

**WHAT'S ON**  
**Nazrul Birth Anniversary Programme**  
 Title: "Aninditar Thakurdar Jhul" by Anindita Kazi  
 Venue: IGCC auditorium, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
 Date: May 20; Time: 6:30pm

**Tagore Paintings Exhibition**  
 Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattasali Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum  
 Date: May 14-31; Time: 11am-5pm

**Spoken Word Slam**  
 Space Slam  
 Organiser: Ampersand  
 Venue: Jatra Biroti  
 Date: May 21; Time: 7pm

**Art Exhibition**  
 Art Makes us Human  
 Artist: Najib Tareque  
 Venue: Studio 6/6, Mohammadpur  
 Date: May 15-25; Time: 4-10pm

**Art Exhibition**  
 Intimate Fears  
 Artist: Anisuzzaman Sohel  
 Venue: Bengal Art Lounge  
 Date: May 7-June 4  
 Time: 12-8pm



PHOTO: STAR

# BANNYA

## regales audience in Delhi

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**  
 Lovers of Tagore songs were captivated by the soulful rendition of renowned Bangladeshi Rabindra Sangeet exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations auditorium, New Delhi on May 16. The scorching summer heat outside was in sharp contrast to the effects of Bannya's songs which included "Majhe Majhe Tobo Dekha Pai", "Jodi Tor Daak Shuney Keu Na Ashy" and "Shokatore Oi

Kadichey Sokole." Attended by a large number of Tagore devotees, diplomats, senior officials and 1971 Liberation War veterans, the programme, organised by the Bangladesh High Commission as part of its cultural diplomacy, was graced by Dr. Najma Heptulla, India's Minister for Minority Affairs, as the chief guest. Welcoming the gathering, Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali highlighted the invaluable contribution

of Tagore to the evolution of Bengali literature into its modern age and said Tagore's immortal creations will always remain relevant to the day-to-day life of all Bengalis. In her remarks, Dr. Najma Heptulla mentioned the attachment of the people of India and Bangladesh to the works of Rabindranath Tagore and emphasised that the works of the poet have brought the souls of the people of the two countries closer in a common bond of friendship.

# Book launch and musical evening at AFD

**A CORRESPONDENT**  
 Alliance Française de Dhaka organised a musical event around the book presentation by Dr. Pierre-Alain Baud, titled "Nusrat, the Voice of Faith" on May 17 at La Galerie. Dr. Pierre-Alain Baud, a French music researcher, journalist and former associate researcher at the Music and the World Religions and Culture Departments, University of Dhaka, was closely associated with Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's life and music for a decade. The book "The Voice of Faith" is a personal account of the great qawwal's life as observed by Dr. Baud who spent a significant amount of

time in Nusrat's company and organised a number of his international programmes worldwide. The book was first published in French and Urdu, then in English. It is now in the process of translation to Bangla. To make the event lively, a series of events took place starting with the screening of films "Nusrat, the Last Prophet" and "Nusrat Has Left the Building", and some concert abstracts from Theatre de la Ville (Paris, 1989). Professor Kaiser Haq, gave a critical appreciation of the book. Reputed Lalon singer Farida Parveen discussed on "Lalon and Sufism" at the event, and performed songs. The event ended with a kobi gaan performance by Arif Dewan and Alya Begum Alo.



The artiste (R) with distinguished guests.



# ELTON JOHN confirms role in KINGSMAN 2



Not too long ago, there was a report floating around that stated Sir Elton John was up for a role in "Kingsman: The Golden Circle". It officially panned out yesterday, and Sir Elton himself confirmed it with a poster that could only come from him.

The famed music star took to his official Instagram to deploy the fitting poster for "Kingsman: The Golden Circle". With a pair of sunglasses that are reminiscent of something he would have worn back in his 1970's-era performances, and the quote "Wednesday night's alright for fighting", the teaser poster to Matthew Vaughn's action-comedy sequel looks like it'll quite possibly see John playing himself, or a character very much like himself. While Sir Elton claims that this is his first film role since 1975's "Tommy", the standard length of a film performance by Sir Elton John isn't an extensive affair. Keeping that in mind, Sir Elton did have cameo appearances in two music themed films, "Spice World" and "The Country Bears", as well as played the narrator in "The Road to El Dorado" - an animated film which he also wrote several songs for. With the level of seriousness the spy fiction series has taken itself with, a larger-than-life laugh is certainly not out of order when it comes to the 2017 sequel, and Sir Elton would be just the type of celebrity to bring that sort of moment to life.

