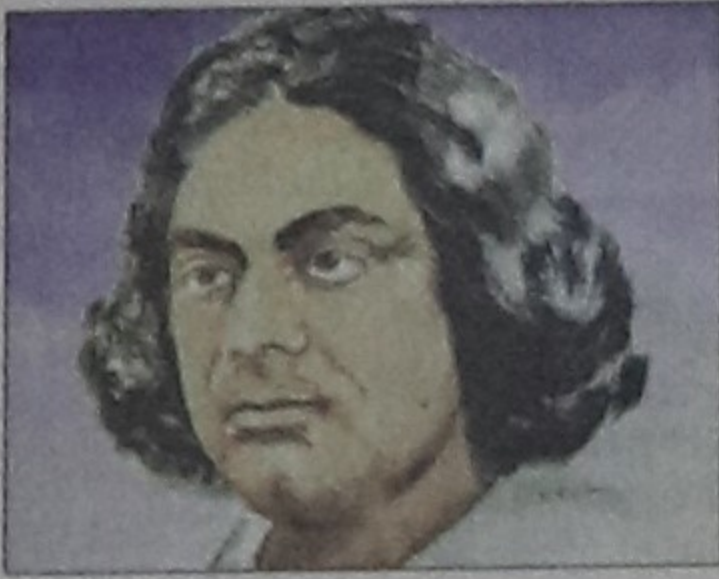


WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEKNazrul Birth
Anniversary

Organiser: Nazrul
Sangeet Shilpi Parishad
Venue: Shawkat Osman
Auditorium, Central Public
Library, Shahbag
Date: May 19-21
Time: 6:30pm everyday



Film Screening

on the 22nd birth
anniversary
Title: Films from Africa
Organiser: Zahir Raihan
Film Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H
10, R 9, Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-22



Art Exhibition

Title: Symphony in
Drawing
Artist: Ranjit Das
Venue: Shilpangan
Gallery, H 26, R 3,
Dhanmondi
Date: May 14-28
Time: 10am-1pm and
5pm-8pm

Photo and
Cartoon Exhibition

On the 60th anniversary of the
occupation of Palestine
Title: Sixty Years of Illegitimate
Occupation, Sixty Years of
Sacred Resistance
Venue: Dik Gallery, H 58, R
15A (new), Dhanmondi, Date:
May 14-18, Time: 3pm-8pm



Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad to celebrate National Poet's birth anniversary

Banglalink to sponsor three-day celebration



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad (NSSP) has announced plans to celebrate the 109th birth anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam with a three-day programme. The event, "Nobin Asha Jaglo Je Re Aai" will be held from May 19 to 21 at the

Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, according to NSSP. The announcement was made at a press conference held at the Dhaka Reporter's Unity on May 15. This year NSSP is celebrating the Nazrul birth anniversary (May 25) a few days ahead.

The three-day programme will feature songs, recitation of Nazrul's works and dance performances with Nazrul Sangeet by the leading and upcoming talented artistes. Apart from renowned artistes and members of NSSP, the programme will highlight performances by ten artistes from five divisional cities and four artistes from Rangpur and Kushtia (two from each city).

To generate wider interest in Nazrul's life and works, NSSP, an organisation formed by leading Nazrul singers, has taken several initiatives. These include monthly musical soirees, workshops and seminars. NSSP has an elaborate plan to establish branches in every district and arrange musical programme. The organisation also focuses on preserving the authenticity of lyrics and tunes of Nazrul Songs.

