

WHAT'S ON

**Film Screening**  
 Film: Kalpana  
 Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan 1  
 Date: Aug 29  
 Time: 6:30pm

**Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan**  
 Organiser: Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad  
 Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Aug 29-31; Time: 6pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
 Artist: Rahima Afroz  
 Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Aug 22-29  
 Time: 3-8pm

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
 Artist: Ganesh Haloi  
 Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, R-16, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Aug 28-Sep 8  
 Time: 12-8pm

**Solo Water-colour Exhibition**  
 Artist: Shahnoor Mamun  
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi  
 Date: Aug 23-Sep 6  
 Time: 3-9pm

NEWS bytes

**Madonna**  
 highest-earning celebrity

Pop star Madonna was the world's top-earning celebrity over the past year, trumping the likes of Oprah Winfrey and Steven Spielberg. The 55-year-old Material Girl made an estimated \$125m thanks to her MDNA tour, clothing and fragrance lines, according to Forbes. Director Steven Spielberg was at number two with \$100m, with most of his earnings coming from his back-catalogue of film hits such as ET and Jurassic Park -



which has just been released in 3D to mark its 20th anniversary. Third place was a three-way tie between "50 Shades of Grey" author EL James, Simon Cowell and shock jock Howard Stern. Forbes compiles its annual list of celebrity earnings using input from agents, managers, producers and others to calculate its estimates for each celebrity's entertainment-related earnings.

Source: BBC



**Nazrul Institute's Homage to the National Poet**

ZAHANGIR ALOM

To pay homage to the National Poet on his 37th death anniversary, Nazrul Institute under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs organised a three-day (August 25-27) National Nazrul Sammelan (at divisional level) at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum. The event featured discussions and cultural programmes.

On the opening day (August 25), Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad as chief guest handed over Nazrul Padak-2012 to eminent writer-researcher Anupam Hayat and noted Nazrul artiste MA Mannan. The award recipient duo received Taka 50,000 each along with crests. Chairman of Nazrul Institute Professor Rafiqul Islam presided over the programme. Apart from music performances, the opening day's cultural event showcased a dance recital by noted exponent Mumun Ahmed and her troupe. Dancer Deepa Khandakar also led her troupe at the second day's cultural show.

Several socio-cultural organisations placed wreaths at the poet's grave on the Dhaka University



Artistes of Nazrul Institute perform a chorus (top); Shaheen Samad (L) and Ferdous Ara render solos at the event. PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

campus on August 27 morning and organised programmes, including discussions and cultural functions, marking the day.

The Nazrul Institute chalked out elaborate programme in observance of the poet's death anniversary. Executive director of the institute, Rashid Haider delivered the welcome address on the concluding day (August 27). Nazrul researcher Poet Nurul Huda and a member of the Nazrul Institute Trustee Board and granddaughter of the poet, Khilkhil Kazi spoke at the programme. Eminent Nazrul exponent Professor Rafiqul Islam chaired the discussion.

A cultural programme followed where artistes and elocutionists performed solo and choral songs and recitations. Among others, noted artistes Khalid Hossain, Shaheen Samad, Yakub Ali Khan,

Khairul Anam Shakil and Ferdous Ara presented solos "Masjider-i Pashey Amar", "Ajo Ka(n)dey Kanoney Koyelia", "Korun Keno Arun Aa(n)khi", "Otit Diner Smriti" and "Amar Kali Banchha Kalpatoru" respectively. Shaheen Samad's rendition of the Hameer genre coupled with taan and tehai performance was evocative while Ferdous Ara did apt justice to the kirtan number. Noted artistes Yasmin Mushtari and Shamsunnahar Chowdhury also rendered solo songs at the event.

Elocutionist Mahidul Islam presented a Nazrul poem "Shaat-il-Arab". Child artistes of the institute rendered a choral song and presented a group recitation. Senior artistes of the institute wrapped up the programme with the rendition of a choral patriotic song "Ei Amader Bangladesh".

Documentaries that delight

Film Southasia 2013 around the corner

A CORRESPONDENT

The long-awaited selection of films for Film Southasia 2013, to be held in Kathmandu from October 3-6, has been wrapped up. The selected films are on Southasian themes, while the filmmakers are not necessarily from the region. The subjects range from people, culture, lifestyle and adventure to development, environment, politics, education and history.

Among the films slated for screening at the fest are Indian film "A Prayer For Aliyah" directed by Zorawar Shukla; Bangladeshi film "Are You Listening! (Shunte Ki Pao!)" with Kamar Ahmed Simon as director; "Broken" from Sri Lanka, directed by Kannan Arunasalam; "CHAR...No Man's Island" from India with Sourav Sarangi as director; "Expecting" by Fabio Wuytack that comes from Afghanistan and Belgium.

Other films to emerge from Banglaesh

are "Hombre Maquina" by Roser Corella and Alfonso Moral; "Life Begins with Tears" by Simon Chambers; "The Poison Teller" by Shabnam Ferdousi. "The Strike" by Farid Ahmed also comes from Bangladesh.

From Burma comes "Miss Nikki and the Tiger Girls" by Juliet Lamont. Pakistan comes up with "My Punjabi Love For You" by Adnan Malik; Nepal is represented by "Playing with Nan" by filmmakers Dipesh Kharel and Asami Saito, and that's only a sample.

Film Southasia (FSA) is a biennial festival that was set up in 1997 with the goal of popularising the documentary so that it entertains, informs and changes lives. In addition to the festival that takes place in Kathmandu every two years, FSA organises screenings, discussions and workshops across Southasia to promote Southasian non-fiction within the subcontinent and around the world.



