

Nazrul Utshab 1421

Organiser: Chhayanaout

Venue: Main Auditorium,

Chhayanaout, Dhanmondi

Date: May 24-25

Time: 6:30pm

Concert

Organiser: SMB

Bands: Ark, Artcell, Black & more

Venue: Saffron Restaurant, Gulshan

Date: May 24

Time: 11am

Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Khalid Mahmood Mithu

Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts, Progoti Shorani, Uttar Badda

Date: April 18- May 31

Time: 10am-8pm

Theatre

Title: Dog, Woman, Man

Director: Reetu Sattar

Venue: Goethe-Institut, Dhanmondi Rd. 9

Date: May 20-31

Time: 7pm

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Bornil Pandulipi

Venue: Shilpakanga Gallery, H-7, Rd-13, New Dhanmondi

Date: May 17-30

Time: 12pm-8pm

## NEWS bytes

### Star Wars spin-off in pipeline



Gareth Edwards, who made the recent *Godzilla* movie, is set to direct a *Star Wars* spin-off film, Walt Disney Co. has confirmed. The unnamed film will be in addition to the forthcoming *Star Wars* trilogy, the first instalment of which will be directed by JJ Abrams.

The film is due to be released on December 16, 2016.

In a statement, Edwards said: "Ever since I saw *Star Wars* I knew exactly what I wanted to do for the rest of my life - join the Rebel Alliance! I could not be more excited and honoured to go on this mission."

Edwards' recent 3D film "*Godzilla*" topped the US box office chart and has taken more than \$216m worldwide. He also won widespread acclaim for his independent film "*Monsters*", which was released in 2010.

Source: BBC

## IT'S TRUE!

US songwriter-composer Billy Joel attended Hicksville High School in 1967, but he did not graduate with his class. He had been helping his single mother make ends meet by playing at a piano bar, which interfered with his school attendance. Instead of attending summer school to earn his diploma, Joel decided to begin a career in music. He recounted, "I told them, 'To hell with it If I'm not going to Columbia University; I'm going to Columbia Records, and you don't need a high school diploma over there.'" Columbia eventually did become the label that eventually signed him. In 1992, he was awarded his diploma at Hicksville High, 25 years after he had left.



# Shilpakala's homage to legends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Music and Dance Department (MDD) of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranged four-day (May 18-21) memorial programmes to pay homage to the mystic bards Radharaman Datta, Ramesh Sheel, Bijoy Sarkar, Abdul Alim and Abdul Latif, along with music legends Ustad Allauddin Khan and Kamal Dasgupta. The events, featuring discussions and musical programmes, were held at the music and dance centre auditorium of BSA.

On the concluding day (May 21), BSA paid homage to legendary composer Kamal Dasgupta. Cultural Affairs Secretary Dr. Ranjit Kumar Biswas, NDC, attended the event as chief guest while cultural personality ABM Nurul Anwar elaborated on the life and works of Kamal Dasgupta. BSA director general Liaquat Ali Lucky presided over the discussion. Director of Music and Dance Department of BSA, Sohrabuddin delivered the welcome address while music researcher Dr. Sayem Rana emceed the event.

"The musical era of Kamal Dasgupta is majestic and highly competitive. The legend is thought to be the composer of

the largest number of songs, after Tagore and Nazrul. He was immensely popular even at the time when Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam were at the peaks of their literary careers. He had a great understanding of Hindustani classical music, based on which he composed a total of 8000 songs, of which 400 are Nazrul Sangeet, and the rest are based on various styles such as Geet and Meera Bhajan; Kabir Bhajan in Hindi; Urdu Naat; Thumri and Ghazals. Kamal Das' reputation is incomparable," said ABM Nurul Anwar.

The discussion was followed by a soulful soiree of Kamal Das Gupta's musical majesty. Evergreen singer Shakila Zafar rendered two songs -- "Ami Bonophul Go" and "Tufan Mail" and earned applause from the audience.

Rumi Ajnabi was next to take the stage and performed two songs "Bhalobasha Morey Bhikhari Korechhey" and "Menechhi Go Haar Menechhi". Sushmita Anis beautifully rendered two songs "Laguk Dola" and "Dhirey Dhirey Bol Rey Moyna". Dinat Jahan Munni also performed two songs "Ami Duronto Boishakhi Jhor" and Emoni Borsha Chhilo Shedin". Noted artistes Subir Nandi, Iffat Ara Dewan, Yasmin Mushtari, Timir Nandi and Sujit Mustafa also performed two songs each at the event.



