

WHAT'S ON

Nazrul Utshab 1420

Organiser: Chhayanaout

Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayanaout

Date: May 24-25

Time: 6:30pm Everyday



Nazrul Mela

Organiser: Channel i

Venue: Channel i premises, Tejgaon

Date: May 25

Time: 10am-4pm




Rare Photographs of Nazrul

Organiser: Nazrul Institute

Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh

Date: May 26



Celebrating Nazrul Birth Anniversary

Organiser: Bangladesh Sangeet Sangathan Samonnay Parishad

Artists: Nazrul Shilpi Parishad

Venue: Shilpakala Academy




Discussion & Solo Musical Soiree

Artist: Ferdous Ara

Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum

Date: May 24; Time: 6:30pm



# NEWSbytes

## Magnum photographer Wayne Miller dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted American photographer Wayne Forest Miller, president of the Magnum Photos collective from 1962-68, passed away at the age of 94 Wednesday. Born in Chicago in 1918, Miller won consecutive Guggenheim fellowships for photography in 1946-48. During the Second World War, Miller was a member of US Navy Combat Photo Unit, and once back stateside, he worked as an associate curator on Edward Steichen's world-famous exhibition, "The Family of Man."

Often turning the lens on his own family, Miller's poignant visual explorations of American baby boomers and their lives made him one of the leading documentarians of his generation.

But, arguably, his career defining work was made on Chicago's South Side, where he covered the social, cultural and economic manifestations of the greatest internal migration in American history which saw thousands of black American families arriving in

## It's True!



Korean-American artist Nam June Paik -- considered the founder of the genre of video art -- is said to have had the world's first portable audio/video recorder, before Sony launched the Portapak -- the first commercially marketed product of its kind.

## THE WEEKENDER

# Kanak Chanpa Chakma's artistic passions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Celebrated artist Kanak Chanpa Chakma has long worked on ethnic themes. Her works invariably feature indigenous people and their daily lives. She is keenly inspired by the vivid colours of indigenous attire, the hills, forests, 'jhum' cultivation, pristine blue waterfalls, dance and music; in other words, anything that defines life in the hilly areas of Bangladesh. The semi-realistic and the abstract mingle in her works. The figures in her paintings are lively and easily communicate with the viewer with their expressiveness.

The artist gave The Daily Star a peek into what is an overriding passion for her:

"As a freelance artist, I like to do paintings regularly. When painting, there is a link between my mind and my hands, and my hands and the brushes, and brushes and the canvas, and I paint whatever my mind tells me." Rarely are all members of a

## IN FOCUS

# Places bearing Nazrul's memories need better care

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Every year, on the birth anniversary of our National Poet, two Nazrul memorial centres -- at Kazir Shimla and Darirampur in Trishal -- are thronged by many.

But the establishments require more support to make them attractive to the visitors.

The two centres -- displaying memorabilia of Nazrul -- still draw visitors from different areas of the district and outside. The memorial centres also house two libraries with books written by Nazrul. Sources said that books on other writers are also needed to enrich the libraries.

Nazrul spent about a year during his childhood at Kazir Shimla and Darirampur while he studied at Darirampur High School. Kazi Rafizullah, a sub-inspector of police working at Burdwan in West Bengal took Nazrul to his

village home in 1914.

Later, Nazrul shifted his lodging at the house of Bechutia Bepari at Namapara as his school was far from Kazir Shimla. The Jatiyo Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University -- an arts-based university -- was later founded at Namapara, in his honour.

The memorabilia kept at the two centres include records released by His Masters Voice, handwritten scripts of the poet in Bangla, English, Hindi and Urdu, some rare photographs of the poet and his family members.

Kazi Kawsar Ahmed, grandson of Kazi Rafizullah, said that the number of artifacts is not enough to really engage the visitors, causing a decline in interest from people.

The collection of memorabilia of Nazrul and other singers who promoted Nazrul's songs in the sub-continent should be increased to add more substance to both of the centres, added Kazi Kawsar.



The Nazrul memorial centre in Kazir Shimla.

