

WHAT'S ON

Borshoboron
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Ramna Botomul
Date: April 14
Time: 6am




Mongol Shobhajatra
Organiser: FFA, DU
Venue: Charukala premises
Date: April 14; Time: 9am



Chaitra Sangkranti and Borshoboron
Organiser: Surer Dhara
Venue: BICC
Date: April 13-14
Time: 6:30pm-12:30am; 6-9am



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



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



Wrishiz to usher in Noboborsho

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Cultural organisation Wrishiz Shilpi Goshti will usher in Bangla New Year on April 14.
The organisation will hold a celebration programme in front of Shishu Park in the capital's Shahbagh area on Thursday morning starting from 7:30am.
Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon will inaugurate the programme as chief guest, while Sammilito Sangskritik Jote president Golam Kuddus will be special guest.
To mark the 34th anniversary of their Noboborsho programme, Wrishiz will also

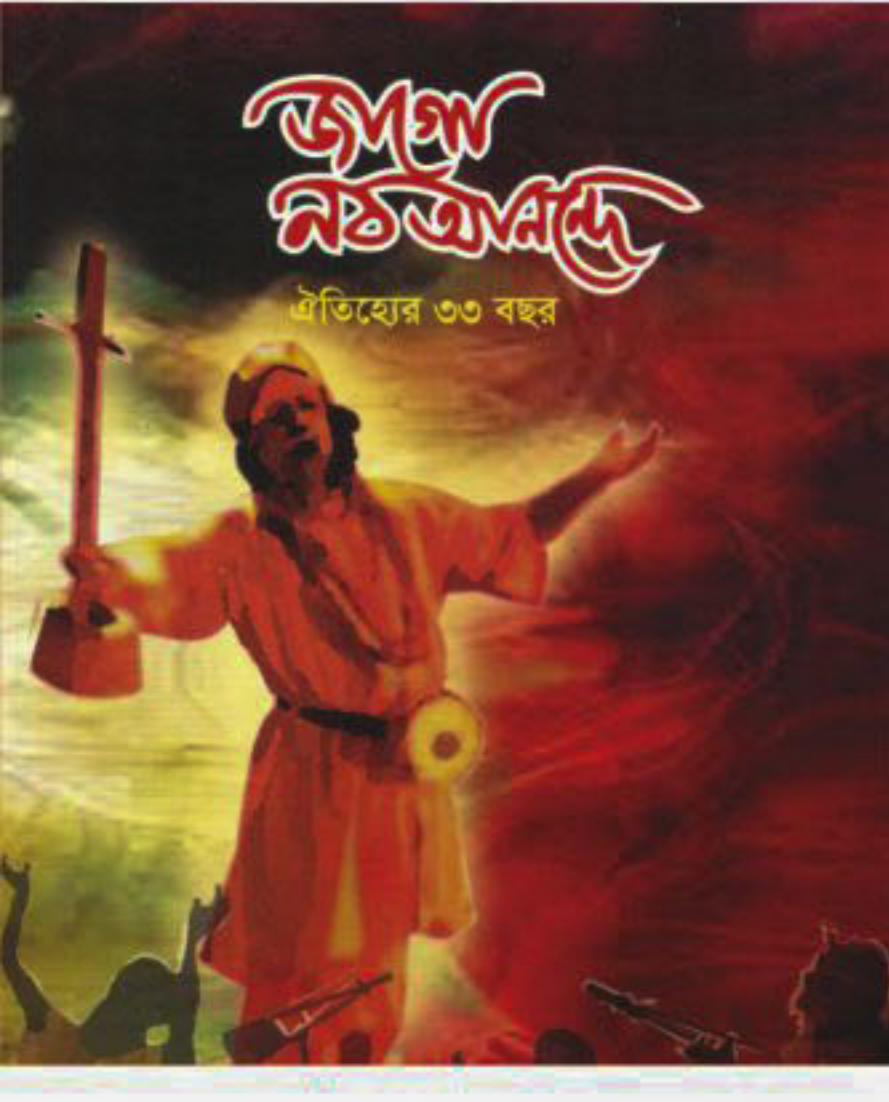


'SHANKHACHIL' IS ONE OF MY BEST FILMS ... Prosenjit Chatterjee

SHAH ALAM SHAZU
Tollywood superstar Prosenjit Chatterjee is in Dhaka for the premiere of his latest film "Shankhachil" which releases in Dhaka and Kolkata on April 14. Before the premiere at Star Cineplex in the capital, Prosenjit talked to journalists at a press conference.
Excerpts:
Shankhachil is releasing tomorrow. How do you feel about it?
Prosenjit: As an actor, I feel great that my film is releasing in two countries simultaneously. I am also proud that it has won National Film Award in India before its release. The entire team worked hard to make it a success.
Is there any special memory associated with this film?
Prosenjit: Before I came here, we held a special screening of "Shankhachil" in Kolkata for the state governor. He is not a Bangalee, and before the screening he said that he would not watch it for more than 30 minutes. But he

