Ekushey Book Fair Organiser: Bangla Academy Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan Date: February 1-28



Chobi Mela IX Hall, BAFA, Beauty Boarding Date: February 3-16

Organiser: Jatiya Boshonto Utshab Venue: Bakultala of Faculty of Fine Date: Feb13; Time: 7:50-10 am



Solo Painting Exhibition Artist: Tilottama Bhowmick Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka Date: Feb 10-18



Friend to Friend: Celebrating Spring and Friendship enue: Under the banyan tree



PAHELA FALGUN'S ARTISTIC OFFERINGS



Sabiha Mahboob

ZAHANGIR ALOM AND ROBINA RASHID

The rebirth of nature comes to our

land on Pahela Falgun, after the

winter gloom makes way for new

songs, flowers, dances, and all

kinds of festivities. The endless

canvas offered by the arrival of

tunities to celebrate the season

Spring gives artistes infinite oppor-

through their various artistic medi-

Sabiha Mahboob, Nazrul expo-

"In the heydays of my career in the

'80s, this time of the year called for

special radio programmes and perfor-

mances at Bangla Academy and other

cultural centres. I have moved to New

although the number of performances

numerous television appearances,

Zealand with my family since and

has slowed down, I am still quite

active in my endeavors to practice

and Falgun celebrations tend to be

music and art enthusiasts. We have

potluck parties and dress up in the

Nazrul Sangeet. Outside Bangladesh,

Pahela Baishakh is usually more festive,

more intimate with friends, family and

traditional colours of Spring, and hold

choral performances rendering Nazrul

ums. The Daily Star spoke to art-

istes across different expressions

and the ways they observe this

special occasion.

hope of Spring, celebrated by poems,

BHUIYAN



Efat Razowana Reya



Sohel Rahman

songs and more. My heart always pines for home during this time of the year, and the memories of Falgun in Bangladesh come flooding back." Sohel Rahman, dancer and choreographer "There is a plethora of festivals

ing Falgun, and in each song we examine what flowers, or colours they speak of before deciding on the dancers' attires. Similarly dance forms also vary - if we perform to a Tagore or Nazrul song, which do not have their own unique dance forms, we adapt



Ashit Mitra

across the year which we all celebrate through dance. For our performances, songs are selected according to the season and it can be Nazrul or Rabindra Sangeet, or even contemporary songs. Our costumes depend on the lyrics conveyed through each song. There are many songs celebrat-

various forms of classical and folk dances to suit the song and its themes."

Ashit Mitra, printmaker/visual artist

I do feel the blow of sudden southern air prior to the onset of Spring, as

I utter PB Shelley's famous lines --"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" This year, I am feeling it intensely. I don't know why this happens. For me, Pahela Falgun heralds a new feeling, a new beginning in life. Nature gets a new lease on life. I desire to embrace a fresh start of life. I think of expressing a new language in my creation of arts. Nature and life are the prime subjects of my artworks. My joys and sense of beauty mingle with the vastness of open-wide sky and my artworks get adorned with new colours, lines and forms.

Efat Razowana Reya, visual and new media artist

"I feel young, bright and vigorous with the onset of Spring in nature. It helps me find a new language of art. I can say the advent of every Spring has brought about drastic changes in my life and I have responded to those changes positively. Spring gives me energy. I feel like Spring, and not the Summer, is the beginning of a new year. Nature gets adorned with colours and Spring has a universal appeal to the life of every Bangalee. I remember the days of my one-year study in Chittagong University (CU). The reddened and yellowish layers of Krishnachura and Sonalu of CU campus motivated me to portray most of my favourite watercolours. The spring-time nature always inspires me to experiment new styles and presentation of my artworks, career and life as a whole."

Spring in the air Celebrations across the capital today

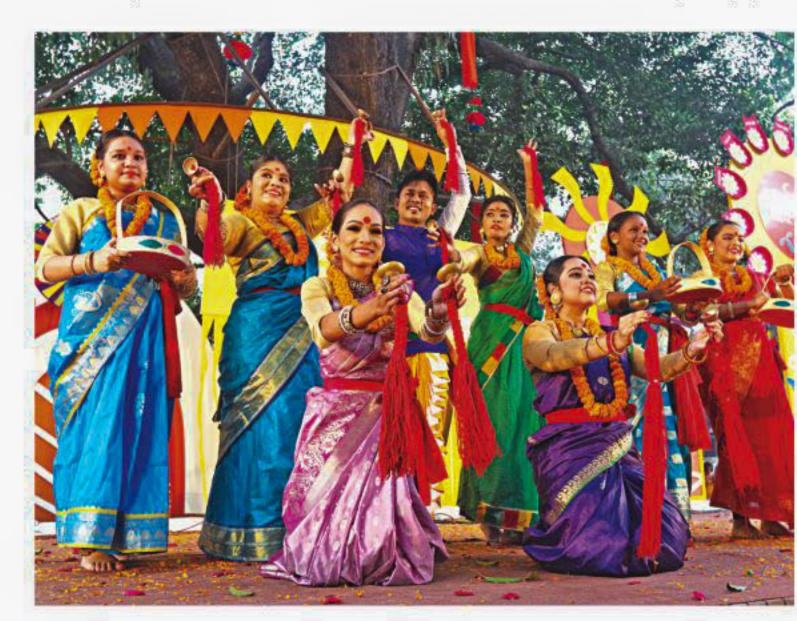
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The arrival of Pahela Falgun, the king of all seasons, is always greeted with a profusion of flowers, poetry, songs and dances.

