


WHAT'S ON

Book Fair
Chaitra Book Festival
Venue: Nalinikanta Bhattacharya Auditorium, National Museum
Date: April 1-12
Time: 11am-8pm




Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Existence
Artist: Md. Sohel Rana Pranon
Venue: Gallery Shilpangan
Date: April 01-15
Time: 12-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Three Shadows of Art
Artist: Md. Rashed Alam
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka
Date: April 1-15
Time: 3pm-9pm



Boishakh Utshab 1423
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhammondi
Date: April 9-13
Time: 7pm daily



Theatre Festival
Organiser: Padatik Natya Sangsad
Venue: National and Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: April 7-11; Time: 6pm




MONALISA IS BACK!

Renowned model and TV actress Monalisa recently returned after a three-year stay in New York. She is set now to begin shooting again. In a chit chat with *The Daily Star*, she revealed just how happy she was to return home. Excerpts:

You've been away a long time. Did you miss Bangladesh?
Monalisa: All the time. I seriously missed my country, my family, friends and the entertainment industry. I missed being in front of the lights and camera.

So what's it like to return home?
Monalisa: I can't put into words just how happy I am. I took a deep breath the moment I arrived at the airport. On the way home from the airport I was so happy to see the familiar sights, and it was very calming.

Will you start acting again?
Monalisa: Definitely, but I will work selectively. I have already had a few offers. I will start shooting for a six-episode play with Mosharraf Karim under the direction of Sagor Jahan from April 16.

Is it difficult to get back in the groove of acting after a long break?
Monalisa: Even if I have forgotten acting, acting hasn't forgotten me (laughs); I guess that's why I am ready to jump into work right away.

How did you spend your time in US?
Monalisa: I worked as head of programmes on a US-based Bangla channel Time TV. I was an actress and model in this country, but there I worked as a producer. It was actually a good experience to work behind the camera.

Did you get much attention from expatriate Bangladeshis?
Monalisa: A lot. Despite their busy lives, my compatriots were really happy to see me. Many even came to meet me from other states, which was a very rewarding.

Any special plans for Pahela Baishakh?
Monalisa: I missed the festival for three years, so it's a great feeling that I'll be in Dhaka this time. I will be at a party thrown by production house Telehome, where a number of people from showbiz come together. I will wear a saree, but will keep my makeup light. Besides, I'll have a special meal cooked by my mother. In short, I will celebrate Bangaliana on Pahela Baishakh.

Port city gears up for PAHELA BAISHAKH

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

To bid farewell to the old year and to celebrate the arrival of the first day of the Bangla calendar on "Pahela Baishakh", preparations are on in full swing in the port city.

To mark Chaitra Sankranti (the last day of the Bangla calendar year) and Pahela Baishakh, thousands of city dwellers will swarm like other years at DC Hill premises, CRB Shirishtola, Fine Arts Institute premises and District Shilpakala Academy premises in the city, expect

tor of Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) informed that the New Year celebration programmes would begin at 6 am with a raga-based choral rendition led by Ustad Swamamoy Chakraborty while on the previous day, the year's farewell programme would begin at 3:30pm at DC Hill's Nazrul Square venue.

Some 45 cultural troupes from the city and other districts would perform at the programme, Haider added. Writer Hari Shankar Jaladas and artiste Shila Momen will be conferred honours at the programme.

Zihan Karim, assistant professor of the institute, said following a performance of Raktakarabi, the Mongol Shobhajatra will start at 6:30am from the institute premises and it will parade the important thoroughfares with the participation of city dwellers.

To make masks of different birds and animals and replicas for the shobhajatra, students and teachers of the institute have been working in shifts for two weeks, he added.

Shafikul Islam, the coordinator of Songsaptak, said the New Year cele-



organisers.

Like previous years, Sammito Pahela Baishakh Udjapan Parishad will organise a two-day programme at DC Hill premises where audiences get an opportunity to enjoy the programme from a hill-slope gallery in a natural ambience.

Artistes of prominent cultural organisations to perform at DC Hill premise are now busy rehearsing to take part in the 39-year old conventional programme, said Ahmed Iqbal Haider, convener of the Parishad.

Haider, who is also the artistic direc-

The New Year celebration programme at the premises of Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University starts with choral performance "Gane Gane Borshoboron" by the artistes of Raktakarabi.

This year, Songsaptak, a fine arts-based organisation led by students of 45th batch of the institute, is organising the programme.

Students were seen busy making dummy structures of scarecrows, fish, tigers and elephants for Mongol Jobhajatra Institute of Fine Arts of CU at the city's Chatteshawri Road,

bration programme will feature different folk sports like Hadudu, cockfight, releasing paper lanterns and classical music evening like previous years.

