

WHAT'S ON

Book Launch

Title of Book: Bishoy Ami Bishwa Bidhatri

Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutta Smriti Auditorium, Chhayanaut

Date: May 31

Time: 6:30pm



Rare Photographs of Nazrul

Organiser: National Museum & Nazrul Institute

Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh

Date: May 26-31

Time: 10am-6pm



An Evening of Baul Music

Artist: Syed Waqeeel Ahad

Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1

Date: May 31

Time: 6:30pm



Sculpture & Painting Exhibition

Artists: Ferdousy Priyabhashini and Karu Titus

Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, Rd-27 (old), Dhanmondi

Date: May 24-June 4

Time: 12-8pm



Theatre Festival

Organiser: Northern Theater

Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy

Date: May 24-31

Time: 7pm



NEWS bytes

Celebrating Nazrul

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Artists from several cultural organisations rendered Nazrul songs at the three-day celebrations held at Darirampur in Trishal marking the 114th birth anniversary of the National Poet. The celebrations -- concluding on May 27 -- were organized by Mymensingh district administration. The cultural shows included rendition of Nazrul songs, dance sequences, staging of plays, congregations of poets and more.

Prominent cultural troupes of the district, including Mukul Niketan Sangskritik Academy, Zila Shilpakala Academy, Alokdhara, Sandipon Sangskritik Sangstha, Chhayanaut, Bidrohi Natya Ghosthi, Udichi Shilpi Ghosthi, Zila Shilpakala Academy and Swaralipi participated in the programme.

Home minister Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir inaugurated the celebrations as chief guest on May 25, with Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqi in the chair. A three-day programme organised by the authorities of Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) in Trishal marking the bard's birth anniversary celebrations also concluded on May 27. The artists of the university performed at cultural shows at "Gahi Sammyer Gaan Mancha" of the university.

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam was observed on May 25 in Patuakhali with a discussion, poetry recitation and cultural function.

A discussion was also held at the Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) auditorium marking the occasion. Professor Md. Rabiul Haque, Dean of Nutrition and Food Science faculty of PSTU was in the chair. AKM Mostafa Zaman, chairman of PSTU Teacher's Association; its secretary Shadesh Samonta; Mohammad Ali; Ali Azgar Bhuiyan and Emran Hossain, Deputy Registrar of PSTU addressed the gathering among others.

A cultural function followed.

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Birth anniversary celebrations of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam were observed with a musical function at Romena Afaz Chatter at Shaheed Titu Milonayatan in Bogra town on Friday.

The event was presided over by Atiqur Rahman Mithu. The guests were Joint District Judge Amran Hossain Chowdhury; noted cultural activist Monowar Hossain; Toufiq Hasan Moyna; human rights activist Anawarul Islam and Progress group chairman Mostafizur Rahman.

After the inauguration ceremony, young artists performed songs of the two bards.

The function, organised by Uchcharan Academy -- a leading cultural organisation of the town, was sponsored by Progress group, Bogra.

Music should never be hurried...Rafiqul Alam

SHAH ALAM SHAZU



PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

Rafiqul Alam has held his place in the hearts of Bangladeshi music aficionados for the past few decades, with his baritone voice and ventures into various forms of popular music -- be it playback or *adhumik* songs. The Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste recently reminisced about evolution of Bangladeshi music scene to The Daily Star.

Do you feel that music from the '60s is fast disappearing?

Rafiqul Alam: I remember a brilliant singer from my early days in the 60s, named Abu Bakar. In a nutshell, I would say that music of that era is facing extinction. We cannot find Abu Bakar's songs now. He had a wonderful song "Kotha Dilam Ajke Raate". The 60s also experienced the music of Girin Chakrabarty, who later moved to Kolkata. The music of other top artistes of that time -- Hosna Banu Khanam, Arjuman Ara Begum, Sohrab Hossain -- cannot be found anymore. It is sad but true that their songs had not been properly preserved.

What was the music scene like during the 70s?

