

WHAT'S ON

Art Exhibition
Reality Versus Imagination and Illusion
Artist: Samiran Chowdhury
Venue: Gallery Cosmos
Date: August 30-Sep 11
Time: 11am-7pm

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

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

Fundraising Exhibition
Appeal for Gaza
Organiser: Drik
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi
Date: August 18-31
Time 10am-8pm

Ganga-Jamuna Theatre & Cultural Fest
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sep 1-8; Time: 6pm

NEWSbytes

Prince to release two new albums

Recording artiste Prince is to release two new albums at the end of September with record label Warner Bros, the label he fell out with 20 years ago. The row with the label over the control of his back catalogue led Prince to famously appear in public with the word "slave" scrawled on his cheek in 1995.

He re-signed with Warners this April and will release one solo record and one with his band, 3rdEyeGirl.

Warners said it had returned the master record-



ings of Prince's disputed albums, including "Dirty Mind", "1999", "Purple Rain" and "Sign 'O' the Times".

The label described the new solo record, titled "Art Official Age", as "a contemporary concoction of soul, R&B and funk".

Both albums are due out on September 30.

Source: BBC

IT'S TRUE!



The concept for the film "E.T. – The Extra Terrestrial" was based on an imaginary friend Steven Spielberg created after his parents' divorce in 1960. It was shot from September to December 1981 in California. Unlike most motion pictures, it was shot in roughly chronological order, to facilitate convincing emotional performances from the young cast. The film was a blockbuster, surpassing "Star Wars" to become the highest-grossing film of all time—a record it held for ten years until "Jurassic Park", another Spielberg-directed film, surpassed it in 1993. Nevertheless, it remains the highest-grossing film of the 1980s. Critics acclaimed it as a timeless story of friendship, and it is often ranked as the greatest science fiction film ever made.

The Rebel's reverberating ragas

Chhayanaut pays tribute to Nazrul



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Kazi Nazrul Islam enriched almost all genres of Bangla songs. His compositions are based on the foundation of Indian classical music. Chhayanaut, one of the leading cultural organisations of the country, observed the Bard's 38th death anniversary, paying a rich musical homage to Gaan-er Bulbul at its main auditorium on August 30.

Artistes of Chhayanaut set of the soiree with a dance performance on the song "Hey Partha Sarathi", set on Raga Shivranjani. The artistes offered an array of raga-based classics inspired by both North Indian and South Indian (Carnatic) ragas.

Chhayanaut general secretary Khairul Anam Shakil emceed the programme, highlighting the connotations of ragas in the featured performances.

"The authority of Nazrul in composing Bangla song using South Indian ragas is immense. He set his songs free, encapsulating many subtle and formulated southern ragas in northern styles. Nazrul presented us an absolutely new trend of Bangla songs, amalgamating his very own musical styles in coherence with the Carnatic traits. He used the names of the ragas in almost all his

songs," said Khairul Anam Shakil.

A choral song "Rumjhum Rumjhum Nupur Bol-e", set on raga Nat Behag, followed. The performance seemingly soothed many hearts. The distinctive feature of northern ragas revolves around exquisite melody – one of the reasons for their popularity. Nazrul was a legendary practitioner of North Indian ragas.

Mahua Manjory Sunanda captivated the audience with her solo treat to a romantic northern raga (Shyam Kalyan)-based song "Rashoghano Shyam Kalyan Sundor". Abhijit Kundu was immaculate too in his rendition of a devotional song "Ogo Ontorjami Bhokter Tobo", set on raga Chhayanaut.

Amongst the performed solo songs inspired by both Carnatic and northern ragas were "Mohua Bon-e Bon Papia" (Kalabati); "Nishi Raat-e Rimjimhim" (Pratapbarali); "Kaber Nadi Jol-e Ke Go Balika" (Carnatic Samanta); "Chaitali Chandi Raat-e" (Madhumadhobi); "Porodeshi Megh Jao Rey Phirey" (Signhendramadhyam in South and Samanta Kalyan in North); "Rohi Rohi Keno Shei Mukh Pore Mone" (Narayani); "Abar Bhalobashar Sadh Jagey" (Nag Sarabali); "Basanta Mukhar Aji" (Basant Mukhari); Tanvir Ahmed, Sushmita Debnath Shuchi, Nabanita Chakraborty, Mohit

Khan, Afroza Khan Mita, Suman Majumdar, Nasima Shaheen Fancy and Kalpana Anam performed the numbers respectively.