eventually finished the film, and it made me proud.
You went to Satkhira for shooting. How did it feel to shoot a film at such a location?
Prosenjit: It was a very good experience. I had plans that I would come to Dhaka first and then go to Satkhira. But Goutam insisted that we go to Satkhira first. I would head to the shooting spot around 4am, and people would stand on the sides of road to see me. I saw women standing on the road to catch a glimpse of me. I would stop and talk to them before going to the shooting spot. I will take this memory with me.
What's your take on your role in the film?
Prosenjit: I played a teacher in the film. My character's name is Badol. My character allowed me space to show my acting prowess.
What is storyline of the film?
Prosenjit: This is the story of a family, and the story of humanity. The

Partition of 1947 takes a big space in it.
What's your take on your Bangladeshi co-actors?
Prosenjit: I worked with Kushum, Mamunur Rashid and other actors. When I first met Kushum, I told her that I would call her 'tui' instead of 'tumi'. I worked with Mamunur Rashid and Deepankar De. They are very good actors, and I spent a lot of time with them on the set.
How significant is the role of "Shankhachil" in your acting career?
Prosenjit: If I count 10 films as the greatest films in my career, I would say "Shankhachil" is one of them. Badol is one of the best characters I ever played in my career.
How did you prepare yourself for the role?
Prosenjit: Hard work. After "Moner Manush", I worked with Goutam Ghose after five years. I always wanted to work with him. And I waited for five years for a good film like "Shankhachil".



felicitate a number of eminent citizens from different fields.
Tagore artiste Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, folk singer Anima Mukti Gomes and Dr. Nuzhat Alim will receive awards at the programme.
The programme will also feature recitation, dance and musical performances by popular artistes.
The programme is dedicated to late poet Rafiq Azad and filmmaker Khaled Mahmud Mithu.

Sylhet set to reverberate to 'Esho Hey Baishakh'

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet
The green city of Sylhet readies to usher in Noboborsho. On April 13, the last day of Bangla month Chaitra, Sammilito Natya Parishad will arrange a cultural programme at 3pm at the Chalni Ghat on the bank of river Surma, and usher in the New Year by lighting Mongol Pradip in the river.
Rajat Kanti Gupta, general secretary of Sammilito Natya Parishad, Sylhet, said, "We believe in a warm farewell to the previous year. The New Year deserves a warm welcome as the Borshoboron is part of our Bengali tradition".
Noboborsho's biggest and colourful Mongol Shobhajatra will be brought out from the campus of SUST. The celebration will be inaugurated by the vice chancellor Professor Aminul Haque Bhuiyan.
Several organisations of SUST -- including Shikorbh, Theatre Sust, Dik Theatre and others -- are working overtime to decorate the campus. A cultural celebration is also on the cards in the campus on Pehela Baishakh afternoon.
On Pehela Baishakh, Sylhet District Administration, Sylhet City Corporation and other organisations and institutions will bring out colourful Mongol Shobhajatra.



At the compound of Pathshala, a model traditional village fair for children and maintained by children, a number of stalls will display traditional pottery, sweets, dolls and a host of other attractions that are an integral part of Bengal. The fair will be inaugurated at 3pm and visitors will have a chance to participate in many traditional games like Morog Lorai, Bou-chi and others.
Nazma Parvin, general secretary of Pathshala, said, "Noboborsho, is our tradition. We try to celebrate the day arranging a dummy village fair by kids and for kids, which help them to get to see our traditional village fair. We also arrange several country games like Hadudu, Morog Lorai for children and the visitors that help them to remember long gone traditional games."
With the Tagore song, "Esho Hey Baishakh", the cultural celebration of the day will start early in the morning at several places in the city.
Anandalok Shrutu and Sylhet Udichi Shilpi Goshti are arranging cultural programmes on Pehela Baishakh afternoon.
Sylhet City Corporation is arranging a Baishakhi Fair at Kean Bridge area for 10 days starting from Pehela Baishakh, said Enamul Habib, chief executive officer of the corporation.



