

WHAT'S ON

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

**Grand Group Art exhibition**  
Venue: Saja 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, Dhamondi  
Date: May 1-9  
Time: 10am-7pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Artist: Ifat Ara Dewan  
Venue: Bengali Gallery, H-275/F, R-27, Dhamondi  
Date: May 5-15  
Time: 12pm-8pm

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

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

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

**Photography Exhibition**  
Photographers: Quazi Rownaq Hossain & M. A. Taher  
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, Shahbagh

# Nation Gears Up to Celebrate 150th Birth Anniversary of Kobiguru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking 150th birth anniversary (May 8, 2011) of Nobel laureate poet, 'Kobiguru' Rabindranath Tagore, different organisations of Bangladesh have chalked out elaborate programmes.

Bangladesh and India have jointly organised a grand celebration on the occasion. The inaugural ceremony of a three-day programme will be held today at Bangabandhu International Convention Centre in Dhaka.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Vice President of India, Mohammed Hamid Ansari, will grace the event as guests of honour. Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad will preside over the programme.

Starting from 9am, the three and a half hour long inaugural programme will start off with the renditions of National Anthems (both written by Rabindranath Tagore) of the two countries. Aside from speeches by the guests of honour, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman (Dhaka University) will deliver the main speech at the event. Noted artists from both countries will perform songs, dances and recite poems.

A 10-day exhibition featuring paintings by 150 Bangladeshi artists on the theme of 'Tagore's works' will be inaugurated at National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) at 4:30pm on the opening day.

A cultural programme, titled 'Hey Nuton Dekha Dik Aar-Bar' will follow at 6pm on the day at BSA. President of Chhayanaat, Dr. Sanjida Khatun will deliver a speech on Rabindranath Sangeet on the occasion. Recitation, rendition and dance will be presented by the artists of Bangladesh and India (Swagata Lakshmi Dasgupta, Soumitra Chatterjee, among others). A documentary, titled 'Rabindranath in Bangladesh: Path Chawatei Anando', produced by Chanchal Khan, will be screened at 9:15pm at the venue.

On the second day (May 7), a seminar on 'Rabindranath and Bangladesh' will be held at Bangla Academy at 3:30pm. Chaired by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, the event will have Tagore exponent Ahmed Rafique presenting the keynote paper. A cultural programme will follow at BSA at 6:30pm where songs, recitation, and the dance-drama 'Chitrangada' will be staged by Bangladeshi artists. Kathak Kendra, India will stage a performance as well.

A seminar on 'Rabindranath in 21st Century' will be held at the National Museum at 3:30pm on the third day (May 8). Chaired by Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, the seminar will have Professor Sanat Kumar Saha presenting the keynote paper.

Bangladeshi and Indian poets will recite Tagore's and



self-composed verses at BSA at 4pm on the third day. Apart from music performances by Bangladeshi artists at the cultural programme to be held at 6:30pm at BSA, artistes of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, India will stage the dance-drama 'Bidaye Abhishap'. Artistes of Jibon Sanket Natyagosthi of Habiganj, Bangladesh will stage the play 'Streer Patra' at the event.

**Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy**  
An art competition for youngsters (aged between 5 and 18) will be held today at 3pm at the National Art Gallery plaza of BSA.

**Theatre**  
Musical programme and film screening will also be held tomorrow (May 7) at 10am while artistes of Nagarkir Natya Sampraday will stage the Tagore play 'Achalayton' at 5:30pm.

Marking 87 birth anniversary of legendary singer Kalim Sarafi, a documentary on him titled 'Poth-e Poth-e Dilam Chhoraiya', directed by Nishat Jahan Rana, will be screened at the venue at 5:30pm on the concluding day (May 8). Chief guest Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam will deliver a speech on 'Shardho Shato Janmo Borshey Rabindranath' at 6:15pm. Starting from 7pm, a recitation and musical programme will wrap up the event.

**Robi Channel**  
'Robi-Channel i Rabindra Mela' will be held at Channel i's Tejgaon centre between 10am and 4pm on May 8. Channel i will air the programme live.

The seventh and final phase will be held on May 7-9, 2011 at Chhayanaat auditorium. Abul Momen will deliver a lecture on 'Rabindranath-er Shiksha Chinta' on the first day (May 7) of the final phase of the programme (starting from 6:30pm). Apart from this, solo and choral renditions, recitation, dance and launching of two books -- 'Shardho Shatoto Janmorborshey Rabindranath' and 'Bani Tobo Dhay' -- will be held at the programme.

