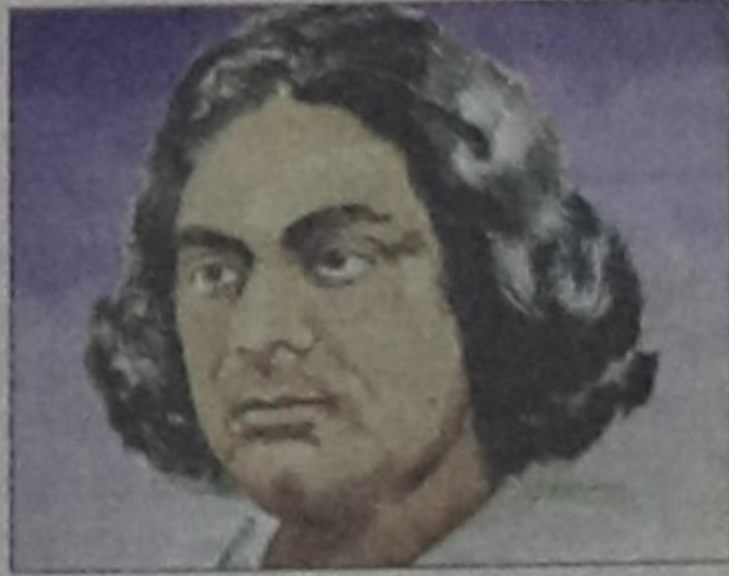


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

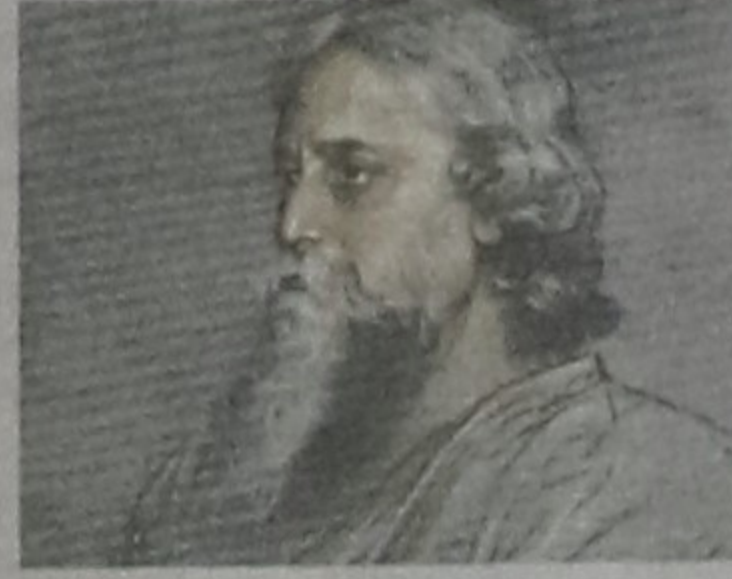
Nazrul Birth Anniversary

Organiser: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: May 19-21
Time: 7:00pm everyday



Tagore Birth Anniversary

Organiser: Creative Destination
Venue: Creative Destination Auditorium, H20, R 1, Sec 3, Uttara
Date: May 23
Time: 5:30pm



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 6pm-8pm



Film Screening

Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, R 9, Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-22, May 21
Country Focus: South Africa
2pm The Carmen of Khayelitsha; 4:15pm Tsotsi; 6pm Zulu Love Letter; 8pm Drum



Celebrating the National Poet

Jatiya Nazrul Sangeet Sammelan at Public Library



Choral rendition by artistes of Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad

KARIM WAHEED

May 19, 2008: Trying to find some breathing space in the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library on a sweltering summer eve was difficult as it was packed to the brim and more coming in - must be encouraging for the organiser, Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad (NSSP). This ambience works when listening to Nazrul's inspirational songs; case in point a charged choral rendition of *Nabin aasha jaglo jey reyaaj*.

However, to fully appreciate the classical finesse of a composition like *Kaar banshori bajey Multani shurey* (based on Raag Multani), one needs some peace and quiet. The editor of Arts & Entertainment,

The Daily Star, Sadya Areen Mallick (who is an accomplished Nazrul artiste herself) came up with a brilliant idea. "Come outside," read her text message. Unsure what she meant, I complied. As the summer breeze cooled things a bit, sitting under a *shegun* tree, on a full moon night (it was "Buddha Purnima") we listened to the rest of the songs; the sound system was good enough.

Nazrul's songs epitomise romanticism and love like few can. The moon tinged with dull yellow or vivid silver, some mythical riverbank, *shiluli* trailed dawns...all have found their place in Nazrul Sangeet. Perhaps, the outdoors would be more fitting for a performance like this. Suhrawardy Udyan, cross the street from the

National Poet's tomb, can be an option (there's that obvious hint of symbolism). Getting the Ministry of Cultural Affairs involved is also a good idea.