Rafiqul Alam: That decade saw a huge shift in music. It's easier to preserve songs of that era, and luckily these songs can still be heard. The musical reality shows are doing a good job in this regard; their contestants are trying to recreate the music of the 70s and 80s in the programmes. While it's not the job of the artistes to preserve the songs, but they are inspired by the tunes. I feel that songs by Mohammad Ali Siddiqui, Mahmudunnabi, Khondokar Nurul Alam -- are the best songs of the 70s. They created some extraordinary compositions.

But then came a brighter decade, right?

Rafiqul Alam: The upside of 80s music is that the hard copies still exist. Cinema, radio and television also managed to produce some fantastic songs during that time. I would call it the golden era for Bangladeshi music. The rise of music began in 1976, when composers like Alauddin Ali, Sheikh Sadi Khan joined their predecessors. Sattya Saha, Subal Das brought about a change in the style of music. The 80s saw a healthy competition among singers to create the best songs.

What is your opinion of the contemporary scene?

Rafiqul Alam: I'm really not happy with it. I don't know who to blame for this situation: the TV channels or the audio business. The people behind the music business have no contribution anymore. They cannot even make a profit. However, some artistes of the new generation give me hope. They've surprised me with their musical mettle.

What do you see on the road ahead for Bangladeshi music?

Rafiqul Alam: I'm still hopeful about the future. The youth have a lot of potential and I believe they will bring about positive change. But they also have to be more patient with their songs and be more dedicated to their craft. They should not hurry to climb to the top with their music. Music should never be hurried. If it is rushed, then money can be made from songs, but it will not be 'music'.

Jyotika Jyoti Career on the roll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Jyotika Jyoti's career is currently on a high, with a proliferation of TV plays coming her way. "I'm happy to be doing a lot of new dramas," the actor told The Daily Star. She recently went to Noakhali to shoot a one-hour TV play called "Monolova", directed by Obaidullah Tarek. Back in Dhaka, she is neck deep in work once more.

The star's recent works include Ishtiaq Mahmud's drama "Jolkonnya", Nazrul Quareshi's "Ghor", Saleh Ahmed Mona's "Kata Tarar Bera", Tuhin Abanta's "Chorer Bou", Shatabdi Zahid's "Shopno Bunon", and Russel Azam's "Mukhtahin Jhinuk".

"In the play 'Kata Tarar Bera', I will be playing the role of a daughter of a teacher in a rural area-- who is forced to leave her home after she is raped," adds Jyoti.

In "Chorer Bou", the versatile actress will play a thief's wife who does not support her husband's shady profession. Her role in 'Mukhtahin Jhinuk' is that of a woman who is pushed towards madness after being forced into a Hillah marriage.

