

<p><b>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</b></p>	<p><b>Documentary Premiere</b>                  Documentary: Bhatir Punsh                  Organiser: Laser Vision                  Venue: Mail Auditorium, National Museum                  Date: May 26                  Time: 4:30pm</p>	<p><b>Nazrul Birth Anniversary</b>                  Organiser: Nazrul Institute                  Venue: Nazrul Institute, Dhanmondi                  Date: May 22-24 &amp; 27                  Time: 3pm</p>	<p><b>Solo Art Exhibition</b>                  Title: Ochin 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)</p>	<p><b>Film Screening</b>                  Screening of Oscar-winning films                  Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62, Science Laboratory Road                  Date: May 29                  Time: 6pm                  Film: Wall-e</p>
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## Nazrul birth anniversary celebration

Three-day programme by Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad ends today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The three-day Nazrul birth anniversary celebration programme by Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad (NSSP) ends today at Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh. The programme, starting on May 24, highlights performance by Nazrul artistes from across the country. Nazrul exponent Sohrab Hossain inaugurated the programme.

A brief inaugural ceremony was held on the first day prior to the musical programme. The highlight of the inaugural was the presence of Nazrul's grandson Kazi Arindam and granddaughters Kazi Anindita and Khilkhil Kazi. Arindam and Anindita, offspring of Nazrul's son Kazi Aniruddha, live in Kolkata at present and are involved in the cultural scene there.

"I consider Bangladesh my second home," said Kazi Arindam, who is a



A performance by artistes of NSSP (Top-Left), Ferdousi Rahman speaks at the programme.



PHOTO: MUMIT M



Nazrul's granddaughters Khilkhil Kazi (2nd from left), Kazi Anindita (3rd from left) and grandson Kazi Arindam (right) seen with Sujit Mustafa and Nashid Kamal at the inaugural of the Nazrul birth anniversary celebration by NSSP.

renowned guitarist in Kolkata.

Arindam reminisced his childhood memories with his grandfather Nazrul: "I remember when people of Bangladesh officially brought my grandfather back to this country in 1972. Though I was just a child, I was amazed by the great enthusiasm among the people of Bangladesh."

Anindita is seemingly more active in the Kolkata media, as she is a recitor, singer, news presenter and TV show host. At the programme Anindita echoed Arindam's sentiments and said, "Our grandfather's birthday was a great festive occasion for all of us. Many people -- including renowned cultural and political figures -- would come to wish our grandfather."

Among others, renowned singer and president of NSSP Ferdousi Rahman and Khilkhil Kazi spoke at the programme. M.A Mannan, general secretary of NSSP, gave the vote of thanks.

The cultural programme started with a choral rendition of "Ganga Sindhu Narmada"

by artistes of NSSP. A choral rendition of "Phul Phaguney elo maushum" was presented by members of Sur Shaptak.

Several solo performances by artistes from and outside Dhaka were also featured in programme. Nearly 30 artistes -- both noted and upcoming -- performed solos. Noted Nazrul singer Ferdaus Ara rendered, "Ajkey shadi badshahzadi." Khairul Anam Shakil sang "Ekhono otheni chand."

Among others, Rawnak Jahan Khan, Uttam Kumar Roy, Salma Anjum, Yasmin Mushtari, Zahrul Hasan (Barisal), Sharif Uddin (Chuadanga) and Sutopa Chowdhury (Chittagong) performed at the programme. The programme also featured several dance performances and recitation.

Nazrul artistes Sujit Mustafa and Nashid Kamal were the MCs at the show. The programme was sponsored by Banglalink. Today, the programme will start in the evening.

## Shakil's musical homage to Nazrul

Two new albums by the artiste launched

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of our National Poet's 110th birth anniversary, two new albums -- "Gaan Guli Mor" and "Shei Mukh Porey Mone," -- featuring Nazrul Sangeet recorded by accomplished singer Khairul Anam Shakil were launched recently by Laser Vision. Shakil is the general secretary, a senior teacher and head of Nazrul Sangeet Department, Chhayanaut.

The albums are collections of carefully chosen familiar and lesser known Nazrul songs. Patriotic songs such as "Shyamla boron Bangla ma-er", compositions on monsoon -- "Rumjhum badal aaji boroshey," "Shaono raatey jodi" and a 'dhrupad,'



Khairul Anam Shakil

"Desh Gouro Bijoyey Debraaj"; folk numbers -- "Shakhi shaper moni," a 'bhatiali,' "Nadir naam shoi Anjana," raaga based, "O sandhya malati," and "Payela boley rinijhini," are the highpoints of the repertoire. The albums also contain two duets by Shakil and his wife Kalpana Anam -- "Mora aar janamey" and "Mora chhino ekela."

"Nazrul songs have a vast range when considering volume and variation. The not-so-familiar songs were chosen with a view to introduce them to listeners," said Shakil.

"The original compositions of Nazrul, starting from lyrics to notations, have been meticulously followed in the album. Authenticity of the tunes and lyrics was verified by Nazrul Institute," the artiste said.

The albums were recorded in Kolkata. Music direction was done by Durbadal Chattopadhyay, Buddhadev Ganguli and Saikat Dhar.

"Gaan Guli Mor" is the seventh and "Shei Mukh Porey Mone," the eighth album by Shakil.

His previous albums include -- "Shadh jagey mon-e" (1998); "Gobhir Nisheethey Ghum Bhengey Jaye" (1999); "Pashaner Bhangley Ghum" (2001); "Shyamla Boron" (2007); a duet with Kalpana Anam, "Mora Aar Janamey" (2007) and "Chhilo Chand Megher Porey," an album featuring songs of five poets (Tagore, Nazrul, DL Roy, Rajnikant and Atul Prasad). Shakil's debut album "Meghey Meghey Andho" was released in 1996.

On his future plans, Shakil said, "As a Nazrul artiste, my aim is to work on this genre and promote the National Poet's songs."



PHOTO: SAIKAT MOJUMDER

'Pathshala Shuddhoswar,' an organisation of recitors, started its journey through a solo recitation performance by Mahmudul Hasan at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library on May 23. The event, titled "Chiro Jagrata Premer Panktimala" featured selected romantic poems and excerpts from writings of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam. Hasan, who is the president of the organisation, recited Nazrul's "Anamika," "Badhu Baran," "Sharaban Tahura," and Tagore's "Krishnokoli," "Borshar diney," "Prothom Chithi" and "Banshi."



An instrumental recital titled "Jugalbandi," featuring Mahiuddin Babar on the sitar, was held at Shaheed Zia Auditorium, National Museum, recently. Babar was accompanied by his three sons -- Talal Redwan Babar on guitar, Wisam Imran Babar on keyboard and Shafin Inzam Babar on violin. Keshab Sarkar was on tabla. The recital included 'alaap,' 'Raaga Emon,' 'Raaga Bhupali,' 'dhun' and instrumental rendition of the Tagore song "Purono shei din-er kotha." Other renditions included "From Across the Water" from sitarist Prem Joshua's acclaimed album "Secret of the Wind," and instrumental presentations of two ghazals -- "Mera geet amar kar do" and "Kabhi aansu kabhi khushboo."

## Michael Haneke's The White Ribbon wins Palme d'Or

A two-and-a-half hour black and white film about German village life in 1913 with no music in the soundtrack won top prize at the Cannes Film Festival for Michael Haneke on May 24.

The German director was among the favourites for the Palme d'Or four years ago for his enigmatic thriller "Hidden," which became an international art house favourite but lost out to the Belgian Dardenne brothers.

His success this year at Cannes was greeted with roars of delight at the Grand Theatre Lumiere on a night when major awards went to two of the critics' favourites and the rest were shared out between some of the most controversial, even ridiculed films in the competition.

Critics have interpreted "The White Ribbon" as an investigation of the roots of German fascism, but Haneke said that he intended it to have a much wider resonance as a warning about how any absolute

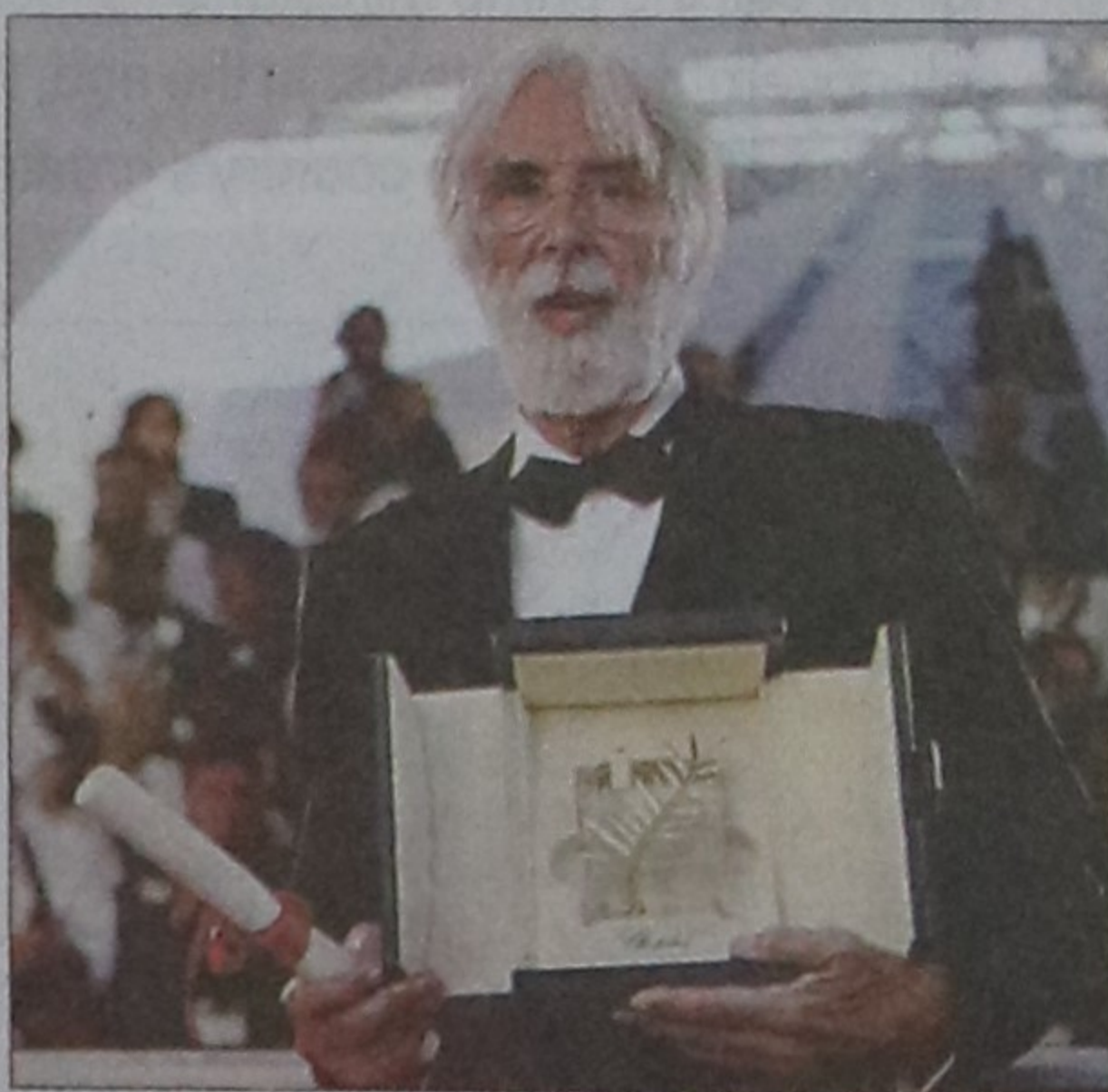
value system leads eventually to terrorism.

The second prize, known as the Grand Prix, went to "A Prophet," a gripping French prison drama directed by Jacques Audiard, which was the best reviewed film of the festival overall. But most of the other awards came drenched in gore.

Charlotte Gainsbourg, the daughter of the French singer Serge Gainsbourg and the British actress Jane Birkin, won Best Actress for "Antichrist," in which she tortures Willem Dafoe and mutilates herself. Christoph Waltz, who plays a suave but vicious Nazi known as the Jew hunter in Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds," was named Best Actor. He demonstrated a similar ability in languages as his character, making his acceptance speech in French, English and German.

The biggest shock of the night was the Best Director award, which went to the Filipino Brillante Mendoza for his grisly kidnap film "Kinatay," one

Austrian director Michael Haneke with the Palme d'Or award for his film "The White Ribbon" at the 62nd International Film Festival in Cannes, France on May 24.



of the most reviled films in the competition. Apart from Gainsbourg, the only recognition for British talent was for Andrea Arnold's "Fish Tank," which jointly took the Jury Prize (effectively third place) with "Thirst,"

a Korean vampire film.

The 2009 festival was one of the most eagerly awaited in years because of the number of major directors with new films, including Ken Loach, Jane Campion, Ang Lee,

Lars Von Trier and Pedro Almodovar.

Variety, the film industry's trade newspaper, billed it as a "heavyweight auteur smackdown." Although several individual films disappointed -- notably Lee's easygoing but bland "Taking Woodstock" and Gaspar Noe's messy and very long "Enter The Void" -- the overall quality was high.

There was a starry Hollywood event -- the premiere of Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds" with Brad Pitt -- and one of the most shocking films ever screened in Cannes -- "Antichrist." Both sharply divided the critics.

However, until the moment that this year's jury president, the actress Isabelle Huppert, announced "with a certain emotion" that the Palme d'Or would go to a director she had worked with twice herself, the result was in doubt. There were tears in her eyes as she hugged Haneke on stage.

Source: Internet

## Bridal Show at Bangladesh Embassy in USA

"Wedding is an important facet of the cultures around the world, and the Bridal Show by Commonwealth Women's Association has relevance in our socio-cultural context," said Rokeya Kabir, wife of the Bangladesh Ambassador to USA, in her welcoming speech at the Bridal Show and Lunch for Charity organised at the Bangladesh Embassy recently, says a press release.

The event, first of its kind at Bangladesh Embassy, was organised by the Washington Chapter of the Commonwealth Women's Association (CWA).

Attended by a significant representation of Commonwealth countries, the show highlighted opulent heritage, cultural diversity, and bridal wear -- both traditional and contemporary. The show also presented a fusion of contemporary looks and traditional designs. The models displayed intricately embroidered outfits and dazzling jewellery under decorative canopies; the venue was ornate with beautiful bouquets. The gala continued for two hours at a stretch along with various songs from different regions, including Bangla music -- morphing into a magnificent multicultural ambience.

The event showcased Bangladeshi bridal wear, including traditional saris with the outstanding embroidery and prints, drawn from traditional Bengali materials. The collection blended floral motifs with folklore to give a distinct feel to the audience, which consisted of mostly foreigners.

The programme was coordinated by Josette Miceli, president of the Washington Chapter of the CWA, and wife of the Ambassador of Malta to USA.

All participating countries provided dishes for the sumptuous lunch reflecting their traditional cuisines. The event also witnessed a lively raffle draw. Proceeds from the event will go to charity.

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