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| <p>WHAT'S ON</p> <p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Wings of Imagination Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi Date: 5-15 June Time: Monday-Thursday 3-5pm Friday and Saturday 9-12am and 5-8pm</p> |  | <p>Group Art Exhibition Title: Remixing Illusion Venue: Gallery Cosmos-2 Date: June 1-15 Time: 11am-7pm</p> |  | <p>Group Art Exhibition Jago Nari Jago Bonhishikha Organiser: Studio 48 Venue: Eric's Bristro, Dhanmondi-5 Date: May 23-June 23 Time: 10am-9pm</p> |  | <p>Art Exhibition Celebrated Violence-4: Fuzzy Fear Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur, Dhaka Date: May 28-June 20 Time: 5-9 pm</p> |  | <p>Solo Exhibition River Stories Artist: Vinita Karim Venue: Bengal Art Lounge Date: May 16-June 6 Time: 12-8pm</p> |  |
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NEWS bytes

Disney cancels TRON 3

The digital gladiatorial games will no longer take up space on anyone's hard drive, as sources have confirmed that Disney has cancelled "Tron 3". Although the film apparently never had been officially green-lighted, rumour had it that it had been in development for several months. In fact, as recently as early April, reports had it that stars Olivia Wilde and Garrett Hedlund were set to reprise their "Tron: Legacy"



roles, with director Joseph Kosinski on board to direct. While the reasons for the project's cancellation haven't been disclosed, the relatively soft landing for "Tron: Legacy" in 2010, and the tepid enthusiasm for the Tron series since then, likely contributed. Further, in the years since "Tron: Legacy" hit theatres, Disney added Lucasfilm and the guaranteed cash cow of future "Star Wars" films to its empire, lessening the appeal of funding more Tron.

Source: Deadline

Unbound devotion in Nazrul's Hamd and Naat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam left a diverse musical legacy. His outpouring of spiritual passion was evident in the composition of timeless devotional genres: be it Hamd, Naat and Islamic songs or Shyama Sangeet, Kirtan and Bhajan is evocative of surrender to the Almighty. Nazrul sang the songs of the human spiritual quest irrespective of religion, caste and creed. His composition of Hamd, Naat and Islamic songs are many. "Ami Jodi Arab Hotam", "Bishwa Dulali Nabi Nandini" "Bokkhe Amar Kaba'r Chhobi", "E Kon Modhur Sharab Dile", "Hey Modinabashi Premik", "Hey Priyo Nabi Rasul Amar", "Khodari Premer Sharab Piye", "Mohammad Mor Noyonmoni", "Mohammad Nam Jotoi Jopi" "Moru Shahara Aji Matoara", "Naam Mohammad Bol Re", "Taufiq Dao Khoda Islam-e" are a few examples.

Noted Nazrul sangeet artistes MA Mannan and Yasmin Mushtari recently shared their thoughts on Nazrul's devotional lyrics with The Daily Star. Excerpts: **MA Mannan** It is astounding how Kazi Nazrul Islam composed such a wide variety of devotional songs that equally moved people of both Muslim and Hindu communities. The hymns that state the accolades of the Almighty are Hamd while the numbers that eulogise Prophet Muhammad SM (PBUH) are Naat-e-Rasul. The genres are generally rendered without the accompaniment of any instrument. Nazrul's creation of Islamic songs always stirs our spiritual passion. Nazrul is a symbol of humanity, a great human soul. It's a wonder that he enriched almost every aspect of Bangla music.



The lyrics and tune of Nazrul's songs -- "Saharate Phutlo Re Phul", "Mohammad Naam Jopechhili Bulbuli Tui Agey" and "Amina Dulal Nache Halimar Kol-e" -- have a soothing effect that moves everyone. Many mistakenly incorporate Nazrul's ghazal compositions with his



devotional songs. A ghazal rather represents all the forms of higher love, either human or spiritual. **Yasmin Mushtari** Nazrul sang for mankind. He sang of their desire for embracing eternity or the Ultimate. Our nation consists of people of different religions, castes and

clans and Nazrul tried to unite all through his songs. His creations teach us how to love and respect all human beings. This is wonderful because it makes us think of shaking off the paths of hostility, aggression, violence and bloodshed. The use of similes and metaphors in Nazrul's songs is subtle. Say for example, "Ami Dekhbo Kokhon Amar Eider Chand Mustafa Ke" metaphorically represents Prophet Muhammad (SM) as the moon. Again, there are many such examples in the songs "Mohammad-e-Naam Jopechhi" like "Mor Nobi Re Lukiye Dekhe, Taar Peshanir Jyoti Mekhe, Ore Chand Rangli Ki Tui Gabhir Onurag-e". The essence of Nazrul's lyrics strikes me and brings tears to my eyes. Nazrul was a poet of humanity who called for harmony instead of religious extremism.

Monsur ul Karim's solo exhibit held in Chittagong



PHOTO: STAR PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Chittagong

Art connoisseurs of the port city experienced an art exhibition by renowned artist Monsur ul Karim at Haatkholo Gallery in Chittagong. The exhibit was organised recently in observance of 116th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Breaking the stereotype of exhibition, the Ekushey Padak winner artist displayed only one artwork that showcased the natural beauty of Bandarban. Fascinated by the scenic beauty of hill tracts, the artist completed his work, "Bandarban", through different line-drawing by sign pens after returning from the district recently. Later, he dedicated the painting to Kazi Nazrul Islam as a tribute to the bard. About the medium, the artiste said being unable to bear the costs of essential materials of painting and drawing like colour, brush and canvas, nowadays many students show reluctance to art. "This phenomenon makes me sad. And to inspire the students, I have implemented the expedient", said the professor of Fine Arts Institute of Chittagong University. When many artworks get place in an exhibition, the visitors cannot remember the title or the message of those art works. But when only one art piece is exhibited, thoughts of visitors revolve centering that particular work, the artist added. Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries President Mahbubul Alam, poet Yusuf Muhammed, artiste Ustad Captain Azizul Islam, educationist Hasina Zakaria Bela and Eastern Group Managing Director Nasir Uddin Chowdhury were present at the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition.



