

WHAT'S ON


Theatre
 Play: Pheriwal
 Organiser: Oboyo Natyadal
 Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: April 17
 Time: 7pm




Film Screening
 Title: Testimony of a Thread
 Venue: Chhayanaut
 Date: April 22
 Time: 4:30 pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Unseen in Our Sight: Dalits in Bangladesh
 Photographer: GMB Akash
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
 Date: April 15-29; Time: 3pm-9pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Exhibition 2017
 Venue: Gallery Chitrag, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi
 Date: Mar 28-Apr 20
 Time: 10am-8pm



Group Mask Exhibition
 Title: Mukh O Mukhosh-7
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, H-20, Rd-16, Sec-4, Uttara
 Date: Apr 8-18
 Time: 11am-8pm



A call for national cultural emancipation

Chhayanaut celebrates Golden Jubilee of Borshoboron

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chhayanaut, the leading cultural institution of the country, marked the Golden Jubilee of its landmark Borshoboron programmes at the Ramna Botomul, welcoming the Bangla New Year on Pahela Baishakh. Chhayanaut founder and chair Dr. Sanjida Khatun called for combined efforts to continue cultural practices and reaching out to all corners of Bangladesh to combat intolerance and religious extremism.

The programme began as per tradition with a classical instrumental recital, Rajrupa Chowdhury playing Raga Bhairav, an early morning raga, on the sarod. A number of chorus and solo songs followed – beginning with Rabindra Sangeet "Aloker Ei Jhorna-Dharay" and continuing with songs by Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Atulprasad Sen, Salil Chowdhury and Lalon Shah, among others, sung by eminent and promising singers alike: Iffat Ara Dewan, Shaheen Samad, Khairul Anam Shakil, Laiza Ahmed Lisa, Nasima Shaheen, Bijon Chandra Mistry, Chandana Majumder, and others. Syed Hasan Imam and Asaduzzaman Noor recited poems, while the musical performances came to a close with all artists and the audience singing the national anthem in unison. "Dewana Madina", a pala gaan by Dilu Boyati and his troupe was the last performance of the day.



Chhayanaut students sing a chorus at the Ramna Botomul.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"Our journey has been silent through the practice and prosperity of our culture, not in slogans and rallies. The new generation is caught up in the tide of globalization. Let us accept that and propagate the best of our cultural achievements and on the internet, so our children can get a taste of all cultures. We must use these media for the advancement of our culture." She also urged cultural activists to extend their activities to the remote parts of the country, to spread logical thinking to every citizen of the country. "We have neglected

this part of our work and given the opportunity to those who manipulate religion to their gains to spread their messages," she said. "The overall impanicipation of Bangalees will not come if you and I are cultural-minded, but leave the rest of the country in the darkness."

The celebrations of the Bangla New Year that Chhayanaut began in 1967 in the then East Pakistan has become the epicenter of Bangalee's biggest secular celebration of the Bangla Noboborsho in the decades that followed, overcoming

hurdles like the 2001 tragic bomb blasts at the event that left 10 people dead.

Tight security measures were taken at the venue this year, to the extent which some attendees felt were a hindrance to their attendance and enjoyment of the programme, but the festive nature of Bangalees prevailed over the scorching heat, long queues and inconvenient security measures and the celebrations shone bright as ever, as a cultural beacon such as prominent as the Borshoboron deserves to.

Shurer Dhara and Channel i usher in Pahela Baishakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shurer Dhara and Channel i bid goodbye to the Bangla Year 1423 and ushered in 1424 with grand programmes at Gangabandhu International Conference Centre, with support from title sponsor Sunilk. Abdul Hakim's flute recital on the morning of Pahela Baishakh (April 14) opened the festive proceedings, followed by Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya's solo rendition of "Otho Otho Re". A thousand singers, including Shurer Dhara members and singers from across the country sang "Ohey Doya Moy" in chorus. Bannya presented six more solos at the event, which was followed by group dance performances and a vocal and guitar concert by Ayub Bachchu and LRB. A fashion show featuring traditional Bangalee attire also took place, as did a Mongol Shobhajatra. Dhaka North City

Mayor Annisul Huq was among the dignitaries in attendance, as were a number of foreign diplomats and tourists.

The previous evening, the Chaitra Sangkranti celebrations also continued at the venue from 6:15pm till midnight, on the theme "Bangladesh'e Rabindranath". The programme began with a document-

tary on Rabindranath Tagore, following which 40 teachers and artists of Shurer Dhara performed a medley of Tagore songs. A number of noted personalities also spoke at the programme, interspersed between performances.

The performances were divided in segments – "Jibon-Debota", "Raag-e

Rong-e Rabindranath", "Robi Baul", "Kal Mrigoya", "Rabindranath-er Prem-er Gaan" and "Chhinopotro". Guest artists Mahadeb Ghosh, Bulbul Islam, Mita Haq, Rokaiya Haseena performed songs and poems, while Aupee Karim read from Tagore's works. Play "Achalayatan" was also staged at the programme, while an album of Bannya titled "Shara Bochorer Gaan" was also launched. Shurer Dhara closed the programme at midnight with the song "Byartho Pran'er Aborjona Puriye Felo".