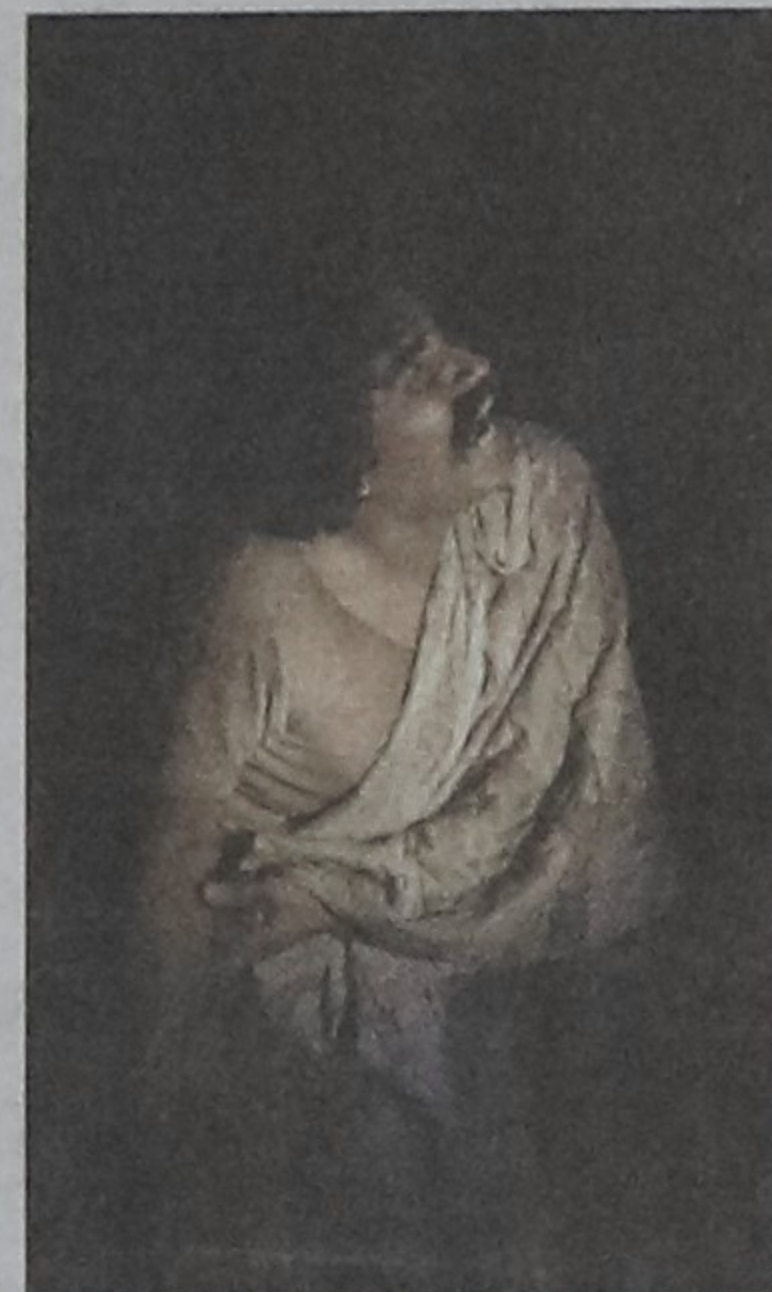
NSSP has also taken an initiative to launch a website on Kazi Nazrul Islam. The website will feature Nazrul songs, images and interviews of renowned Nazrul artistes, articles and more.

Among others Ferdousi Rahman, president of NSSP; M.A. Mannan, general secretary; Bulbul Mahatanbish, vice-president and joint secretaries Khairul Anam Shakil and Sujit Mustafa were present at the press conference.

Banglalink will sponsor the three-day Nazrul Jayanti celebration.

100th anniversary of litterateur Manik Bandyopadhyay celebrated

"Pragoitihashik" staged



Scenes from the play

ERSHAD KAMOL

Though litterateur Manik Bandyopadhyay's (1908-1956) birth anniversary is on May 19, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, (BSA) and theatre troupe Nagorik Natyangan jointly organised the 100th birth anniversary of the litterateur at the National Theatre Stage on May 16. The programme included discussion and staging of *Pragoitihashik*, an adaptation of Bandyopadhyay's popular short story having the same title.

Critic and litterateur Abdus Shakur was the chief guest. Bandyopadhyay's youngest son Shukanto Bandyopadhyay, cul-



tural personality Professor Jotin Sarkar; Chairperson of Nagorik Natyangan, Dr Enamul Huq; General Secretary of Shammilito Shanskritik Jote Golam Kuddus and Chairman of Bangladesh Patho Naok Parishod Mannan Heera also spoke at the programme. General Secretary of Nagorik Natyangan Lucky Enam delivered the speech of felicitation. The discussion session was presided over by Director General of BSA, Bhuiyan Shahidul Islam.

Discussions on the programme focused on Manik Bandyopadhyay's bohemian lifestyle, his ideology and his contributions in Bangla literature. Moreover, they evaluated him as a

litterateur.

The discussion was followed by the staging of *Pragoitihashik*, adapted by Mahmud Selim and directed by Lucky Enam.

The protagonist of the play, Bhikhu is a diabolical character. Through the character, animal instincts in man have been portrayed. Man has been evaluated in the play as lecherous, greedy, hypocritical, selfish and avenging.

But, Manik Bandyopadhyay cannot be labelled as a misanthropist. After so many murders and stories of lust, Bhikhu and Panchi find peace at the end of the play. In fact, Manik has portrayed the struggle of the working class through addressing the primeval

human instincts of lust, rage and desire to possess.

In this sense, *Pragoitihashik* can be evaluated through dialectical materialism, the philosophical basis of Marxism. As Georgi Valentinovich Pluchart, a Russian revolutionary and a Marxist theoretician, who has contributed many ideas to Marxism in the area of philosophy and the roles of art and religion in society, points out the human instinct is one of the modes of dialectical materialism.

Director Lucky Enam has successfully created the tension and conflicts aptly in the play. Her handling of 'subconscious mind' of the character of Bhikhu and Panchi deserves plaudit. Through-

out the play equal tempo has been maintained except in the 'Baul Scenes', where Panchi longs for a purified soul.

Mahmudul Islam Selim as Bhikhu performed well. Sajjad Reza as Pehladi, Arbatuzzaman Proloy as lame beggar Bashir, Hridy Huq as Panchi performed spontaneously on the stage.