Caught up in the excitement, Dhaka will wear a festive look on the first day of Bangla month Falgun. Jatiya Boshonto Utshab Udjapon Parishad 1423 has organised cultural programmes across the capital.

The first phase of celebrations will begin at 7:50am at Bakultala of Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), Dhaka University, the hub of the celebrations. The programmes will begin with a sarangi recital by Motiar Hossain, and a classical vocal presentation by Asit Kumar Dey.

It will feature performances by noted music and dance schools and artistes - Priyanka Perris, Hasan Imam, Shurer Dhara, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Nrityam, Khairul Anam Shakil, Dhriti, Bhashwar Bandopadhyay,



Rabirag, Nritya Nandan, Nataraj, Priyanka Gope, Sur Saptak, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury and more.

The second phase will see cultural performances at Bakultala, Dhanmondi's Rabindra Sarobar, Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka and Uttara Sector 3 Rabindra Sarani field from 4pm, and will feature a wide range of music, dance and recitation performances.

Desh TV and ntv will broadcast various parts of the programmes live. Girls in Bashonti (yellow-ochre) saris will adorn themselves with floral ornaments and boys will wear colourful Punjabi to see and be seen at the major events. Students FFA will as usual paint motifs on the more sporting visitors. Many bands will perform concerts at different points of the campus. Several private universities and colleges will also arrange programmes to herald spring.

Jatiya Boshonto Utshab Udjapon Parishad has been celebrating the arrival of Spring since the Bangla year 1401 (1995) in Dhaka, although Bangalees have traditionally celebrated the first day of Spring for centuries. Today, Pahela Falgun programmes have spread throughout the country and have become a major cultural celebration.

Fahmida

offers tunes of love

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With Valentine's Day on our heels, love is in the air accompanied by music to set the just the right ambience for the occasion. For this year's Valentine's Day, Fahmida Nabi has been busy in the studio recording new songs.

The singer has teamed up with Asif Akbar for the first time in a duet titled

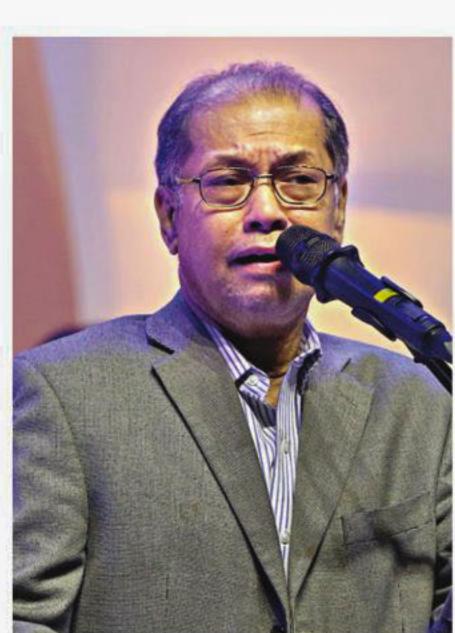


"Omon Kore Takiyo Na". On the new track, the singer said, "Tarun Munshi is behind the musical arrangement with assistance from Tanbeer Dawood Rony, and has also composed the tune and lyrics. The song will be released under the label of ARB Entertainment. This is the spirit of Valentine's Day perfectly. Recording for the studio version has been recently completed; we are now

However, there is still more on the cards. Fahmida Nabi also revealed that she has recorded a special song for a tele-film that will be aired on February 14, and as well as a folk song. "This is the first time I have sung a folk song,"

The eyes say it all...

HSBC hosts grand musical programme



Subir Nandi



implication of eyes was the com-

mon feature of the songs per-

formed by the artistes. Noted

Dekhechhilam" and "Sarthok

performed a popular Nazrul

Tomar" followed by a Lata

Mayuri E Raat" and Salil

Sangeet "Nayon Bhora jol Go

Mangeshkar record "Chanchal

Chowdhury song "Taar Chokher

Jotil Bhasha". Raja Bashir, son of

eminent singer Bashir Ahmed,

father through rendering "Onek

Sadh-er Moyna Amar", penned

and composed by Syed Shamsul

Haq and Bashir Ahmed respec-

Renowned singer Syed Abdul

tively.

