

WHAT'S ON

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

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

SPACE SLAM
 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

Solo Ceramic Sculpture Exhibit
 Title: Moving Roots
 Artist: Ashim Halder Sagar
 Venue: Gallery Twenty One, 751, Satmasjid Road, Dharmomdi
 Date: May 20-June 3; Time: 12-8pm



PHOTO: STAR

THE APPEAL OF TAGORE PAINTINGS

Exhibition at Bangladesh National Museum

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Rabindranath Tagore started painting in 1924 at the age of 63. However, an element of such efforts could be noticed in various corrections and doodles in his manuscripts, particularly during the penning of "Purabi", during Tagore's fateful visit to Buenos Aires in 1924. His companion there, Victoria Ocampo, arranged the first exhibition of Tagore's paintings in Paris in May 1930. Later, the exhibitions travelled to other famous destinations in Europe and North America: Birmingham, London, Berlin, Munich, Dresden, Copenhagen, Geneva, Moscow, Boston, New York and Philadelphia in May 1931. Nandalal Bose, eminent artist at Santiniketan, wrote -- "There are three major factors in Tagore's paintings -- rhythm, bal-

ance and indulgence. These qualities he acquired during his vast period of writing poems and songs." Tagore created nearly 2,300 paintings and drawings. To revisit the artistic genius of Tagore, Bangladesh National Museum has organised an exhibition featuring 120 replicas of his artworks at its Nalini Kanta Bhattasali Gallery. The exhibition opened on May 14, marking the 155th birth anniversary of the bard. Finance Minister AMA Muhith inaugurated the show as chief guest with Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor was special guest. Tagore was free and open-minded in selecting the medium for his paintings. He used black lead pencils, colour pencils, pastel colours, coloured ink, water colours and colours extracted from leaves and flowers. He

made paintings very fast, mostly in one sitting. While drawing, he made use of the pen, brush, fingertips and even the sleeves of his loose garments. Golden yellow was Tagore's favorite colour, as it resembles the rice fields of autumn, for which Tagore had an affinity. Dark chocolate and black have also been copiously used in many of his paintings. He admitted that he was colour-blind to red and green -- and he used them sparsely. Tagore drew several portraits of women with sad and distressed appearances. He once told Nandalal Bose that while drawing the female visage he was reminded of his sister-in-law Kadambari Devi. He drew several self-portraits where he tried to avoid distortions and made them as close to real as possible. The exhibit divides the artworks into dif-

ferent theme-based groups for a better understanding of the self-taught painter. The first kind presents free-form doodles from his manuscripts. The next group, presenting Tagore's women, showcases his unfettered approach to the subjects. Mainly done in ink, colour pen and pastel, the female figures do not fall into any generalised category. Free lines, random but expressive choice of colours, deep tones, compositional balance and harmony, fantasy, rhythm and vivacity mark these paintings and drawings. Other categories of paintings portray landscapes, animals, birds, flowers and self-portraits. Besides these works, the exhibit also displays a number of photographs of Tagore, his friends and family and several of his peers from both the East and West. The exhibition remains open until May 31.



Chanchal in three new TVCs

A CORRESPONDENT

Chanchal Chowdhury, who first came into the limelight with an advert for a telecom operator, has since made a place for himself in the industry with his brilliant acting skills. The popular actor has ventured back into TV commercials recently, and is coming to the screens with three new commercials. Two of the TVCs are directed by Afzal Hossain, for a noodles brand, and another directed by Amitabh Reza, for a super-shop. The shooting and dubbing for the TVCs are complete and will be seen soon on screen. Chanchal, excited about working with two ace admakers, said "This is the first time I am working with Afzal Hossain in a TVC. Although I have worked with him earlier, that was a long time ago. One the other hand, I have worked with Amitabh Reza in a TV play and the film 'Aynabaji', and this is also for the first time I am working in a TVC with him. So for me working with such talents in TVCs is like dream came true."