PHOTO: STAR



The centres can run music schools and play a vital role in organising cultural programmes on Nazrul and others poets of Bangla Literature, said Kazi Noor-e-Alam Siddique, another grandson of Kazi Rafizullah.

Like every year, on the second day of three-day national level celebration of the poet's 114th birth anniversary, programmes will be held at both the centres, sources said.

The memorial centres have been facing acute staff shortage since its inception. Though there are 17 posts at the two centres -- launched in 2003, they are run by five staff, four of whom are employed on a daily basis contract till now, sources said.

## TV WATCH

# POND'S AGE MIRACLE MY 2ND HONEYMOON

After two successful years of "Pond's Age Miracle My 2nd Honeymoon" campaigns, this year, Pond's has decided to make this an even bigger and more romantic venture for couples. For the first time on television in Bangladesh, a reality show will feature real-life couples depicting their original flare and chemistry.

This year on Valentine's Day, Pond's launched its signature campaign -- "Pond's My 2nd Honeymoon". Thousands of applications applied through emails, from which 52 couples who wrote the best stories were invited to participate in a selection round with judges Hassan Abidur Reja Jewel, Tania Ahmed, Tauquir Ahmed and Bipasha Hayat.

The couples were asked to perform romantic acts to express their



A participating couple speak with Tauquir and Bipasha.

undying love for one another. Based on their performances, the celebrity judges selected and announced the Top 10 couples who moved on to take part in the "Pond's My 2nd Honeymoon" reality show.

Seven lucky couples will be finally chosen to visit one of seven exotic beaches of the world for their "Second Honeymoon". The show begins airing from today at 9:45pm on Desh TV.

# Rare first-edition Harry Potter book sells at record price

A rare first edition of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone", with annotations and drawings by author JK Rowling, has sold for a record price.

After a bidding war between two buyers, the book sold for £150,000, a new record for a printed book by Rowling. It was part of a sale of annotated first edition books by 50 UK and Commonwealth writers.

The sale was attended by a number of authors whose works were featured in the

sale, including Helen Fielding, Frederick Forsyth, Ben Okri, Andrea Levy and Wendy Cope.

Rowling's personal annotations cover 43 pages and include references to the Harry Potter series as a whole and also the film adaptations. Her notes include a reflection on an anomaly about snapped wands, and a section of text she refused to cut.

Source: BBC



family involved in artistic endeavours. The painter's family -- her husband artist-filmmaker Khalid Mahmood Mithu, son Arjo Shrestha and daughter Shiropani Purnais -- is a notable exception. They're all familiar names in our cultural arena.

The artist has half a dozen cats. Taking care of them "is a big part of my daily recreation," she said.

Kanak said, "On weekends, we visit Comilla, Ashulia, Savar, Singair and areas near the capital. We used to go on Thursday night and return home on Saturday. I also do my shopping and other important chores on weekends."

The artist has visited many countries in Europe, Asia and other continents for exhibitions, seminars and art carnivals, of

which she picked Montmartre in Paris as her favourite. Kanak said, "Artists like Salvador Dali, Amedeo Modigliani, Claude Monet, Piet Mondrian, Pablo Picasso and Vincent van Gogh had studios or worked around the community of Montmartre. The place is also the backdrop for several hit films."

Kanak's travels have taken her to cities like Singapore, Kolkata, Bangkok and Tokyo as well. She said, "At first, I visit contemporary art galleries to study about current art trends in these countries. I also pick up art related books, colour tubes, canvas, paper, brush, pencil and more." CDs of classical and instrumental music are another must have for the artist.

Kanak likes to take in cultural programmes on weekends. She said "On weekends, several solo or group exhibitions are frequently inaugurated in the city. I always try to attend the inaugurations of the exhibitions by both promising and prominent painters. I also enjoy musical soirees in the city."



PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

Theatre staged "Baramkhana" at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday. The play -- on mystic bard Lalon -- is written by Pantha Shahriar, inspired from Sunil Gangopadhyay's "Moner Manush", and is directed by Tropa Majumdar.