

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
Life and works of Tajuddin Ahmed
Venue: Gallery 21, Dhanmondi
Date: July 19-September 8
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: "Ode to Beauty" by Shama Shaioom
Venue: Galerie Zoom, Alliance Francaise De Dhaka
Date: Aug 22- Sep 4
Time: 3-9pm



Solo Watercolour Exhibition
Title: "Jol Chobi" by Shahanoor Mamun
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise De Dhaka
Date: August 8-26; Time: 12-8pm



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: "Momentary History" by Niamul Bari
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: August 12-30
Time: 12-8pm



Photo Exhibition
Images of Caring Men
Venue: Dhaka Art Center
Date: August 23-28
Time: 3pm-8pm



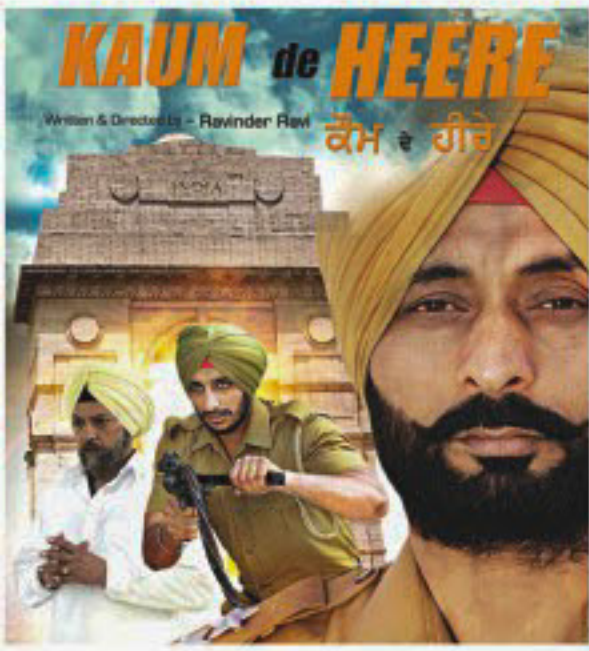
NEWS bytes

India blocks Gandhi murder film

India has blocked the release of a film on the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, after complaints it glorified her killers. Intelligence agencies had warned of potential violence if it is released.

The film, "Kaum De Heere" ("Diamonds Of The Community"), had been scheduled for release on Friday.

It tells the story of Indira Gandhi's Sikh bodyguards who shot her dead apparently to avenge her decision to send troops in a deadly raid on the Golden Temple. Sikhs say thousands were murdered when the army entered Sikhism's holiest shrine in Amritsar to flush out militants. Gandhi's assassination triggered an outburst of communal



violence targeted at Sikhs and more than 3,000 Sikhs were killed in attacks across India.

Late on Thursday, India's Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) decided to halt the release "because of the law and order situation that might result from the showing of the film", according to the Press Trust of India.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!

The final chapter in Peter Jackson's first Middle-earth trilogy, the 2003 "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" adapted from JRR Tolkien's immortal novel series, took home Oscars in all 11 of its nominated categories, which were: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Film Editing, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Original Score, Best Sound Mixing, Best Visual Effects, Best Art Direction, Best Costume Design, and Best Make-Up.



Literature-based theatre festival begins at Shilpakala



Dhaka district's repertory production for the festival, "Badh", was premiered recently. The play will be staged on the closing day of the festival.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mega-scale theatre festival began yesterday at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), as part of the Academy's initiative to form a repertory theatre troupe in 64 districts, and produce new plays by them this year based on any literary work.

The festival will see eight plays staged each day – two each at National Theatre Hall,

Experimental Theatre Hall, Studio Theatre Hall and the Music and Dance Auditorium -- staged everyday till August 30.