"The Village Engineer" on Rtv



A CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "The Village Engineer" goes on air Wednesday to Friday at 9:50pm on Rtv. Written by Masum Reza and directed by Salauddin Lavlu, the serial is set in an imaginary village named Payjampur. In the village a youth named Biju Shah makes a name as an engineer who repairs electronic appliances and give villagers lessons on engineering. Abul Hayat, Mosharraf Karim, AKM Hasan, Arfan Ahmed, Prova, Shushma Sarkar, Mousumi Nag, Pran Roy and Chitralekha Guha form the cast among others.

NEWS bytes

Amazon buys Winslet's "Dressmaker"

Amazon Studios has bought domestic rights to "The Dressmaker" with Kate Winslet, reports Variety. The adaptation of the Rosalie Ham novel screened at last year's Toronto Film Festival and was a box office smash in Australia. The streaming service will release the film theatrically in the US this fall. "The Dressmaker" centers on a woman who returns to her hometown in rural Australia to care for her ailing mother and to exact her revenge on the community that exiled her at a young age. In addition to Winslet, the Jocelyn Moorhouse-helmed film stars Liam Hemsworth and Judy Davis. The film debuted last year in Australia where it was the second-highest grossing Australian film after "Mad Max: Fury Road". It also scored 13 AACTA Awards nominations, the equivalent of Australia's Academy Awards, and won several, including a best actress statue for Winslet. Amazon has moved aggressively into the original film space. The online giant is snapping up movies and premiered five films at this year's Cannes Film Festival, including Woody Allen's comedy "Café Society", Nicolas Winding Refn's horror film "The Neon Demon" and Park Chan-wook's erotic thriller "The Handmaiden". Source: Variety

TV WATCH "Jayatu" on Ekattor TV

A CORRESPONDENT

Ekattor TV's talk show, "Jayatu", will feature a discussion on "Is Nazrul Still Contemporary", in tonight's episode to be aired at 9:05pm. Khairul Anam Shakil, General Secretary of Chhayanaut and eminent Nazrul Sangeet singer; Soumitra Shekhar, Nazrul researcher and professor of Bangla at Dhaka University; and Sadya Afreen Mallick, noted Nazrul Sangeet exponent -- will feature in the discussion, anchored by Mithila Farzana.



Guests at the programme.

MIM'S BIG DREAMS OF THE SILVER SCREENS

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Bidyā Sinha Mim has come a long way in show biz. From winning a beauty pageant to her early days of acting on TV and switching it up to the big screen, she has capped it all with a National Film Award (for 2014 film "Jonaki'r Alo") the highest honour for an actor. In a recent conversation with The Daily Star, the first-timer awardee opened about her commitment to the big screen, her recent achievement, and more.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

The first National Award win must be special. Has it sunk in yet?
 Mim: I'm still ecstatic. I am really glad to have received the state-level recognition. Every artiste wants to receive such an award and it is a dream come true. To receive an award from the country's prime minister is surreal.
 How well set are you in the world of showbiz?
 Mim: I am very comfortable here, and that is why I continue to work. I have a sense of belonging, and I think that's very important. You have to give your full effort to reach this position. There's no alternative to hard work. I have given seven years of my life here, and that's because I wanted to do better and better.
 Who inspires you to be an actress?
 Mim: My family, especially my parents and younger sister, have a big contribution to my success.
 What was the first movie you watched in a theatre?
 Mim: The first film I watched was with my parents in India, but I can't recall the name. I was a third grader at the time, I think.
 Your first film was under Humayun Ahmed's direction. What was the experience like?
 Mim: That was a unique experience for me. I'm a die-hard Humayun Ahmed fan girl. It was a privilege to have worked with him, and that too on my first assignment in that medium. He was a calm, composed person; I never saw him get angry on the sets.
 What's your dream on the cinema front?
 Mim: I have been absent from TV plays for the last two years. I am focusing all my energy on films. Besides this, I'm doing some TVCs sometimes. Right now, films are all that's on my mind. I just want to act in good films, and create memorable characters. Film is the only medium where you can push yourself as an actor.