

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



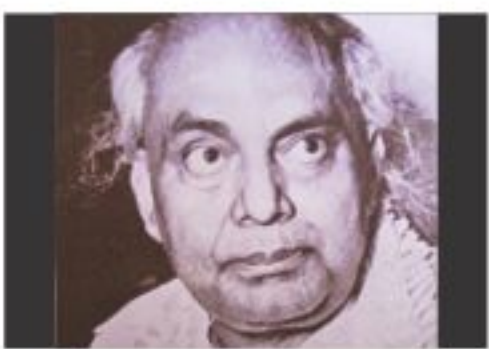
Rare Photographs of Nazrul

Organiser: National Museum & Nazrul Institute

Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh

Date: May 26-31

Time: 10am-6pm



An Evening of Baul Music

Artist: Syed Waqel 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 Titas

Venue: Bengal Shilpakala, 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

BBC Asian Network presents Top Bollywood Song list

A song from 1966 Bollywood blockbuster movie, "Suraj" (Sun) has been voted the best-loved track by BBC Asian Network listeners.

"Baharon Phool Barsao" was chosen from a list of 100 Hindi movie songs--released between 1940 and 2010.

The 100 tracks were shortlisted by a panel of experts, which includes singers and film critics. The countdown was part of the station's celebrations of 100 years of Bollywood. It was revealed in a special programme following a whole day dedicated to counting down the best songs.

"Bollywood is huge and massively popular for our listeners. Counting down the Top 100 Bollywood songs is a great way to celebrate all things Bollywood," said Neila Butt, BBC Asian Network's editor of music and live events.

Source: BBC

It's True!



Bollywood diva Madhuri Dixit has won the hearts of millions in India and across the globe, with her disarming smile, graceful dancing and powerful acting. A group of her fans in 2012 went as far to name a star in the Orion constellation after the superstar. Madhuri was presented the plaque from Star Foundation -- that allows people to buy the rights to name a star. She was presented the wooden plaque certifying the naming at the sets of a dance reality show she was judging, in June 2012.

ALL-TIME GREATS

Ustad Sultan Khan: A virtuoso beyond boundaries

FAHMIM FERDOUS

On a hot April 1940 day in the Indian desert city of Sikir Rajasthan, Sultan Khan was born to sarangi-nawaz Gulab Khan. At a very young age, Sultan picked up the sarangi, and as his father gave him the first lessons in the technically delicate instrument, he realised that his son had inherited his talent.

Sultan Khan made his first big-stage appearance in the All-India Music Conference at the tender age of 11, and by the time he was 20, he was working as a musician in a radio station in Gujarat's town of Rajkot. Then came a fateful day when Lata Mangeshkar visited the city, and Sultan got the break to play with the legendary artiste. He shifted to Mumbai soon, and delved deep into the rich classical music scenario.

He found his niche in the Indore gharana, and besides continuing to create beautiful melodies -- both vocally and on the sarangi -- took a number of students under his tutelage. And his list of students was not limited to classical instrumentalists; music producers Sukshinder Shinda and noted director-producer Ram Gopal Verma took sarangi lessons from him.



But what really set Sultan Khan apart from a number of his contemporaries was his awareness of global music. He gave music to films, including lending his voice -- most notably in "Albela Sajana Aayo Re" ("Hum Dil De Chuke

Sanam") and more. The appeal of a classical vocal in popular music reached out to millions when he released "Piya Basanti" in 2000, and it became the number one album of the year in India.

Sultan Khan's melodies transcended borders, when he performed in the 1974 "Dark Horse World Tour" with the likes of Ravi Shankar and George Harrison. Even later in his career, he continued to collaborate internationally -- with Ustad Zakir Hussain and Bill Laswell in the famous "Tabla Beat Science" project and for the album "Good people in the Times of Evil" with bassist Jonas Hellborg and guitarist Shawn Lane. His performance at the British House of Commons, with the legendary father-son tabla duo Ustad Alla Rakha and Ustad Zakir Hussain --made way for him to become a regular artiste for BBC Radio London.

Ustad Sultan Khan breathed his last on November 27, 2011 at the age of 71, after a prolonged illness. But he left behind an abundance of music: his beautiful pieces on sarangi and the instrumental duets with Zakir Hussain for those thirsty for the depths of North Indian classical music, and the film playbacks and unforgettable duets with the likes of Chitra Singh and Shreya Ghoshal.

Vignettes from a lifetime

Rare images of Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 114th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) and Nazrul Institute have jointly organised an exhibition featuring rare photographs of Nazrul, the poet's household articles and furniture, attires, a side-table, writing table, gramophone, kitchen ware, a collection of the manuscripts in the poet's own hand writing and

100 rare books. The exhibition is now on at Nalini Kanta Bhattachali Gallery of the museum.