Shakila Zafar performs at the event.

## INTRICACIES of INTIMACY

### "Dog, Woman, Man" at Goethe-Institut



The cast is the biggest strength of the play.

FAHMIM FERDOUS

While theatre in Bangladesh has seen its evolution over the decades, and has a distinctive identity of its own today, the concept of theatrical performances in the West – that have hundreds of years of history, is taking newer shapes every day. Although theatre enthusiasts are familiar to classics from European master playwrights, contemporary European work is still very new. That is the first point of interest about "Man, Woman, Dog", Reetu Sattar's ensemble production based on Yael Hedaya's "Liebe pur". The next intriguing matters are the language (English) and the show-time of the production. It premiered at the Goethe-Institut on May 20 and the runs till today on the first slot, and after a two-day break, resumes for five more successive shows from Tuesday.

"Dog, Woman, Man" is a story of three characters, and the changing dynamics of their relationships. Without giving too many spoilers -- man and woman meet, there's attraction, it develops, and layers of it are uncovered one by one. From burning passion

to trust, grief, denial, dependence, jealousy, rage, despair, and in the end submission – a dramatised, ornate reflection of every dysfunctionality of romantic relationships (particularly in a European setting) is brought out, with the dog playing a foil character to accentuate the other two, and as an occasional third-person narrator.

Contemporary German theatre, in its perception, style and way of story-telling, does not fail to fascinate. The minimalistic stage arrangement with use of transparent drapes and ropes to various effects, the perception-altering elements (like pillows hung on the wall, depicting 'vertical' beds) and the use of stage (in fact, the entire auditorium) is refreshing; the pre-arranged visuals to enhance the story-telling (like 'as-live' facebook posts appearing on projected screens, pre-recorded sub-textual monologue, and use of video footage and ambient audio) are all signature elements of German contemporary theatre (as I saw a while back in German performer Felix Ott's "Odyssey Complex") and work very well in this one too. The background music, arranged by

Rahul Anand, is also impeccable, as is the light, set, props, and choreography.

But the production really stands on the shoulders of the characters. Shahadat Hossain (from Centre for Asian Theatre) and Dr. Samina Luthfa (from BotTala) are two of the most silently brilliant actors of their time, and are supported very well by Shahriar Ferdous Sazeeb (Prachyanat), who plays the dog. The leading duo's chemistry, timing and body language are absolutely bang on; from the intensity to the subtlety, they handle both with equal dexterity. Sazeeb's act is more challenging than it appears, and he too does very well. The only thing that sort of pulls the production back is the language: since none of the performers are accustomed to delivering dialogues in English, the intonations are occasionally off and the meaning gets lost in a few places.

All in all, "Dog, Woman, Man" is ambitious, refreshing and largely successful. Prachyanat veteran Reetu Sattar's attempt to push the perception of theatrical performance to the aficionados of the arts-form is a commendable effort. Two thumbs up.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

## CANNES DIARY

### Crying students and hungry journalists

RAFI HOSSAIN AND ZIA NAZMUL ISLAM, write from Cannes

Just being nominated in competition at major festival like Cannes is enough for a filmmaker to be recognised as an elite of the film fraternity. But then again, who doesn't want to win? So, time is approaching... Cannes Film Festival jury will announce winners of two of the most important categories tomorrow. Today, on the ninth day, more films from the different categories were screened. Although done in a casual manner, winners of Cinéfondation contest were announced. Some of the winners broke into tears as they received prize from Abbas Kiarostami. On another high note, Cannes' deputy and mayor, Bernard Brochand, welcomed members of the local and the international press through a lunch at the heart of the old town, Place de la Caste. But as Mother Nature would have it, today was the rainiest day of the festival, causing the event to be cancelled.

This year's Cinéfondation and Short Films Jury is headed by Abbas Kiarostami, and includes Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, Noémie Lvovsky, Daniela Thomas and Joachim Trier. They awarded the 2014 Cinéfondation Prizes during a ceremony held in the Buñuel Theatre, followed by the screening of the winning films. The Cinéfondation is a category that receives films from film-students around the world. This year, the selection consisted of 16 student films, chosen out of 1,631 entries coming from 457 film schools around the world.

