

<p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Amar Ekushey Book Fair Organiser: Bangla Academy Venue: Suhrawardy Udyan & Bangla Academy Premises Date: Feb 1-28 Time: 3-9pm (Sun-Thurs), 11am-9pm (Fri-Sat)</p> 	<p>Theatre Play: Pa'er Awaj Pawa Jaye Troupe: Theater Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA Date: Feb 13; Time: 7pm</p> 	<p>Cultural event Boshonto Utshob Venue: Under the Banyan tree, Kala Bhaban, Dhaka University Date: February 14 Time: 10:30am-1pm</p> 	<p>Subtext Organiser: Bengal Foundation Arts Programme Venue: Gyantapas Abur Razzak Bidyapeeth Date: Feb 4-24 Time: 11am-7pm</p> 	<p>Solo Art Exhibition Title: Fragmented Unity by artist Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed Venue: La Galerie, AFD Date: Feb 1-13 Time: 3-9pm</p> 
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Ushering in Bashanta

Bashanta Utshab across the capital today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will wear a festive look today on the first day of Bangla month Falgun, to usher in Bashanta (Spring), the 'king of the seasons'. Jatiya Bashanta Utshab Udjapon Parishad 1424 has organised cultural programmes across the capital.



Colors, vibrance and festivity – the advent of Spring brings only good things. STAR FILE PHOTO

The first phase of celebrations will begin at 7am at Bakultala of Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), Dhaka University, the hub of the celebrations. The programmes will begin with a recital of Raga Basant Bahar on guitar by Dipan Sarkar. The programme, which will have its second part at Bakultala, at 3:30pm, will feature solo songs by noted artistes Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Salma Akbar, Sajed Akbar, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Bulbul Islam, Kanan Bala Sarkar; choral songs by Sangeet Bhaban, Surortirho, Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi, Nazrul Shilpi Sangstha, Bohnishikha; dance presentations

by Nritya Nandan, Spandan, Nataraj, Bhabna, Dhriti and poetry recitation by Hasan Imam, Bhaswar Bandopadhyay, Naila Tarannum Chowdhury Kakoli and many others. The event will also feature a special presentation of Garo culture by the Garo cultural academy. Along with Bakultala, elaborate cultural programmes will also be held from 3:30pm at three other venues across Dhaka - Dhanmondi's Rabindra Sarobar, Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka, and Uttara Sector 3 Rabindra Sarani field, and will feature a wide range of music, dance and recitation perfor-

mances. 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. 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.

Mir Sabbir, Chumki and memories of Spring

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular actor Mir Sabbir fell in love and married fellow actor Farzana Chumki over fifteen years ago. Since then, the couple has embarked together on new life that cemented their love, and their career in acting, although in recent years Chumki has been gracing the screen less frequently than her husband. The couple arrived at The Daily Star office premises recently for a chat about their lives, and the upcoming Pahela Falgun and Valentine's Day.

What significance does Pahela Falgun has to you?
Mir Sabbir: To tell you the truth, I am inexplicably happy around this time of the year. I find myself reminiscing about my years in Barguna, Barisal. Falgun was celebrated each year very colorfully, and you could truly feel spring in the year.

Chumki: I feel the same. The air during spring-time is sweeter than the rest of the year. Some say it is love that's in the air, and spring is indeed, the season of love.

Mir Sabbir: I do. While love can happen to anyone at any time, spring creates an awakening in everyone's hearts. Spring is hailed as a the season of romance in songs, and in poetry, whose words are on the lips of many during this time of the year.

Chumki: "Falgun-e shuru hoy gungunani..." I remember reading a poem like that when I was young. Poets and musicians often wrote about spring with love in their hearts, so I suppose people can't help but fall in love.

Bashanta Utshab is celebrated as a festival on its own today. How do you perceive the matter?
Mir Sabbir: I look at it as a very positive thing. Bashanta is a very important part of our lives and our traditions; where would Bangalees be without it? It fills me with hope to see the younger generation taking to the celebrations with as much fervor.

