

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti
 Organiser: Bangladesh-India Friendship Society
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: May 28
 Time: 6:30



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



Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Samiran Chowdhury
 Venue: Gallery Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector 4, Uttara
 Date: July 2-16
 Time: 10am 8pm



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



Fifth 'Nazrul Mela' at Channel i's Tejgaon centre



Feroza Begum (2nd from right, front row) with Bidyut Kumar Basu (far left), Imdadul Haque Milon and Shykh Seraj (far right).

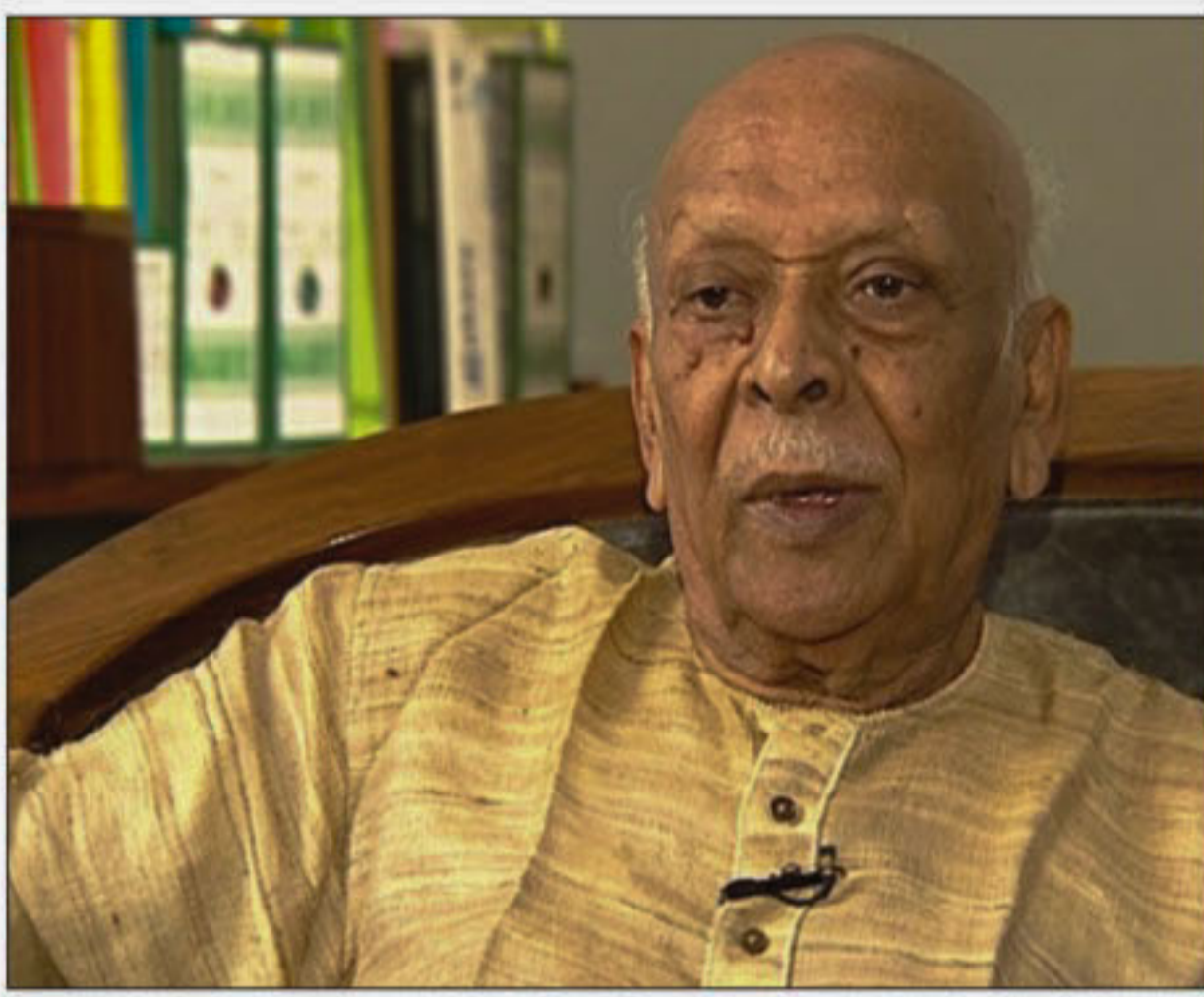
ZAHANGIR ALOM
 Marking the 111th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Channel i held a daylong 'Nazrul Mela' yesterday at its Tejgaon office. The channel has been organising the mela since 2006. Mobile phone operator Robi was the sponsor of the event.
 The programme was inaugurated at 11 am. Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director, Channel i and Impress Telefilm Ltd; Shykh Seraj, head of news and director of Channel i; Bidyut Kumar Basu, CMO, Robi; veteran Nazrul singer Sohrab Hossain; Nazrul exponent Shudhin Das; Nazrul researcher Professor Rafiqul Islam; poets Rafiq Azad and Ahad Chowdhury; eminent artists of the country including Hashem Khan, Monirul Islam, Biren Shome, Shahid Kabir and leading Nazrul singers of the country Khalid Hossain, Sadya Afreen Mallick, Dalia Nausheen, Dr. Nashid Kamal, Ferdous Ara and Dr. Leena Tapashi Khan inaugurated the fair by releasing birds. A performance by artistes of Sur Shaptak followed.
 Prior to the inauguration, litterateur Imdadul Haque Milon asked a few questions on Nazrul to several guests.