First Prize was won by "Skunk", directed by Annie Silverstein, from the University of Texas at Austin, USA. Second Prize went to "Oh Lucy!" directed by Atsuko Hirayanagi from NYU Tisch School of the Arts Asia, Singapore. There was a joint third prize: "Lievit Madre", directed by Fulvio Risuleo from Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, Italy and "The Bigger Picture", directed by Daisy Jacobs of National Film and Television School, United Kingdom.

Two more films of the main competition were screened today: "Jimmy's Hall" by Ken Loach and "Mommy" by Xavier Dolan.

Editor of Star Showbiz Rafi Hossain, and sub-editor Zia Nazmul Islam are in the French Riviera City of Cannes for the 67th Cannes Film Festival, and will keep readers updated on this page, on events at the festival.



Annie Silverstein, Winner of Cinefondation, with the jury.

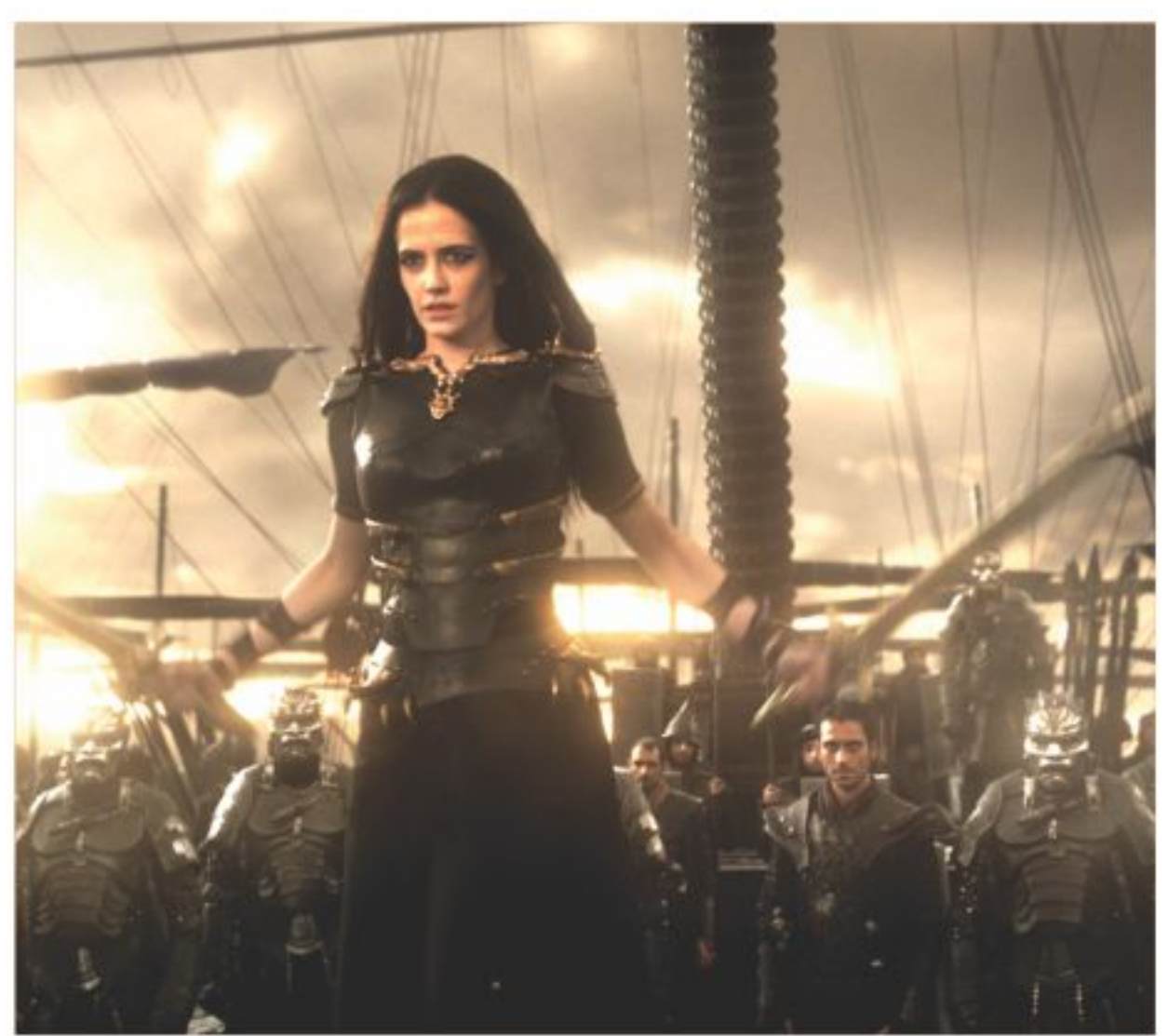
## Of valor and heroics

### "300: Rise of an Empire" releases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is becoming increasingly common for the latest Hollywood releases to land up in Dhaka soon after their international premiere. By those standards, nearly three months is a long time for a film as anticipated as the "300" sequel to come to the big screens in Dhaka. However, fans of action, fantasy and war films have good news; "300: Rise of an Empire" is the latest release from Star Cineplex. The film premiered – in 3D – on May 29.