Back to Shawkat Osman Auditorium then. The three-day 'Jatiya Nazrul Sangeet Sammelan' (National Nazrul Sangeet Convention) was inaugurated by veteran Nazrul artiste and exponent Sudhin Das.

Referring to holding the programme days before Nazrul's birth anniversary (May 25), noted singer Ferdousi Rahman, president of NSSP, said, "Celebrating Nazrul on particular days is not enough. Today is just as good as any, but the efforts have to be sincere."

In his speech, Sudhin Das addressed the distortion of Nazrul

Sangeet. He said, "The current state of Nazrul Sangeet concerns me. When it comes to programmes on Nazrul Sangeet, all TV channels feature the few familiar faces. Promising young artistes rarely get exposure. Some are knowingly or unknowingly distorting the tunes. This trend of distortion has to stop."

Following the chief guest's speech, artistes of NSSP performed *Nabin Aasha jaglo jey reyaaj* and *Tolomol tolomol padobhorey*.

Alongside noted artistes, the three-day programme features upcoming Nazrul singers from different parts of the country.

Afsana Sarwar's rendition of *Hey priyo tomar amar majhey birohore parabaar* demonstrated

the young singer's vocal maturity and refinement. The same can be said of Shamshad Begum Smirti's performance of *Kaar banshori bajey Multani shurey* and Jinia Zafreen's (from Bogra) interpretation of *Jeno phirey nahijaye*.

Badrunnesa Dalia sang a *kirtan*, *Shokhi ami na hoy maan korechhinu* and Ismat Jahan rendered *Chaand herichhey chaandmukh taar* (based on Raag Bagesree).

The opening programme also featured a dance performance by Sharmila Banerjee. Nazrul artistes Sujit Mostafa and Dr. Nashid Kamal were the MCs.

NSSP's Nazrul Janmojayanti celebration ends today. Bangladesh is the sponsor of the programme.



Sharmila Banerjee (C) and co-artistes dance at the opening

"Nazrul Mela" to be aired live on Channel-i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Channel-i is organising a "Nazrul Mela" for the second time on the occasion of the 109th birth anniversary of the National Poet. A press conference to discuss the plan was held on May 20. Eminent Nazrul singer Sohrab Hossain, poet Asad Chowdhury, Faridur Reza Sagar and Shykh Seraj were present at the meeting. At the conference Sohrab Hossain reminisced memorable incidents of his life and his interaction with the legendary poet.

The "Nazrul Mela", will begin at 11:00 am on May 25, and will be aired live from the Channel-i office at Tejgaon. The daylong festival will be inaugurated by Nazrul researcher Dr. Rafiqul Islam. Noted Nazrul artistes Sohrab Hossain, Sudhin Das, Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Abdul Mannan Syed, Ferdousi Rahman, Ferdous Ara, Shabnam Mushtari, Khairul Anam Shakil, Khalid Hossain, M.A. Mannan and Mintu Rahman are likely to attend the *mela*. This year, Sohrab



(From left) Shykh Seraj, Faridur Reza Sagar, Sohrab Hossain and Asad Chowdhury at the press conference

Hossain will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The *mela* will include solo and choral renditions of Nazrul Sangeet, an art competition for children, recitation, discussion on Kazi Nazrul Islam and dance performances. Several noted artists will make portraits of the poet.

Twenty stalls will be set up at the *mela*, some of which will feature books written by and on Nazrul, collections of his novels etc.

The event will be directed and produced by Amirul Islam and Shahidul Alam Sacchu. Apu Mahfuz, Mousumi and Tanisha will report live from the location.

Photo competition on climate change



FK Bangladesh Network invites submissions for a photography competition on the theme "Climate Change". Selected photos will be featured at a touring exhibition on the cause and effect of climate change in Bangladesh, says a press release. The exhibition will be launched at Drik Gallery on the World Environment Day, June 5, 2008.

The submissions have to be original. Digitally manipulated photos will not be acceptable.

Entry forms are available at Drik Gallery and major photo labs. Maximum number of photographs should be five per

participant. Photographs should be sent to Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209 by 5pm, May 25, 2008. For more on entry specifics, interested photographers can contact Drik Library.

The grand prize includes Tk 30,000 with a crest and a certificate. The 2nd and 3rd prizes include Tk 20,000 and Tk 10,000 respectively, with crests and certificates. Selected photographers for the exhibition will also receive certificates.

Showcasing African films

Zahir Raihan Film Society celebrates 22nd anniversary



A scene from Sembene's film Moolaade

JAMIL MAHMUD

Zahir Raihan Film Society (ZRFS) is celebrating its 22nd anniversary (May 16) with film screenings. This year, ZRFS is paying tribute to the cinematic outputs of a continent, which for centuries has been termed the "Dark Continent" by European colonists.

Secretary General of ZRFS, Sabbir Chowdhury informed that some 80 films would be screened - in six parts - at Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, Russian Centre of Science and Culture and Alliance Francaise. In association with the Goethe-Institut, the first part of the five-day screening started at the Institut's auditorium on May 18.

