

# 59th death anniversary of Jibanananda observed

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The 59th death anniversary of Poet Jibanananda Das was observed at his ancestral city Barisal on October 22.

The participants in a programme to mark this important day demanded implementation of the Dhanshiri River eco park project and excavation of Dhanshiri River as also the setting up of a museum, memorials and sculptures of the poet in places connected with his life and work. They also called for more study and research on his life and achievements.

Jatiya Kabita Parishad (Barisal branch) organised the programme on the occasion at Poet Jibanananda Memorial Hall built at the parental home of the poet on Kabi Jibanananda Das Sharak in the city.

Tapan Kar Chakraborty, president of Kabita Parishad Barisal branch, presided over the programme by placing a floral wreath at the portrait of the poet and discussed on his life and achievements. Writer Dr.

Mozammel Hossain, poet Mukul Das, Dr. Mostak Al Mehadi, Kazi Selina, Partha Sarathi and Suvash Chandra Das attended the programme.

## NEWS bytes

## AVATAR sequels to begin filming next year



Director Sam Worthington is all signed up to return to Pandora for the various sequels to Avatar, with the star confirming that filming is set to begin in October 2014. James Cameron is thought to be hard at work on pre-production on the sequels, with the second, third and fourth instalments set to film back to back.

"We are going to start [shooting] this time next year and we will do two, three and four," said Worthington in an interview with an Australian radio station. "I'll be grateful if it finishes!"

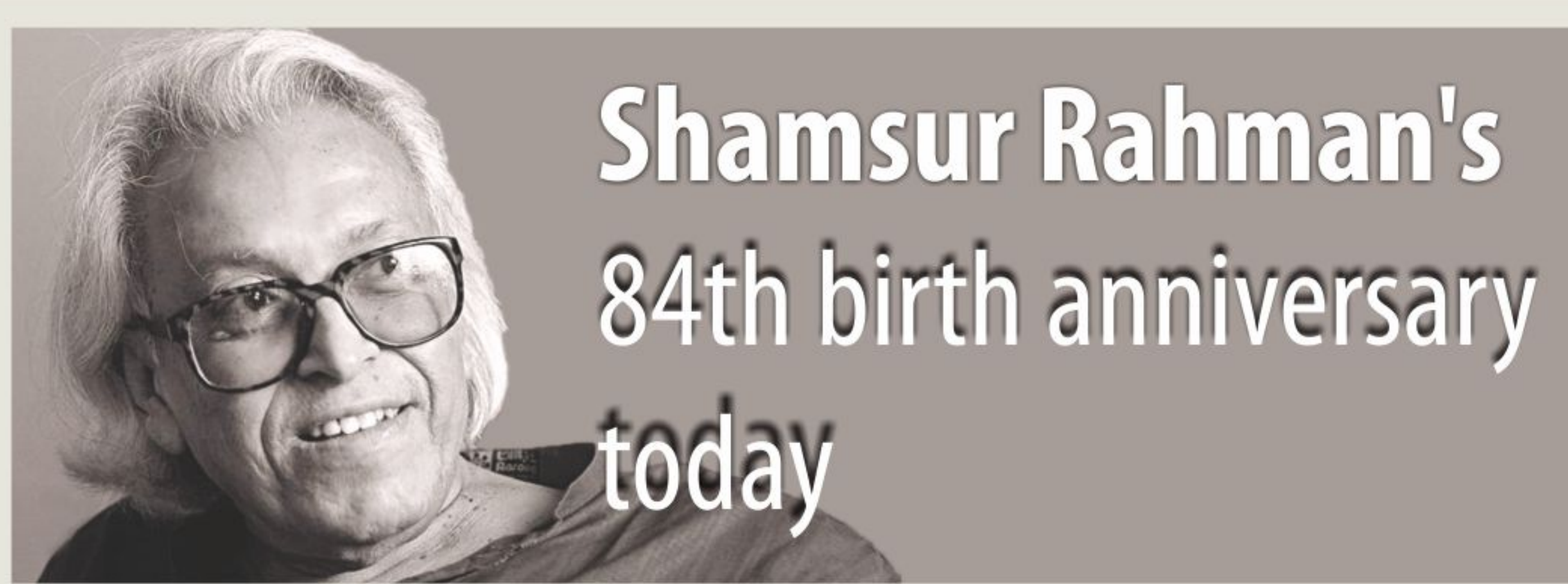
Worthington went on to suggest that the three films will be filmed within a year-long shoot, which would set the studio up to release a sequel each December for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Source: Totalfilm

## IT'S TRUE!



Vitamin String Quartet (VSQ) is a musical group from Los Angeles, California that is widely known for its series of tribute albums to rock and pop acts. Their discography of a staggering 261 albums primarily features just a string quartet, though other instruments have been used. Their albums honor a wide variety of genres, including pop and rock, techno, country, and rap, and a wide variety of groups, such as System of a Down, Bruce Springsteen, Led Zeppelin, Deftones, Coldplay, Adele, Lady Gaga, Radiohead, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Green Day, Paramore, Muse, Linkin Park, Avenged Sevenfold and many more.



