

WHAT'S ON

Ganga Jamuna Theatre and Cultural Festival
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: 4-12 September
Time: 5pm everyday



Selective Artworks Exhibition
Title: Figuration
Collector: Abul Khair
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 4-20, Time: 12-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
My Golden Country
Artist: Sohag Parvez
Venue: Athena Gallery
Date: August 22-Sept 11
Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Sultran Ishtiaque
Venue: La Galerie, AFD, Dhanmondi
Date: Sep 4-18
Time: 3-8pm



International Art Biennale
Cox's Bazar 2015
Venue: Cox's Bazar Institute & Public Library
Date: September 10-13
Time: 11am-8pm daily



NEWSbytes

Sam Smith records Spectre theme tune



Sam Smith has recorded the theme song for upcoming James Bond movie, "Spectre". The track is called "Writing's on the Wall" and will be released on September 25. Smith said: "This is one of the highlights of my career. I am so excited to be a part of this iconic British legacy and join an incredible line up of some of my biggest musical inspirations." Just last week, Smith told BBC Radio 2's Jo Whiley he was 'definitely not' working on the project. But, revealing his involvement on Tuesday, he told Radio 1's Nick Grimshaw: "I'm so relieved to actually talk about this; this has been a top secret mission of my own." He said he recorded the track in January. "I got called into the office with Barbara Broccoli and Sam Mendes and they gave me the script, I read the script... they said 'have a go at the song'. It's the quickest I've ever written a song - it took 20 minutes... and they loved it!" Ellie Goulding, Radiohead and Lana Del Rey had also been in the running to record the "Spectre" theme song. The film, starring Daniel Craig, is releasing on October 26. It also features Oscar winner Christoph Waltz, David Bautista and Andrew Scott.

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

It was May 1990. World renowned singer Feroza Begum was on a three-month tour of the United States as part of the first Nazrul Conference in North America. I had the rare privilege of accompanying her on the tour and observing a legendary personality from up close. Feroza Begum was uncompromising in her art. Be it the song selection, the choice of musicians accompanying her on stage or picking out a necklace that would inevitably form part of her ensemble, her decisiveness was well known. Without fail, she would appear on stage in an elegant saree and immerse the packed audience in a spellbinding performance. She would often start with a Nazrul raga-based song and then drift to several genres of melodies and Urdu geet, ghazals treating the listeners to the breadth and depth of her genius. A standing rapturous ovation once when she alighted the stage or when the final curtains reluctantly fell, became the norm. On a trip from New Jersey to New York we were caught in traffic. To while the hours away, she started to recount memories of how a young girl grew into a virtuoso artiste. "Singing came as naturally to me as breathing. To start with, I had no tutor; I simply tried to pick up tunes from the gramophone records strewn all over our storeroom. I had little knowledge about the musical nuances. Fortunately, at that time I came across stalwarts such as Chitta Roy (personal assistant of Kazi Nazrul Islam) and later the incomparable composer Kamol Das Gupta." "As I trained under Chitta Babu for almost two years I was fascinated by the exquisite compositions *Chirotoy durey choley jabo, Tumi shundor tai, Tumi shumitey cheyo na, Ekadoshir chand* and other songs by Kazi Nazrul Islam." The year 1960 marked a turning point in her life. The Gramophone Company of India approached Feroza Begum to record songs for Puja. The Kamol-Feroza pair exploded into the genre of adhunik songs. She revived the popularity of Nazrul songs and recorded Momer putul and Duur dwipobashini. Her unparalleled style added a new dimension to the genre and sold out three months in advance. Musafir mochh reh ankhil jol, her second recorded song, took her popularity to new heights. In those days it was difficult to progress without singing for playbacks, which she flatly refused. Such was her popularity that she continued to rise in fame despite turning her back on playback songs. In 1979, she recorded 3 LP's of adhunik and Nazrul songs, which were record hits as well. Astounding though it may sound, she per-

formed a record 380 solo concerts. It was under composer and husband Kamol Das Gupta that she blossomed in semi-classical music. Kamol Das was training under legendary Ustad Zamiruddin Khan -- as was none other than the genius Kazi Nazrul Islam. Belonging to the same gharana, Kamol Das and Nazrul Islam had a similar mindset, and the music they composed together seemed to find its natural voice in Feroza Begum. As prolific as she was, she had a natural eye for every detail. When I was preparing for a performance at the MIT University hall, she

we had the opportunity to work closely with her on different TV programmes that she directed, or the first Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha that she organised to bring the country's Nazrul artistes under one umbrella. The Nazrul Sangeet singers would have benefited greatly had the platform continued for some time longer. A year has passed since the songbird left behind her music lovers. The silent masses that had gathered on the steps of Shaheed Minar to pay their last respect was a testament to the love she had nurtured not only with listeners



