

WHAT'S ON

Star Melodies
Marking Nazrul Birth Anniversary
Organiser: The Daily Star
Venue: KS Mahmud Seminar Hall
The Daily Star Centre
Date: May 31; Time: 6:30pm

Nazrul Birth Anniversary
Organiser: KCC
Artists: Khalil Kazi & Salauddin Ahmed
Venue: KCC Auditorium, Gulshan-1
Date: May 27; Time: 6:30pm

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

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

Anniversary Celebration
Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangket Shilpi Sangstha
Venue: Shaikat Osman Auditorium
Date: May 28; Time: 6pm

Nazrul Utshab
Organiser: Chhayaratna
Venue: Chhayaratna Auditorium, Dharamondi
Date: May 27-28; Time: 6:30pm

A LOST SOUL

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

Nazrul was restless -- a defining trait of his character. He had been granted permission to come down from heaven to his beloved country to see for himself how his devotees were celebrating his 117th birthday. While the angels draped him in his favourite 'gerua khadder panjabi', he put on the black military boots that he always wore. His trademark -- untamed long curls falling loosely from underneath the bright yellow silk turban, he hummed a favourite tune "Sheye choleye gecheye boley... The twinkle in his eye said it all -- he would hardly wait.

Nazrul had a plan chalked out. He would spend the day visiting all the organisations that work to cherish and honour him, in particular the Nazrul Institute. He would also make time to visit the Bangla Academy, the Shilpakala Academy, radio and the TV channels. The institutions had to be the focus, where he could see for himself the people teeming in, music in the air and reminisce on the days of yore.

Weaving his way to the Nazrul Institute through a cramped Dharamondi road 28, he became increasingly confused. He figured that once in the vicinity, he would simply follow the crowd. But where was the crowd? Where was his house? It took him some time to finally spot the decrepit building and what he saw shocked him to his core.

Nearly 40 years ago, this used to be his home. He had slowly slipped into a terminal illness and watched in silence as hundreds of people thronged day in and day out to get a glimpse of him and to express their adulation anyway they could. It was here where he bade farewell to the world, leaving behind his admirers in a sea of grief. He had hoped the house would remain as a link to him and

his memories. Now it seems, along with him, the house had died a premature death; the worn out structure looking helpless in the midst of a concrete wilderness.

As he walked in with dreaded steps, he saw a droopy receptionist at the entrance, responding half-heartedly to a few visitors. The auditorium itself looked like a post war scene. It seemed a heavy shower or mild tremor would bring the ceiling crashing down. The musty smell was nauseating. Termite had taken full control of the auditorium. A chill ran down his spine. "It's only a matter of time before my lifetime's work is



Nazrul at the studio with a tanpura, doing what he does best.

ruined because of sheer negligence and apathy," he thought.

At the Gramophone Company when Nazrul was signed as an exclusive trainer, eminent artists such as Dilip Kumar Rai, Sachin Dev Burman, KI Saigal, Tulsi Lahiri, Abbassuddin Ahmed, Kamol Das Gupta, Juthika Rai, Angur Bala, Indu Bala, Kamala Jharia and many others recorded songs under his guidance and gained immense popularity, turned into legends.

At the library, Nazrul noted with horror, the CDs featuring songs from original records, and 31 volumes of notations containing a thousand songs, lay under a layer

of dust. Most artists unfamiliar with the technique of following swaralipi, had probably bailed out and shifted to other genres.

The situation perplexed Nazrul. It wasn't as if there were no funds allocated by the government. But most of it seemed to go to printing books, pamphlets, reprints -- anything -- but original articles. The songs that were so close to his heart were clearly not given the priority they deserved.

Nazrul remembered that he had composed 3,500 songs -- on patriotism, ghazals, devotional, for theatre and cinema, and based on Turkish, Arabic and Cuban tunes

As the moon emerged in the sky, Nazrul sat on the lawn and reminisced on his days in the Alipore Jail. Tagore had dedicated his play "Basanta" to Nazrul. He remembered his emergence on the literary scene of Kolkata, as a soldier poet -- a time when Tagore's influence was dominant. This was the golden age of Tagore's literature and it was difficult for any poet not to be swept away by his presence. Nazrul himself was influenced by Tagore. But very soon Nazrul started to break away from that trend, composing songs with a fiery spirit, heroic sentiment and ignited a newfound passion among readers and music enthusiasts. It seemed that the fire was now being put out through sheer apathy -- had his work inherited his terminal illness?