Nazrul developed 19 distinct ragas; composed khayal, thumri and tappa-styled Bangla songs; kavyageeti, bhajan, kirttan, ghazal, shyama sangeet, Islamic songs and more. Nazrul is, in a word, a musical institution.

At the soiree, Bizon Chandra Mistry performed the song "Nilambori Shari Pori", set on a Nazrul-created Raga Nilambori, while dancer Warda Rehab -- accompanied by two artistes -- beautifully danced to a choral song "Khele Nander Anginaye", set on raga Debgandhar.

The programme also featured presentation of two other choral songs "Hangshomithun Ogo Jao Koye", set on raga Borohanga Sarang and "Megh Bihin Kharo Boishakh-e", based on raga Samanta Sarang.

The subtle game of raga-ragini used in Nazrul Sangeet appears to be an amusing flow of a musical river. The ragas developed by Nazrul are not confined to his books only. Several artistes and organisations like Chhayanaut and The Daily Star are regularly carrying forward the opulent musical legacy of Nazrul, who mingled the essences of several ragas and developed his own, some of which are often very difficult to master.

Combination of calligraphy and portraiture

Ashraf Hussain depicts Rabindranath with Nature in the background

FAYZA HAQ

At Ashraf Hussain's second solo exhibition that opened on the August 16 at the Shilpangan Gallery, poet Asad Chowdhury, former Ambassador Waliur Rahman and Hamiduzzaman Khan spoke as guests.

The exhibition was dedicated to Rabindranath's death anniversary. Rabindranath lives in the mind on an introvert artist like Ashraf and this particular exhibition deals with the bard's relationship with Kadombori, his sister in law, Waliur said. There has been no large exhibition of the Kobiguru's portrait of such type before, he said. Ashraf likes to be left alone with his own thoughts, he said. "Tagore's poetry, fiction and dance-dramas reflected his inner sufferings. He also painted in his old age," Waliur added. When painting, he saw people with Nature against the backdrop. Thus Kadombori Devi and Rabindranath were seen at different angles, with Nature framing them. Sometimes the poet was seen in full length; at times he and the lady were hinted upon; at times the two were seen face to face; at others they were seen in a melange of the city in the background; at others they were depicted as embracing each other in an idyllic garden, and in others, they were holding hands and exchanging views. Some of these drawings, he said, had the strength and ecstatic imagery of SM Sultan.

The paintings were of mixed media, oil, water-colour, collage etc. When seeing his life and analysing it, one does not wish to peer unnecessarily into his personal life. As a man he gets his inspiration from various sources, Ashraf said, adding that Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin was admired for his depiction of people seen against Nature, in the same manner. Ashraf said he had dwelt with his creative painting, with feelings that come naturally.

The chief guest of the occasion, Asad Chowdhury said, "In 15 years, we have another solo by Ashraf, and this is surely welcome." On



the subject matter of the exhibition, he said "Kobiguru reigns over our thoughts. He excelled in writing, music and painting." He brought the Manipuri dance to a classical height in his dance-drama 'Ordhangini', which was fabulous, to say the least. Rabindranath dealt with gender issues and gave equal rights to women in his plays, poems etc.; Anderson had given children fairy tales, and so did Rabindranath," Asad Chowdhury observed. He was a poet, musician and writer for all seasons. Rabindranath saw to the freedom of music; he loved Irish folk songs that he had heard in his trips abroad, and his brother was good at Carnatic music, Chowdhury added.

"Rabindranath himself loved the Romantic poets like Shelley and Keats. He admired Baudelaire and TS Eliot for their graphic and unusual imagery. Jean Paul Sartre was anti-establishment, and so were George Orwell and

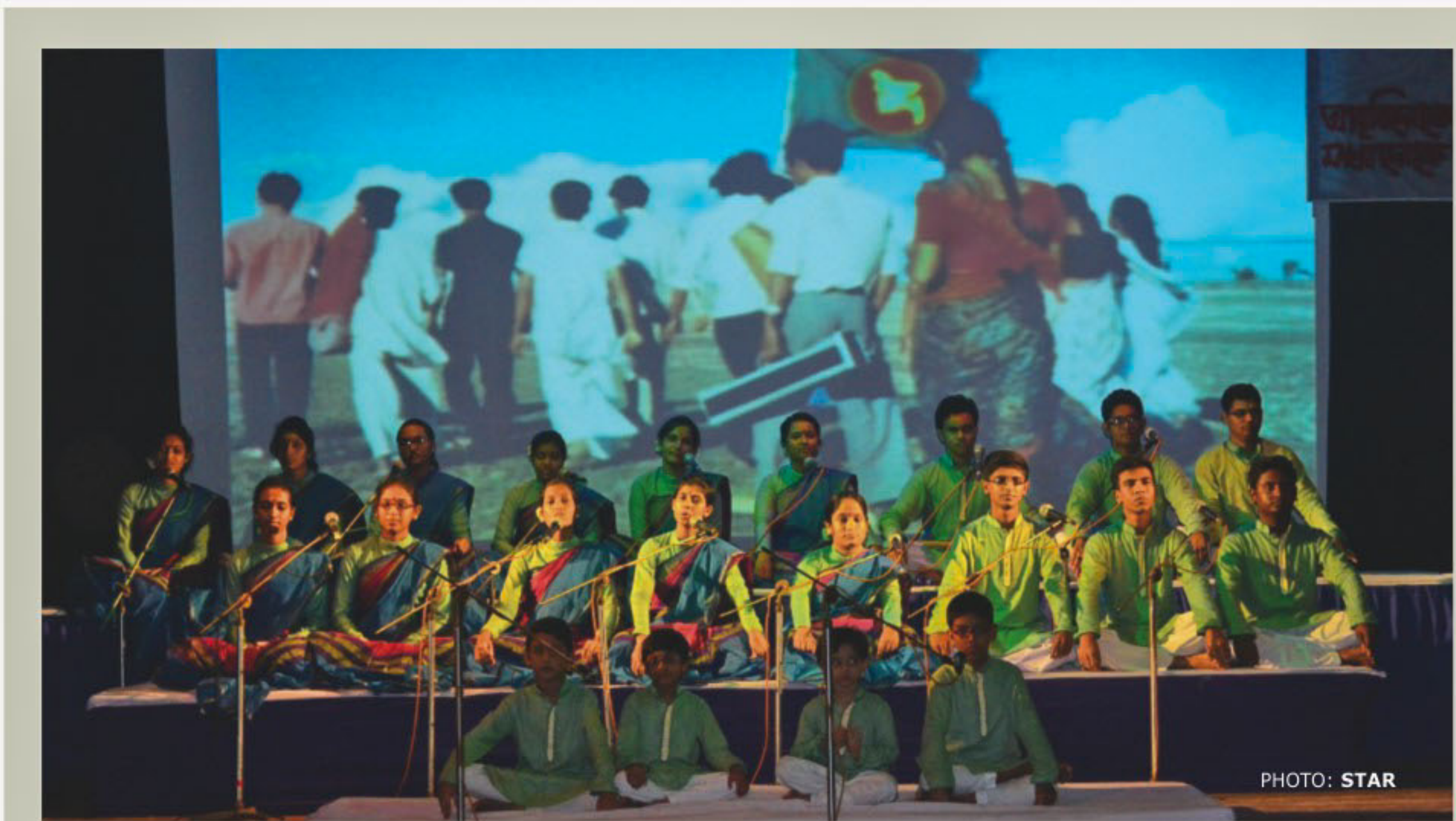
Jibanananda Das. Rabindranath understood women -- his daughters and his wife. Women always played important roles in his life," Asad Chowdhury concluded.

Hamiduzzaman Khan said that this was a special exhibition and that the artist had done something nonpareil. The medium that he had used – oil – was unique as there is purity in this. He was delighted as the exhibition had more than he had expected. It was innovative and the artist had brought the students of art, great works to ponder over. There is something new in artist Ashraf Hossain's paintings, he said.