PHOTO: STAR

Her lips did not move as her song played but for the sea of admirers who silently whispered the lyrics, this promise was already sealed with love.

would tip-toe into my room and suggest some new beautiful touches to the song Porodeshi bodhu... ghuum bhagayo chumi aankhi. At other times when my husband and I were out at dinner with her, she would pick up on a passing remark and recount interesting anecdotes from her life. Even later, when I recorded my CD "Elo Phuler Morshum" for HMV under her direction (1992), she would listen intently to every note in the master track before signaling her final approval. I would always treasure those days when

but also with an art that she had helped shape for over fifty years. With head bowed they listened one last time as she took centre stage and her song played on the airwaves - "Ami chirotoy durey choley jabo, tobu amare dibo na bhumitey" ("I will once leave you forever, but will not let you forget me for once"). Her lips did not move as her song played but for the sea of admirers who silently whispered the lyrics, this promise was already sealed with love.



Lucky Akhand hospitalised

Noted singer-composer Lucky Akhand has been hospitalised after he was detected with lung cancer. He is currently under medical attention at the Coronary Care Unit of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the capital. Family members of the artiste informed that he had been suffering from serious lung and liver ailments for a long time. After the recent deterioration in his health condition, the 68-year-old artiste was taken to the hospital on September 1. They also informed that soon the musician will be taken to India or Thailand for better treatment. Akhand was a tremendously popular singer in the 1980s, when he was at the peak of his career as a singer, composer, lyricist and music director. His self-titled first album released in 1984. He is the creator of many immortal songs like "Abar Elo Je Shondha", "Ei Neel Monihar", "Amay Deko Na", "Agey Jodi Jantam", "Jekhanei Simanto Tomar", "Ke Banshi Bajay Re", and more. He has been a regular face in many live musical programmes on different television channels.

"Kotha O Surer Alapon" held in Mymensingh

Mymensingh Zila Shilpakala Academy organised a cultural show "Kotha O Surer Alapon" to mark the death anniversary of three great poets: Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Atul Prasad Sen. The show included renditions of the three bards' songs, dance sequences, poetry recitation and discussion. Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqui, Joyeta Fahmi, Ashik Sarker Tushar and Shakawat Hossain Mithu rendered songs, enthraling the capacity-packed auditorium. The artistes of district Shilpakala Academy presented dance sequences, directed by Nazmul Haque Lenin and Manash Talukder.



Earlier, a discussion was held on the life and work of the bards. Arzu Parves, District Cultural Officer addressed the discussion, among others. The speakers asserted that the three bards enriched our literature through their voluminous works, and said we should follow their ideals to free our society from oppression, repression and injustice of every kind. Poet Rubina Azad anchored the show.

TV WATCH Feroza Begum memorial on Channel i

Marking first death anniversary of legendary Nazrul Sangeet artiste of the sub-continent Feroza Begum, Channel i will air a special memorial programme "Koto Jug Jeno Dekhini Tomarey" today at 11:30pm. Shafin Ahmed, noted singer and Feroza Begum's son, has compiled and hosted the programme featuring memorial discussion on life and works of



Feroza Begum, legendary musician Kamol Dasgupta, Nazrul Sangeet records play by the legendary singer and songs performances by noted artistes. Nazrul singers Susmita Anis (Feroza Begum's niece), Salahuddin Ahmed and Chhanda Chakrabarty - will perform songs at the programme. Sheikh Sadi Khan directed music for the programme while Raju Alim planned and produced it.



Aishwarya looks drop-dead gorgeous in first "Jazbaa" song

The makers of "Jazbaa", the comeback film of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, have released the first song of the film. It's called "Bandeyaa" and voiced by Jubin Nautiyal. Directed by Sanjay Gupta, the song is composed by Amjad-Nadeem. Aishwarya describes the idea behind the song, "Everything is very spontaneous in the song. I share good comfort level with Sanjay and

Ahmed. So, working with him was incredibly easy. The brief from both, Sanjay and Ahmed, was to feel the song and to be true to it. So, while this will get labeled as a video, we are not playing to the perception of how video should be." The video cuts into shots of a gorgeous Aishwarya in a black dress in reflective, melancholic mood wandering around an abandoned old building and its

vicinity, and of the singer and the composers in the studio recording the track. "Jazbaa" is an action drama film which also stars Irrfan Khan in the lead role along with Jackie Shroff and Shabana Azmi in pivotal roles. The movie is scheduled to release on October 9.

IT'S TRUE!

Be it "Hangover" from "Kick" or "Main Hoon Hero Tera" from "Hero", his songs have always been huge hits. Salman Khan, however, says he does not take singing seriously. "I am just doing it for fun. I can't sing to save my life, if you ask me to sing the same song right now I would not be able to do it. Even if I try to sing it on TV it will not sound the same. However, if I am in a studio and they (music composers) sing every line in front of me, I can mimic that and sing it," says the 49-year-old actor.