"Throughout the years we

have been screening films from several points of views like country focus; retrospective; film within film and more. In our anniversaries, we have been arranging something special. These films have a great aspect, which highlighted the present trauma of African society," said Sabbir Chowdhury.

At Goethe-Institut, 26 feature films (full length and shorts made by African filmmakers) will be screened till May 22. This session called "Country Focus" features films from sub-Saharan countries including Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, South Africa and Senegal.

Some acclaimed films including *Moolaade*, *Xala* and *Black Girl* by Ousmane Sembene (Senegal) *Yaaba* by Idrissa Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso); *Buud*

Yam by Gaston Kabore (Burkina Faso); *Baara* by Solomani Sise (Mali) and *Abouna* by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun (Chad) are scheduled to be screened.

The rest of the sessions will highlight documentaries made by African filmmakers at Alliance Francaise from May 26 to 30; feature films made by North African filmmakers from June 1 to 3 at Goethe-Institut; retrospective on French filmmaker Jean Rouch (1917-2004), who made several films from the ethnographical point of view on African societies from June 18 to 20; and films on Africa made by foreign filmmakers at Alliance Francaise from July 6 to 11 and at Russian Centre of Science and Culture from July 13 to 17.

The event is dedicated to the memory of Senegalese filmmaker

er Ousmane Sembene (1923-2007), who is widely considered as the "father of African films".

The aspect of African films is atypical from other countries. In many African countries, film production started following formal independence, which happened in the 1960s.

During the colonial era, Africa was represented in cinema by Western filmmakers as being without history or culture. Films on Africa during the colonial era include jungle epics such as *Tarzan* or adaptations of *King Solomon's Mines*.

Many African writers' (like Chinua Achebe) denying such stereotypes was an important motivation for African filmmakers.

The first African film to win international recognition was Ousmane Sembene's *Black Girl* (1965). Sembene who started off as a writer, turned to films to reach a wider audience. Sembene's native country Senegal continued to be the hub of African film production for more than a decade.

Djibril Diop Mambety's (Senegal) sophisticated comedy *Touki-Bouki* (1973) is considered one of the best African films ever made.

The filmmakers started by recalling the neo-colonial condition of African societies. African filmmakers stressed their solidarity with progressive filmmakers in other parts of the world.

African cinema has also been influenced by traditions from other continents such as Italian neo-realism, Brazilian "Cinema Novo" and the theatre of Bertolt Brecht.

New serial "Nupur" on ATN Bangla



A scene from the serial

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A new TV serial *Nupur* will be aired on ATN Bangla from May 22. Jointly directed by Aruna Biswas and Mithu Biswas, the story is the adaptation of a novel by Dr. Nihar Ranjan Gupta. The serial will be aired every Thursday 8:40 pm.

The story unfolds as a married couple, Amit and Manimala, purchase an antique closet from a *zamindar's* house. Ever since the arrival of the closet, they start hearing tinkling of anklets (*nupur*) in the next room at night. Eventually, one day they discover a pair of anklets from the closet and after a few days Manimala dies unexpectedly while wearing those same anklets. Gradually, Amit gets to know about the mysterious story linked with the anklets and the story proceeds on.

The cast includes Aruna Biswas, Pijush Bandyopadhyay, Gazi Rakayet, Shoeb, Mishti, Mousumi Biswas and Babu.

A premiere show of the serial was held yesterday at the studio of ATN Bangla in Bashundhara City.

"Aashaein: New film by Nagesh Kukunoor

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

After a highly forgettable comedy that bombed at the box office, promising director Nagesh Kukunoor is back with the kind of meaningful film he is usually known for.

Best recognised for films like award-winning *Iqbal*, *Hyderabad Blues* and *Dor*, Kukunoor is ready with his next project *Aashaein* starring John Abraham in the role of a compulsive gambler who finds a new meaning in fortune and wealth through a dramatic turn of events.

Aashaein, which releases on June 20, is a drama where the driving force is the creed "live life now".

Asked why he made a movie like *Bombay to Bangkok*, his previous work, Kukunoor said he did not want to be typecast or to get bored while making films. He says that every movie he makes must excite him.

"*Bombay to Bangkok* was a light hearted

comedy and perhaps with success of earlier films like *Iqbal* and *Dor*, the comedy genre was not taken well by my audience. Perhaps, they went to see *Bombay to Bangkok* thinking that it was in the same league as the previous two films," the director said.

But Kukunoor said he is determined not to bow to what the audience wants and would rather make films, which make him happy.

He is not bothered about commercial success or the lack of it for his movies. "Ups and downs are a part of show business. Making films with conviction and belief is the only thing a filmmaker can do," he says.

"The comedy genre is not new to me. My debut film *Hyderabad Blues* was a light hearted film and even *Bollywood Calling* was a comedy," he pointed out.

Coming back to his forthcoming film, Kukunoor places it in the same genre.

