


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Nazrul Anniversary
Discussions and cultural programme
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Seminar Room, Bangla Academy
Date: May 25
Time: 4:30pm




An Evening of Poetry
Poet: Syed Shamsul Haq
Organiser: Kali O Kolom
Venue: Bengal Café, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: May 26
Time: 7pm



Nazrul Mela
Organiser: Channel i and Robi
Venue: Channel i Tejgaon Office, Dhaka
Date: May 25
Time: 10am onwards



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



Nazrul's genius revisited

Ferdous Ara's solo musical soiree

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Marking the 111th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) on behalf of High Commission of India, Dhaka, arranged a solo musical soiree featuring noted Nazrul singer Ferdous Ara at its auditorium on May 21.

Paying homage to Nazrul, Director of IGCC Ankan Banerjee welcomed the audience with an articulate speech prior to the performance. He also gave a brief account of the featured artiste. "Nazrul's literature speaks out against oppression on downtrodden people. His poetry opposes religious and gender bigotry while his music takes us in a transcending horizon," he said.

Ferdous Ara performed several Nazrul numbers on the occasion. Amid performances, she referred to the gravity of Nazrul Sangeet and related its relevance through her renditions.

She embarked on her performance with the song "Amay nohey go bhalobasho" saying that Nazrul aptly depicts his emotions through the lyrics. It was drizzling outside while she mingled melancholy with melody in the number "Shawon o ratey jadi", followed by "Shyam tumi jadi radha hotey", what she referred to as a *Kirtanango Kavyageeti*.

"Nazrul stands apart as he composed all types of songs like raaga based, patriotic, bhaitiali, bhawayia, bhajan, kirtan, shyama, Islami, folk, love, nature, gazal, adhunik



and so forth in his around 3,500 songs," said Ferdous. She then performed a bhawayia number "O bandhu dekhele tomay buker majhey joar bhata kheley".

Termining Nazrul as an unparalleled genius in composing raaga-based songs, she rendered "Janom o janom o gelo asha potho chahi," a song based on raaga *Bageshree*.

"Nazrul's fame has reached newer heights as he has composed myriad songs that feature in both Bangla and Hindi films. He wrote and composed songs for the film "Gora", an adaptation from a Tagore novel. The director of the film assigned Nazrul to compose a song of *Jhumur* genre, depicting the onset of spring in the life of the indigenous people. Nazrul made many drafts of his compositions and would not be satisfied until he had achieved perfection. Later he went to the hills and spent time with the people to compose the song," she explained.

Ferdous Ara performed that very song "Nacher neshay ghor legehhey nayon porey dhuley" followed by a bhaitiali number "Poddar dheurey" and an Islami song "Khoda ei goiber".

At the end of the performance she sang a kirtan, "Bajey monjul o monjir o rinik jhinik," which has a variation of different beats.

Gazi Abdul Hakim performed with Ferdous Ara and from his Banshi emanated euphoric melodies throughout the performance.

In between her rendition Ferdous Ara introduced the instrumentalists-- Gazi Abdul Hakim (banshi), Monwar Hossain Tutul (guitar), Chandan Dutta and Sultan (tabla), Ruptanu (keyboard) and Hanif (octopad). She termed instrumentalists as the "soul generators" in songs.

3rd Int'l French Drama Festival draws to an end

JAMIL MAHMUD

The weeklong 3rd International French Drama Festival ended on May 21 through staging of the play "Drums on the Dam". The Helene Cixous-- a feminist author and playwright-- theatrical on 10th century China was among seven plays by legendary French playwrights at the festival. Noted troupes from the town as well as troupes from different parts of the country staged the productions at the festival. Fame School of Drama (Chittagong) staged the play "Drums on the Dam".

In association with Natukey and Fame School of Dance, Drama and Music, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka (AFD) arranged the festival.

The organisers awarded four renowned personalities-- Ramendu Majumdar, Ataur Rahman, Syed Shamsul Haq and Shawkat Osman (posthumous).

State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Promod Mankin, handed over the crests as chief guest. Bulbon Osman, son of Shawkat Osman, received the crest dedicated to his father. Patrick Branco, Charge d'Affaires at the French Embassy and Sohail RK Hussain, DMD of City Bank were the special guests. Saliha Lefevre, director of AFD, was the guest of honour. Jacques Bounin, deputy director of AFD and convener of the festival, presided over the programme.

