

Fundraising Exhibition
 Title: Pray For Nepal
 Organiser: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts
 Venue: Athena Gallery of Fine Arts
 Date: May 17-24
 Time: 10am-8pm

Pray for Nepal


Solo Exhibition
 River Stories
 Artist: Vinita Karim
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
 Date: May 16- June 6
 Time: 12-8pm

SAARC Film Festival 2015
 Organiser: SAARC Film Journalist Forum- Bangladesh
 Venue: Fine Art Auditorium and Digital Archive Auditorium, BSA
 Date: May 13- 19th, Time: 5pm

SAARC FILM FESTIVAL 2015
 May 13 to 19

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Soft Reflections
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos
 Date: May 15- June 14
 Time: 11am-10pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: Pleasant Journey
 Artist: Professor Nasreen Begum
 Venue: gallery Chitrak
 Date: May 15- 29
 Time: 10am-8pm

NEWS bytes

Furious 8 will bring back Dwayne Johnson

Last month, Vin Diesel took the stage at CinemaCon to announce that he and the folks at Universal Pictures are currently developing "Fast & Furious 8" to be released in April 2017. Unfortunately, he didn't add any details about who else would be returning for another ride... but now, Dwayne Johnson has confirmed that he will indeed be back to star in the next movie.

When The Nerd Report caught up with Johnson this past weekend, and asked him if he would be coming back, the actor gave the



reporter a less than 10 word response, but he most definitely responded in the affirmative: "Of course. Can't go on without Hobbs."

In the last three "Fast & Furious" films, Dwayne Johnson has played DSS Federal Agent Luke Hobbes, who has established a nice record of being allied with Vin Diesel's Dom and his crew... after they first squared off as adversaries.

Source: CinemaBlend



Rabindra Nrityadhara in focus

Fifth episode of "Understanding Classical Dance" held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To enable art lovers to better understand classical dance, Bengal Foundation arranged the fifth episode of their regular series of lecture and demonstration programmes at the Daily Star-Bengal Arts Precinct in The Daily Star centre on May 17.

Celebrated dancer-choreographer Sharmila Banerjee presented the programme on the dance genre Rabindra Nrityadhara with live performances by Nrityanandan artistes – Sonia Rashid, Afsana Islam, Sudeshna Swayamprabha, Mehraj Haque Tushar, Lady Mohan Mitra, Ira Bala, Krishna Roy, Falguni Sen, Ahalya Shankor Das, Anika Tevesh Surovi, Rikhiya Afra, Sushmita Lopa, Suparna Lima, Rasel Ahmed, Saiful Islam Evan, Shafiqul Islam and Amir Hamza Pritom.

The featured performances were based on the Tagore songs "Bojro Manik Diye Gantha", "Amar Onge Onje Ke", "Ketechhe Ekela", "Ebela Daak Porechhe" and "Neelo Anjan Ghono Punjo Chhayaye". Artistes in group, duet and solo presentations also



(Clockwise) Sudeshna and Mehraj in a captivating duet; Sharmila Banerjee speaks, and a group presentation.

PHOTO: RIDWAN ADID RUPON

displayed parts from the dance dramas – Shyama, Chitragada and Falguni. They also showcased classical dance styles – Mohiniattam, Kathakali and Sinhalese candy dance and Java ballet dance at the event.

Sudeshna Swayamprabha and Mehraj Haque Tushar stood out in their performances – in a solo by the former, and a duet. In her presentation, Sharmila Banerjee

underscored the historical aspect, evolution and establishment of Tagorean Dance, its connection with traditional folk, classical dance genres and European dance styles and Tagore's preferences of simplicity in both movements and costumes.

The presentation also included narrations on the roots, evolution and historical development of Rabindra Nrityadhara along with audio visual presentations.

Celebrating Love songs of TAGORE-NAZRUL

Star Melodies' musical soiree on May 23

STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

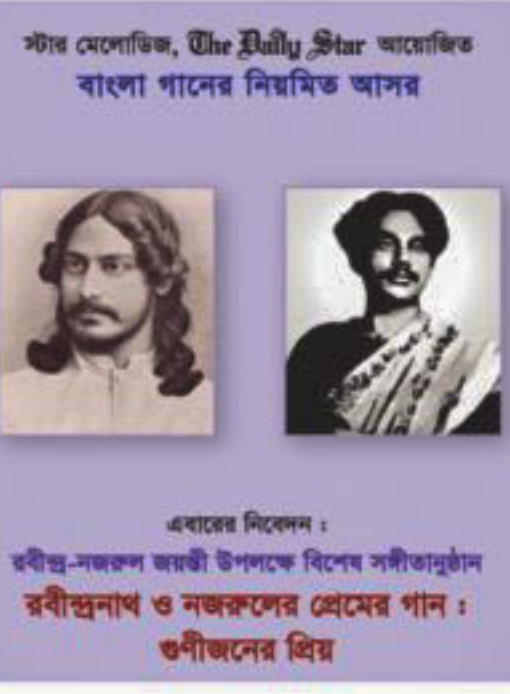
As part of its regular musical programmes, Star Melodies of The Daily Star is celebrating the birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, the two most renowned stalwarts of Bangla literature and music. The event, set to be held on May 23 (Saturday) at the AS Mahmud Seminar Hall (level-3) of The Daily Star Centre (64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue), will feature the love songs of Tagore and Nazrul.

Eight luminaries – Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Dr. Sanjida Khatun, Kamal Lohani, Asad Chowdhury, Abul Khair, Mamunur Rashid, Moshuddin Shaker and Niloufer Manzur – have hand-picked their favourite love songs of Tagore and Nazrul, which will be performed by Tapan Mahmud, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Ferdous Ara, Nasima Shaheen, Aditi Mohsin and Tanvir Alam Shawjeeb.