Poet Rafiq Azad said, "Nazrul is the poet of unending time and space. His poetry inspired us during the Liberation War."
 Journalist and renowned Nazrul singer Sadya Afreen Mallick said that Nazrul was born in the Bangla month *Jaisitha*, when the heat is scorching. It's also known as *Madhumash* (when juicy, sweet fruits ripen). Perhaps that's why the poet's two significant features are rebellion and love.
 "Can't we include 10 songs of Nazrul in the school curriculum?" she proposed.
 Channel i honoured legendary Nazrul singer Feroza Begum with a lifetime achievement award this year. As the veteran artiste was unwell, she couldn't attend the event. The organisers went to her residence and handed over the award. As part of the award, Feroza Begum received a cheque for Tk 1,00,000, a crest and an *uttario*.
 Feroza Begum is considered to be one of the pioneers who popularised Nazrul Sangeet in Bangladesh and abroad. She was married to Kamal Das Gupta, who was a renowned singer, composer and lyricist. Their sons Hamin Ahmed and Shafin Ahmed are also accomplished musicians.
 Artists attending the event painted

portraits of the 'rebel poet' and images inspired by his poetry and songs.
 "I'm deeply moved by the Nazrul Sangeet 'Pathohara Pakhi.' My work is based on that song," said artist Shahid Kabir.
 Throughout the day, Nazrul singers Khalid Hossain, Siffat-e Manzur, Salahuddin Ahmed, Ferdous Ara, Dr. Leena Tapashi Khan, Shahid Kabir Polash, Bizon Chandra Mistry and others performed at the event while students of Agniabeena, Abbas Uddin Academy, Nazrul Institute, Music College, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA), Dolon Chapa Sangeet Niketon presented choruses. Kazi Arif and others recited Nazrul's poems at the *mela*.
 Tamanna Rahman, Sultana Haider, Aslam Sunny, Anik Basu and their troupes danced on the occasion.
 Twenty well-decorated stalls were set up at the venue, some displaying Nazrul's works. There were also stalls with photographs of the poet. Rare gramophone records of Nazrul Sangeet by Muhammad Rafi, Dhiren Basu, Anup Jalota, Anjali Mukherjee, Anup Ghoshal, Shyamoli Mitra and other iconic singers were also on display.
 'Nazrul Mela' was aired live on Channel i yesterday.

Noted cinematographer Baby Islam no more

A CORRESPONDENT
 Veteran cinematographer, photographer, director and producer Baby Islam passed away on May 24 at a hospital in the city. Islam has been unwell for a while. As of writing this report, details had not emerged.
 Islam was born in 1931 in Murshidabad, West Bengal. He went to Italy for higher studies on film. Before Partition (1947), Islam worked with noted Indian director Ajoy Kar as assistant director. In 1956, he joined as senior photographer at the Information Department in Dacca (Dhaka). He also served as the general manager of FDC (now BFDC).
 Islam took part in many exhibitions and competitions. His photos were regularly featured in books and journals. He received several prestigious awards for his outstanding contribution to the film industry. As cinematographer, his notable works are "Titas Ekti Nodir Nam," "Akash Aar Mati," "Shurjosnan," "Nawab Sirajuddaula," "Neel Akasher Niche," "Noyoner Alo" and more.



Baby Islam

Nazrul-Promila Parishad celebrates National Poet's birth anniversary

ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS, Manikganj
 Nazrul-Promila Parishad central committee organised a discussion at Promila's birthplace Tewta, under Shibalaya upazila in Manikganj yesterday to celebrate the 111th birth anniversary of the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.
 Language Movement veteran Abdul Matin; local lawmaker ABM Anwarul Haque; Nazrul-Promila Parishad's secretary Muhammad Asad and others discussed on the life and works of Nazrul at the event.
 They urged the government to establish a university at Tewta, named after Nazrul-Promila, or at least a campus of Kazi Nazrul Islam University here to honour the National Poet and his wife's memories. Nazrul came here on several occasions.
 Discussants also called for a Nazrul-Promila Memorial Complex that would house a library, reading room, auditorium and information centre.