A large audience, including eminent personalities like Parliament Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla and others enjoyed music, dance and poetry recitals.

Channel i broadcast both days' programmes live.



Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya leads a chorus.

RUPCHANDA-THE DAILY STAR SUPER CHEF THE BAISHAKH CHALLENGE DECIDES TOP NINE

OSAMA RAHMAN

The spirit of Baishakh invokes a feeling of communal harmony in the golden land of Bengal. In the Super Chef kitchen though, even the beginning of a new year starts with a competition. Last night was no different as the Baishakh special episode of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef kicked off with elimination looming towards the end. Many hurdles had been crossed and from over 2000 participants, only 10 were remaining. Last night, the number was whittled down to nine. The farewell was heart-breaking, an emotion soon supplanted by the promise of a coming redemption.

The festivities began when the remaining 10 were split into two different teams. The challenge was to cook a Baishakh special. While the premise sounds simple enough, creating a cohesive team unit in the short time given is much more challenging than presenting a finished course. As the teams were divided, the judges observed that the

husband-wife duo of Asma Rupa and Nazmul Haque had yet again managed to be on the same team. "Do you plan to end up in the same team every time?" a judge queried. But both Nazmul and Asma maintained that it was pure chance and nothing else.

A parade of *bhortas* in ceramic pots and plates soon made their way to the judges. Given the plethora of options, it was never going to be an easy choice. But a choice had to be made. Nazmul and Asma found themselves on the side that came second best and them, along with three of their teammates, found themselves in the danger zone. To determine who would be the one to go, a cook-off was arranged. "If you could sacrifice yourself to save your husband, would you?" someone whispered to Asma. The 24-year old went on front of live TV to declare that she wouldn't. "We both know this is a competition and whatever our relationship is, it is outside of this competition. I will not sacrifice my place for him and nor expect him to

give up his place for me," she said.

The cook-off comprised of an *achar* challenge. While the rest chose to work with easier ingredients, Asma and Nazmul both went for the more tedious elephant apple or *chalta* as it is called. Unbeknownst to everyone involved, Nazmul had never actually prepared an *achar* in his entire life. However, he tried and he tried as hard as he could. But as the Super Chef competition edges closer to the finish line, mistakes are never forgiven and there is no room for unpreparedness. Nazmul's name was announced to be the one eliminated. As Nazmul fell to the floor, his hands on his head, distraught, Asma broke down instantly too. For a moment in time, the competition was forgotten. The world had left Asma and Nazmul alone. They said their farewell. He wished her well. And everyone, with a heart, shed tears with them. That ended last night's episode. Catch the one tonight, only on Ntv. More heart-breaks and triumphs yet to come.



Two Farooki films land on Netflix

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Netflix, a company that started out as a DVD sale and rental service in 1997, has become one of the biggest players in visual entertainment globally, becoming the top on-demand streaming services for films and TV content, as well as a major player in content production. And although the service has been available in Bangladesh from January 2016 (when it completed its launch to 190 countries worldwide), there is still no Bangladeshi content on the service. But that is about to change.

"Television" and "Pipra Bidya", two films by Mostofa Sarwar Farooki – one of the very few of Bangladesh's flag-bearers in world cinema today -- will be released on Netflix on May 15, the filmmaker informed The Daily Star. "This is going to open up a new road for Bangladeshi films in general," Farooki said. "Netflix and Amazon have had content from India for a long time, but nothing from us," he added.

Netflix, that reportedly has over 93 million subscribers worldwide, has emerged in the last few years as a major content producer as well. The company released 126 original films or series in 2016, more than any other network or cable channel. Their shows have won major awards – shows like "Orange is the New Black", "House of Cards" and "Stranger Things" have been darlings of



A still from "Television".

award shows as well as a global audience.


The company has been very active in India in recent times, especially after the launch of rival streaming service Amazon Prime. As an example, Netflix partnered with Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment in December last year – to put 30 films by the production house on their catalogue, and any future films by the banner.

In a country where digital on-demand entertainment is on the rise with YouTube becoming a bigger platform for consumption of TV plays than the TV channels themselves, and movies also ending up on locally-owned on-demand streaming services like Bongo or 3rdbell, having Bangladeshi content released on a global platform can give hope to Bangladeshi filmmakers and content creators at large to take their content to a worldwide audience, and is also a silver lining for Bangladeshi and Bangla-speaking audiences worldwide who can find more Bangla content on a service as widespread as Netflix.

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QUIZ - 01
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FAST & FURIOUS 8
 APRIL 13, 2017
 IN 2D & 3D



RUPCHANDA The Daily Star Super Chef 2017

CHALLENGE CONTINUES

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