

WHAT'S ON

Book Fair
Organiser: Oitijyo
Venue: Central Library premises, Shahbagh
Date: April 24-May 20
Time: 9am-8pm

Grand Group Art exhibition
Venue: Saju Art Gallery, DCC Market, Gulshan-2
Date: April 1-May 10
Time: 10am-8pm

Illustration Exhibition
Of Children's Books
Venue: Goethe-Institut, H 10, Rd 9, Dhammondi
Date: May 1-9
Time: 10am-7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Hira Ara Dewam
Venue: Bengal Gallery, H-275/F, R-27, Dharmondi
Date: May 5-15
Time: 12pm-8pm

Rabindra Birth Anniversary Celebration
Organiser: Chhayanaat
Venue: Chhayanaat Auditorium, Dhammondi
Date: May 7-9

Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Utshab
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Shahbagh
Date: May 4-8
Time: 5pm

Film Screening
Film: Gurilla
Venue: Theatre Institute, Chittagong
Date: May 1-7
Time: 3:30 & 6:30pm everyday

Photography Exhibition
Photographers: Qazi Rowanq Hossain & M.A. Taher
Venue: Zamil Gallery, FFA, Shahbagh

Noted Classical Vocalist ILA MAJUMDAR No More



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ila Majumdar, classical singer, writer and teacher of logic, philosophy and music, died yesterday (at around 2am) at her residence in Maghbazar. She was the mother of popular contemporary singer Bappa Majumdar and wife of the late classical music guru Barin Majumdar. She died of stroke. Born to a culturally oriented family in Pabna, Ila met the charismatic Pandit Barin Majumdar and started training under him in 1954. After getting married to Barin Majumdar in 1960, Ila did an MA in Philosophy in 1961 and taught the subject for many years. She excelled in teaching classical music and kept on grooming young, aspiring singers for many years after her formal retirement. With Ila by his side, Barin Majumdar realised his dream of setting up a music college in the country in 1963. Monihar Sangeet Academy was the first of its kind in the country. Reminiscing that period, she once said to The Daily Star, "At the time, everyone thought com-

binning music with education was madness. However, Barin was determined to make it happen and went from door to door to gain support for his idea." And in those difficult times, Ila was the major source of encouragement for Barin. In her memoir, titled "Dinguli Mor", in stead of talking about herself, Ila told the stories of her family, relatives, neighbours, and the people she came across. "The classical music scene in Bangladesh is still far from ideal and this couple (Pandit Barin Majumdar and Ila Majumdar) had dared to dream of a national culture that appreciates and understands classical music. They took major initiatives in this regard. The music college (founded by Barin) is now well recognised in the country. This couple's contribution to our music and sacrifices for setting up that college have been outstanding. With her (Ila's) demise, an irreplaceable void has been created in our music scenario," said noted journalist and cultural personality Kamal Lohani.

TAGORE AND THE WORLD International conference in Dhaka concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the second day (April 30) of the international conference on "Contemporarising Tagore and The World", four sessions were held. Intiaz Ahmed, Professor of International Relations, Dhaka University, chaired the first session on "Nationalism, Internationalism, and Cosmopolitanism"; Dr. Sanjida Khatun chaired the second session on "Engendering Tagore"; Professor Anisuzzaman chaired the third session on "Education and Society (Part A)" while Swapan Majumdar chaired the fourth session on "Education and Society (Part B)". The conference was jointly organised by the Department of International Relations, Dhaka University, Visva Bharati of Santiniketan and Jamia Millia Islamia (Academy of Third World Studies) of India at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building of Dhaka University. The seminar was inaugurated on April 29 and ended on May 1.



Rabindranath Tagore and Victoria Ocampo on the grounds of Villa Ocampo, north of Buenos Aires.

