





Rare Photographs of Nazrul Organiser: Nazrul Institute Venue: National Museum. Shahbagh Date: May 26



Celebrating Nazrul Birth Anniversary Organiser: Bangladesh Sangeet Sangathan Samonnay Parishad Artistes: Nazrul Shilpi Parishad Venue: Shilpakala Academy



Discussion & Solo Musical Soiree Artiste: Ferdous Ara Venue: Main Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum Date: May 24; Time: 6:30pm



NEWS bytes

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

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

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 the centres, added Kazi Kawsar.

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 artsbased 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.

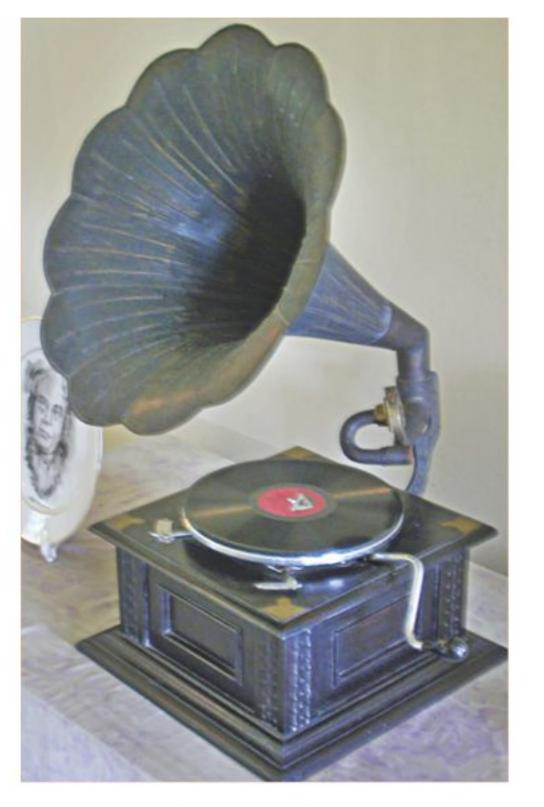
Kazi Kawsar Ahmed, grandson of Kazi Rafizullah, said that the number of artifacts is not enough to really engage the visitors, causing a decline in interest from people.

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 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 threeday 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.

Chhayanaut to hold Nazrul Utshab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading cultural organisation of the country, Chhayanaut, will hold a two-day "Nazrul Utshab 1420" from May 24.

The festival, homage to the National Poet on his 114th birth anniversary, will be held at Chhayanaut Shangskriti Bhaban auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. A press conference was held yesterday in this

regard at Chhayanaut's Ramesh Chandra Datta memorial auditorium. General Secretary of Chhayanaut, Khairul Anam Shakil; noted Nazrul Sangeet artiste and executive member of Chhayanaut, Shaheen Samad; General Manager and Head of CSR of Grameen phone Debashish Roy and Programme Manager of Maasranga Television AM Arifur Rahman were present at the press conference.

Each day's festival featuring renditions of songs, recitation and dance, will start at 6:30pm. Professor Sanat Kumar Saha will deliver a lecture on Kazi Nazrul Islam on the opening day of the festival.

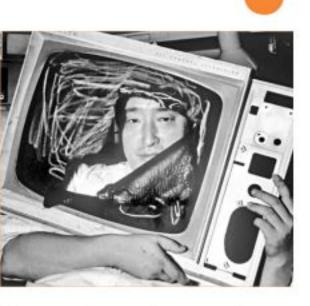
Grameenphone and Square Group are assisting in the festival this year, with Maasranga Television as the media partner.

Chhayanaut has been celebrating Nazrul's birth anniversary since its inception in 1961.



conference.

t's True



Koren-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.

Channel i to host Nazrul Mela

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Channel i is holding the 9th Nazrul Mela at its Tejgaon office premises, in Dhaka, marking 114th birth anniversary of our National Poet on May 25 The channel will be honouring noted writer-music exponent Mustafa Zaman Abbasi with a Lifetime Achievement Award on the occasion. The announcement was made at a press conference at the channel's Tejgaon office yesterday.

Diamond World is sponsoring this year's Nazrul Mela.

Nazrul exponent and researcher, Mustafa Zaman Abbasi; managing director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagar, and managing Director of Diamond World Dilip Kumar

Agarwal spoke at the conference. The daylong "Channel i Nazrul Mela" (11:05 am- 4 pm), will be aired live. This year the fair has been dedicated to the legendary Nazrul artiste Feroza Begum.

The organisers also offered special prayers for the ailing Feroza Begum at the press conference. Producer of the fair, Amirul Islam informed that this year's fair will display books and memoirs on Nazrul, exhibition of the covers of rare Nazrul Sangeet, VCDs and much more.

"I have written several books on Kazi Nazrul Islam. Of which 'Poribo Ekaki', a four-hundred page novel, 'Man and Poet', an English novel, and 'Saga of Time', a bilingual memoir on Kazi Nazrul Islam and Abbasuddin are worth mentioning," said Mustafa Zaman Abbasi.

The fair will also feature solo and choral renditions of Nazrul songs by prominent and promising artistes, dance-drama and recitations, while several artists will paint, themed on Nazrul's life and works.

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.

Kanak Chanpa Chakma's

artistic passions

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

The artist has visited many

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 expres-

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

siveness.

"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



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

important chores on weekends." cultural arena. The artist has half a dozen cats. countries in Europe, Asia and Taking care of them "is a big part other continents for exhibitions, of my daily recreation," she said. seminars and art carnivals, of

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

which she picked Montmartre in

Paris as her favourite. Kanak said,

Picasso and Vincent van Gogh had

"Artists like Salvador Dali,

Amedeo Modigliani, Claude

Monet, Piet Mondrian, Pablo

studios or worked around the

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."

Rare first-edition Harry Potter book sells at record price

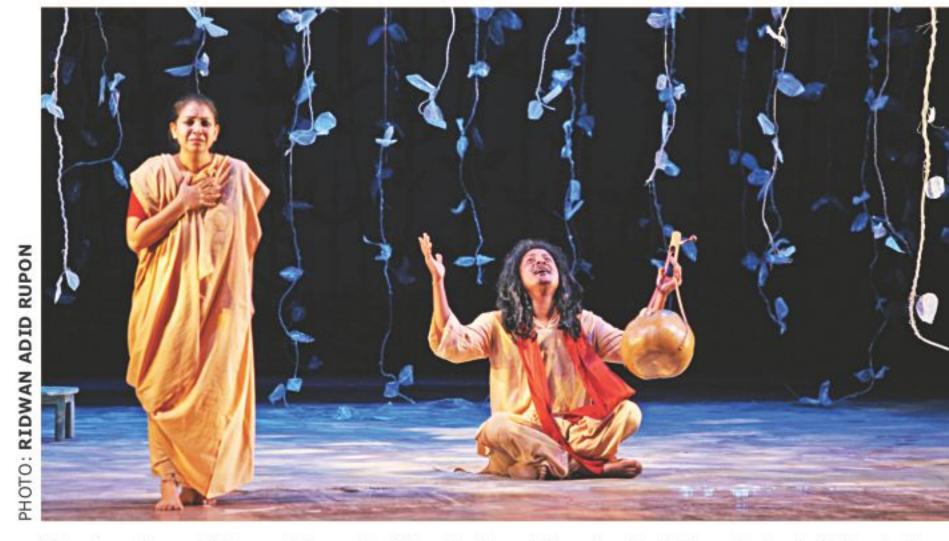
A rare first edition of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone", with annotations and drawings by author JK Rowling, has sold for a record price.

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



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.