

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Rabindra Jayanti
Organiser: Jagaran Sangskriti Charcha O Gobeshana Kendra
Venue: National Music and Dance Centre, BSA
Date: May 8-9
Time: 7pm



Jatio Rabindra Sangeet Utshab
Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Sangstha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library
Date: May 5-9
Today's programme starts from 9am



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Urban Delight
Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: May 7-20
Time: 12-8 pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: The Story of Tea Workers
Photographer: Philip Gain
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15/A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: May 10-19
Time: 3-8pm



Celebrating Tagore in every sphere

■ "Rabindra Mela" by Channel i ■



Kalim Sharafi was honoured with a lifetime achievement award by Channel i at this year's "Rabindra Mela."

MAINUL HASSAN

Perhaps it would not be an overstatement to say that Bengali culture would be incomplete without Rabindranath Tagore. Yesterday marked the 148th birth anniversary of the Nobel laureate poet. To celebrate the day, Channel i held a daylong "Rabindra Mela" at its Tejgaon office premises. This was the fourth "Rabindra Mela" by Channel i.

The objective is to remem-

ber Tagore on his birth anniversary and to pay homage to the great poet," said Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Impress Telefilm Ltd and Channel i. "The programme is aired live, so people across the globe can join the celebration," Sagor added.

The mela began at 10:05 am with a group performance by artistes of Sur-er Dhara. Members of the organisation rendered "Akash bhora shurjo tara."

Veteran Tagore singer and

exponent Kalim Sharafi was honoured with a lifetime achievement award by Channel i. As part of the award, Kalim Sharafi will receive Tk 10,000 every month. Sharafi was presented a crest, an 'uttorio' and a cheque for Tk 1,20,000 at the programme. Shykh Seraj, head of News, Channel i, handed over the crest; Tagore artiste Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya presented Sharafi with the 'uttorio'.

Throughout the day, cultural organisations and artistes

performed songs, dance, poetry recitation and more. Group performances were presented by Protiti, Rabirashmi, Nibedan, Rabirag, Udichi, Geetanjali, Dhruvotaan, Boitalikand Shurtirtha.

Artistes of Nityam and Spondon staged dance performances. Poet Nirmalendu Guun, Pijush Bandyopadhyay, Kazi Arif and others recited poems.

Mita Haque, Salma Akbar, Shoma Roy, Azizur Rahman, Mohammad Sharful Islam, Lili

Islam, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Sajed Akbar, Naima Ali and others performed Rabindra Sangeet.

A musical based on Tagore's "Tasher Desh" was staged by Sur-er Dhara. The performance was directed by Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya and choreography was by Tamanna Rahman.

The mela was well attended by leading writers, Tagore exponents, poets, artists and more. Artists -- Hashem Khan, Abdul Mannan, Monirul Islam, Shahed Kabir, Shahabuddin, Farida Zaman, and others attended the programme and painted on the theme, "Tagore." A painting competition for youngsters was also held.

A total of 19 well-decorated stalls were set up at the venue. Books containing literary works of Tagore were on display. One stall featured reproductions of Tagore's artworks and paintings. Some rare collections of gramophone records of Tagore songs recorded by Lata Mangeshkar, Suchita Mitra, Sachin Dev Burman, Debabrata Biswas, Hemanta Mukhopadhyay and other legendary singers were on display. However, some of the stalls had nothing to do with Tagore or his works.

The mela ended at 5 pm. The daylong event was aired live on Channel i.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

As part of the ongoing Rabindra Theatre Festival, organised by Pranganey Mor, members of Prachyanat presented performances at the lobby of the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on May 7. The choreographies incorporated songs of Tagore that are featured in Prachyanat's production "Raja ... Ebong Onnyanya."

TV Watch

Drama Serial Channel 21 on Ekushey TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama Serial "Channel 21" will be aired tonight at 9:30 pm on Ekushey TV. With the concept of Abdus Salam, the serial has been written and directed by Masum Shahriar.

The plot zooms in on a news team working for Channel 21. The news at 7 on the channel is very popular for its bold reporting and style of presentation. Shaila Sharmin is the chief reporter. Known for her bravado, she is quite a star. Cameraman Wahid Reza is timid, but on duty, he is fearless. Preeti is the popular news presenter. Then there are the news producers, editor, technical



A scene from "Channel 21."

hands and others. Starting with an issue between Shaila Sharmin and the news editor over airing a particular news, the play moves on with these characters in the newsroom of Channel 21.

The cast includes Jayanto Chattopadhyay, Richi Solaiman, Anisur Rahman Milon, Zakia Bari Mamo and others. A number of real TV reporters are also featured in the serial.