Displaying folk culture like, palagan and indigenous dance, a programme will be held at District Shilpakala Academy premises on the day. Troupes from the city and other parts of the country will participate in the programme. Fulki, a reputed educational institute for children, will also host a separate programme on the occasion.



Aishwarya's "Sarabjit" ordeal

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who is gearing up for her next big release "Sarabjit", is leaving no stone unturned for the biopic. During the shooting of the film that stars Randeep Hooda in titular role, Aishwarya proved how serious she is about the film when she ran barefoot on stones and cow dung.

A sequence for "Sarabjit" required Aishwarya to run frantically through lanes and fields of a village. The lanes were full of mud, stones and cow dung and Aishwarya broke her footwear right before the shot. It would have taken a long time to get her new footwear as the scene was being shot in a small village. The crew was short on time as it was an outdoor shoot and the light was fading fast. It was then that Aishwarya decided to go barefoot for the shoot.

Directed by Omung Kumar, "Sarabjit" traces the struggles of Dalbir Kaur (Aishwarya) who ran from pillar to post to get her younger brother Sarabjit out of the Pakistani jail. Sarabjit was beaten to death in a Pakistani jail in May 2013. The film will hit theatres May 20.

Source: Hindustan Times

"Sadher Nagor" launched at Chhayanaut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla folk fusion album "Sadher Nagor" was launched at the main auditorium of Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhavan, Dhanmondi in the capital on April 9. Prime Minister's Information Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury attended the event as chief guest while Human Rights Activist and Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government Sultana Kamal presided over the programme.



Guests launch the CD at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Eminent litterateur Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, renowned filmmaker Morshedul Islam and noted journalist Abed Khan graced the occasion as special guests.

"Bangladeshis have a great pride in their motherland. They nourish Bangla literature and culture more than any other Bangla-speaking people of the world. I

also feel pride in introducing my ancestral roots in Bangladesh," said Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay.

"The politics and culture of Bangladesh have moved forward simultaneously towards giving birth to Bangladesh in 1971. We have an opulent heritage of our folk music and culture. I hope the album will win everyone's heart as it contains

Bangladeshi folk music," said Sultana Kamal.

Among others, music composers of the album Milton Khandaker and Binod Roy, along with Shahid Rahaman spoke at the event.

The album features nine tracks themed on Bangla folk music. Eleven Bangladeshi singers Kumar Bishwajit, Momtaz Begum,

Shafi Mondal, Fakir Shahabuddin, Dinat Jahan Munni, Ashik, Protik, Pulak, Sabbir, Nishita and Oishi have recorded the songs including, "Swargo Norok", "Sukh To Pailam Na", "Bhober Haat-e", "Premkanon" and "Notun Saaj-e Pahela Baishakh".

G-Series-Agniveena has produced the album.

NEWS bytes

"Wolverine 3" recruits villain

Hugh Jackman is gearing up for his last go as Logan in 20th Century Fox's upcoming "Wolverine 3", and while details on the sequel are scarce at the moment, there is now news of who will be squaring off against Jackman as the film's big bad. "Narcos" star Boyd Holbrook has signed on to play the film's main villain, an as yet nameless character Deadline describes as "a relentless, calculating and intense head of Security for a global enterprise who, is set against Jackman's clawed Wolverine/Logan hero."

The studio hasn't yet revealed any story details for "Wolverine 3", though it's known Patrick Stewart will reprise his role as Professor Xavier Charles in it. Jackman has teased Old Man Logan a few times now, including at Comic-Con. Director James Mangold, who helmed the previous installment in the Wolverine films, 2013's "The Wolverine", has worked closely with Jackman for the star's final go in the claws, with David James Kelley penning the script. "Wolverine 3" is scheduled to arrive in theaters March 3, 2017.



Source: Collider

SHONAR PAKHI RUPAR PAKHI in the making



A CORRESPONDENT

Popular television director Salahuddin Lavlu is shooting his new drama serial "Shonar Pakhi Rupar Pakhi". Written by Kazi Shahedul Islam, the serial is a family drama, informed the director.

Television actors Naznin Hasan Chumki and Tahmina Sultana Mou play the lead roles in the serial, which is being shot in Pubail near the capital.

About the serial, Lavlu said, "Today's superstars don't even read the script properly. So I had to opt for actors who love acting and would work with sincerity. Both Chumki and Mou are putting their best efforts into the serial."

Chumki said, "I am working with Lavlu after nine years. He is a very hardworking director, and I am enjoying my work with him."

Mou said, "In my debut play, Lavlu was the cinematographer. Now after so many years, I am working under his direction. I have a challenging role in the serial. I would like to thank him for trusting me."

The play will soon air on Channel i.