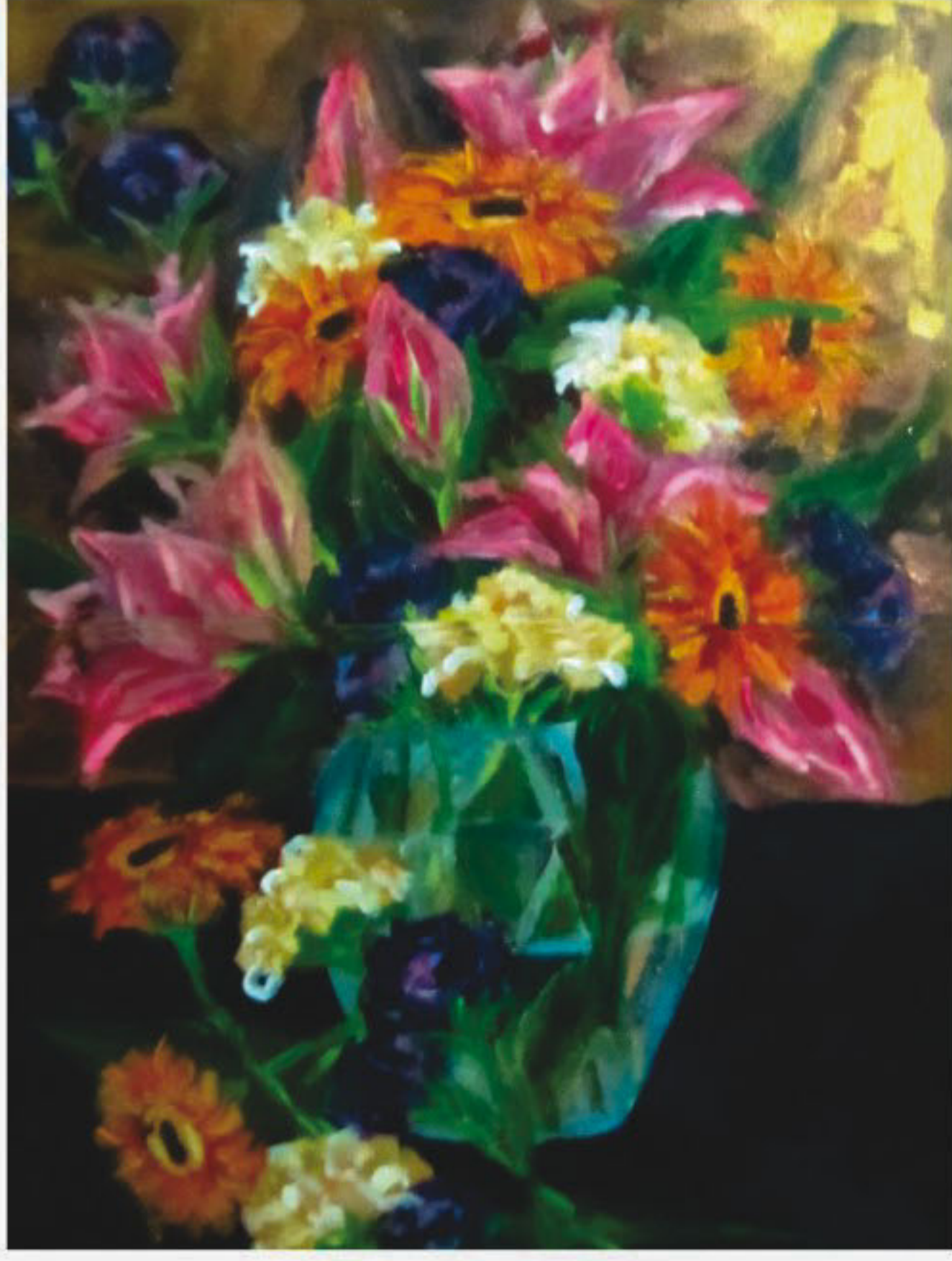
Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu inaugurated the festival yesterday at the National Theatre Hall. Cultural Affairs Secretary Ranjit Kumar, World President of ITI, Ramendu Majumdar and Bangladesh president of ITI Nasiruddin Yousuff were also present at the event. BSA Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky chaired the programme,

while Director of the Theatre and Film Department of BSA Sara Ara Mahmud delivered a welcome address.

On the first day, plays from the repertory troupes of Chandpur, Munshiganj, Lalmonirhat, Mymensingh, Moulvibazar, Chapainawabganj, Chuadanga and Gopalganj were staged.

Today, plays from Feni, Jhalokathi, Sherpur, Sirajganj, Meherpur, Noakhali, Rangamati and Nilphamari will be staged at the festival.

Art aesthetics on display at AFD Shama Shaioom holds an exhibition



FAYZA HAQ

Shama Shaioom is an artist who has done a three-month course in Visual Art at Wimbledon, UK, after doing her post graduation from UODA.

Shama's exhibition opened at Zoom Gallery, Alliance Francaise on Friday. She says that yesterday's agony is best forgotten and the key is to move on in life. The artist, she says, should focus on the beautiful and inspire others. Talking about the soul of the sea, she adds, "Sea-shells have pearls, they nurture them within -- the snails have rhythm, very silent and sustaining. City life has its glory, its toil."

She paints darkness after sunset, where the moon has its ebb and flow of emotions which influence human beings as well as the waves of the sea, she says. She marvels at creation and pays homage to the sublime quality of nature. She admires Keats, Shelley and other romantic poets, who were eloquent on trees and birds.