Chumki: I am delighted to see young people going out in yellow panjabis and saris; they are doing an excellent job of



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Students stage "King Oedipus" at JKKNIU

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Sophocles' ever-appealing Greek tragedy "King Oedipus" was staged at the Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) campus in Mymensingh's Trishal on Sunday evening. Second year students of Theatre and Performance Studies Department of JKKNIU staged the play to greet the freshers at the university.

"This was the second staging of the play, and we used special effects at its different scenes that made some six-hundred strong audience spell-bound," said Mazharul Hossain Tokder, director of the play.

Tokder, also a lecturer of the department, said some 80 students performed in the

play held at the premises of university's central library. The four choruses of the play were acted by 30 artistes, said the director.

"It was the ever biggest production on the campus the audience enjoyed the play in exchange of tickets," he added.

Abid Sheikh and Shihab Sajib played the role of Oedipus, the king of Thebes; Nafisa and Hira acted for Jocasta, the Queen of Thebes; while Mohaimen Dipu played Tiresias.

Earlier, a discussion was held. Vice-chancellor of the university Prof Dr AHM Mustafizur Rahman was the chief guest where senior faculty members and theatre personalities from Dhaka and Mymensingh were also present.



A scene from the play. PHOTO: STAR

Kriti Sanon begins prep for her next

After enthralling audiences with "Bareilly Ki Barfi" last year, Bollywood actor Kriti Sanon is looking forward to some exciting new projects - including her upcoming collaboration with actor Diljit Dosanjh for the upcoming film titled "Arjun Patiala".

Kriti took to her Instagram page on Sunday to reveal that she has begun preparing for the movie. The photo shared by Kriti shows a glimpse of the script of the upcoming film.

"Arjun Patiala #Prep . New story, New journey, New character- Ritu Randhawa! @maddockfilmsofficial @rohitjugraj #ArjunPatiala", she captioned the image.

"Arjun Patiala" is reportedly a slice-of-life comedy, where Kriti plays a journalist and Diljit plays a small-town guy from Punjab. The film is to be produced by Dinesh Vijan.

Kriti, who began her career in the showbiz as a model and debuted in cinema with a 2014 Telegu film, is making herself known in Bollywood in the last few years. After winning the Filmfare Award best female debut for "Heropanti", she has worked in films such as "Dilwale" and "Raabta".



Source: TOI



Valentine's play "Wind of Change" on SATV

A CORRESPONDENT

SATV is bringing viewers a corporate love story directed and scripted by Mostofa Kamal Raj on Valentine's Day. Popular actors Mahfuz Ahmed and Nadia Mim will don starring roles in "Wind of Change", which airs at 8pm.

Mahfuz Ahmed plays a formidable CEO of a private limited company, who instills fears into his employees. The balance is tipped when a new executive, played by Nadia, joins. Tension brews when the new employee's bubbly, forthcoming personality takes her boss by surprise, and colleagues begin to suspect that the two are in love. But then things take an unexpected turn.

FIFTY SHADES FREED dominates international box office

The international opening of "Fifty Shades Freed" has taken in \$98.1 million in 57 markets since its February 6 international premiere, marking the biggest overseas launch of 2018 so far.

The finale of the erotic romance trilogy launched in first place in 54 markets, and topped Sony's "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" for best international weekend of the year, coming in 20% above the action-comedy's \$81 million first weekend take.

The three "Fifty Shades" movies have now totaled \$1.09 billion worldwide with strong international performances. "Fifty Shades of Grey" took in \$166 million domestically and \$404 million internationally in 2015 and "Fifty Shades Darker" grossed \$114 million domestically and \$266 million internationally last year.

Germany generated the best numbers with \$10.7 million at 731 locations, taking 46% of

the market. It's in line with the performance for "Fifty Shades Darker", which also saw Germany as the top territory, according to trade magazine Variety.

"Fifty Shades Freed" sees Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson return as Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele. It is directed by James Foley from a script by Niall Leonard and once again produced by Michael De Luca, Dana Brunetti, and Marcus Viscidi, alongside the book's author, EL James.

Fox's "Maze Runner: The Death Cure" took in \$23.5 million from 19,858 screens in 80 markets, taking the international total for the finale of the dystopian trilogy to \$180 million.

Indian comedy "PadMan" debuted with \$8.9 million in five markets, most of that coming from a number one opening in India with \$7.9 million.



Source: Variety