With a choral performance of the Tagore song, 'Hey Nuton, Dekha Dik Aar-bar', the second day's (May 8) programme will begin at 6:30 am at Central Shaheed Minar. A discussion will be held at 8am at Chhayanaat Shangsakrit Bhaban. In the evening, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman will deliver a lecture on 'Atimoshoki Orjon-er Poth' at the event. Chhayanaat's presentation, titled 'Esho Anandito Milon Ongoney', will wrap up the day's programme.

The concluding day's (May 9) programme will kick off with a chorus by the artistes of the school at Chhayanaat auditorium at 6:30pm. Dr. Anisuzzaman will deliver a special lecture on the occasion. Chhayanaat's yearlong programme will wrap up through staging of Tagore's lyrical dance-drama 'Shyama'.

Grameenphone sponsored the yearlong programme. Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha Starting from May 4, the festival arranged by Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (BRSSS) will have a film screening at 11am today. Singer Tapan Mahmud will deliver a speech on 'Bangladesh-e Rabindra Sangeet Chorchor Kromobikash' at 5pm. Apart from recitation and rendition, artistes of Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts will stage Tagore's lyrical dance-drama 'Shyama' (directed by Kabirul Islam Ratan).

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# Renowned Bangladeshi Artistes to Perform in Delhi India-Bangladesh Joint Celebration on Tagore Anniversary

Tamanna Rahman will put up a performance on May 8 in Delhi.



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Admirers of Rabindranath Tagore's works will be treated to innovative performances of dance, drama-dance, theatre, songs and recitations by a group of accomplished Bangladeshi artistes during a weeklong India-Bangladesh joint celebration of the poet's 150th birth anniversary, beginning this weekend.

Bangladesh is sending a 31-member cultural team to the celebration in India which has been divided into three separate categories -- 'Katha Kabya Abhinay', 'Sangeet Abriti' and 'Nriyaya Natya' -- to be held at Meghdoot Theatre and Kamni Auditorium in Mandi House, in the heart of Delhi.

Danseuse Tamanna Rahman will put up a performance on May 8 under 'Katha Kabya Abhinay' category, while a 19-member team led by choreographer and director Belayet Hossain Khan will stage 'Samanya Khati' on May 9 under 'Nriyaya Natya' section.

As part of the 'Sangeet Abriti' section, the audience will get to enjoy the renditions of Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Refaqat Hussain Chowdhury, Shama Rahman, Lily Islam, Aditi Mohsin and Bhanuswar Bandopadhyay. Sangeet Bhavan of Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan will stage 'Bhanushinger Padavali'.

Actress Seema Biswas will stage 'Strir Patra' while another actress Swatilekha Sengupta will put up 'Amar Priyo Rabindranath', excerpts from selected poems and the novel 'Ghare Baire'. Sengupta acted in the role of Bimala opposite Victor Banerjee (as Nikhilesh) and Soumitra Chatterjee (Sandip) in the Satyajit Ray-directed film of the same name.

Four leading poets of Bangladesh -- Rafiq Azad, Nirmalendu Guun, Mahdeb Saha and Habibullah Siraji -- will also attend the celebration and so will Tagore exponent and educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui.

# 22nd National Rabindra Sangeet Festival kicks off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha has organised a five-day music festival under the title, 'Esho Dukkhe Shukhe Esho Morme, Esho Nityo Nityo Shob Korme'. The festival opened on May 4 at Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh in Dhaka, and will continue till May 8. This year, the festival has been dedicated to the memory of the late Tagore exponent and singer Kalim Sharafi. The festival features renditions of Rabindra Sangeet, recitation, a dance-drama and discussions on the life and works of the Nobel laureate poet.

Cultural personality Mahubul Jamil inaugurated the festival. Jamil said, "Rabindranath is omnipresent in our souls, thoughts and our way of life. He is an integral part of the Bengali life and identity. As long as the nation exists, the bard's sublime and universal messages will remain relevant."