Alongside noted troupes from Dhaka such as Theatre (Bailey Road) and Prachyanat, troupes from outside the metropolis, including Fame School of Drama (Chittagong) and Bibartan Theatre (Jessore), staged plays at the festival. It was an opportunity for the troupes from outside the city to participate and showcase their theatre talents at the festival.

Cixous' "Drums on the Dam" depicts a critical moment and a way to a solution. It depicts the story of a community in a small Chinese village. During the Khang dynasty the prosperous regions of central China are threatened by a huge flood. The news spreads out among all classes of the population. To save the city from a catastrophe, King Khang decides to destroy a part of the dam.

But if the dam is destroyed according to his wish, the nearby small villages will be



A scene from "Drums on the Dam".

inundated under the water. But to save the city, it is the best possible solution for the king. The villagers hear about the news and prepare themselves for survival. They make a group of drummers keep watch on the dam. The drummers are ordered to warn the villagers through playing drums when the king is about to destroy the dam. Ashim Das has translated the play into Bangla. He is also the director of the play.

Through the plays, not only have French culture and lifestyle come to light but also theatrical works, which are age-old yet contemporary, have been highlighted. Ionesco's "Rhinceros" was a response to the sudden upsurge of Communism, Fascism and Nazism prior to the World War, while "The Wall" by Sartre is considered one of his best works depicting existentialism.

City Bank and American Express were the sponsors of the event.

TV Watch

Documentary: Nazrul Sangeet Parampara



A CORRESPONDENT

Banglavisión will air a documentary on two Nazrul exponents Sudhin Das and Sohrab Hossain, who have been important names in our music milieu from the 1950s. They have made a great contribution towards popularising Nazrul Sangeet among the music aficionados in our country.

The programme will feature their reminiscences on the Rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, his philosophy and various aspects of his life. Singer Leena Taposhi Khan will host the programme. Produced and planned by Rabishankar Moitri, the show will be aired on May 25 at 6:40pm.



Nazrul exponents Sudhin Das and Sohrab Hossain reflect on the poet.

Abbas Kiarostami to shoot next film "Father And Son"



With his film "Certified Copy" making massive waves at this year's Cannes Film Festival, it seems as though legendary Iranian auteur and all around genius Abbas Kiarostami has lined up his next project. The Palme d'Or winner (Taste Of Cherry) will helm

the film "Father and Son" as his next outing. The film was originally slated to shoot prior to "Certified Copy", but is now slated to get in front of cameras this September. It will star Hamed Behdad, best known as the lead in the Un Certain Regard Special Jury Prize at last year's Cannes Film Festival, "No One Knows About Persian Cats". News came at his recent Cannes press conference, but was lost amongst reports of the filmmaker throwing his name in the ever-growing hat of support for imprisoned Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi.

Not much is known about the film, but the director said that it "does not have a narrative structure, but it's from an idea that I've had for several years." Kiarostami is a brilliant filmmaker, so it's great to see him wasting no time getting back behind the camera. It's also great to see him show support of a fellow Iranian filmmaker. It sounds like a really interesting project, and it being from Kiarostami, makes this easily one of my most anticipated films coming down the pipeline.

Source: Internet

"3 Idiots" takes New York by storm

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan starrer box office hit "3 Idiots" is finding a newer niche audience. The film had a special screening at the United Nations recently followed by a discussion on the film's message concerning the education system.

The movie, produced by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, was shown at the UN headquarters in New York. The film's director Rajkumar Hirani and screenwriter Abhijat Joshi were also present at the screening.

"Abhijat and I were present there for the screening and the question and answer session," said Hirani, adding that he felt



Storming into the Big Apple?

"honoured" to present his movie to the UN.

The Department of Management at the UN got in touch with Vidhu Vinod Chopra's office and requested a screening followed by a two-hour post-screening discussion with UN members who will focus on how the film, also featuring Kareena Kapoor,

Sharman Joshi, Boman Irani and R Madhavan, has impacted their lives and how each character influences education system, a source said.

However nobody at the UN had imagined that there would be such a big turnout for the film when they sent out the invites. They had, in fact, expected only Indian expatriates.

The screening was attended by some 700 people but seating had been arranged for only 175. They had to move to another screen but even that could house only 600 people.

Released in December 2009, the film is the highest-grossing Bollywood movie of all time in India. It has also bagged six Filmfare awards.