paid a musical homage to his

songs: "Chokher Aloye

Tagore singer Adity Mohsin first

took the stage and performed two

Janam Amar". Priyanka Gope next

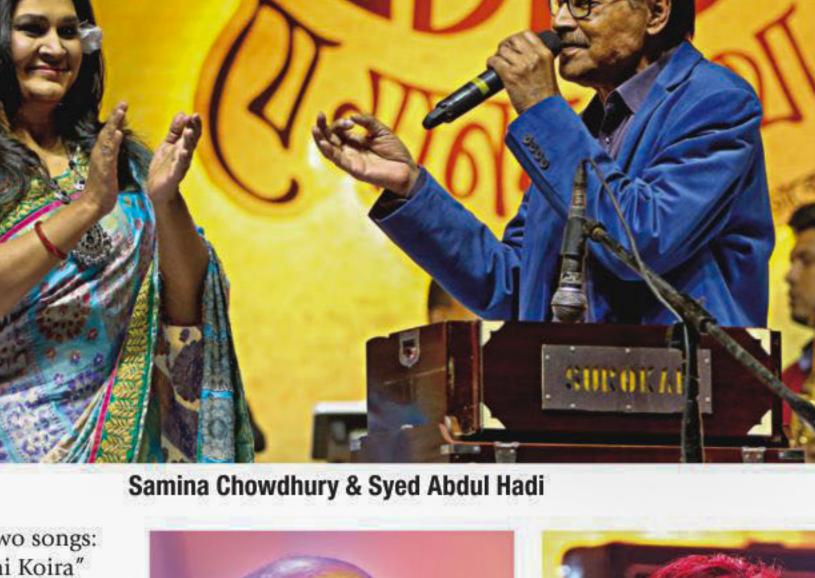
ZAHANGIR ALOM

Hadi emotively sang two songs: "Chokkher Nojor Emni Koira" and "Emonoto Prem Hoy" while To celebrate life in the magic of Samina Chowdhury was fantastic melody, HSBC Bank hosted a in her offering of three songs special musical soiree "Chokh Je "Amar Dui Chokh-e Dui Nodi", Moner Kotha Boley" at Oasis "Ekbar Jodi Keu Bhalobashto" Garden, Pan Pacific Sonargaon and "Aynate Oi Mukh Dekhbey Hotel on February 10. Jokhon", recorded by her father, Several renowned and accomthe legendary singer Mahmudun plished singers performed songs Nabi. of yesteryears at the soiree. The

Eminent singer Subir Nandi started off with "Amar E Duti Chokh". He then performed the mukhra of the song "Ami Chand Ke Bolechhi" on request. His repertoire included "Amar E Duti Chokh", a Manna Dey song, "Abar Hobey To Dekha" and the title song of the programme "Chokh Je Moner Katha Boley".

Nayak Raj Razzak lip-synced for the song "Chokh Je Moner Katha Boley" in the film "Je Agune Puri" to impress the doeeyed Suchanda. Actress Suchanda came up on stage and shared her memory of shooting in the film when the lyricist of the song Kazi Aziz was inspired to write the song.

Singer-musician Partha Barua entertained the audience performthe soiree. ing three songs: "Ei Neel



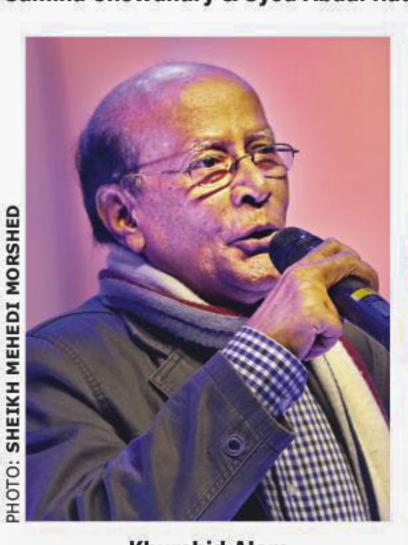


Sabina Yasmin



a beautiful, romantic song that captures awaiting its release."

the singer added.



Khurshid Alam

Monihar", "Neelanjana" and "Brishti Dekhe Anek KeNdechhi". Singers Dinat Jahan Munni and Badsha Bulbul, however, were not in best form, and gave a somewhat tepid performance.

Veteran singer Khurshid Alam showed control and depth while singing "Baper Chokher Moni Noy". He also rendered a duet number "Ki Jadu Achhey Tomar O Chokh-e" with Sabina Yasmin. It was the swan song of

Prior to that, the melodious

Partha Barua

Sabina Yasmin enthralled the audience with her classics including "Shob Kota Janala", "Ashru Diye Lekha" and "Eki Sonar Aloye".

Seasoned music director Sujeyo Shyam, an artiste of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, directed the music from the stage, with the band consisting top notch instrumentalists of the country.

Francois de Maricourt, CEO of HSBC, Bangladesh, delivered the welcome address sharing his Amar Ekushey greetings in Bangla



Raja Bashir

while Md Mahbub-ur Rahman, Deputy CEO and country head of commercial banking, HSBC Bangladesh, elaborated the rationale of arranging the special musical soiree. His speech contained allusions from Jibanananda Das' Banalata Sen and homage to the martyrs of Language Movement and Liberation War.

In presence of an august gathering, HSBC has regularly been holding soirees of Bangla music on various themes over the years, to celebrate Bangla music and culture.