Subhas Chandra Bose had once said that he had travelled to many war fronts of India, but never had he been so moved by a song as spirited as Nazrul's "Durgoma Giri". Nazrul took a deep breath -- were the songs taught at educational institutions to familiarise the young ones with the National Poet's works? Perhaps not, he thought.

What about the media, he thought? Surely with all the new technological developments he had observed from above, something could be done? And what about this "globalisation" he had heard about? Didn't that imply promoting one's ideas to the world? Re-recording of the original songs by talented singers, attractive visual presentations of the songs could also draw the audience, couldn't they? What also concerned Nazrul was a dearth of skilled teachers across the country. He was also surprised that the government institutions, as well as sponsors or private institutions, seemed oblivious to the gradual decline that had set in.

From afar he watched several prominent Nazrul artists and organisations had assembled to protest the neglect of the memorial plaques at the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

Perhaps there were others who shared his grief, but it was time to return. Hurt and desolate, he made his way back to his abode in the heavens. The twinkling lights of stars greeted him. From a distance he could see a grand stage bedecked with flowers. Legendary artists of yesteryears were waiting to greet him with his classics on his birthday. Perhaps his wish was to be fulfilled after all. But not in the earthly world!

Star Melodies soiree on Tuesday

Nazrul's kabya-geeti and Raaga-based songs in spotlight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Star Melodies, The Daily Star's regular initiative to promote Bangla music, is set to hold a musical evening on Tuesday, May 31 at the AS Mahmud Seminar Hall of The Daily Star Centre, marking National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 117th birth anniversary.

Both prominent and promising singers -- Subir Nandi, Yasmin Mushtari, Priyanka Gope, Sheikh Jashim and Chhanda Chakrabarty -- will present Kazi Nazrul Islam's kabya-geeti and Raaga-based songs.

Sadya Afreen Mallick, Editor, Star Arts & Entertainment, will comper the event.

The programme will begin at 6:30pm. Invitation passes can be collected from The Daily Star Centre. Seats are limited and available on first-come first-serve basis.

Eastern Bank Limited and Chalacitram are assisting in the programme.

Shakib gears up for BOSS GIRL

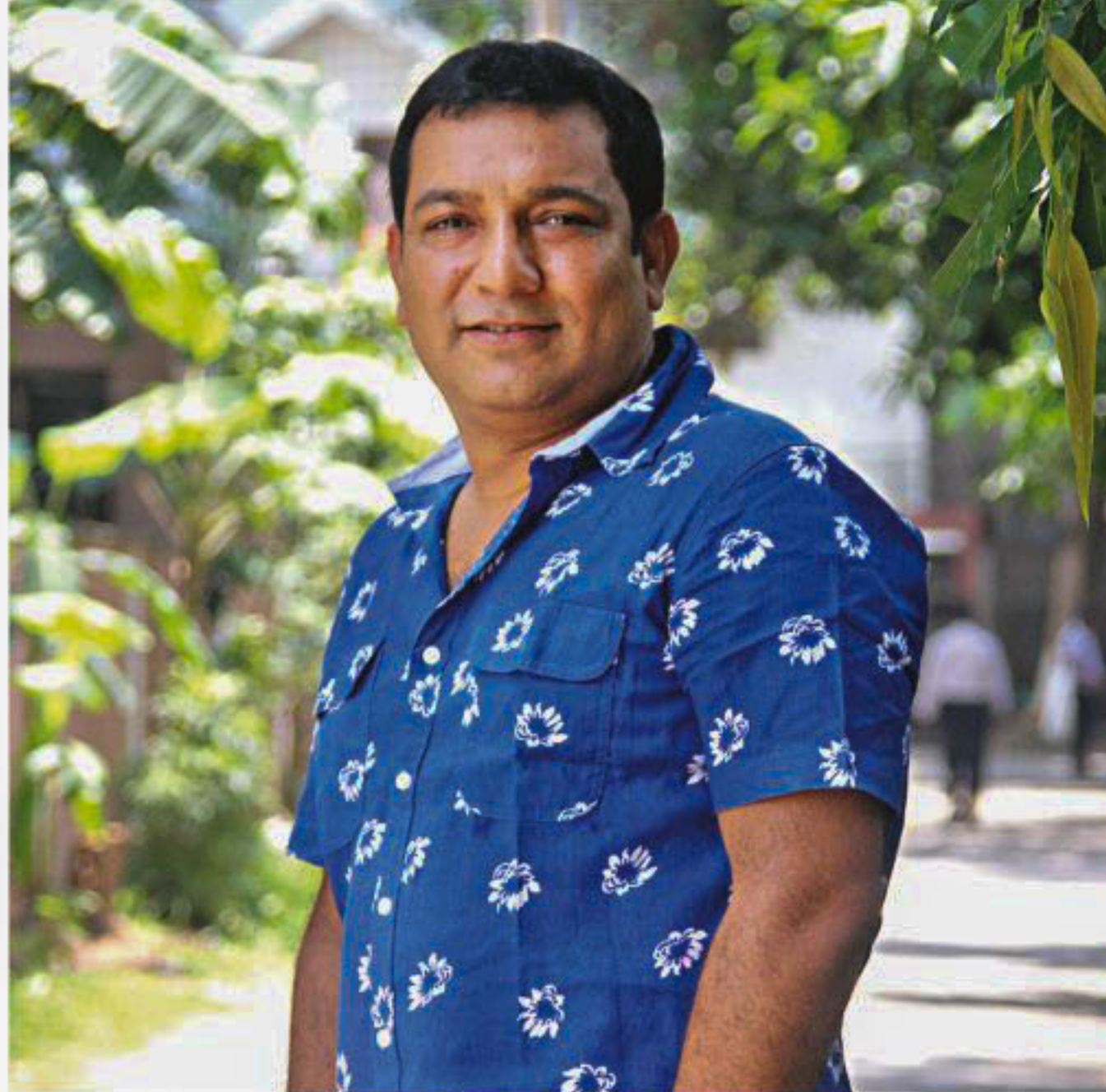
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular actor Shakib Khan is all geared up for his new film "Boss Girl". Directed by Shamim Ahmed, the actor plays the role of a crime gang boss.