Cultural Affairs Secretary, Dr Ranjit Kumar Biswas, ndc inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest on May 26. Executive director at the Nazrul Institute, Rashid Haider delivered the welcome speech while Prokash Chandra Das, director general of BNM delivered a speech on behalf of the museum. M Azizur Rahman, president of Bangladesh National



President Justice Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem confers the Ekushey Padak on the National Poet in 1976 (top); Voices of poetry: The Palli Kabi beside the Rebel Poet in 1975.

Ustad Kamruzzaman Moni's birth anniversary celebrated



A tabla recital by artistes of Tabla Shikkhalaya.

PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 86th birth anniversary of Tabla Ustad Kamruzzaman Moni, a celebration programme was recently held at Chhayanaut auditorium. Kathak Dance Community arranged the event that featured a discussion, music performance, instrumental recital and dance presentation.

Educationist Rasheda K.

Chowdhury; dance personalities Laila Hasan, Zeenat Barkatullah; editor and publisher of monthly "Sargam" Kazi Rawnak Hossain; principal of Jhankar Lalitkala Academy Fatema Kashem and others spoke on the life and musical contributions of Kamruzzaman Moni at the programme.

Paying their homage to the late Ustad, artistes of Tabla Shikkhalaya played a group tabla lahora while Krishnadas Mallik, Sukanta Biswas,

Badal Chowdhury, Ilias Khan and Zakir Hossain gave solo tabla recitals.

Noted vocalists Rezwan Ali, Asit Dey and Leo J Baroi performed classical songs. Promising artistes Tanjum Tabassum Orhi and Arnab Satyam Roy also performed at the programme. Veteran violinist Alauddin Mian, sarod artiste Yusuf Khan and violinist Rezaul Karim presented instrumental music while artistes of Nrityanandan, Nrityashree and Kathak Dance Community showcased Manipuri, Odissi and Kathak genres at the programme.

Ustad Kamruzzaman Moni was a student of Ustad Barin Majumdar, Sudhir Kumar Saha and Golam Mostafa Warshi. Later, he took lessons from Indian musician Ustad Shawkat Ali Khan Kadri.

Moni taught at Music College, Nazrul Academy and Altaf Mahmud Music College. He established a music school in 1972 and won several prestigious awards for his immense contribution to music. He has to his credit a number of publications on the tabla.

Humayun Fareedi's last days

Iconic actor would have been 62 today

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Today is iconic theatre and TV actor Humayun Fareedi's birthday. He left us at the age of 60. During his lifetime, he won the hearts of millions. Although acting was his main passion, he also dabbled in direction in his later years. In his long career -- during which he never ventured out of the realm of acting - he also produced a film.

I knew this talented actor for over a decade. I became his admirer when I was in school, after watching his performance as Kaan-kata Romzan in "Shongshoptok". After I got acquainted to him, I expressed my admiration of his acting many times. I often went to his Dhanmondi residence. He was an adda-loving man. Whenever I would leave his home, he would walk to the door to say goodbye, and stood by the door till the elevator doors shut. Bidding adieu, he would tell me, "Shazu stay well".

Once he invited me to a lunch at an Eid-special play's shooting near Uttara. It was taking place at Anandabari shooting house, and I got to spend the entire day with him. When it was time to leave, I requested for a photo opportunity, to which he happily agreed. When I returned home, the photographer told me that the picture was mistakenly deleted. Unfortunately after that incident, I never had the chance to take another picture with the actor.

I also used to call him up at times. He often expressed that he felt lonely during his last days, and was always happy to get my calls. Before he hung up the phone, he would tell me "Stay honest, work



hard, and you will never regret it."

I once asked him why he chose to leave movies, and he answered, "I don't have the energy like I used to."

If he were alive, the great actor would've turned 62 today. He never chose to celebrate his birthday in a grand manner. He said "Birthdays are for kids." And whenever he was asked about death and mortality, he told me, "I'm not afraid of death. It's only a never ending sleep."

Happy birthday, dear Humayun Fareedi!