The ongoing exhibition is titled "Ode to Beauty" and displays beautiful flowers like roses, lilies and carnations in various buoyant colours like

pink, red, white, yellow and purple. Her work reminds one of "My Fair Lady" where ladies sell flowers for a living. She lays on her strokes with thickness and sometimes divides her work into three or four panels. She adds fabric glitter to enhance the beauty of the flowers.

"One is not creative unless one creates a Pablo Picasso world of cubism etc. or so it seems," said Shahid Kabir, the main speaker at the opening function. "Beauty makes one forget the pain of life," he added.

Shama's expressiveness recalls Vincent Van Gogh, who also used bold strokes and paints. For a woman to combine an artistic career with domestic responsibilities is no by means easy, and Shama exemplifies this truism, said Kabir. Painting can never be a business as it involves passion. One cannot do it half-heartedly, said the master painter. One must express what is within oneself, and must not limit oneself to the delineation of only flowers, he said. There are relatively few female painters and so one takes one's hat off to her. However, he said, "One must not paint merely in order to have an exhibition."

Dia's maiden album launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Promising artiste Dia's debut album "Koto Chameli Briitha Jaye" was launched at Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum on August 22.

Gracing the occasion as chief guest, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman along with Professor Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, chairman and managing director of Laser Vision AKM Arifur Rahman and Mazharul Islam, singer Dia and her spouse unveiled the album.

Among others, Cultural Affairs

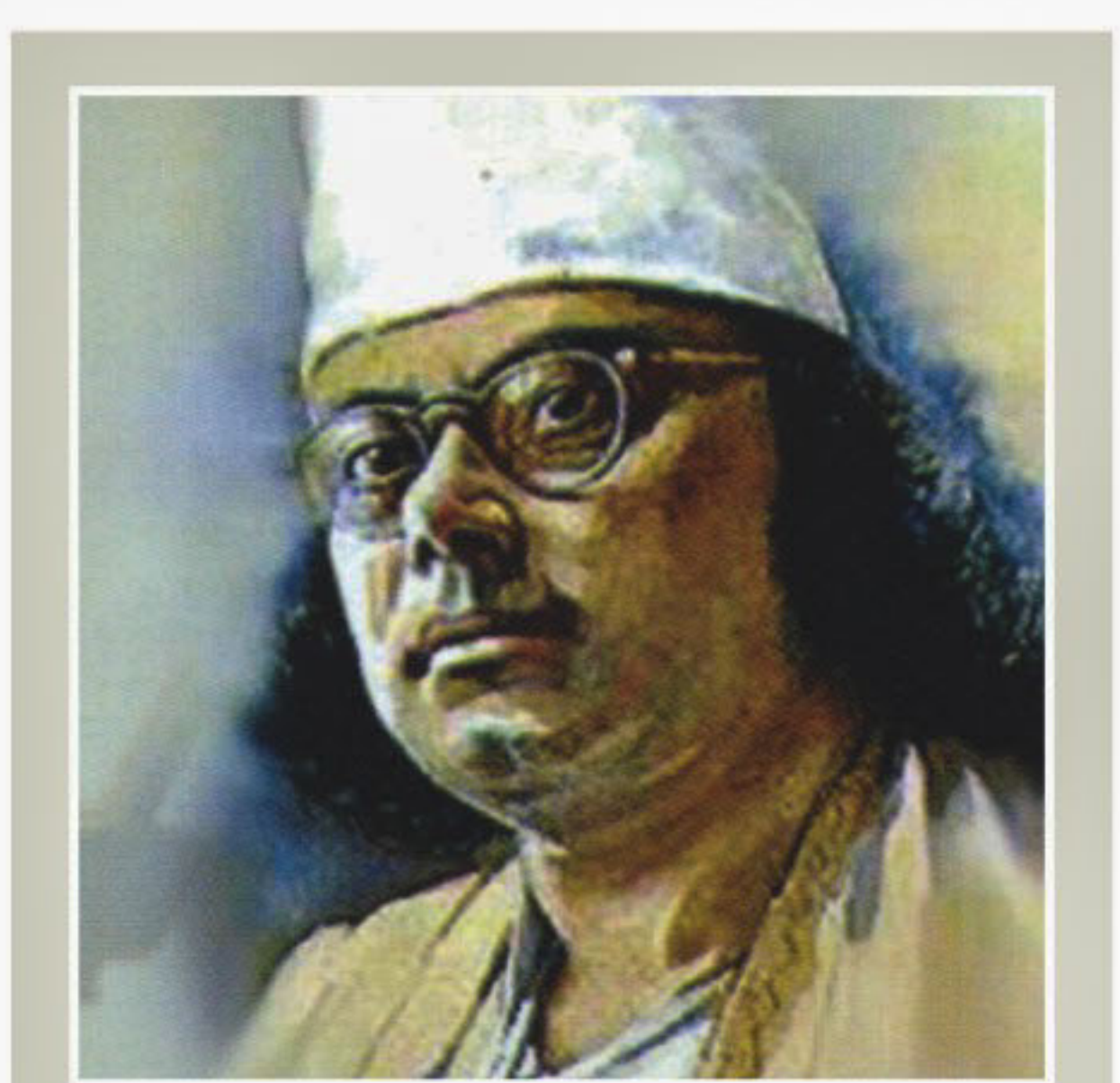
Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal and human rights activist Khushi Kabir attended the event.