A scene from "Shunte Ki Pao!"



CELEBRATING Tagore's Nobel centenary

A CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate 100 years of the conferment of the Nobel Prize on Rabindranath Tagore, Rabindra Parishad Bangladesh recently arranged a discussion, poetry recitation and musical programme at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Dhanmondi. Eminent personalities, including Tagore exponents, discussed different aspects of the bard's life, his timeless literary work "Geetanjali" as well as Tagore's views on his contemporary social setting. Noted Tagore singers of the country later rendered songs at the cultural programme.

Russian Ambassador to Dhaka Alexander A Nikolaev and Professor Harun-Ur Rashid were present as guests at the programme. Syed Mohammad Shahed, former director general of Bangla Academy and Professor of the Bangla Department of Dhaka University presided over

the discussion. Ambassador Mosud Mannan also the convener of Rabindra Parishad Bangladesh, delivered the welcome speech at the programme.

Speakers shed light on varied aspects of Geetanjali, saying Tagore songs and poems have touched every possible emotion imaginable. The poet had always believed strongly that his creations would remain timeless; even a hundred years after his death, they would be cherished the same.

Elocutionists Kazi Madina, Rezina Wali Lina, Dr. Farhana Ahmed, Sajida Akhand and Bhashwar Bandopadhyay recited several poems from Geetanjali. Noted Tagore artistes Shama Rahman and Fahim Hossain Chowdhury rendered songs at the programme. Foreign minister, Dr. Dipu Moni -- also the special guest of the programme -- recited two poems from Geetanjali.

Afroza's World of Recluse

SHAMSUL WARES

Rahima Afroz initially was a mechanical engineer (diploma in 1988) who turned artist. Her track record shows that she has been busy in exhibiting her paintings even before she became a student of fine arts in 2004. She never practiced engineering nor joined any organisation related to fine arts after obtaining both Bachelors and Masters degree in Fine Arts from UODA, Dhaka in 2008 and 2009 respectively, but remained a dedicated painter at her home.

She also studied Ikebana (1993-2006), a Japanese art of flower-arrangement that emphasises form and balance in accordance with strict rules. She won a number of top awards in this art form in Bangladesh organised by the Embassy of Japan, UNESCO and others. Although she has participated in a number of group art exhibitions over the last 10 years, this is her first solo containing 33 works of art including mixed media canvas paintings, colographs wood cuts and drawings.

Rahima Afroz, a housewife and mother of two sons, not only finds in painting a means to express her love, agony and thoughts but is also passionately involved in achieving the professional quality of her finished products. In her mixed media paintings (composition 1, 2, 3 and 4) of 2009, kitchen utensils hung from the abstracted walls are very intense but expressed with great repose. These paintings rendered with clarity, simplicity and painterly

sensitivity seem to emerge from an unconscious fathom of womanhood. A kitchen wall, usually taken as a mundane subject for creation of art, in her hands is transformed with great intensity and vigour that symbolically refers to the tragic view of the existence of women at large confined within the household limit centered around the kitchen. These



"kitchen wall" paintings rendered in warm and cool colours, somehow subconsciously level her as a silent feminist artist who seeks to open her audience's eyes to the need for social and psychological emancipation of women as well as their greater role in all spheres of life.

Similarly in her mixed media paintings of 2012 and 2013 (composition 5,6,9 and 10) flower vases appear against wonderfully crafted background of colour and texture. The tactile volume of the vases with strong textures and roughness against warm and cool colours of subtle grades complement and reinforce

each other. Her sense of colour contrast and compositional understanding provide a bold ambience of domesticity in all these paintings.

But the real passion of Rahima Afroz seems to lie in pure abstraction, creating illusive space emitting light, surrounded by heavily textured darker forms as exemplified in mixed media paintings of 2011 titled Desire, Ensemble-1, Nature-1, Nature-2 and Nature-3. These subtly composed paintings are capable of arousing pure aesthetic pleasure. Practically all her works are based on pure abstraction, but then in some of these she puts familiar simple objects superimposed like flower vase, kitchen utensils, vegetable forms, etc. to create a tension between the real and metaphysical.

Her colographs, titled Fish-1 and Fish-2 of 2013, are two amazing works of art. These works not only meticulously depict the underwater complex world with finesse but also could capture the fathomless aquatic mystery. The play of daylight and its dispersion are remarkably filtered within the water field. These colographs in burnt sienna (sepia) with superb technical richness created almost surreal images within the structure of captured reality.

Rahima Afroz is crafty and has the right energy and inertia, she needs now, to cultivate consistently on them.

The exhibition is on at Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi in the city. It will continue till August 29.

The writer is an eminent architect and art critic.



**Snapshots from Shadhona's dance programme "Nupur Bejey Jaye" held on Sunday at the Music and Dance auditorium of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The programme featured Manipuri ritual dance with assistance of artistes from Moulvibazar, solo Bharatnatyam performances by Amit Chowdhury, group performances on Tagore songs by dance school Chaturango, Mymensingh, and choreography of classic Bangla film songs by artistes of Shadhona.**

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADDID RUPON



IT'S TRUE!

Celebrated guitarist Joe Satriani was inspired to play guitar at age 14, after hearing of the death of the legendary Jimi Hendrix. He has been said to have heard the news during a football training session, where he confronted his coach and announced that he was quitting to become a guitarist. Satriani soon began teaching guitar, with his most notable student at the time being fellow Long Island native and another great guitarist of our times, Steve Vai -- who also went to the same high school as Satriani.