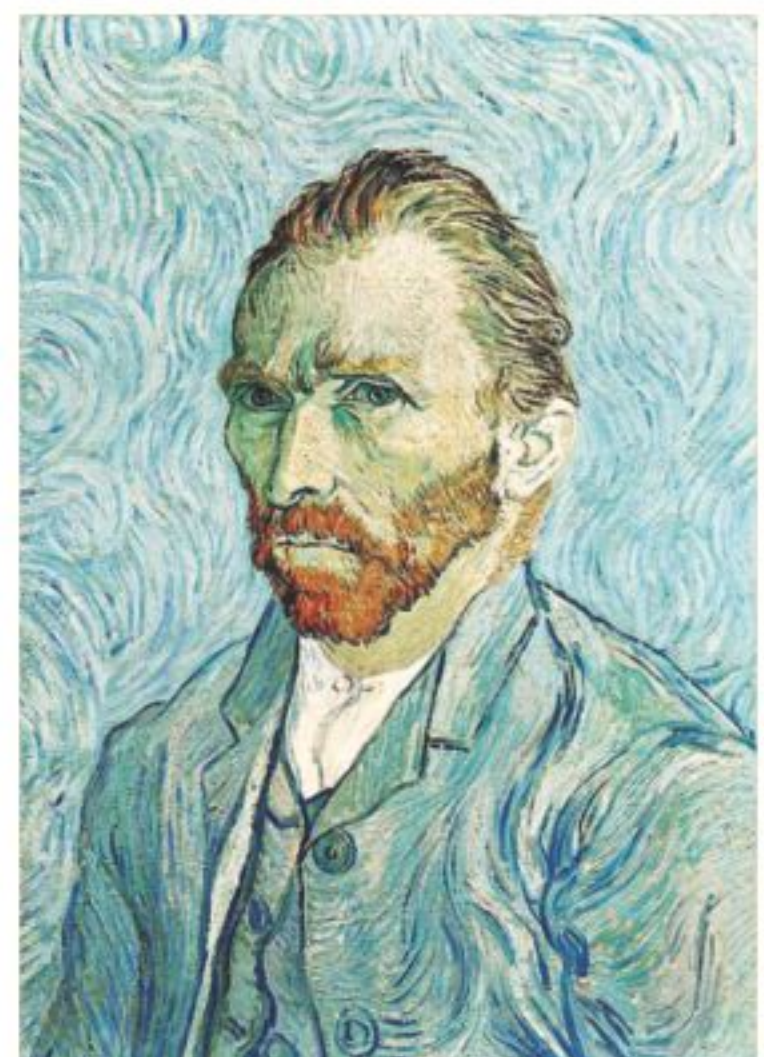
Jyotika says "I am also working on several ongoing series, which include "Ognipoth", "Chupichupi", "Kotha Kaje Mil Nai", and "Third Generation". Another upcoming serial by her is Naim Imtiaz Neamul's "Tobuo Jibon", which will be aired on ntv.

Other brand new serials by her include "Jiboner Rong", "Shomoyer Haatghori", "Bedom Chutchhe Sobbhota" and "Ekdin Protidin".

Jyotika has also appeared in four films. Her most recent role was in Tanvir Mokammel's "Jibondhuli" -- the shooting for which has been wrapped up, while dubbing is on.

In the future, says Jyotika she will be selective about her roles.

It's True!



Vincent Van Gogh -- the Dutch post-impressionist artist considered one of the most influential in the world -- did not begin painting until his late twenties, completing many of his best-known works during the last two years of his life. In just over a decade, he produced more than 2,100 artworks, consisting 860 oil paintings and more than 1,300 water-colours, drawings, sketches and prints. However, Van Gogh remained largely unnoticed in his lifetime, and even after his death in 1890 (at the young age of 37), and his fame peaked much later, near the time of World War I.

"Blue is the Warmest Colour" takes Palme d'Or 66th Cannes Film Festival closes

"Blue is the Warmest Colour" ("La Vie d'Adele"), an intimate love story about two young French women, has won the Palme d'Or for best film at the Cannes Film Festival.

It has attracted attention for bold scenes, as well as the acclaimed performances of actresses Adele Exarchopoulos and Lea Seydoux.

Hollywood veteran Bruce Dern won best actor for his performance in Nebraska, while French star Berenice Bejo -- known for silent film "The Artist" -- won best actress for her role in "The Past".

The winners were picked from the 20 films in competition and were named at the festival's closing ceremony on Sunday.

"Blue is the Warmest Colour" is a three-hour coming-of-age movie in which Exarchopoulos plays a 15-year-old who falls in love with an older woman, played by Seydoux. Directed by Abdellatif Kechiche, it won rave reviews in Cannes, being described as "epic yet intimate" by The Guardian.

But it also shocked some critics. The Hollywood Reporter said the "sprawling drama" would "raise eyebrows" as it crossed the barrier "between performance and the real deal."

Some had questioned whether some scenes may make it too explicit for the top prize. But director Steven Spielberg, who chaired the jury, told reporters: "I think it will get a



PHOTO COURTESY: GETTY IMAGES

(From left) Actress Lea Seydoux, director Abdellatif Kechiche and actress Adele Exarchopoulos ecstatic on stage after "Blue is the Warmest Colour" received the Palme d'Or in Cannes.

lot of play... I think this film carries a very strong message, a very positive message." In an unusual move, Spielberg awarded the prize to the two lead actresses as well as the director.