Sumita Naha: Enduring devotion to Tagore songs and classical music

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Professor Sumita Naha is a Rabindra Sangeet artiste who combines her talents with classical music. She is enlisted as a vocalist at both Bangladesh Betar and BTV.

Three of her audio CDs featuring Rabindra Sangeet have so far been released. Of them, "Tomar Surer Dhara" was released by Bengal Foundation, while Soundtek released "O Champa O Karobi." In February this year, Bhabana Records of Kolkata released Sumita's third album "Dhulaye Madhobilata."

Sumita has also devoted herself to preserving traditional Bengali songs by training youngsters. With this aim in mind, the artiste established Alokdhara, a music school in Mymensingh town, in 1992. So far many emerging talents have been groomed by her and some of them have established themselves in the field of music at the national level. Of them, Jasmine Yusuf, Priti Saha, Tapati Roy, Monika Baishya, Goutam Naha, Aporna Dey, Rashida Akhtar and Anjan Das are regular artistes of Bangladesh Betar and BTV, said the proud teacher.

Sumita's passion for music was evident at an early age and she has remained dedicated to her medium over the years. Born into a reputed culturally oriented family, Sumita had her first lessons in classical music under the tutelage of Ustad Mithun Dey. From Mithun Dey she learnt khayal on different raagas, dhrupad and thumri.

As Sumita's devotion for music extended, she continued training in classical music with Jagadananda Barua, another noted musician of greater Mymensingh. Later she took lessons from renowned Tagore exponents and gurus -- Waheedul Haque (in Dhaka) and Shailajaranjan Majumder, Kanika Bandyopadhyay and Neelima Sen (at Shantiniketan, West Bengal).

Sumita demonstrated her musical skills by securing the first position in Classical Music and Rabindra Sangeet contest (at both graduate and postgraduate levels) by Bangladesh Dhruva Parishad. For her brilliant performances, she was awarded "Ratnakar" and "Sangeet Bhashkar" titles.

Daughter of the late Dr. Sudish Hom Roy and Srimati Geeta Hom Roy, Sumita was born

in 1948. She completed her SSC and HSC from Mahakali Girls High School and Government Muminunnesa College in 1963 and '65 respectively. Later she did her honours from Government Ananda Mohan College and Master's in Bengali from Dhaka University in 1968 and '69 respectively.

A founder principal of Udhichi Sangeet Bidayatan here, Sumita was directly involved with the Muktiyoddha Shilpi Squad during Liberation War. Sumita has always shunned publicity. As she says, "I sing mainly for my myself. Music is an artistic medium that can



Professor Sumita Naha

give one satisfaction and peace." Sumita retired in 2006 as the head of the Bengali Department, Government Ananda Mohan College.

On the present status of classical music, Sumita says that there is an urgent need for more government patronage. "The subcontinent has a glorious history of classical music that dates back to the medieval age. However, due the lack of satisfactory initiatives, our younger generation is becoming uninterested in classical music. It is much needed to preserve our rich cultural identity," she says.

Sumita hopes to continue her musical mission till her last breath.



Hashem Khan paints on the theme "Tagore."



Artistes of Sur-er Dhara stage "Tasher Desh."

PHOTO: MUMIT M

Farrah Fawcett in last stages of cancer battle

Actress Farrah Fawcett is in the last stages of her battle against cancer, according to friends close to the star.

While doctors for the 62-year-old actress have recently made public statements indicating her condition has not changed, Ryan O'Neal, Fawcett's long-time partner, revealed that her "treatment" has "pretty much ended" and she stays in

bed and is on IVs.

Celebrity website RadarOnline is reporting that the former "Charlie's Angels" star can drink only a little liquid and can't keep food down.

The website also reports that Fawcett's 91-year-old father, James, is flying to Los Angeles to say goodbye to his daughter and that a priest has visited Fawcett's Malibu home in

recent days.

Fawcett was diagnosed with cancer in 2006.

She was declared in remission on February 2, 2007, but three months later scans showed "not only had it recurred, it metastasised to her liver", according to doctors.