Talking about the film, Khan said, "Viewers will see me play both positive and negative roles in the film. I hope it will get a good response."

Newcomer Bubli will be sharing screen space with Shakib Khan in the movie. The actress, who has completed her MBA from Dhaka University, is visibly excited about her role. "I never imagined I would act in a film and that too with Shakib Khan," she said.

Khan added, "We have to give opportunities for newbies like Bubli so that more educated individuals can enter the film industry and take it to a higher level."



Tauquir's "Oggatonama" honoured in Italy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tauquir Ahmed-directed film "Oggatonama" ("The Unnamed") has won a special jury mention at a film festival in Italy, following its premiere at the commercial Marche du Film market at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Tauquir was present to receive the award at the Gulf of Naples Independent Film Festival on May 21. "To be awarded and praised for your work is always inspiring. This award will drive me to make better films," he told The Daily Star.

"Oggatonama", yet to be released in the country, is about the life of expatriate workers in the Middle East. The film casts Shahiduzzaman Selim, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Mosharraf Karim, Nipun, Shahed Sherif Khan, Shahed Ali in various roles. Inpress Telefilm has produced the film.



Bon Jovi shared some big news on Twitter on Wednesday, announcing that a new album, to be titled "This House Is Not For Sale", is completed.

To celebrate, the band posted a photo taken at Electric Lady Studio in New York City on its website, which included band members Jon Bon Jovi, David Bryan, Tico Torres, Hugh McDonald, Phil X and producer John Shanks.

Bon Jovi completes new album

After word arrived last summer that Bon Jovi had fulfilled its contract on Mercury Records, in what lead singer Jon Bon Jovi called the "end of an era," the new album will be released in partnership with Island/Universal Music Group, according to a source, marking the group's return to UMG.

Source: Billboard

MEGAN FOX

keen to play Kitana

To any major Hollywood actor not involved with a superhero franchise, the question interviewers seem to always have on hand is which role they would like to inhabit in the world of metahumans and super-powered vigilantes. So when Megan Fox was asked that very question, she had a pretty surprising answer: she doesn't want to play a superhero, she wants to play Kitana in the Mortal Kombat remake.

During an interview with Cinepop, Fox spoke about how she never really thought of a specific hero that she'd like to play. However, her wish list does include the sharp-toothed combatant made famous in 1993's "Mortal Kombat II". Her reasons, as seen below, are simple, but understandable: "I thought of Kitana from Mortal Kombat if they ever make that movie again. I've always loved her fans and the blades, but that's the only one I could think of."