Amat Escalante, who made brutal drama "Heli" about Mexico's drugs war, was something of a surprise choice for best director. China's Jia Zhangke won best screenplay for "A Touch of Sin", an examination of rampant corruption in his country.

The Jury Prize went to "Like Father, Like Son", about two families who discover that their six-year-old boys were switched at birth, directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda.

Films that missed out included "Behind the Candelabra" -- in which Michael Douglas plays the legendarily flamboyant entertainer Liberace -- and Italian director Paolo Sorrentino's "The Great Beauty", a sumptuous story about an ageing novelist.

Spielberg was joined on the jury by Life of Pi director Ang Lee, actress Nicole Kidman and Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz. The other judges were filmmaker Lynne Ramsay, French actor Daniel Auteuil, Romanian director Cristian Mungiu, Japanese director Naomi Kawase and Bollywood star Vidya Balan.

Source: BBC

ON THE SCREEN Kon-Tiki: A true tale that changed history

TOWHIDUL ISLAM KHAN

With the ever-accelerating use of technology to make scientific leaps, it's a refreshing experience to come across a story where someone returns to primitive methods, in order to establish a scientific claim. "Kon-Tiki" is based on true events from the 1947 expedition by Norwegian ethnographer Thor Heyerdahl, where he and his crew sailed over 4,000 nautical miles across the Pacific on a Balsa wood raft. Heyerdahl was inspired by archeological evidence, native legends and drawings by the Spanish conquistadors -- to come to the conclusion that the ancestors of the Polynesian people came from South America.

As Heyerdahl's (Pal Sverre Hagen) quest to secure funding for an expedition resulted in ridicule, he roams New York for potential investors, but finds an unlikely comrade in a refrigerator salesman Herman (Anders Bassmo Christiansen).

A crew of six -- Thor Heyerdahl, Erik Hesselberg, Bengt Danielson, Knut Haugland, Torstein Raaby, and Herman Watzinger -- along with a pet parrot named Lorita -- is soon assembled; and with the backing of the Peruvian government, the raft is built using only materials available to ancient indigenous people.

Determined in re-creating the journey as it was originally taken, Heyerdahl uses hemp ropes to tie up the



Balsa logs and refuses any modern equipment on board Kon-Tiki except for a radio. The journey that follows is filled with storms, sharks, boat leaks, and most importantly - the growing tension and bonding of friendship among the adventurers during the 101-day quest.

The movie stands out from the latest special-effects-filled Hollywood spectacles because of its simplicity. Much like Heyerdahl's boat, the film relies on the more elementary storytelling techniques. Unlike many other sea-faring movies, the scenes in "Kon-Tiki" were shot in the open ocean, instead of a set, to bring a more authentic feel to the film. The isolation-filled voyage may remind the viewer of "Life of Pi", but here -- the tiger on a boat is replaced by circling sharks in the sea. Directors Joachim Roenning and Espen Sandberg's formidable job in bringing the ocean to the screens was rewarded with nominations for Best Foreign Language Film at both the 85th Academy Awards and the 70th Golden Globe. The first Norwegian film to seize the dual honor, "Kon-Tiki" was also the highest-grossing film of 2012 in Norway and the country's most expensive production to date.

Thor Heyerdahl's book about his experience was published in 1948 as "The Kon-Tiki Expedition: By Raft Across the South Seas". A documentary film on the expedition, also called "Kon-Tiki", won an Academy Award in 1951.

TV WATCH "Au-er Golpo": Story of an autistic girl

A CORRESPONDENT

Banglavision will air the second episode of an autistic girl in its drama series "Au-er Golpo", at 9:05pm tonight.

The serial that explores crime, supernatural and horror themes is based on true stories. Directed by Tanvir Hossain

Probal, Shamim Shahed narrates in the background. Today's episode will feature a cast including Shashi, Shikha Haque, Aminul Haque, Sadaruddin Tapu Khan, Dip, Reza, Samrat and Hashi.

"Au-er Golpo" airs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays on Banglavision at the same time.