Singer Rahat Ara Geeti performs at a cultural programme at Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) auditorium in the capital recently. BNM arranged the programme in celebration of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 116th birth anniversary where noted artistes Khairul Alam Shakil, Lina Taposhi Khan, Yasmin Mushtari, Salauddin Ahmed and Dr. Prodip Kumar Nandi sang, while Jayanto Chattopadhyay recited poems.



The Prize Giving Ceremony of "Veet Boishakhi Shaaj Contest" was held recently at Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh Ltd. headquarters in the capital. Mahbub Baset, Marketing Director of Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh-Sri Lanka Cluster, Faria Yasmin, Cluster Marketing Manager, and Neamah Islam, Veet Brand Manager handed over prizes to the winners.

TV WATCH Kailash Satyarthi's interview on Channel i

A CORRESPONDENT Switch to Channel i tomorrow (June 3) at 11:30pm to watch an exclusive interview of Indian Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi, taken by Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star. Get to know the electrical engineer-turned-child rights activist who waged a peaceful movement to stop children being exploited as labourers. Kailash Satyarthi has also contributed to the development of international conventions on the rights of children all over the world. An excerpt of the interview will be published on June 4 in The Daily Star.



VIDYA BALAN not in Suchitra biopic

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood actress Vidya Balan has rejected the biopic on late Bengali screen legend Suchitra Sen, primarily due to no physical resemblance.

"I was offered the biopic but I am not doing it. I was surprised that it came out in the media that I agreed to do it and have even started training in Kathak. I would have loved to do it...loved to play her on screen," Vidya told PTI in an interview.

She said she loved the script and "I feel there is absolutely no physical resemblance to her. It's a Bengali film, so I feel Raima Sen, her granddaughter looks like her and she should be doing it."

Vidya said she might have done this project if it was in Hindi. "Had it been in Hindi, then (it would) still (be) ok as you can take certain liberties but it's in Bengali," the 37-year-old actress said.

Reportedly, there was another biopic that was offered to Vidya on late Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. "I was not offered this film. I don't know where this news came from that I was offered this film," the national award-winning actress said.

Vidya is looking forward to the release of Mohit Suri's "Humari Adhuri Kahaani" which will hit the screens on June 12.

IGCC hosts musical evening by Ferdous Ara



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indira Gandhi Culture Centre (IGCC) Dhaka organised an evening of Nazrul Sangeet by noted Nazrul exponent Ferdous Ara and students of her music school, Surshaptak on May 30 evening at IGCC, Gulshan-1.

The programme began with the choral rendition of "Rumjhum Rumjhum Ke Bajay" followed by another choral performance "Songho Sarantritha Jatra Pothe". Later Ferdous Ara sang "Keno Megher Chhaya Aji", "Usha Elo Chupi Chupi", "Shaono Ratey Jodi", "Amar Ma Je Gopal Sundori"

and a few more Nazrul songs. Monowar Hossain Tutul accompanied the singer on guitar, while Sunil Kumar Sarkar and Atikur Rahman accompanied her on keyboard and harmonium respectively. The others musicians included Imtiaz sultan on tabla, Bidyut Roy on octopad, and Kamrul Ahmed on flute.

"San Andreas" registers top spot in Box Office

Major natural disaster special-effects feasts aren't as popular as they used to be. The late nineties were a sort of high point for the sub-genre with movies like "Twister", "Volcano", "Dante's Peak", "Armageddon" and "Deep Impact" putting audiences on edge over whether the earth or at least their little corner of it might soon be consumed by a rampaging mother nature. This weekend audiences showed some interest in getting back to watching the end of the world (or at least California) as we know it.

"San Andreas" launched with an easy number one start, taking in \$53 million this weekend. That's the biggest non-Fast and

Furious franchise opening ever for Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson and a big win for director Brad Peyton who makes the jump from directing sequels in lesser known children's movie franchises to major summer action blockbuster. Anna Kendrick-starrer "Pitch

Perfect 2" kept going strong at number two, while George Clooney and Hugh Laurie's futuristic utopia movie "Tomorrowland" was at three. "Mad Max: Fury Road" and "Avengers: Age of Ultron" completed the top five.



Theatre festival in Pabna Raising awareness on autistic children's rights

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

A two-week theatre festival for promoting equal rights of education among autistic children concluded in Pabna amid festivity on Sunday. Inter Active Popular Theatre (IAPT), a campaign against autism organised the festival



under the "Primary Education Development Project: 3" with participation from different educational institutions of the district. "Apu & Amora", a play staged at the festival, depicted the woeful plight of autistic children in educational institutions. Directed by Vashkar Chowdhury, the play encircled Apu, an autistic boy and raised consciousness for ensuring equal rights for all physically and mentally challenged children. The festival began on May 18 through an inaugural ceremony at the Awtapara Government Primary School premises. Throughout the festival, 18 shows of "Apu & Amora" were held in different educational institutions in the district. "We have staged two shows in each of the nine upazilas of the district in last two weeks. Schoolchildren, along with theatre artistes, performed on the shows while the teachers, parents and the local elites enjoyed the play," Vashkar Chowdhury told The Daily Star.