As far as the prospect of a Mortal Kombat remake, there were talks last year that saw James Wan taking the role of director on the fresh reboot. However, with Wan's schedule currently being occupied with his duties on "Aquaman", any movement under his directorial hand would be stalled until, at the very earliest, some point in 2018.

Megan Fox hasn't been shy about tackling big ticket properties of nostalgic worth, as not only did she find her career jump started by the first two "Transformers" films, but she's also made a name for herself as the latest incarnation of April O'Neil in both "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" films.

Source: Cinemablend

Sidharth, Alia to star in Aashiqui 3



Bollywood producer Mukesh Bhatt has confirmed that Sidharth Malhotra and Alia Bhatt will star in the third installment of the "Aashiqui" series.

"Aashiqui 3" will be Sidharth and Alia's third film, after "Student of the Year" and "Kapoor And Sons".

"Yes, it is true. We have signed Sidharth and Alia for the film. They completely fit the role. When we make films, we look for the perfect casting. They both fit the bill," Bhatt told PTI.

Source: NDTV Movies

X-MEN APOCALYPSE QUIZ CONTEST

10 WINNERS EVERYDAY! 2 PREMIUM TICKETS FOR EACH WINNER

The Daily Star | STAR CINEMA

Following the critically acclaimed global smash hit X-Men: Days of Future Past, director Bryan Singer returns with X-MEN: APOCALYPSE. Since the dawn of civilization, he was worshipped as a god. Apocalypse, the first and most powerful mutant from Marvel's X-Men universe, amassed the powers of many other mutants, becoming immortal and invincible. Upon awakening after thousands of years, he is disillusioned with the world as he finds it and recruits a team of powerful mutants, including a disheartened Magneto (Michael Fassbender), to cleanse mankind and create a new world order, over which he will reign. As the fate of the Earth hangs in the balance, Raven (Jennifer Lawrence) with the help of Professor X (James McAvoy) must lead a team of young X-Men to stop their greatest nemesis and save mankind from complete destruction.

The Daily Star together with Star Cineplex will host a quiz for the movie lovers in the Arts & Entertainment section. So keep your eyes open.

Nazrul's birth celebration held in Mymensingh



Young artistes perform at the programme. PHOTO: STAR

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The three-day national level celebration marking the 117th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam began on May 25 at Darirampur in Trishal of Mymensingh, a locale rich with Nazrul's childhood memories.

The celebration, organised by Cultural Affairs Ministry and Mymensingh District administration at Darirampur Nazrul Mancha, will conclude today.

Nazrul, born at village Churulia of Bardwan district in West Bengal in India on May 25, 1899, stayed at Kazir Shimla and Darirampur in Trishal for a year and studied at Darirampur High School. Kazi Rafizullah, a police sub-inspector working at Bardwan in West Bengal then took Nazrul to his village Kazir Shimla in 1913.

A series of programmes have been undertaken marking the celebrations that included colourful rallies, discussions, cultural shows, poet gatherings, staging of plays and dance performances.

A festive mood prevailed in Trishal and adjacent areas with the three-day fair titled "Nazrul Mela" held to mark the occasion.

Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury inaugurated the celebration as the chief guest.

Minister for Religious Affairs principal Motiur Rahman, AL lawmaker advocate Muslem Uddin, Police Superintendent Moinul Haque, former-AL lawmaker Abdul Matin Sarker and Trishal upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Md Abu Zafar

Ripon addressed the opening session chaired by Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqui. Professor Mohit Ul Alam, vice-chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) in Trishal, presented a keynote speech at the inaugural ceremony.

The speakers said that Nazrul was a poet who struggled lifelong to establish a humane and secular society. Nazrul's huge volumes of work are replete with protests against oppression, repression, communalism, feudalism and colonialism, said the speakers.

Bangabandhu brought Nazrul to Bangladesh and honoured him as the National Poet -- an honour was his due, they said.

Cultural shows on the opening ceremony that included renditions of Nazrul songs, dances and poetry recitation were performed by different cultural organisations of the district and outside.

Trishal Press Club also published a souvenir titled "Kandari Hushiar".

Meanwhile, a three-day programme marking the celebration -- undertaken by the authorities of JKNIU, a culture-based university of the country, also began on the campus on May 25 afternoon. The programmes included playing of floral wreaths at the portrait of the poet, a cultural rally, seminars, cultural programmes and a photo exhibition on Nazrul.

Health Minister Mohammad Nasim was the chief guest at the opening of the celebration chaired by vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Mohit Ul Alam.



Shakib gears up for BOSS GIRL