# Shamsur Rahman's 84th birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 84th birth anniversary of pre-eminent poet Shamsur Rahman. Socio-cultural organisations will arrange programmes to observe the day. On the occasion, Jatiya Kabita Parishad, editors of a number of little magazines, cultural and educational institutions will arrange discussions and poetry recitations in the city. Bangla Academy and National Public Library jointly organised a poetry recitation and discussion at Shamsur Rahman Seminar Hall of the academy, yesterday. Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy presided over the programme.

Rahman was noted as an urban poet, essayist and journalist. He emerged on the literary scene in the latter half of the 20th century and wrote more than 60 books of poetry and is considered a key figure in Bengali literature. Major themes in his poetry and writings include urban issues, natural beauty, human relationships, romanticism,

democracy and religious fundamentalism.

About the poet, Rabiul Husain said, "Rahman had a long career as a journalist and served as the editor of a national daily, Dainik Bangla and the weekly Bichitra in the 1980s. The poet became an outspoken liberal intellectual in the 1990s against all kinds of religious fundamentalism and reactionary politics in our country."

Poet Muhammad Samad, Vice Chancellor of University of Information Technology and Sciences recalled: "Rahman was unquestionably one of the foremost Bengali poets. I met the bard in the 1970s in the city. At that time he was very popular poet of Dhaka University. His poetry outstandingly articulates varied urban issues, romanticism, politics, liberal humanism and personal alienation. He was deeply influenced by Jibanananda Das and Sudhindranath Datta. I had spent a fair share of time with him at seminars, recitations, overseas tours and cultural programmes."

Rahman was born on October 23,

1929 at his grandfather's residence at Mahut Tuli in Old Dhaka. He studied at Pogose High School, Dhaka College and Dhaka University. Among his famed works are "Roudro Korotite", "Biddhastha Nilima", "Buk Tar Bangladesh-er Hridoy", "Hridoy Amar Prithibir Alo", "Prothom Gan Ditio Mrittur Agey", "Bondi Shibir Theke" and others.

Besides poetry, he also contributed essays, stories, novels, translations and columns. Through a career spanning over six decades, he wrote numerous poems and published over 100 books. His poems have been translated in many languages.

The poet received many prestigious awards in his lifetime. Rabindra Bharati University and Jadavpur University of India conferred honorary D. Lit. degrees on him. He was a recipient of Swadhinata Padak, Ekushey Padak, Adamjee Puroshkar, Bangla Academy Puroshkar, Jibanananda Puroshkar, Kabitapal Puroshkar, Abul Munsur Gold Medal, Bhasani Puroshkar, among other honours.

# Antique collections exhibited in Pabna



AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Hundred-year old lamps, coins, hookah and other such antiques were put on display in Pabna on Saturday. The antiques were from the collection of Nazmul Haque Montu. The exhibition was held at the Annoda Gobinda Public Library auditorium.