Sajed Akbar, general secretary of Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha, introduced several plans to create an apt atmosphere for the practice of Rabindra Sangeet. The list of demands also included the establishment of Rabindra and Nazrul Institutions and holding musi-



cal programmes on Rabindra and Nazrul anniversaries at all educational institutes of the country.

Solaiman Alam, head of Public Relation and Communications, and M-Commerce Marketing of Banglalink, delivered the welcome speech. Banglalink is sponsoring the festival.

At the inaugural programme, Kalim Sharafi Memorial Award was conferred on noted journalist and author Rahat Khan. The day's programme commenced with a rendition of the National Anthem. This was followed by choral renditions of 'Aguner Poroshmoni', 'Akash Bhora Surjo Tara' and 'Aaji Bangladesh-er Ridoi Hote'. Over 150 Tagore signers from all corners of the country are taking part in the festival.

After the inaugural, over 30 singers performed solo renditions. At the programme, featured artistes were: ATM Jahangir, Mokbul Hossain, Swapan Dutt, Prodip Biswas, Putul Das, Tripty Dutt, Shukla Dutt, Jolly Rahman, Shashwati Talukdar, Rifat Jamal Mitu and others.

Their renditions included 'Tumi Hothat Hawa-e', 'Esho Shyamol O Shundor', 'Amar Bela Je Jaye', 'Pantho Tumi', 'Amar Praner Manush', 'Shei Bhalo Shei Bhalo', 'Ami Taare Khunje Bera', 'Aaji Jhader Raatey', 'Jey Chhilo Amar Swapanocharini', 'Amar Praner Gobhir Goponey', 'Aaj Jemon Korey Gaichhey' etc.

# Flowers, Birds and Butterflies of Bangladesh

Photo exhibition at Zainul Gallery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong photography exhibition, titled "Flowers, Birds and Butterflies", featuring the works of M.A. Taher and Quazi Rownaq Hossain, is now on at Zainul Gallery. Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. The exhibition was jointly inaugurated by veteran educationist Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui; noted painter Quayyum Chowdhury; founder of Bishwa Shahitya Kendra, Abdullh Abu Sayed and cultural personality Mahubul Jamil on May 1.

Professor Siddiqui said, "Both photographers are naturalists; their works demonstrate their love for nature. They have presented through their images familiar visions -- adorned with artistic grandeur."

Quayyum Chowdhury said, "Flowers, birds and butterflies have been snapped by these photographers from different angles. Light and shade, colours, tones as well as compositions have given these photographs a different dimension. The aesthetic values of these photographs cannot be ignored."

Both photographers have similarities in their approaches, themes and presentations. Both of them have chosen nature as their subject and varied species of local flowers, birds and butterflies are the focal points in their works. The exhibition also focuses on the relationship among nature, birds and butterflies.

Taher's photos shed light on birdlife of Bangladesh. The photographer has framed images of familiar and unfamiliar species of local birds -- from woodpecker, moina, cuckoo, pigeon and sparrow to the national bird, doel. The photographer has been working on a range of subjects since the 1980s. He has a number of photo albums on noted personalities like National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, the late poet Shamsur Rahman and late singer Kalim Sharafi. Other albums include 'Flowers of Bangladesh', 'Birds of Bangladesh', and 'Buddhist Life'.

Quazi Rownaq Hossain has toured many parts of Bangladesh and has captured images of local flowers. Vibrant hues of flowers and their natural allure in all their glory have been revealed eloquently in Rownaq's photos. A self-taught photographer, Rownaq started professional photography in 1976. He completed M.S.S in Mass Communication and Journalism from Dhaka University. He is now a teacher of Photojournalism, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University. The exhibition ends on May 7, and is sponsored by NCC Bank Ltd and NMCI group.



Images of birds and butterflies by M.A. Taher; flowers by Quazi Rownaq Hossain.

# Hollywood honours "timeless, beautiful" Sophia Loren

John Travolta called her the "most delicious" thing to come out of Italy, Roberto Benigni serenaded her with the Neapolitan song "O Sole Mio" and Billy Crystal said she was his "first great love."

Hollywood came out on Wednesday to honour Sophia Loren, 50 years after she became the first person to win an acting Oscar for a foreign-language role with the Italian movie "Two Women".

Loren, now 76 and with her famous hour-glass figure intact, did not attend that 1961 Academy Award ceremony. She told an audience of some 800 actors, directors, friends and family on Wednesday she never dreamed an Italian in an Italian-language film would earn the movie industry's highest honour.