The album features eight songs [two compositions by Tagore, Atul Prasad, DL Roy and Rajanikanta Sen each], with the album's title song being an Atul Prasad Sen number. Prottyus Banerjee has arranged music for the album, which was released from Laser Vision.

Dia is the granddaughter of Poet Sufia Kamal and daughter of rights activist Sultana Kamal.



Guests and the artiste at the album launch.



STAR MELODIES' MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO NAZRUL TODAY

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To celebrate National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam ahead of his 38th death anniversary, Star Melodies is organising a special musical evening today. The programme will feature a selection of the first recorded songs of Kazi Nazrul Islam by noted artistes of his time – including Nazrul himself, performed by reputed Nazrul artistes in our times.

The event, to be held at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct, will have performances by Sumon Chowdhury, Dalia Nausheen, Fatema Tuz Zohora, Khairul Anam Shakil, Nashid Kamal and Sujit Mustafa, while eminent cultural personality Kamal Lohani will speak at the event. Noted Nazrul exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick will comper the programme.

The event is being held in association with Eastern Bank Limited.

Udichi conference in Thakurgaon



QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

The 2nd Pirganj Upazila unit conference of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi was held at Pirganj Pilot High School premises in Thakurgaon district on Friday.

A vibrant cultural function and a discussion featured in the programme.

Locally renowned artiste Mozibar Rahman inaugurated the event as guest.

A colourful procession was brought out from Pirganj Pilot High School's Shaheed Minar premises and ended at the inaugural point after making its way on different streets in the upazila headquarters.

A discussion was held at the same event with the participation of several socio-cultural and reputed organisations of the district.

Discussants were of the view that Udichi is a platform for cultural activists to raise their voices against inequality, injustice, anti-Liberation War forces, and extremists. The objective is to work for a peaceful Bangladesh and maintain harmony among all through cultural activities, they asserted.

Vice-President of Central Committee of Udichi Rezaur Rahman Reju spoke at the programme as chief guest, with upazila unit president of Udichi, Dipendranath Roy in the chair.

Among others, district unit president of Udichi Setara Begum, General Secretary Rezwanaul Haque Reju, Cultural Secretary Shuchorita Dev, addressed the gathering.

A vibrant cultural function followed which included recitations and renditions of gono sangeet rendered by artistes of Pirganj unit of Udichi.

Prior to the cultural programme, Upazila Nirbahi Officer ABM Iftekhar Ahmed distributed crests to six persons including singers, freedom fighters for their contributions to local cultural arena.

The conference also formed a 25-member new upazila body of Udichi.



Recitation troupe Shongbrita arranged a two-day recitation festival at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University to mark its 9th anniversary. Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu inaugurated the festival on Friday morning. The festival featured solo and group recitation by different troupes, and a recitation competition.

EBL organises children's art competition

A CORRESPONDENT

Eastern Bank Ltd. (EBL) as a part of their people engagement programme organised an art completion titled "Chobir Deshe Ronger Deshe" for their employees' children at Charukola (Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University) on Friday.

Nearly 100 children in two age groups participated in the competition on the subject "My City". Children between six and nine years expressed themselves in oil pastels while the senior group between 10-13 years revealed their imagination in water colours.

Leading architect of the country Rafiq Azam introduced the children to the unique architectural landmark of Charukola, designed by Muzharul Islam, considered to be the father of modern architecture in Bangladesh.

Internationally renowned painters Qayyum Chowdhury, Rafiqun Nabi and Abul Barq Alvi were in the jury board and selected the three best works from each age group.

The winners were awarded prizes and crests, while each participant was given a certificate of attendance.



Winners of the competition with the guests.