Bangladeshi singers enthrall Kolkata audience



A CORRESPONDENT

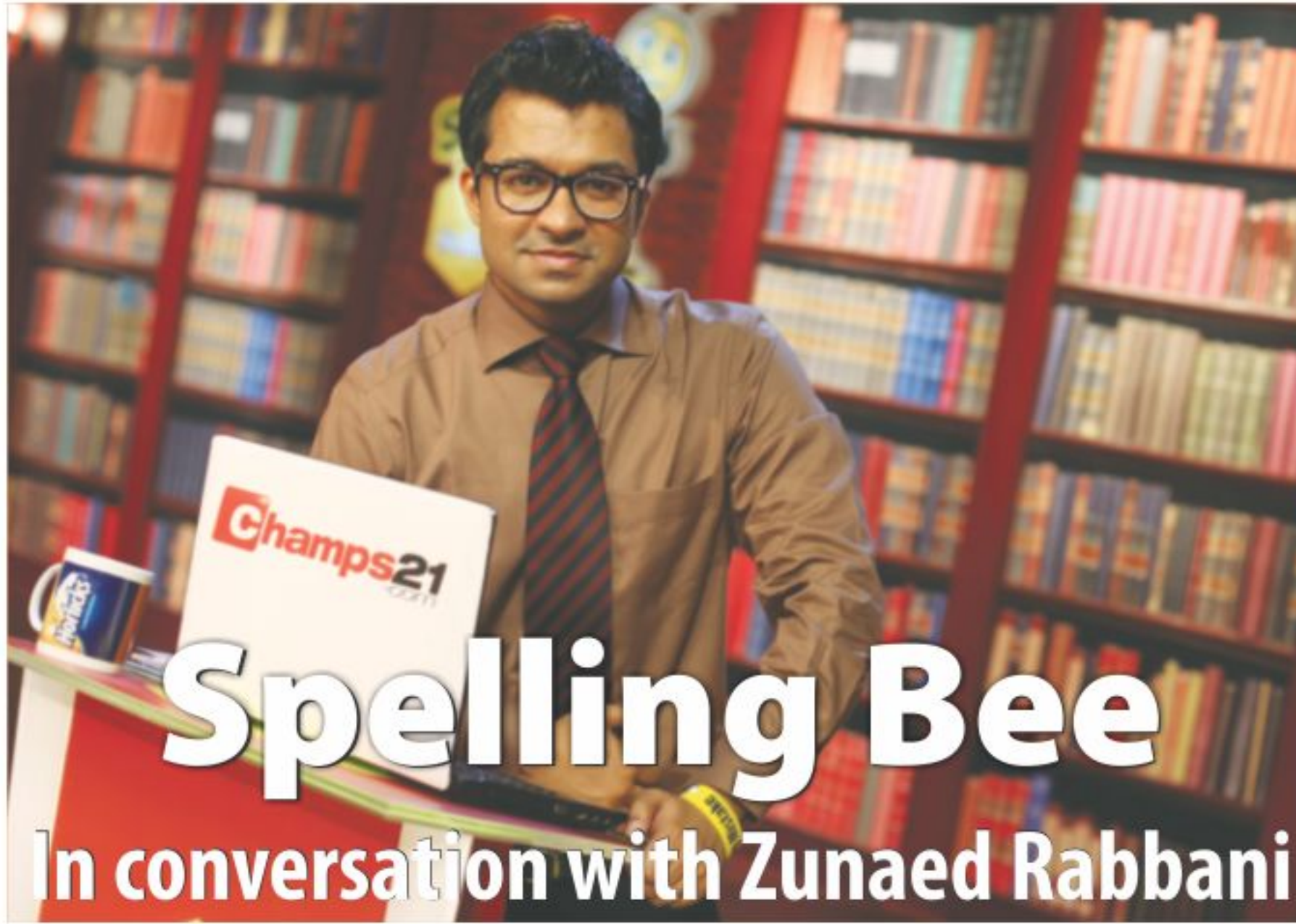
A number of noted singers from Bangladesh recently took part in a three-day cultural programme in Kolkata to mark the birth anniversary of Tagore.

Rabindra Bharati University and West Bengal Government jointly arranged the programme at the premises of Jorasanko Thakurbari.

Srikanta Acharya gave a performance

on the opening day. On the second day Bangladeshi singers, Mahadev Ghosh and Laisa Ahmed Lisa rendered songs, while Aditi Mohsin and Fahim Hossain Choudhury performed on the third day for an enthusiastic audience.

For their outstanding rendition of Tagore songs, Bangladeshi singers drew much applause from the audience, especially from Sabyasachi Basu Ray Choudhury, the vice-chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University.



MOYUKH MAHTAB

The second season of "The Champs21 Spelling Bee", organised by The Daily Star nears its end. With twice as many students from last year participating and over 200 schools signing up from across the country, the event was exponentially better both in terms of quality and organisation. The Daily Star caught up with the pronouncer of the show, Zunaed Rabbani, as the TV episodes airs on Channel i.

Rabbani's interest in the show was sparked when he saw it the first time last year. He says, "The show had three E's: it was engaging, enlightening and entertaining; and I immediately wanted to be a part of it."

"The Spelling Bee" has been a long journey; the second season started in February and will culminate in the announcement of a winner soon. Asked about the most rewarding leg of this journey, Zunaed says, "To be a part of the show has been a privilege. What struck me most was the excitement of the children. This inspired me to put in the extra effort to be accurate, so that no mistake on my part ruined the hard work the kids had put into the contest."