# Aishwarya's Cannes look draws derision

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**  
 Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's red carpet walk at the Cannes Film Festival has seldom failed to hit the media headlines. It was not any exception this year too. The actress is celebrating 15 years of representing India at the prestigious festival, promoting French cosmetic products L'Oréal and her latest work "Sarbjit", a film about a sister's fight for getting justice for her brother who is convicted and sentenced to death in Pakistan. However, her walk at the red carpet in Cannes this time evoked mixed reactions from the fashion police and aficionados. While her sartorial choice was commended on day one, the 42-year-old actress' lavender-blue lipstick two days later while posing with the cast of "Sarbjit" drew derision on the social media. Aishwarya earned plaudits wearing a studded champagne-coloured couture gown by Kuwaiti designer Ali Younes. On day two she looked gorgeous in a red ruffled gown by Naem Khan. On another occasion, she was seen in a heavily-embellished floor-sweeping, golden-brown coloured 'bandhgala' jacket. While promoting her latest film at the French Riviera, the Indian beauty teamed her purple lips with a flower-strewn Rami Kadi off-shoulder dress and completed her look with gothic eyes and high ponytail. However, it is the purple lipstick that has seen the actress being trolled on Twitter and Facebook. But Aishwarya says she was not under stress about her red carpet look at the Cannes. "I was not nervous (for the look at the Cannes) as it's been 15 years representing L'Oréal here. I have been part of the jury here for two years or so and had come here for 'Devdas'. I belong to showbiz forever so plain dress up has become a way of life depending upon the occasion," she said in an interview. "I am an actor by my career choice. I enjoy fashion and I treat it like art and I have a life, a family. So, I am not focusing on all of this. So it (look) doesn't stress me out... it doesn't get me nervous.. I am a professional," she added. Aishwarya said she did not have the time to look at all the choices the fashion industry "was keen on spoiling me with because I was very busy with 'Sarbjit' promotions."



## NEWS bytes

### "Trainspotting 2" to release in February



Sony has dated "T2: Trainspotting" in the US for February 3, 2017 in select theatres with a wide release on February 10. The sequel opens in the UK on Jan. 27. Shooting began in Edinburgh on Monday with Danny Boyle, who also directed the original. Ewan McGregor, Jonny Lee Miller, Ewen Bremner and Robert Carlyle will reprise the roles of Renton, Sick Boy, Spud and Begbie, respectively. The sequel, based on characters created by Irvine Welsh, also reunites Boyle with screenwriter John Hodge and the rest of the principal cast of the 1996 cult classic. Sony said last year that it planned to release the film in 2017 to mark the 21st birthday of the original film. Based on the novel of the same name by Welsh, the original Hodge screenplay received an Academy Award nomination. The story, set in the late '80s, follows a group of heroin addicts in an economically depressed area of Edinburgh. The film was produced for \$2 million and generated a worldwide gross of more than \$70 million, launching the careers of McGregor, Carlyle and Boyle.



# Richi-Apurbo in "Shunno Shohor"

**STUFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Popular TV actors Apurba and Richi Solaiman have been a high profile team in several TV plays and telefilms. Despite their onscreen chemistry the duo hadn't worked together for sometime. Now to the delight of their fans they have paired up again for a television play titled "Shunno Shohor" that will air during Eid. The TV play is written and directed by Gautam Koiri, where the popular duo will be playing husband and wife. The play depicts a story of a sprinter who suffers from an accident and eventually gets frustrated from staying at home all the time, and this creates conflicts between him and his partner. Apurbo told The Daily Star: "The role provides a lot of scope to act. On the upside, Richi is a talented actress and a great co-artist. Working with her after a year feels great." Richi, on the other hand said, "Not every day you find a play that provides you personal satisfaction to working in. This time I am getting that. Apurbo is a good human being and working with him has always been a treat."