"The Academy Award changed my life completely," she said at the tribute organised by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. "It helped me to believe in myself and encouraged me to push my own artistic boundaries."

"There are no words to describe my emotions right now. It is hard to imagine that 50 years have passed since I welcomed my Oscar to my home," she added.

Regarded as the most famous living Italian actress with more than 80 movies, Loren received a lifetime achievement Oscar in 1991 and was declared "one of world cinema's greatest treasures."

On Wednesday, she was feted with tributes and clips of the most famous roles from her 1950s to 1970s heyday, including "Marriage Italian Style," "A Special Day," "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" and Hollywood films "El Cid" and "Man of La Mancha."

With most of her co-stars and directors long dead -- Marcello Mastroianni, Gregory Peck, Frank Sinatra, Charlton Heston, Cary Grant, Marlon Brando and her producer husband Carlo Ponti -- the speeches were left to a younger generation.

Rob Marshall, who directed Loren in her most recent feature film "Nine" in 2009, said working with her was "the most magic I will ever have."

Tom Hanks called her "timeless, beautiful and authentically real." Christian De Sica



described the frequent pairing of Loren with his father, Italian director Vittorio De Sica, as "like a cappuccino -- no-one could tell the milk from the coffee."

Exuberant Italian actor and director Benigni, himself an Oscar winner for the 1997 movie "Life is Beautiful," sang to Loren in a video message and her son Edoardo Ponti fought back tears as he told her: "We are here because we love you and you deserve every single thing."

Asked by host and U.S. comedian Crystal whether she was happy with her career, Loren dabbed tears from her eyes. "You are never content," she replied. "You always want to do more and find the right thing at the right time. I like my career, my life, so much. I was born for this. I am sick when I don't work for a year or two."

Source: Internet

The Daily Star Standard Chartered

Celebrating Life 2011

## Film Making Workshop

Celebrating Life 2011 has been launched again in all three categories: Film, Photography and Lyrics. But, this year, the competition has transcended its definition to include capacity building to elevate the quality of participation and production under the banner of Celebrating Life. Celebrating Life is its 4th year, and over the last three, the organizers have come to realize that despite an immense interest in film making, there exists a tremendous lack of capacity in film making. Therefore, in 2011, the film and the lyrics components will include workshops prior to the contest in order to enable creative minds to be able to produce better and more professional films and songs.

The overarching theme for Celebrating Life 2011 is "Celebrate the Gifts of Nature and the Rivers of Bangladesh".

**About the film workshop**  
For three months, April to June 2011, three media personalities will serve as the resource persons for film making workshops. The workshops will not only be theoretical, but will also include actual productions in the last month. Three groups will produce three films, under the closer supervision and direction of the resource persons themselves. The workshops represent a tremendous opportunity for budding film makers and freshers who are interested in film making to learn the process of professional film making step by step.

The three resource persons for the Celebrating Life 2011 Film Making Workshops are Amintab Reza, Nurul Alam Aliq and Mejbaur Rahman Sumon.

The three productions of the three workshops will be broadcasted on television, and viewers will vote to rank them. The participants of each workshop will become part of the production team behind each film. Furthermore, these three films will be showcased next to the winning films of Celebrating Life 2011.

The participants of this workshop may participate in the film contest on their own accord, meaning their output within the workshop cannot be used as their own entry into the contest since the workshop will create space for a team production. The film contest of Celebrating Life, however, is still open to the general public meaning those that do not participate in the workshop are free to submit their own work to the Film Contest of 2011.

**Eligibility Requirements and Application Rules**  
Applicants of 30 years of age or less can apply.  
Applicants with experience in the field will have to submit a show-reel in DVD, no longer than 5 minutes, of their previous works.  
Applicants without previous experience can apply with a reference letter from renowned directors or anyone renowned in the media sector saying that they are capable of taking up the workshop while citing types of works done with them, or have assisted them with their works.  
Applicants have to submit a script based on their own original idea they have conceptualized of showcasing on the screen. The script has to be shortened so that it can be screened in no more than 10 minutes and typed within 1000 words in one A4 page. Note: The idea has to be the applicant's own original idea and not based on existing literature and/or productions.  
Applicants have to submit an essay saying why they want to become a film director, and their views on Bangladesh's cinema within 1000 words in one A4 page.  
Application Deadline: 30th June, 2011