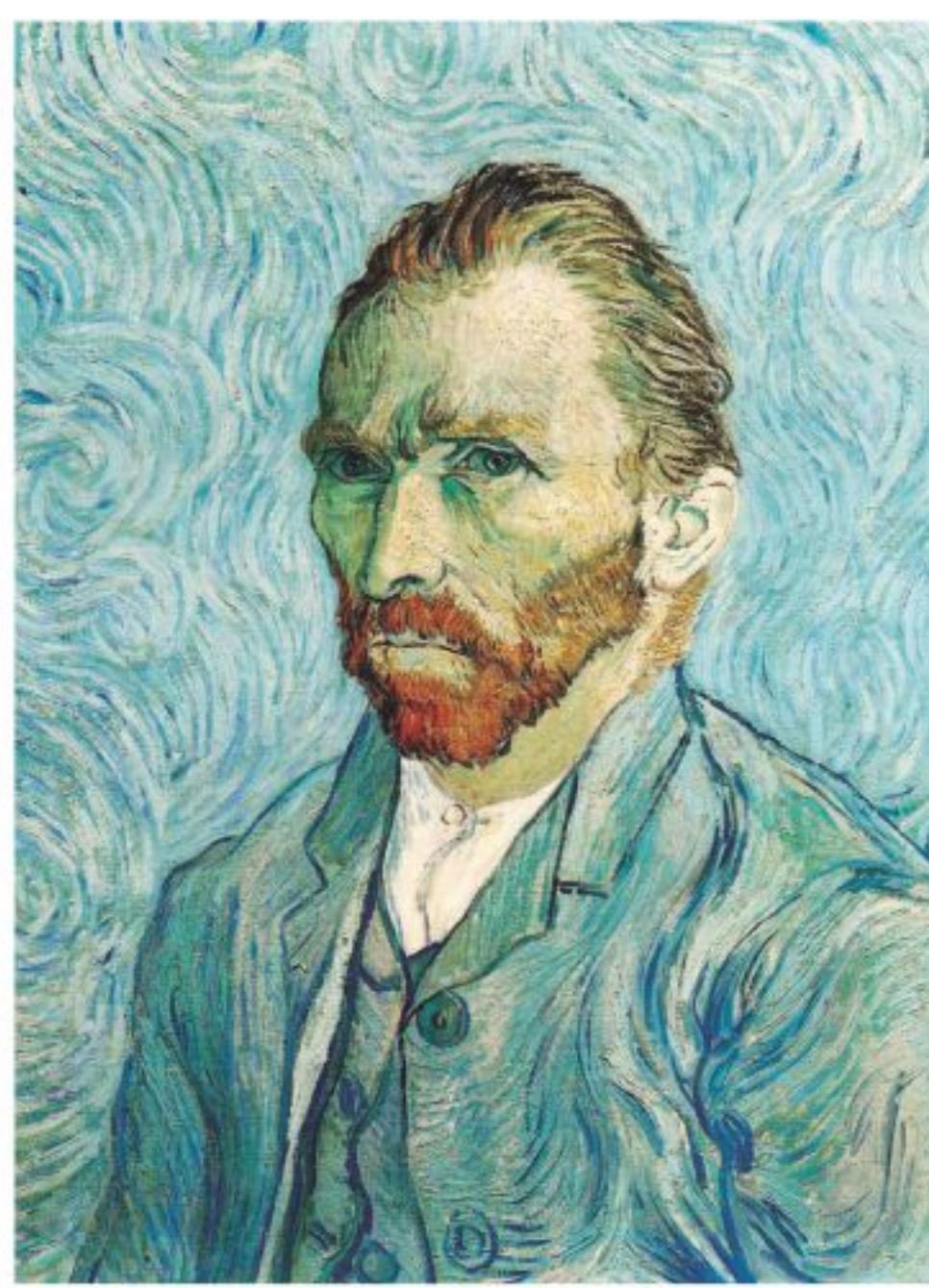
Pabna Deputy Commissioner Md. Mostafizur Rahman inaugurated the three-day exhibition as the chief guest. Convener of the exhibition, Abdullah Al Masum chaired the programme.

Nazmul Haque Montu said he has been collecting antiques since 1973 while still a schoolboy. He has already collected over 5,000 antiques that he houses in his personal museum at his residence.

Inkpots, ancient lamps, ornaments of indigenous people, antique coins, and postal documents from the Mughal period to Bangladesh are on display at the exhibition.

## ALL TIME GREATS

# Vincent van Gogh The tormented genius



The Potato Eaters

KAVITA, New Delhi

"Starry, starry night. Paint your palette blue and grey, Look out on a summer's day, With eyes that know the darkness in my soul.

Shadows on the hills, Sketch the trees and the daffodils, Catch the breeze and the winter chills, In colors on the snowy linen land."

-- Lyrics from "Vincent" by American singer DonMcLean.

DonMcLean's famous tribute to Post-Impressionist Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh's is a mirror on the life of the tormented genius. If works like "The Potato Eaters", "Starry Night Over The Rhone", paintings of glorious sunflowers and his portraits now find place in some of the greatest museums in the world, in his lifetime he lived unrecognised, tortured by poverty and his own instability.

Biographers trace his lifelong anguish to a longing for maternal love. Exactly a year prior to his birth in Groot Zundert, a small village in Dutch Brabant, on

March 30, 1853 his mother Anna Cornelia Carpentus had given birth to a still born child, also christened Vincent. Van Gogh was constantly plagued by guilt and the feeling that he was undeserving of his mother's love for being alive instead of his brother.

