


WHAT'S ON

Ekushey Book Fair
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan
Date: February 1-28
Time: 3-8pm



Chobi Mela IX
Title: Transition
Venue: BSA Art Gallery, Northbrook Hall, BAFA, Beauty Boarding
Date: February 3-16

CHOBIMELA
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL OF
PHOTOGRAPHY
BANGLADESH
2017

Spring Festival
Organiser: Jatiya Boshonto Utshab Udjapon Parishad
Venue: Bakultala of Faculty of Fine Arts
Date: Feb 13; Time: 7:50-10 am



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: The Naked
Artist: Tilottama Bhowmick
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
Date: Feb 10-18
Time: 3pm-9pm



Friend to Friend: Celebrating Spring and Friendship
Venue: Under the banyan tree in front of Kala Bhaban, DU
Date: Feb 14
Time: 11am-12:30 pm



PAHELA FALGUN'S ARTISTIC OFFERINGS



Sabiha Mahboob



Efat Razwana Reya



Sohel Rahman

ZAHANGIR ALOM AND ROBINA RASHID
BHUIYAN

The rebirth of nature comes to our land on Pahela Falgun, after the winter gloom makes way for new hope of Spring, celebrated by poems, songs, flowers, dances, and all kinds of festivities. The endless canvas offered by the arrival of Spring gives artistes infinite opportunities to celebrate the season through their various artistic mediums. The Daily Star spoke to artistes across different expressions and the ways they observe this special occasion.

Sabiha Mahboob, Nazrul exponent

"In the heydays of my career in the '80s, this time of the year called for numerous television appearances, special radio programmes and performances at Bangla Academy and other cultural centres. I have moved to New Zealand with my family since and although the number of performances has slowed down, I am still quite active in my endeavors to practice Nazrul Sangeet. Outside Bangladesh, Pahela Baishakh is usually more festive, and Falgun celebrations tend to be more intimate with friends, family and music and art enthusiasts. We have potluck parties and dress up in the traditional colours of Spring, and hold choral performances rendering Nazrul

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

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 Razwana 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."



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

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, Nriyam, Khairul Anam Shakil, Dhriti, Bhashwar Bandopadhyay,



Rabirag, Nriya 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 Nabi 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 teamed up with Asif Akbar for the first time in a duet titled



"Omon Kore Takiyo Na". On the new track, the singer said, "Taron 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 a beautiful, romantic song that captures the spirit of Valentine's Day perfectly. Recording for the studio version has been recently completed; we are now awaiting its release."

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 singer added.

The eyes say it all...

HSBC hosts grand musical programme



Subir Nandi



Samina Chowdhury & Syed Abdul Hadi



Sabina Yasmin

ZAHANGIR ALOM

To celebrate life in the magic of melody, HSBC Bank hosted a special musical soiree "Chokh Je Moner Kotha Boley" at Oasis Garden, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on February 10.

Several renowned and accomplished singers performed songs of yesteryears at the soiree. The implication of eyes was the common feature of the songs performed by the artistes. Noted Tagore singer Adity Mohsin first took the stage and performed two songs: "Chokher Aloye Dekhechhilam" and "Sarhok Janam Amar". Priyanka Gope next performed a popular Nazrul Sangeet "Nayon Bhora jol Go Tomar" followed by a Lata Mangeshkar record "Chanchal Mayuri E Raat" and Salil Chowdhury song "Taar Chokher Jotil Bhasha". Raja Bashir, son of eminent singer Bashir Ahmed, paid a musical homage to his father through rendering "Onek Sadher Moyna Amar", penned and composed by Syed Shamsul Haq and Bashir Ahmed respectively.

Renowned singer Syed Abdul

Hadi emotively sang two songs: "Chokher Nojor Emni Koir" and "Emonoto Prem Hoy" while Samina Chowdhury was fantastic in her offering of three songs - "Amar Dui Chokh-e Dui Nodi", "Ekbar Jodi Keu Bhalobasho" and "Aynate Oi Mukh Dekhbey Jekh"on", recorded by her father, the legendary singer Mahmudun Nabi.

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 doe-eyed 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 performing three songs: "Ei Neel



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 the soiree.

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 Mahub-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 soires of Bangla music on various themes over the years, to celebrate Bangla music and cultur

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED