



<p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p>	<p>Nazrul Shammelan 2010 Organiser: Nazrul Academy Venue: Music and Dance Centre, BSA Date: May 18-20 Time: 5:30 pm</p> 	<p>French Drama Festival Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka and Natukay Theatre Group Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: May 15-21 Time: 5pm onward</p> 	<p>Solo Art Exhibition Artist: Samiran Chowdhury Venue: Gallery Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector 4, Uttara Date: June 15-30 Time: 10am 8pm</p> 	<p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Rooted Creativity-2 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275/F Dhanmondi Date: May 18-29 Time: 12 pm-8 pm</p> 
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Nazrul Convention 2010 opens



A dance performance on the inaugural day of the convention.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Marking the 111th birth anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Nazrul Academy is holding an eight daylong 'Nazrul Shammelon (convention) 2010' at the Music and Dance Centre of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The convention opened on May 18. Music connoisseur, poet, columnist and former secretary Mohammad Asafuddouh inaugurated the convention as the chief guest. The event was divided into two segments -- discussion and a cultural programme. Poet, essayist and Nazrul researcher Abdul Mannan Syed presided over the discussion. Mintu Rahman, general

secretary of Nazrul Academy; noted singer Khalid Hossain, Principal of the academy; Nazrul's granddaughter Khilkhil Kazi and Asafuddouh spoke on the occasion. Reciter Nasim Ahmed read out an essay, titled "Nazrul Sangeet: Ek Bishmoykor Diganto," written by Harunur-Rashid Badol. "Nazrul is the only musician who, after Amir Khosru, enriched Indian classical music with 20 new raaga. "Mayur Shinghashon," "Arun Ranjani," "Bishnu Bhairav," "Rudra Bhairav," "Jogini" and "Devjani" are some of the raaga created by Nazrul. All genres -- ghazal, Shyama Sangeet, Islamic, kirtan, folk, ballad and patriotic -- are evident in Nazrul's collection of over 4000 songs,"

according to the essay. Nazrul Academy honoured the chief guest Asafuddouh with a crest and bouquet. Two Nazrul Sangeet -- "Nayan Bhora Jol" and "Mor Priya Hobey Esho Rani" -- recorded by Asafuddouh were played in the background. In his moving speech, Asafuddouh said, "The honour goes to our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. I don't deserve it. Nazrul is our Byron, Omar Khayyam, Keats and Mirza Ghalib. Enduring unending poverty, he created verses that made flowers blossom in the reader's mind. Are we generous enough to pay fitting homage to him?" Later, a cultural programme was held. The anchor duo, Nasim Ahmed and Shaila Ahmed, recited "Amar Koifiyat" and "Nari" respectively at the event. Artistes of Nazrul Academy presented two group renditions -- "Dao Shourjo Dao Dhoirjo" and "O Rey Othrey Chashi Jagatbashi." Khalid Hossain, Tanzina Rahim Swarolipi, Bizon Chandra Mistry performed "Ke Bideshi Bon Udashi," "Shondhya Godhuli Logoney," "Amarey Debona Bhulitey," respectively on the occasion. Other solo performances were by Yaqub Ali Khan, Ferdous Ara, Moidul Islam and Arpita Chakraborti. Sunil on keyboard, Sultan and Rabidas on tabla, AK Azad Prohdan on *mondira* and Gazi Abdul Hakim on *banshi* instrumentally assisted the singers. The eight daylong programme will continue at BSA till May 20, while other programmes will be held at Nazrul Academy (on May 21, 22 and 25) and at the main auditorium of National Museum (on May 23 and 24).

From the small to big screen

In conversation with Anisur Rahman Milon

A CORRESPONDENT

With more than a dozen of his plays currently running on various TV channels, actor Anisur Rahman Milon is naturally on his toes. After his success on the small screen, Milon is now getting ready for his first major break in the feature film industry. He plays the protagonist in the film "Shoachan Pakhi". Shooting is currently on at Gazipur. Asked about his latest venture, Milon said, "When the director, Shafiqul Islam Bhairabi, approached me with the script, I had a glance through it and agreed to do the role. "The storyline of the film is very interesting. It's a romantic story which zooms in on a triangular relationship between three individuals," said Milon. TV host/actress Noushin plays one of the major roles in the film. So when will the shooting end? "Hopefully within this year," replied Milon. "I am optimistic that the film will be a success and encourage people to go to movie theatres to see the film." Milon has acted in films before. "I made my debut in movies with "Hajar Bochor Dhorey". My second film was



"The Last Thakur". I am also working in another film "Tumi Asbey Boley Bhalobashbey Boley". Actors who switch to cinema from TV often face issues. Has he faced problems? "I think in most cases, the lack of understanding of the new environment plays a factor. Again, this could be due to a lack of communication. So far things have gone smoothly for me."

About his latest TV plays, the actor said, "Currently I have finished shooting for several drama serials, among them are 'Anti Pocket', 'Parapar', 'Ekjon Nirbikar Manush', 'College Road', 'Dui Poribar', 'Mitha Tumi Das Pipra', 'Shomporko', 'Paromitar Dinratri', 'Joto Durey Jao Pher Dekha Hobey' and 'Chou Mahal'. The serials are still to go on air. "My drama serials that are currently being aired are 'Dhupchhaya' on ntv; 'Batasher Ghar', 'Subarno Swapno' and 'Kothaye Pabo Tarey' on ATN Bangla; 'Anubhumi' on Desh TV and 'Keu Robey Na Bairey' on BTV," informed Milon. Milon has been invited to the 11th Rainbow Film Festival, to be held in UK. At the festival, tele-film "Kheyaghat", from Bangladesh will be screened. The tele-film features Milon in the lead role. "I will be going to London to attend the festival to be held from May 28 to June 3," said Milon. Which of his works does he treasure the most? "Doyita" was the reply. "Directed by Noreesh Bhuiyan, the tele-film catapulted me into the limelight instantly. Tinni and Aupi Karim were my co-actors in the film," said Milon.



Shahid Kabir Palash sings at the programme. PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Marking International Museum Day 2010, Bangladesh National Museum arranged a daylong programme on May 18. The programmes included a rally, special exhibition, seminar, honouring contributors to the National Museum and a cultural show. Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad, chief guest at the programme, honoured 230 contributors to the National Museum on the occasion.



Aishwarya, Abhishek cheer for Mani Ratnam in Cannes

In what could be another feather in his cap, Mani Ratnam who is almost ready with the bilingual "Raavan" ("Raavanan" in Tamil), will be honoured with Jaeger-LeCoultre Glory to the Filmmaker Award at the Venice Film Festival to be held in September. This was announced at the ongoing Cannes Film Festival by Venice Film Festival director Marco Mueller just before the launch of "Raavan".

Ratnam's wife was there along with the cast comprising of Aishwarya Rai, her husband Abhishek Bachchan and Vikram. In recent years, the award has honoured other major global filmmakers like Takeshi Kitano, Abbas Kiarostami, Agnes Varda, and Sylvester Stallone. Both the Hindi and Tamil versions will be screened at the Venice Film Festival. "Mani Ratnam used to make movies only in his

native language, Tamil, but has been one of a handful of filmmakers to successfully handle the transition to the all-India market. One of the great innovators in contemporary Indian cinema, he helped introduce the auteur concept to contemporary Bollywood," Mueller said. "His movies display precision and poise, and have always been removed from the bombast and bluster of mass-produced regional cinema. The lavish musical numbers in his films, some of the best-tailored in Mumbai and Chennai in recent years, have influenced the style of many others (as well as the design of commercials and music videos). Ratnam's most celebrated films have become part of the cinematic imagination of the sub-continent," he added. "Raavan will enchant audiences with its stirring drama and entrancing musical sequences," Mueller continued. "We are proud to be hosting the festival premiere of this wonderful film, which will be presented at the 2010 Mostra in both the Hindi and the Tamil version," he added. Enlivened by music composed by the Academy Award winner AR Rahman, "Raavan" fuses drama, action, romance and musical. The film tells the adventurous story of a bandit leader who kidnaps the wife of the policeman who killed his sister, taking her through a journey during which once again the everlasting, epic battle between good and bad takes place. As in previous editions, together with the award the director will be presented with a Reverso Jaeger-LeCoultre watch, a one-of-a-kind model with a commemorative engraving.



Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai in Cannes, France. Source: Internet

"Agnigiri": Special TV play on Nazrul birth anniversary

A CORRESPONDENT

As part of special programmes marking the birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Banglavisision will air the single-episode TV play "Agnigiri" on May 25 at 9:05 pm. Directed by Anonto Zahid, the play is an adaptation of a story by Nazrul. Kawnain Shourabh has done the adaptation. The plot: The protagonist Shobuj is a madrasa student. Shobuj lodges at Ali Nasib's home, and in exchange teaches Ali's daughter

Nurjahan Arabic and Farsi. Since his arrival in the village, the local youth have not been friendly with Shobuj. Everyday, on his way to madrasa, Shobuj finds them waiting and making fun of his attire. They get more innovative with their methods of harassment. Three years go by, just one year left for Shobuj to graduate. Nurjahan notices the daily harassment Shobuj goes through and taunts him for being a push-over. This ignites a rage in Shobuj. Shojol and Tisha play the lead roles. The cast also includes Pijush Bandyopadhyay, Saika Ahmed and others.



Tisha and Shojol in a scene from "Agnigiri".