**Other Important Information**  
A total of 30 participants will be selected based on show reel/ recommendation/ essay.  
Workshop will be held for 3 months starting in July and ending in September, 2011.  
9 most underachieving participants will not be allowed to continue in the workshop after the first month of the workshop.  
6 most underachieving participants from the remaining 21 participants will not be allowed to continue in the workshop after the second month.  
The remaining 15 participants will go on to finish the workshop with accomplished directors Amintab Reza, Nurul Alam Aliq, and Mejbaur Rahman Sumon.  
The three directors will choose their own teams of 5 from the 15 remaining participants to create a film depending on the director's choice of format from each team.  
The whole workshop will be conducted by the three directors, with visiting lecturers chosen by them. The last month of the workshop will be used to produce the three, each under one of the conducting directors.  
Interested participants in the workshop cannot be emailed. It has to be sent to the address below.  
Application applicants can apply to the following address with FULL NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, MOBILE PHONE NUMBER, OTHER CONTACT NUMBER, EMAIL, SHOW REEL/RECOMMENDATION & ESSAY:

**Rafi Hossain**  
Festival Director, Celebrating Life  
The Daily Star, 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1215

Participants will be selected through the month of June 30, 2011. Apply now! For more details log onto [www.celebratinglifed.com](http://www.celebratinglifed.com)

Partners:

10:10 Career Today	07:45 of Reason
09:10 Cinema 8 Gaan	12:55 Semi-Pro
05:30 Music 8 Music	09:30 Baker Boy
06:00 Star and Sports	11:45 Final Destination 3
07:40 Drama:	<b>Star Movies</b>
11:30 Ghure Darao Bangladesh	10:55 The Silence of the Lambs
<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	12:55 Brooklyn's Finest
09:05 Lal Golap	03:00 The Rainmaker
10:10 Bhalo Thakun	05:20 My Life in Ruins
02:20 Drama: Detective	07:00 Code
04:05 Music Together	08:50 Health
06:05 Gaan O Fun	10:55 All About Steve
11:25 Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo	<b>StarWorld</b>
<b>DeshTV</b>	11:00 Community
11:00 Desh Amar	02:30 La Vegas
03:00 Bangla Feature Film	07:30 Coffee With Karen
04:00 Desh Janopad	08:30 How Met Your Mother
07:45 Ja Kichu Prodrom	10:30 Dexter
09:45 Drama: Nondini Ami	12:00 Family Guy
Tomar Ranjon	<b>National Geographic</b>
Call-er Gaan	<b>Channel</b>
<b>BoishakhiTV</b>	11:00 Nat Geo Wild
03:30 Tele-Film	02:00 Mission Army
04:15 Shorashori Doctor	07:00 I Didn't Know That
05:15 Boishakhi-CNN	09:00 Big, Bigger, Biggest
Sharabishwa	09:00 True Stories
08:45 Drama: Je Kothai Boltoy Halo	11:00 Combating Terror

**DRAMA SERIAL**

ATN BANGLA	09:45pm	Ojana Gantabho	
09:20pm	Haat-er Rekha Kotha	CHANNEL I	
Boley	09:35pm	Phanush	
Rtv	09:05pm	Vagabond	
09:50pm	Chhatra Nibash	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	
nTv	08:15pm	Rumali	
		08:15pm	Director
		09:05pm	Clova Chapter
		09:45pm	Gulshan Arina

**NEWS BULLETIN**

BTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30am
08:30am	2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm	08:00	Coffee With Karen
03:05	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:50 pm.	08:30	How Met Your Mother
04:45	News (English) at 12:00am, 4:00pm	10:30	Dexter
		12:00	Family Guy
		11:00	True Stories
		11:00	Combating Terror

**TALK SHOW**

ATN BANGLA	08:30am	Isham Ki Bole Amra Ki Kori	10:50pm	Sat Kahon
12:30am	Lead News	12:00am	Zero Hour	
01:00am	Vision 2020	<b>BANGLAVISION</b>		
CHANNEL I		12:05pm	Moha Shatta Al-Quaran	
09:45am	Trisio Matra	Diganta TV		
Rtv	10:40am	Tarokalap	12:05am	News of the Day