On the second day, Amrit Sen, faculty member, Department of English & Other Modern European Languages, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan; Sergei Serebrianyi, Professor, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow; Professor Sonia Nishat Amin of the Department of History, Dhaka University; Argentine writer Axel Eduardo Diaz Maimon; Nilanjana Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor of Visva Bharati; Mohammad Sajjadur Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Chittagong and other discussants took part in the seminar. Sergei Serebrianyi, Professor, Russian State University for the Humanities, Moscow, read out a paper under the title "Tagore's Reception in Russia": "Before 1913 the name Rabindranath Tagore was hardly known to anybody in Russia. It is on record that noted Russian writer Leo Tolstoy, who died in 1910, never heard about the great bard. But when the Bengali poet got the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, the situation changed radically and afterwards Tagore became popular. By 1913 translations from the English version of 'Gitanjali' appeared in Russian journals." Mohammad Sajjadur Rahman, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Chittagong, read out a paper under the title "State, Nation and Tagore". Rahman said, "Many contemporary critics, particularly in Bangladesh, have labelled Tagore as a nationalist poet; ironically some also consider him as a pro-western celebrity who didn't exactly agree with the nationalist movements." Rahman's paper rejects both positions. Sonia Nishat Amin, Professor, Department of History, University of Dhaka, spoke about the female protagonists in Tagore's short stories. Amin said, "As a master storyteller, Tagore left behind for posterity a legacy of 94 short stories in the collection 'Galpa Gucchha'; readers

may well be startled by the fact that the majority of protagonists in this collection are female. Women dominate the scenes from beginning to end, with men weaving in and out in somewhat subsidiary roles." Argentine writer Axel Eduardo Diaz Maimon focused on the relationship between Rabindranath Tagore and Victoria Ocampo at the seminar. He said, "Tagore visited Argentina once, in 1924. He originally wanted to go to Peru but his health prevented him. He stopped over at Buenos Aires, where he met Victoria Ocampo, a beautiful writer and critic who had published several articles in the newspaper La Nacion and a book titled 'De Francesca à Beatrice'. She hosted him (Tagore) on San Isidro, where the poet spent two months at a country-house in front of the Rio de la Plata." Nilanjana Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor of Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, spoke on Tagore and comparative literary studies. She said, "The definition of literature might be different from country to country but we should understand other literature so that we can compare the resemblances and dissimilarities to realise the meaning of humanity. Literature is not isolated from the society. Literature is the root of all learning. Literature helps link one nation with another, as well as one continent with another."

Recitation programme to mark TAGORE Birth Anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alongside other cultural organisations, recitation groups have also taken initiatives to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. In this regard, Swarachitra Abriti Charcha Kendra arranged a programme at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on May 2. Members of the organisation, along with invited artistes, recited selected poems of Rabindranath Tagore at the programme. The programme was titled "Tomar Onno Juger Shokha". Mahidul Islam compiled and directed the programme. Members of Swarachitra recited 22 poems, while the invited reciters read out some more. The performers recited some of the familiar poems from Tagore's collection such as "Ichchhamoti", "Ek Gaye", "Brishti Porey Tapur Tapur", "Dui Pakhi", "Protigga", "Megha Diney", "Bodhu", "Tomar Onno Juger Shokha" and "Porichoy". The soft background score provided by banshi (bamboo flute) and keyboard along with dimmed light on the stage created an apt ambience for the sublime, timeless verses of the Nobel laureate poet.



Mahidul Islam recites at the programme.

Among members of the organisation, Nazifa Tamanna, Najmunnahar, Farzana Akhtar, Mahidul Islam, Kamruzzaman Babu, Priyanka Acharya, Aniket Rajesh, Kafi Billah and Habib Ahmed recited poems at the programme. As guest artistes, the programme featured some of the noted reciters of the country, including Shimul Mustafa, Ahkamullah, Ashraful Alam, Rezina Wali, Rafiqul Islam and Kanti Kaniza.

Habib's Latest Album "Ahoban" on Banglalink Music Station



Singer-composer Habib Wahid's latest album "Ahoban" was exclusively released on Banglalink Music Station on April 29. The album will be released in the market later this month, according to a press release. Banglalink subscribers have the privilege of listening to Habib's new songs a month before its commercial release. The artiste along with Solaiman Alam, Head of Banglalink PR & Communication, and Tanveer Chowdhury, CEO of Deadline Music, was present at the album launch. Deadline Music will release the album in the audio market.

Darren Aronofsky to head Venice film festival jury



Oscar-nominated director Darren Aronofsky will head the jury for this year's Venice film festival, it has been announced. In a statement, organisers described the director as "a key figure of contemporary cinema." Aronofsky won the Golden Lion at the festival in 2008 for "The Wrestler", while "Black Swan" opened last year's festival. "This year's gala runs from August 31 to September 10. Sofia Coppola's "Somewhere" took last year's top award when the jury was headed by "Pulp Fiction" director, Quentin Tarantino. Aronofsky was Oscar-nominated this year for "Black Swan", which received five nominations in total but only picked up one for Natalie Portman's performance as a leading actress. The director made his feature film debut in 1998 with "Pi", earning the prize of best director at the Sundance Film Festival and best screenplay at the Independent Spirit Awards. His second film, "Requiem for a Dream", was presented at Cannes in 2000 and later won an Oscar nomination for Ellen Burstyn as best actress. Aronofsky had signed on to direct an "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" sequel, but dropped out last month as he said he could not commit to being away from his family for the length of time required for production.