Saju Khadem's set also successfully represents rural Bangla. However, Jasimuddin's light design is the weakest part of the play. He has used so many effects, which interrupt the concentration of the play. Instead of using three circular zones for narration, Jasim could have used linear zone on the frontal stage.

PHOTOS: MUMIT M.

Bachchans walk down Cannes' red carpet once more



Aishwarya Rai (R) seen with other celebrities at the Cannes Film Festival

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It is that time of the year when the Cannes Film Festival, the most prestigious in the world, in Paris gets the inescapable Bollywood touch through, who else, diva Aishwarya Rai.

Rai, the former Miss Universe, is in Cannes along with her hubby Abhishek Bachchan and father-in-law Amitabh Bachchan, and appeared together for the premiere of the Brazilian movie "Blindness" by director Fernando Meirelles.

The Cannes festival has a special place in Aishwarya's heart. For it was here that she came to promote the lavish love story "Devdas" directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali in 2002. A year later, the actress was on the festival's competition jury. But there is a business angle to Aishwarya's annual walking down the red carpet in Cannes. She is the brand ambassador of French cosmetics giant L'Oreal, which is the sponsor of the festival at the French Riviera town.

However, those are not the only reasons why Aishwarya and the Bachchan family members flew into Cannes. They will be in the company of 20 Indian directors to attend a conference on Indian cinema there from May 18 and will promote several films, including Ram Gopal Varma's latest movie "Sarkar Raj", featuring the Bachchan trio, and Goldi Bahl's film "Drona". Aishwarya will also appear with Steve Martin in next year's "The Pink Panther 2".

About a year into her married life with Abhishek, Aishwarya is gushing about it. "What is fantastic is

when you have this incredible relationship with your man...I think that's the best part of us together," said she.

Aishwarya, however, would like to keep under wrap her plan to start a family. "It will happen when it has to happen...looking forward to it as and when but no speculation right now," said the Bollywood star.

This year's Cannes Festival is expected to see a galaxy of Hollywood veterans like Clint Eastwood, who is hoping that his child-abduction flick "Changeling" gets the top honour Palm d'Or for the best film, and Harrison Ford, who appears in Steven Spielberg's fourth episode of the "Indiana Jones" saga, rubbing shoulders with art film directors.

Dustin Hoffman, Robert De Niro, Madonna, Julianne Moore, Penelope Cruz and Scarlett Johansson are among the other stars expected at the festival's 61st edition.

Fernando Meirelles is leading a strong Latin American contingent in the festival and his movie "Blindness", a philosophical thriller based on Portuguese Nobel Laureate Jose Saramago's novel about a town struck by an undiagnosed epidemic that leads to all becoming blind, except a doctor's wife, is the opening film.

All in all, Cannes will once again be an orgy of glitzy promotion for movies, wild parties and screenings on palm-fringed beaches and stars walking along the famed red carpet that will bring together cinema industry tycoons, movie buffs and celebrity-watchers falling for their stars.

Dearth of cultural venues in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Cultural activities in the hill town of Khagrachhari are on the decline. Cultural activists want fast renovation of the age-old Theatre Hall on Court Road in the district town. They are also calling for the expansion and reconstruction of Zilla Shishu Academy Auditorium, Zilla Shilpakala Academy, Jharnadhara Kochi Kanchar Ashor, Marma Aikka Parishad, Tribal Cultural Institute and Marma Unnayan Shangshad.

Once the Town Hall Auditorium, with a capacity to accommodate 200, was the hub of cultural activities in the town. Six years ago, some 20 cultural organisations used to stage plays and

other cultural programmes regularly. But now without required venues, cultural activities have gradually shrunk.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board took on an initiative six years ago at an expenditure of about Tk 2 crores. The construction of the Town Hall began in 1998, but over 20 percent of the work still remains incomplete. Sources were unable to confirm when the construction will be completed.

On the other hand, there is no water supply or toilet facility in the Zila Shishu Academy Auditorium, said cultural activists. Moreover, the auditorium is unable to meet the needs of a growing audience, as it only has 50-60 seats and needs renovation.



Town Hall in Khagrachhari

PHOTO: STAR



Tania and Fazlur Rahman Babu in the TV serial

Drama serial "Shoa Paanch Arai Lane" on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will telecast the second episode of drama serial *Shoa Paanch Arai Lane* tonight at 8:00 pm.

The serial revolves around a hundred year old hostel in Old Dhaka and its occupants. Everyday the hostel is visited by people of different ages, places and background. As the story unfolds, the interactions between the different lodgers are brought to light. Their day-to-day events often lead to hilarious consequences and the story proceeds on.

Written by Mominul Islam, *Shoa Paanch Arai Lane* is directed by Golam Sohrab Dudul. The cast includes Dr. Inamul Haq, Challenger, Shirin Alam, Mosharraf Karim, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Chitralekha Guho, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Chanchal Chowdhury, Al Monsur, Tazin Ahmed, Tisha, Momo, Tushar Khan, Rahmat Ali, Ahsanul Haque Minu, Erresh Zaker, Joyrak, Tania and others. The serial is aired every Sunday.