Dancers of Nrityanchal will present a dance piece directed by Shamim Ara Nipa.

The programme has been planned, and will be compered by Sadya Aftreen Mallick. Eastern Bank Limited and Simantic Creative Concern are assisting in the event.

Those interested to attend the soiree can collect their passes by contacting The Daily Star during office hours from today. Seating is provided on first-come-first-served basis, as seats are limited.



Raju Alim busy hosting TV programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raju Alim a poet-playwright-journalist is a Programme manager of Channel i. Apart from directing, he is currently acting and hoisting TV programmes. He recently came under the spotlight for his adaptation of an Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury story "Samrat-er Chhobi" into TV play, donning a lead role in it and directing the play.

He acted in several other TV plays and tele-films including "Sundaritoma", "Brishtir Phul", "Borsha Raat-er Nupur Dhvani", and more.

Planned and directed by Alim, the programme "Banglar Rabindranath", aired on Channel i marking Tagore's birth anniversary, earned him accolades. He is also producing the programme "Muktijuddha Protidin", hosted by Nasiruddin Yousuff. He has also made other programmes like "Hridoye Muktijuddho", "Muktijuddho Amar Ohongkar" themed on history and heritage of our Liberation War.

Of late, he has earned praise for anchoring specialised programmes – "Bojrokontho Thekey Shadhinata", "Banglar Borshoboron", "Srishti Sukher Ullashey", "Srijan Chhondey", "Smritir Mukurey" and "Chhondito Nondito", all aired on BTv.

He is currently busy with making a new documentary programme "Bangladesh-e Nazrul" and transforming a Nazrul drama "Madhumala" into a seven-episode TV series.



Artist Vinita Karim (right) gives a tour of her solo exhibition "River Stories" at Bengal Art Lounge, to guests of the inaugural ceremony -- artist Rafiqun Nabi and Indian High Commissioner Pankaj Saran, along with Bengal Art Lounge director Nawshin Khair. The exhibition, an ode to the countless rivers of the region, opened on May 16 and remains on till June 6.



A fundraising painting exhibition to support Nepal began at Athena Gallery of Fine Arts in the capital on May 17. The exhibit features works of prominent artists of Bangladesh who have come forward to support the Earthquake victims of Nepal. The paintings are priced much lower than usual so that people can buy them and contribute to the Nepalese people.

BILLBOARD MUSIC AWARDS
Swift, Smith and 1D win big

Taking home eight awards -- including top artist, top Billboard 200 artist, top Hot 100 artist and top streaming song -- Taylor Swift took home the most trophies, followed by Sam Smith, Iggy Azalea and Pharrell, who each won three awards, as well as One Direction (often stylized as 1D), Hozier, Jason Aldean, Enrique Iglesias and John Legend, each of whom won two. The awards were hosted by Chrissy Teigen and Ludacris and aired live on ABC from the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas.

During her acceptance speech for top female artist, Swift thanked "all the girls I talk to on the Internet and we talk about your feelings and you teach me your teen slang." And later, upon receiving the fan-voted chart achievement award, she added, "Honestly, the fans -- I'm obsessed with you. You guys are the reason this year has happened the way that it's happened."

Two-time winners One Direction (top duo/group, top touring artist) were equally heartfelt in a pair of speeches, shouting out their devoted 'Directioners' as well as "our brother



Zayn Malik," as the band's Liam Payne said.

And Smith, whose recent vocal hemorrhage led him to pull out of the ceremony, mutely accepted his award for top male artist via video with very British cue cards. "First, thank you Billboard for this incredible honour," Smith wrote. "Secondly, thank you to my amazing fans. It's time like this that I realise how lucky I am to have you in my life."

Equally memorable performances were in full effect too. An octave-leaping "Vision of Love/Infinity" medley from Mariah Carey, the TV debut of Britney Spears and Iggy Azalea's "Pretty Girls", a new single from Kelly Clarkson, Swift's star-studded "Bad Blood" and an exclusive duet of Little Big Town's "Girl Crush" with special guest Faith Hill brought major diva heat.

Fall Out Boy and Wiz Khalifa's special team-up on "Uma Thurman", a reunited Van Halen, a blues-y Hozier, a moving Ben E King tribute from Imagine Dragons and a stadium-sized, hologram-enhanced performance by Ed Sheeran repped for rock. For hip-hop heads, Khalifa, Charlie Puth and Lindsey Stirling formed a BBMA supergroup on Hot 100 topper "See You Again", (the closing song for "Fast & Furious" as a tribute to Paul Walker) while Pitbull and Chris Brown brought Miami heat to "Fun" and Nicki Minaj teased new single "The Night Is Still Young" before bringing out David Guetta for their latest hit "Hey Mama". Kanye West handled finale duties, with a literally explosive take on current single "All Day" that was often more bleeped and obscured by pyro flames and smoke than it was intelligible.

Source: Billboard



SABBIR-AHONA shoot Eid plays

A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actors Mir Sabbir and Ahona have paired up for a single episode play titled "Gayok Mohabbat Ali".

Written by Sohel Rana and directed by Imam Ripon, the play surrounds Mir Sabbir and his onscreen girlfriend Ahona. It will go on air this Eid.

"I play a singer and my role is quite humorous. Ahona has matured as an

actress, and I hope the audience will appreciate our efforts," said Mir Sabbir. Ahona said, "Sabbir bhai is very cooperative as an actor and I can be spontaneous while working with him. Moreover, the play has an interesting plot; that's why I chose to work in the project."

Meanwhile, Sabbir and Ahona have finished shooting another TV play "Tablet" which will also air during Eid

