

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Nazrul Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Nazrul Academy
Venue: Auditorium, Bangladesh Shishu Academy
Date: May 22-25
Time: 5:30pm



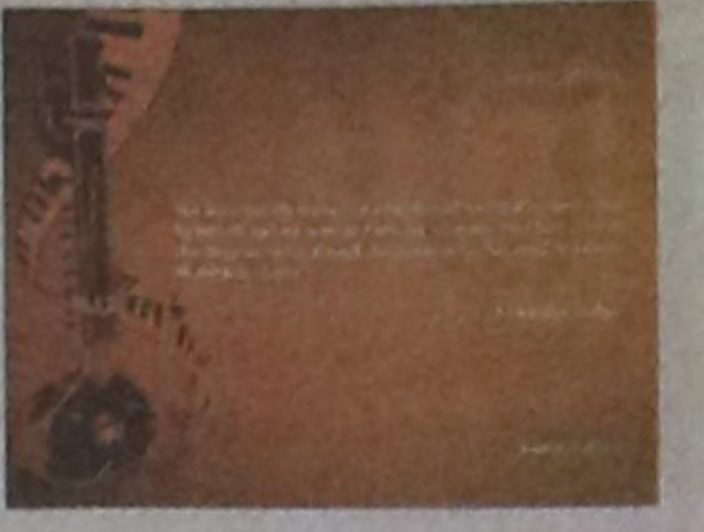
Nazrul Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Nazrul Institute
Venue: Nazrul Institute, Dhanmondi
Date: May 22-24 & 27
Time: 3pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: Ochil Pakhi
Artist: Afroza Jamil
Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria (5th Floor), 57, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1
Date: May 15-31
Time: 11am-11pm (Fridays 3-11pm)



Classical Music
Artists: Mohiuddin Babar and his sons
Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: May 23
Time: 7pm



Ode to Tagore

Recitation and music at Bengal Gallery



Nirmalendu Goon (centre) recites his poem on Tagore at the programme.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT
Dhaka metropolitan branch of Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan Parishad (JRSSP), in association with Bengal Foundation, arranged a cultural programme at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi on May 21 to

celebrate the 148th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. JRSSP's programme featured songs and recitation. Artists of JRSSP rendered songs, while noted poets of the country along with Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui recited their own poems on Rabindranath Tagore.

A choral rendition of 'O bujhi kalbaishakhi' by young artists of JRSSP started the show. A group performance of 'Ha rey rey rey amay chherey deray' followed. Featured singers were the winners of this year's Rabindra Sangeet competition by JRSSP.

The second part of the programme featured recitation of poetry by noted poets. When Professor Siddiqui was called upon to recite his poem alongside poets Syed Shamsul Haq and Rafiq Azad, he jocularly said, "The organisers don't consider me a 'real' poet; hence they refer to Haq and Azad as poets, and I'm addressed as 'professor.'"

Siddiqui recited a poem written nearly 20 years ago.

Rafiq Azad recited a poem titled "Amar Rabindranath," while Syed Shamsul Haq recited two poems. First, he recited a poem from Tagore's collection of poetry, "Kheya," to articulate how he feels about Tagore. Following that he read out his own, a lyrical homage to Tagore on his birthday.

Nirmalendu Goon, Khandakar Ashraf Hossain and Kajal Bandopadhyay also recited their poems at the programme. Zahid Reza Nur and Riya Mahmud recited poems on Tagore by Bishnu Dey and Shamsur Rahman respectively.

The musical part of the programme featured several solo performances by artists of JRSSP. Auditi Mohsin and Abhaya Dutta sang "Khanchar pakhiti chhilo," and "Nilanjana chhaya" respectively. Abhaya's steady rendition without 'tabla' drew rounds of applause, while Aditi's immaculate vocals enhanced the ambience.

Among others, Anima Roy, Azizur Rahman Tuhin, Tripti Khan, Swati Sarkar, Lopa Ahmed and Bulbul Islam performed songs at the event.

Nazrul's 110th birth anniversary

Three-day celebration to be held at Trishal

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Marking the 110th birth anniversary (May 25) of our National Poet, Jatiyo Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) at Darimpur, Trishal has chalked out a three-day celebration on campus.

The celebration will start on May 25. The event will include discussions on the life and works of Nazrul, screening of documentary on the poet, staging of plays, renditions of Nazrul Sangeet and recitation from his poetry.

Speaker of the parliament Advocate Abdul Hamid is set to inaugurate the celebration as chief guest. Advocate Reza Ali, MP, will be present as special guest while Vice-chancellor of JKNIU Professor Syed Giasuddin Ahmed will preside over the inaugural programme.

Professor Mohammad Abdul Quiyum, Dr. Mohammad Emdadul Huda, Professor Jatin Sarker, Professor Syed Giasuddin Ahmed, Professor Shantanu Kaiser, Mohammad Mohsin, Professor Khalid Hossain and Professor Prodip Kumar Biswas will be discussing on different subjects related to Nazrul at the inaugural programme on May 25. The topics of discussion are 'Nazrul in Mymensingh,' 'Rebel Nazrul,' 'Nazrul in children's literature' and more.

Among others Dr. Tapan Bagchi, Zahidul Kabir, Professor Bishwajit Ghosh, Professor Abul Ahsan Chowdhury, Professor Syed Anwar Hossain, Dr. Md. Aatur Rahman, Professor Md.



Harun-ur-Rashid, Rashidun Nabi, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Ahmed Mazhar, Anupam Hayat, Marzia Akhtar, Ahmedul Bari, Dr. Karunamaya Goswami, Dr. Marufi Khan, poet Mohammad Mahfuzullah, Professor Khondaker Shafayet Hossain and Hamida Ali are likely to attend the three-day event as discussants.