Directed by Noam Murro and co-written by Zack Snyder (who originally wrote and directed the first film), it picks up right where the first film ends, and is based on The Battle of Salamis. Although a number of actors from the first film -- Lena Headey, Rodrigo Santoro, David Wenham, Andrew Tiernan, Andrew Pleavin and Peter Mensah -- reprise their roles from the first film, the central cast sees a revamp, with Sullivan Stapleton, Eva Green, Hans Matheson, Callan Mulvey, and Jack O'Connell.



As king Darius I of Persia is killed in the Battle of Marathon, his son Xerxes is advised not to continue battle, but is convinced by Naval Commander Artemisia (Eva Green) to embark on a journey that sees him returning as a 'god-king' and declare war on Greece. Athenian General Themistocles (Sullivan Stapleton) attempts to unite Greece, and despite initially being unsuccessful at that, employs his war tactics to fend off the Persian navy with his limited resources. After Artemisia fails to seduce Themistocles, she sends in suicide bombers and destroys most of the Greek resources; Themistocles barely survives the onslaught. Meanwhile, Xerxes has killed the 300 Spartans and looks to take over entire Greece, as Themistocles continues to try and unite Greece, going to Spartan queen Gorgo (Lena Headey). The final battle is at Salamis, where Themistocles, with his battle-tactics and back-up from Sparta, defeats the Persians.

The film is expectedly quite gory, but the cinematography is stunning, as are the war and action sequences. Eva Green is breathtaking as a ruthless leader, as is Sullivan Stapleton in his role of the heroic General. All in all, it's ample entertainment for the fan of the genre.

## Nazrul Smriti Kendra short on memorabilia

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Merely 15-20 visitors a day arrive at the two Nazrul Smriti Kendra (memorial centres) located at Kazir Shimla and Namapara of Darirampur in Trishal, as the memorial centres have a limited collection of Nazrul memorabilia and inadequate facilities.

What's more, cracks have developed on a wall at Kazir Shimla Smriti Kendra. Though the local administration and LGED engineers are aware about the dilapidated condition of the centre, no measures have been taken by the authorities.

"The centres have not been given much publicity and till now, very few know about it," said Al Amin Talukder, store and maintenance in-charge of Kazir Shimla centre.

"The libraries at the centres were not expanded adequately, so naturally, readers are limited," said Kazi Nayeem, a college student of village Kazir Shimla. The library shelves have books largely authored by Nazrul. However, books by contemporary writers of Bengali and other languages are needed to enrich the



The Nazrul Smriti Kendra in Kazir Shimla.

libraries and draw visitors.

Nazrul, born in village Churulia of Burdwan district in West Bengal, India on May 25, 1899 spent a year in his young days at Kazir Shimla and Darirampur and studied at Darirampur

High School. Kazi Rafiz Ullah, a Muslim sub-inspector of Police working at Burdwan in West Bengal then took Nazrul to his village home at Kazir Shimla in 1914.

Later, Nazrul shifted his lodgings to

the home of Bechutia Bepari at Namapara as his school was far away from Kazir Shimla. Jatiyo Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, a culture-based university named after the bard, was founded at Namapara.

The memorabilia housed at the two centres includes gramophones and records released by His Masters Voice Company, manuscripts of the poet in Bengali, English, Hindi and Urdu, some photographs of the poet and his family members.

"The collection of memorabilia of Nazrul and other singers who promoted Nazrul songs in the subcontinent should be amplified in the two centres as an added attraction," said Kazi Azizul Haque, a nephew of Kazi Rafiz Ullah.

The memorial centres are also afflicted by a shortage of staff. Though there are 17 posts at the centres that were launched in 2003, only seven staff are employed there.

On the second day of a three-day national level celebration of the poet's 115th birth anniversary, programmes will be held at both the centres on May 26.

PHOTO: STAR