Alejandro Chaskielberg named Sony World Photographer

Alejandro Chaskielberg is the Sony world photographer of the year, it has been announced. The 34-year-old won the L'Éris D'Or for his photos of a community of islanders living on the Parana River Delta in his native Argentina. Chaskielberg lived with the residents for two years to document their lives for his series of striking pictures. He was presented with the award plus a \$25,000 (£15,100) cash prize at a London ceremony last week. "This year's panel of judges found no great difficulty in agreeing to honour the powerful work of Alejandro Chaskielberg's series 'High Tide'," said Francis Hodgson, chairman of the honorary judging committee. "These carefully directed pictures tell solid truths -- about toil and



Alejandro Chaskielberg lived with the islanders on the Parana River Delta for two years.

communality and marginal economic survival -- in a splendidly allusive way." The Open photographer of the year title was awarded to Chan Kwok Hung for his dramatic image, "Buffalo Race". The 37-year-old jewellery manufacturer from Hong Kong purchased his first SLR camera in 2006 and taught himself basic photography skills using books and the internet. American photographer Bruce Davidson also collected the award for outstanding contribution to photography. The 77-year-old's past work has included following a Brooklyn gang in the 1950s and chronicling the civil rights movement in the early 1960s. Other awards presented at the ceremony included the professional category winners covering current affairs, to travel and fine art portraiture. Over 105,000 images were entered into the 2011 competition from 162 countries.



Chan Kwok Hung won the Open Photographer of the Year title for his image, "Buffalo Race". Source: BBC

Catherine Zeta-Jones may play Liz Taylor in biopic

Catherine Zeta-Jones is rumored to be in the running to play Dame Elizabeth Taylor in a Hollywood film about the late actress' tumultuous love life. According to show business sources in Los Angeles, the Welsh beauty who recently underwent treatment for bipolar disorder, is on the shortlist along with Angelina Jolie. Swansea-born Catherine, an Oscar winner herself, is said to have expressed a strong interest in the part because of Taylor's long association with Wales through Richard Burton, Dame Elizabeth's great love and husband. "To play Liz Taylor would be a dream come true for Catherine. It would certainly be one of the most testing roles of her career," the Daily Express quoted a Hollywood source as saying.



Celebs laud Osama Bin Laden's death on Twitter

As the whole world is buzzing about the news that Osama Bin Laden has been killed in Pakistan, stars from across the world have shown they are no different when it comes to voicing their shock and celebrating the death of America's public enemy number one. "I'm proud of our men and women in uniform. Wherever you are, take a minute to say thank you to one of the brave heroes who serve our country," Contactmusic.com quoted Hollywood action man and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as writing on his blog on Twitter. Actress Christina Applegate wrote, "Let me try this one more time...my heart raced when I heard the news. The terror he caused us was epic. The lives lost, too many." Spice Girl Melanie Brown writes, "We need to take a moment to give thanks to the soldiers who risked their lives." Bollywood star tweeted furiously about it too. Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur wrote, "Osama became the mythical dark force that the US rallied against. It no longer matters that he is/was dead or alive. Surely you would have wanted Osama alive not dead. Something wrong. Hope Indian Govt gets Dawood alive. If they have nothing 2 hide." Rahul Bose tweeted: "Am hoping a sense of balance is maintained in the US at the Osama news. Closure is good, revenge isn't." Ameesha Patel couldn't believe the news. "Hope the news is true about Osama being dead and it isn't an impostor," she wrote. Dino Morea felt Osama is still alive. "Hello Tweeps, strange feeling Osama still lurking somewhere, and planning something bigger," he updated.

Table with TV and radio program listings including ATN Bangla, Channel I, and Radio stations.

Table with Drama Serial listings including ATN Bangla, Channel I, and Desh TV.

Table with News Bulletin listings including ATV, Channel I, and Desh TV.

Table with Talk Show listings including ATV, Channel I, and Desh TV.