley Sadhon Hobey Na". Besides, Gazi Abdul Hakim performed Bangla folk on the flute. Other members of the troupe were ASM Reza (dhol), Debendranath Chatterjee (tabla player, music director & rhythm composer) and Delwar Hossain (dotara).

The singer said she felt that to become a true Lalon singer one had to imbibe his philosophy and Sufism.

"I am in the process of translating the songs of Lalon in Hindi and will be releasing the album soon in Delhi," she said.

No Pahela Baishakh celebration is complete without food and a spread of simple traditional culinary delights were spread out for the guests - kichudi, Dhaka hilsa fry, brinjal fry and payesh.

Earlier, an essay competition among the Bangladeshi children was also organised.



The Bangladesh High Commissioner (R) greets Farida Parveen.



Bangladesh Through Our Eyes

The gala reception of the photography exhibition, "Bangladesh Through Our Eyes" was held at the Turkish Ambassador's residence on the 12th of April at 7 pm. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Hüseyin Müftüoğlu, Ambassador of Turkey delivered the welcome speech while Shahidul Alam, Managing Director of Drik announced the award winners' names. A large diplomatic crowd was present, says a press release.

Drik and Embassy of the Republic of Turkey are the co-organisers of photography exhibition "Bangladesh Through Our Eyes". The 63 images by members of the diplomatic community in Bangladesh are a kaleidoscope on life in Bangladesh. Thirty nine embassies and missions have contributed to the exhibition, a "new year's gift" from the diplomatic community to Bangladesh.

The exhibition is open at Drik Gallery from April 14-23.

"Ebong Rabindranath" at BNM today

Indo-Bangla collaborative musical travelogue



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Museum and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs will jointly present an "Ebong Rabindranath", an India-Bangladesh collaboration of a Tagore-based musical travelogue, today at the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) main auditorium. Indian musical duo Soumyojit & Sourendro, with Bangladeshi elocutionist Samiul Islam Poluck, actress Shampa Reza and vocalist Shwapnil Shojib will perform songs, sonnets and sonatas engrossing ghazals, thumris, songs of Lalon, Nazrul and Tagore interspersed with Shakespearean sonnets, mystic works of Jibanananda Das, Keats and the likes. There will be dance surprises as well at the soiree, with presentation of Indian classical dance form Kathakali, by noted exponent of the art form, Kalamandalam Goutam.

The Daily Star Standard Chartered

CELEBRATING LIFE 2015
 Theme: Celebrating the HERITAGE of Bangladesh

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST
 Deadline : 30 July 2015

Prizes:
 Winner: Tk 1,00,000
 1st Runner-up: Tk 75,000
 2nd Runner-up: Tk 50,000

Rafi Hossain THE DAILY STAR
 64-65 Kazi Nazim Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1215
 Details at: www.CelebratingLifeBD.com & Facebook: Celebrating Life Contests

Partners: Sirona, Grameen, 99, etc.