Afzal-Samina-Fahmida collaborate on Baishakhi show

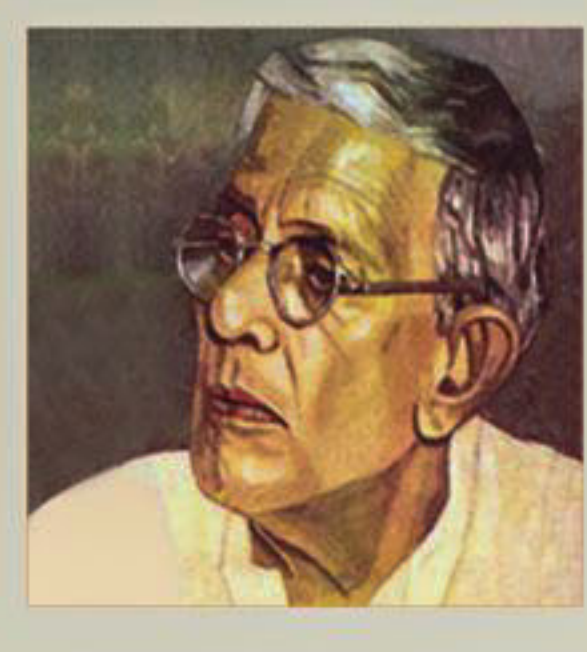
A CORRESPONDENT
After a long hiatus, popular actor, director and television host Afzal Hossain is coming up with a special programme for BTV on Pehela Baishakh.
The show, titled "Baakbakum Payera", has many features which will entertain the audience, informed Afzal Hossain.
Popular singer siblings Fahimda Nabi and Samina Chowdhury have lent their voices for a song in the programme. Moreover, popular band Joler Gaan has collaborated with the singers on music arrangement for the popular track "Leelabali Leelabali".
Samina Chowdhury said, "The programme is unlike other programmes in terms of arrangements. Fahmida and I have tried to present a surprise for the audience."
Produced by Mahbuba Ferdous, the programme will air on BTV after the 10pm news on April 14.



Pehela Baishakh's London celebrations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Sohel Ahmed is a promising dance artiste and teacher based in London. His forte is a Bengali experimental folk dance called Dhamail. He also performs and teaches other folk and modern dance forms.
Ahmed, who has 20-years experience of stage performances throughout UK, Bangladesh and other parts of the world, is now busy with numerous programmes. These include upcoming events marking Chaitra Sankranti and Pehela Baishakh 1423. "Chaitra Sankranti programme will be held at Rich Mix, London on April 12 while Baishakhi Mela Parishad will organise another programme at Baishakhi Regent Lake Bow London on April 14. Channel i is the media partner of the Baishakhi event," said Sohel Ahmed over the telephone.
Besides, he is collaborating with promising Bangladeshi Theatre director and teacher Sudip Chakraborty's new production "Memory" that will be staged in Glasgow Festival, UK on September 26.
Sohel has so far visited India, Thailand and USA for performances at many prestigious venues. "I am delving into exploring sensational elements in Bengali folk dances like Dhamail that can fit well with jazz music so that Bengali diasporas here in UK can easily communicate with my arts and take pride in our cultural roots," said Ahmed.

Jamini Roy remembered at JKKNIU



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh
Evergreen master painter Jamini Roy (1887-1972) was remembered at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) on his 129th birth anniversary on the campus on April 11.
Jamini Roy, one of the most significant and influential painters of the 20th century, was born in a middle-class family in 1887 at Belabor village in Banka district of West Bengal.

Marking the occasion, students of Fine Arts Department of the university organised a daylong painting exhibition at Chhabishala Bottola on the campus. Students of the department took part in the exhibition with their paintings based on traditional themes.
Professor Mohit Ul Alam, Vice-chancellor of JKKNIU, inaugurated the exhibition.
Treasurer of the university Prof. AMM Shamsur Rahman, Tapon Kumar Sarker, head of Fine Arts Department; department teachers-Drabir Saikat, Masum Hawlader, Emdadur Rashed Sukhon and Siddhartho Dey, among others, spoke on the occasion.
"Jamini Roy, pioneer of our traditional art and culture, took his creativity to world standards. Roy cultivated folk subjects as he could not easily accept European Realism as a spur for his own creativity," said the speakers.
Once agriculture-based rural areas and the people of Bengal was the repository of folk culture and he drew inspiration from the grassroots, they said.
Work on the farmland, worship related to agriculture, decorated pot, alpona, terracotta, clay dolls and so many items related to rural life enriched the folk art of the country and Jamini Roy is its pioneer, said the speakers. "Like many world



famous and rooted artistes, Jamini Roy is not very well-known to the younger generation but we should remember such greats and extend our deep gratitude to them," they concluded.
The exposition of Jamini Roy's works was first held in British India Street (Kolkata) in 1938. His paintings become very popular during the 1940s and connoisseurs included both the Bangalee middle class and European community. In 1946, his work was exhibited in London and in 1953 in New York.
In 1903, at the age of 65, Jamini Roy came to Collate and studied at the Government School of Art. He learnt techniques then in vogue in the West, and achieved early fame as a portrait painter in the European tradition. However, soon Jamini Roy cultivated a personal painting style inspired largely by traditional Indian folk and village arts, particularly those of Bengal.
Jamini Roy was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 1955. He died in 1972 in Kolkata.