That haunting pain, miserable relationships, heavy drinking and a licentious life left van Gogh bereft of an anchor except for his adored brother Theo. To Theo he confided his innermost thoughts that have enabled succeeding generations to reconstruct his life and art.

"The Potato Eaters" is considered to be van Gogh's first great work of art. The work is reflective of his solidarity with poor people whose lives like his own were full of suffering. The painting reveals five figures, four female and one male, seated around a table eating potatoes. This is a sombre work with the subjects caught in darkness except for a meagre oil lamp.

Van Gogh's later works appear more vivid though many were painted when he was in and out of sanitariums and asylums in France. His bizarre behaviour surfaced many times over. The most notorious incident was a violent fallout with famous artist Paul Gauguin with whom he

shared residence at the "Yellow House" in Arles. The two had a rocky relationship. One day after a particularly violent argument, van Gogh threatened Gauguin with a razor. A fearful Gauguin spent the night in a boarding house. The following day the "Yellow House" was sieged by crowds and police — van Gogh had cut off part of his left ear and presented it to a prostitute.

After Theo's wedding he agreed to be admitted at an asylum at Saint-Remy. While at Saint-Remy, van Gogh painted a series of cypress trees. Later he went on to his famous "Starry Night" series. There were also dark and brooding works like "Prisoners Exercising" which he did while in hospital at Arles.

Van Gogh died just as he had lived. In Auvers-sur-Oise where he was then, he wandered into a field and shot himself. Two days later he was dead. Van Gogh died on July 29, 1890 at the age of 37. His brother Theo died six months later, on January 25, 1891.

While there are numerous controversies surrounding van Gogh's personal and artistic life, a strong body of art critics regards him as the precursor of the Abstract Expressionism of the 1940 and 1950s and the trailblazer of modern art.

## ASIATICA FILMMEIALE 2013

# Bangladesh's TELEVISION walks away with City of Rome prize



"Television" has won the City of Rome prize for Best Feature Film (jury) at the Asiatica Filmmiale 2013, says a press release. In addition, it also won the Best Feature (audience) in popular vote. Oscar winner Asghar Farhadi's long-time collaborator and actor in "A Separation" Payman Maadi won NETPAC award for his debut feature "Snow on Pines". This year's jury board was led by veteran cinematographer and ex-president of Italian Cinematographers Association Luciano Tovoli who worked with Vittorio de Sica, Antonioni, Nanni Moretti and other top directors.

There were about 12 feature titles (including competing and non-competing films) in this year's Asiatica Filmmiale which includes Kim ki-duk's "Moebius", Garin Nugroho's "Soegija", Brillante Mendoza's "Sapi", Farooki's "Television", Payman Maadi's "Snow on Pines", Mahmut's "Yozgut Blues", Hong Sang-soo's "Nobody's Daughter Haewoon". Other than winning the jury's verdict, Bangladesh's "Television" also won people's hearts competing with an impressive list of in-and-out-of competition films. Lead actor Shahir Kazi Huda was also present at the screening.

# Low key birthday celebrations for Mahfuz



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted TV actor and winner of the National Film Award, Mahfuz Ahmed will celebrate his birthday today, though he hasn't planned any grand celebrations. In fact he will be busy planning his own production film "Zero Degree", shooting for which begins on November 2.

"Birthday celebrations are no big deal in our family. Moreover, my hectic schedule after entering the media world makes it tougher to celebrate the day," he explains.

"Sincerity and hard work pay off, which is why I have earned audience appreciation. I want to continue on this path. No doubt my associates and fans will wish me on this day. I wish to be showered with everyone's love and affection, as long as I live," he concludes.

Mahfuz embarked on his career as a journalist while still a student at Dhaka University. As a hobby, he began to act in TV plays. Later, he quit journalism and channelised his energy into acting. Within a few years he earned great popularity in the field.

The real breakthrough came in the early '90s when he acted in several TV plays opposite well known stars such as Shomi Kaiser, Bipasha Hayat and Afsana Mimi.

Later, he ventured into the cinema world and won the National Film Award for his role in the movie "Sraban Megher Din", directed by noted litterateur Humayun Ahmed.

He also directed some TV plays. "Choita Pagol and Tomar Doyaye Bhalo Ashi Maa" earned him further popularity.



A reception along with a grand cultural programme were held in honour of local MP and Whip of the ruling party Mirza Azam at Balijuri FM High School field under Madarganj upazila of the Jamalpur district on Sunday. A huge crowd was rewarded with the rendition of popular songs by noted folk singer Begum Momtaj MP. Momtaj performed a number of her popular songs as thousands of people clapped and danced along with the folk songs.