Nazrul Islam with Promila Debi

Thai filmmaker wins Palme d'Or at Cannes

On Sunday evening the 63rd Cannes Film Festival came to a shocking, exhilarating close with the Palme d'Or going to "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives" from the Thai filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul. "Boonmee" is a fantastical tale about a dying man whose past lives -- and ghostly relatives -- enraptured some critics while turning others off. The speculation that it might appeal to the jury president, Tim Burton, along with some of his more discerning fellow jury members, proved true.
 On accepting the award Weerasethakul said in English that "this is like another world for me," and noted that "Uncle Boonmee" is the first Thai film to win the Palme. "I would really like to kiss all of you,"

he said to the jury, telling Burton that he liked his hairstyle. Weerasethakul thanked "all the spirits and ghosts in Thailand," who made it "possible for me to be here."
 The Grand Prix, effectively second place, went to Xavier Beauvois's "Of Gods and Men," a quiet, touching French drama, loosely based on actual events, about Cistercian monks imperilled by Muslim fundamentalists as civil war begins sweeping across Algeria in the 1990s. The Jury Prize went to "A Screaming Man," another film set against civil war, this one directed by the Chadian-born director Mahamat-Saleh Haroun.
 The prize for best director, presented by Kirsten Dunst (who was here with her own film, which played out of the official selection), went to the French actor Mathieu Amalric, who looked a touch surprised to be called onstage. He won for "Tournée" ("On Tour"), about a promoter taking an American neo-burlesque troupe around France.
 Best screenplay went to the South Korean Lee Chang-dong for "Poetry," a beautifully directed, emotionally wrenching drama about a grandmother who discovers that her only grandson has been party to a horrific crime.
 The best actress prize, however, seemed destined for Juliette Binoche, the star of Abbas Kiarostami's "Certified Copy." This is Kiarostami's first though probably not last film made outside Iran. "What a joy, what a joy, what a joy to work with you, Abbas," Binoche said, on accepting her award. Shortly thereafter Binoche held up a sign with the name Jafar Panahi spelled out in capital letters. Panahi, a Cannes veteran, had been invited to serve on the competition jury, but is in an Iranian jail for his political views.
 The award for best male performance was shared by Javier Bardem and Elio Germano. Germano's surprising win was for his performance as a besieged construction worker in Daniele Luchetti's "Our Life," an Italian film without much critical support. Bardem won for his deeply felt turn in "Biutiful," Alejandro González Iñárritu art-house ready descent into the lower depths. "Bonsoir, merci beaucoup," Bardem said, before switching to English and going on to praise his director and acknowledge his companion, Penélope Cruz. Cruz, seated in the theater, promptly began to cry.

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Apichatpong Weerasethakul (centre) winner of the Palme d'Or, with Tim Burton (far right), Juliette Binoche (far left) and Javier Bardem (second from right) won acting prizes at Cannes.

Charlie Chaplin Film Festival in Khulna

A two-day screening of Charlie Chaplin films will begin in Khulna on May 28, says a press release. Khulna Film Society is organising the event, which will be held at the auditorium of the divisional museum.
 Five films by the legendary filmmaker -- "The Kid", "Gold Rush", "City Lights", "Modern Times" and "The Great Dictator" -- will be screened at the festival.
 Khulna District Commissioner is expected to inaugurate the festival. Noted filmmaker Tanvir Mokammel will attend the event as special guest. On May 29, a seminar on the topic, "Chaplin-er Shilpo O Shoilee," will be held at the venue. Mokammel will speak at the seminar.
 Throughout his illustrious career, Chaplin made 81 films in between 1914 and 1967.



A scene from "City Lights," one of the Chaplin films to be screened at the event.

'Kolkpotoru' - স্কুলের লক্ষ্যমাত্রা এই বৃত্তি নিহত
 House 5, Road 27, Block J, Banani, Dhaka 1213
 email: kanchendzonga@gmail.com

ADMISSION GOING ON!

Kolkpotoru - school for performing arts headed by well-known dancer and cultural activist, Lubna Marium

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- Dance (Bharatnatyam)
- Southasian Vocal Music (General)
- Robindroshongeeet
- Tabla
- Art (Painting)

Source: The New York Times