Call to preserve and uphold Tripura traditions



Tripura artistes dance at the programme.

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Speakers at a discussion urged the government to assist the Tripura community in preserving and upholding their cultural heritage and traditions. They said that the Tripura community has an opulent cultural heritage but it has been facing aggression over decades.

The discussion on issues related to the Tripura community was organised by Gairing Cultural Forum, and was held at Khagrachhari Tripura Community Center in Khagrachhari town.

Lawmaker Jatindra Lal Tripura was the chief guest while Gairing Cultural Forum president Satya Priya Roaza presided over the function.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdullah, who was the special guest at the event, said that the government has good

intentions to assist the Tripura community in their efforts to preserve their culture and traditional way of life. The government feels the same way about all ethnic minorities in the country, he added.

Sadar upazila chairman Shanay Alam mentioned a recently released audio album by Tripura artistes.

Superintendent of Police (acting) Ameer Zafar said that by being more vocal about preserving their traditions, the Tripuras can effectively ensure their rights and privileges.

Among others, writer Prabangshu Tripura, executive magistrate Abul Amin, assistant Superintendent of Police Maksudur Rahman and executive director of Zabarang Kalyan Samiti Mothura Bikash Tripura spoke on the occasion.

Later, a cultural programme was held at the venue. Tripura artistes performed traditional dance and songs at the event.

"Amader Television" goes on air today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Channel i will air the first episode of the talk show "Amader Television" today at 6 pm. Hosted by Ali Imam, the programme provides an insight into the history and legacy of Bangladesh Television (BTV).

Each episode features a guest who has previously been associated with BTV in some way -- as an employee, decision maker, artiste and so on. The guest takes part in a discussion on topics related to BTV, recalling his/her own experiences with the organisation. There is hardly any leading or noted director, actor, singer, musician or dancer who has not worked with BTV at some stage of his/her career; many had their debut on the channel.

Jamil Chowdhury, Mustafa Monwar, Fakruzzaman Chowdhury, Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Syed Abdul Hadi, Dilara Zaman will appear on the show as guests.

"Amader Television" will be aired every Saturday.



Mustafa Monwar (left) with the host of the show.

All eyes at Cannes point to Tarantino's Inglourious Basterds

Quentin Tarantino has re-invaded France.

Fifteen years after the American filmmaker claimed the Golden Palm grand prize for "Pulp Fiction," his "Inglourious Basterds" is cutting an audacious and bloody swath of revenge fantasy through the most prestigious film festival in the world.

The debut of his movie, one of the most anticipated entries in the competition, caused a frenzy Wednesday at the Cannes Film Festival.

What people knew going in was that "Basterds," set to open in August, focuses on a group of Jewish-American soldiers in World War II-era occupied France who inflict as much pain as possible on the Third Reich, following the orders of a Dixie-drawing officer played by Brad Pitt.

What people didn't know was that the tale would begin with aching realism and loss, then gradually shift into an often funny alternate history: His fictional commando squad changes the events of World War II.

Pitt's Tennessee-accented Lt. Aldo Raine is a fearsome yet comical avenging angel, while Diane Kruger's screen starlet helps the Basterds infiltrate the Nazi upper echelons. A third story line focuses on a closeted Jewish theatre owner (Melanie Laurent) whose Paris cinema is being commandeered by the German High Command for a propaganda film's gala premiere.

No movie has caused such a stir during the festival, except perhaps

Lars Von Trier's art-house horror film, "Antichrist," though it inspired more contempt than admiration for its blend of explicit violence.

The overall "Basterds" reaction was more closely aligned with Variety critic Todd McCarthy, who wrote: "By



Brad Pitt (left) and director Quentin Tarantino premiered their "Inglourious Basterds" in competition at the Cannes Film Festival.

turns surprising, nutty, windy, audacious and a bit caught up in its own cleverness, the picture is a completely distinctive piece of American pop art with a strong Euro flavour."

Some, however, found it refreshing that Tarantino has taken a step back from the gore of his Grindhouse con-

tribution, "Death Proof," and the "Kill Bill" movies.

Among them was critic Sarah Steinberg-Heller, who said she went in with low expectations. "I got really tired of the 'poetry of violence' thing. But this was clever and surprisingly

"People have come up to me a lot and asked me, 'Is it a fairy tale? Is it Jewish wish-fulfillment fantasy -- or just a wish-fulfillment fantasy anyway?'" he said during the news conference.

"There are aspects of that, all right. (But) my characters changed the outcome of the war. Now, that didn't happen, because my characters didn't exist. But if they had existed ... all the things that happen later in the movie are plausible."

Brad Pitt noted that, apart from changing history, Tarantino did strive for authenticity, particularly with his performers.

"I kind of appreciated the international cast," Pitt said. "To bring all these people from different countries, that was true to their respective languages. He cast Germans for German, French for French and Americans for American, and so on and so forth."

Though the film has galvanised the festival in its waning days, Inglourious Basterds is still regarded as a long shot for winning Golden Palm. Many favour other, more modest films, including the French drama "A Prophet," director Jacques Audiard's coming-of-age story about a young criminal's survival in a brutal prison system.

Asked why he wanted to premiere the film here, especially since he had to rush to finish after shooting ended only three months ago, Tarantino said: "To me, there's just no place like Cannes for filmmakers on the face of the Earth."

Tarantino himself doesn't see it as a total fantasy, though the movie begins with the words "Once upon a time..."

Source: Internet

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



A scene from the serial.