In one of his paintings, the poet-writer-philosopher is seen sitting while Kadombori is seen standing and speaking to him. There are words in Bangla behind her on a wall -- like a backdrop, along with her portrait. The figures are in blue and white, while the furniture and the wall-like background, and clothes of Tagore and his beloved are in white, beige and blue. In another portrait, the Kobiguru is seen walking in a full-length garb while behind him are nature and calligraphy in English, taken from Rabindranath's works. In one, we see the lady in a flowing sari, dark blue, almost black with a light pinkish border. Her face is at an angle. Behind her are imaginary panels of a wall, ranging from beige to black in calligraphy in English, in a running hand in delicate copper plating, Victorian style.

The silhouette of Kadombori crying against Kobiguru's chest and next the two thinking apart is amazing. Behind are writing in English presented in such a manner that it appears real, and as if taken from a manuscript. There is the depiction of young and old women in Kobiguru's family and a young lad, taken from either his family or hers. Looming large in the backdrop is Rabindranath himself in burnt-sienna. The backdrop is white, touched with black, as if they were stone pillar and part of a large stone stage.

There compelling works are also in collage and pencil, with some even having a 3D effect.



A two-hour recitation programme titled "Abitriloke Mongolaloke", by a new recitation organisation, enthralled the audience in Chittagong city on Friday. Single and group recitation of poems of twenty poets, including Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Micheal Modhusudan Dutta, Satyajit Roy, Shamshur Rahman and Nirmolendu Goon were recited at the programme at the Theatre Institute Chittagong auditorium. It was the first performance by Sharanandan, a recitation organisation that began its journey last year.

Nazrul death anniversary observed

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Amra Kajan Shilpi Goshthi, a cultural organisation of Bogra town, observed the 38th death anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at the Pouro High School of Bogra town recently. Some 30 artistes of the organisation participated in the programme titled "Chokh Gelo Pakhire" which was followed by a poetry recitation, dance and songs of Nazrul. A short discussion was held on the glorious life and brilliant literary activities of the poet.

The programme was presided over by the president of the organisation Abdus Samad Polash, and conducted by the secretary of the organisation Abdul Mobin Zinnah.

Bogra Lekhok Chakra also observed the death anniversary of the poet, through performances at its office of Kazi Nazrul Islam Road of Bogra town on Wednesday.



Creating Future Leaders through a reality show

FLP airs tonight on Channel i

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second edition of television reality show "The Future Leaders Programme" is currently running on Channel i. Future Leaders Limited, UK and Channel i are jointly organising the programme, which involves graduating students from different public and private universities of Bangladesh.

The programme enrolls students, judging them on the basis of a few parameters and put them on a real life competitive platform. Winning contestants are rewarded with different forms of full scholarships to pursue higher studies in different universities in Europe.

The show, the first ever business-educational TV reality show in the country, started in 2013 on Channel i. Last year, it was limited to the graduates from business studies, but this year FLP has extended to the graduates of both business studies and science/technology. It has become a unique showcasing of linking innovation with business activities to make a real difference contributing to our national development.

Abdul Muktaadir, Managing Director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals, and Taslim Ahmed, Head of Corporate Communications and Public Relations of Citycell are the judges of the programme. Besides, every episode has guest judges, who are related to the field of the assigned task.



Participants with the judges on the show.

About the programme, Taslim Ahmed said, "The initiative aims to help students go abroad for higher studies so that they can come back to the country with enriched knowledge and better professional skills. The reality show gives contestants different real-life challenge. Suppose, someone is asked to increase the sale of a product; he has to analyse the market, contact the company, make presentation within a due time and give the presentation in front of the jury."

"Top three contestants will receive full scholarship in different universities in Europe for Master's/MBA, while a few contestants will receive scholarship/fellowship for doing different specialised courses in European universities," he added.

Taslim further said, "We have received huge response from the contestants and based on last year's success, we have included Science and ICT in this year's programme."

"A number of university teachers also appreciated this show, terming it more helpful than class lectures. Last year, we held our finale in Milan, Italy and received massive applause from foreign students. BBC Radio also featured our programme," he concluded.

AK Reza Galib has directed the programme, while Citycell Zoom Ultra is the communication partner of this reality show. The programme airs on Channel i at 9.30pm on Sundays and Wednesdays.