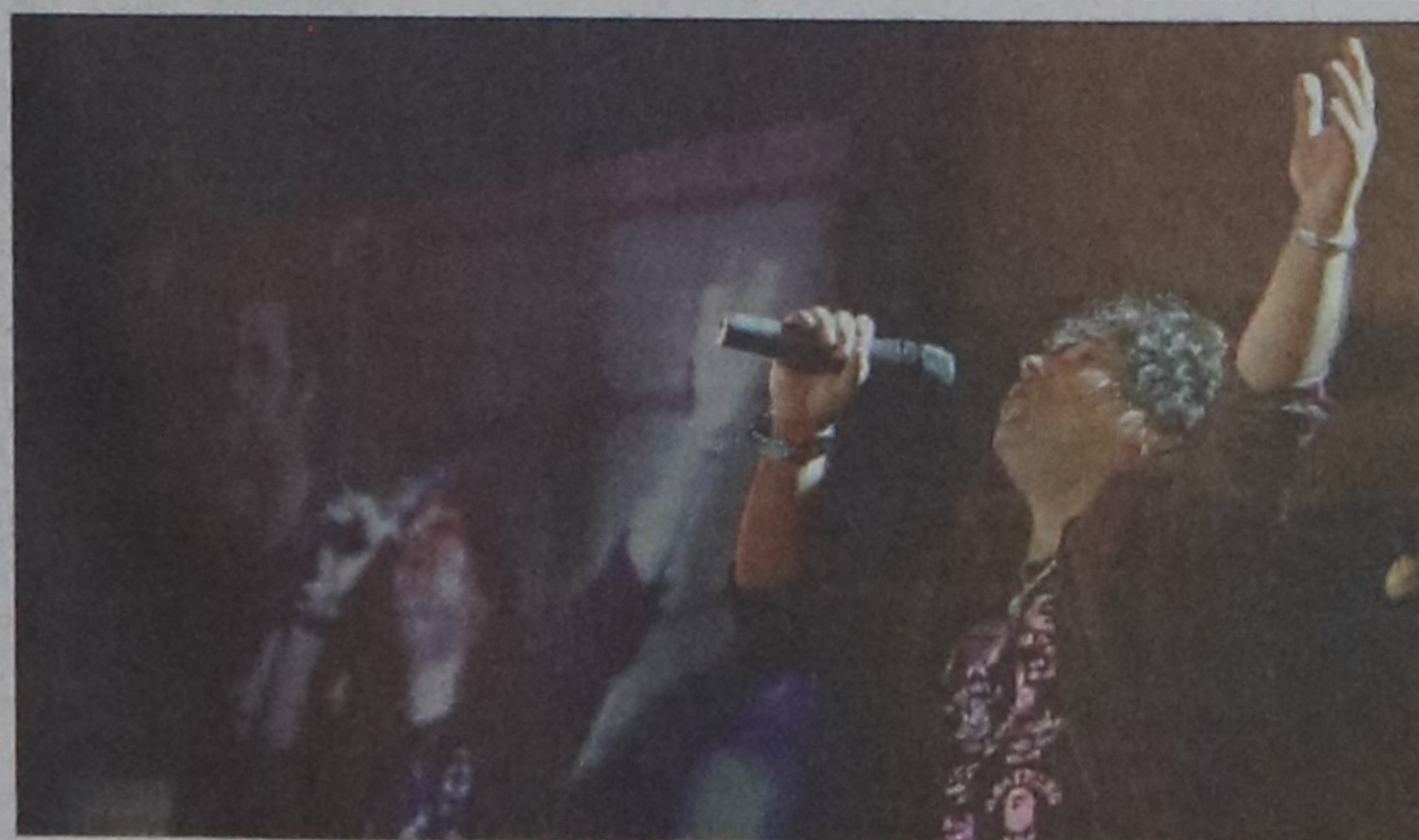
Fawcett was hospitalised in March suffering from internal bleeding. There

had been reports that she was unconscious at the time.

Doctors said the illness was a complication from her medical treatment and was not directly related to her cancer battle.

Fawcett was discharged from the hospital on April 9.

Source: Internet



Bangladeshi rockstar James (left) and Indian Sufi vocalist Kailash Kher perform at a concert at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on May 7. Titled "Triland Fusion," the live music show also featured Pakistani Sufi band Junoon (Ali Azmat, lead vocalist of the band couldn't perform due to unavoidable reasons). Junoon kicked off the show with the ever-familiar "Lal meri pat" -- a devotional piece about the Sufi saint Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar. One after another, the band covered its biggest hits like "Yaar yahi dosti hain," "Pappu yaar" and "Garaj baras." Kailash Kher, who attained mass popularity with his moving renditions of Sufi songs, performed "Rang deeni," "Saiyyan," "Teri deewani" and his breakthrough hit "Allah ke bandey." James sang "Lace fita lace," "Ma," "Dushtu chheler dol," "Meerabai" and "Bheegi bheegi." Momentum Events, an event management wing of Unitrend Ltd. organised the show.

PHOTO: MUMIT M