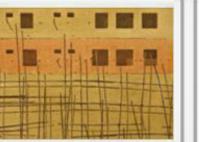


WHAT'S ON

Nazrul Utshab 1424
Organiser: Chhayanaut
Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayanaut
Date: May 24-25
Time: 7pm Daily



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Sense, Perception and Interpretation
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
Date: May 19-27
Time: 3pm-9pm



Theatre
Play: Jonomanko
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: May 21
Time: 7pm



Group Art Exhibition
Marking 13th Anniversary of Galleri Kaya
Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
Date: May 5-28
Time: 11am-8pm



Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti
Organiser: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC)
Venue: Jagannath Hall, DU
Date: May 22
Time: 7-9pm



NEWS bytes

LORDE
details new album

Earlier this year, Lorde officially announced her sophomore album "Melodrama", due for release June 16. Now, more details have emerged about the album, including the full track-list.

In addition to the two previously released tracks "Green Light" and "Liability", Melodrama also features songs like "Homemade Dynamite" and "Sober", which she debuted at live shows earlier this year. Lorde recently revealed that the album tells the story of a house party. In an earlier interview, she explained that it was largely influenced by "all the gross moments, all the great moments" of early adulthood.

Other songs on the list, posted by the Kiwi pop star herself on Twitter, are titled "The Louvre", "Hard Feelings/Loveless", "Sober II (Melodrama)", "Writer in the Dark", "Supercut", "Liability (Reprise)" and "Perfect Places".



Source: Pitchfork

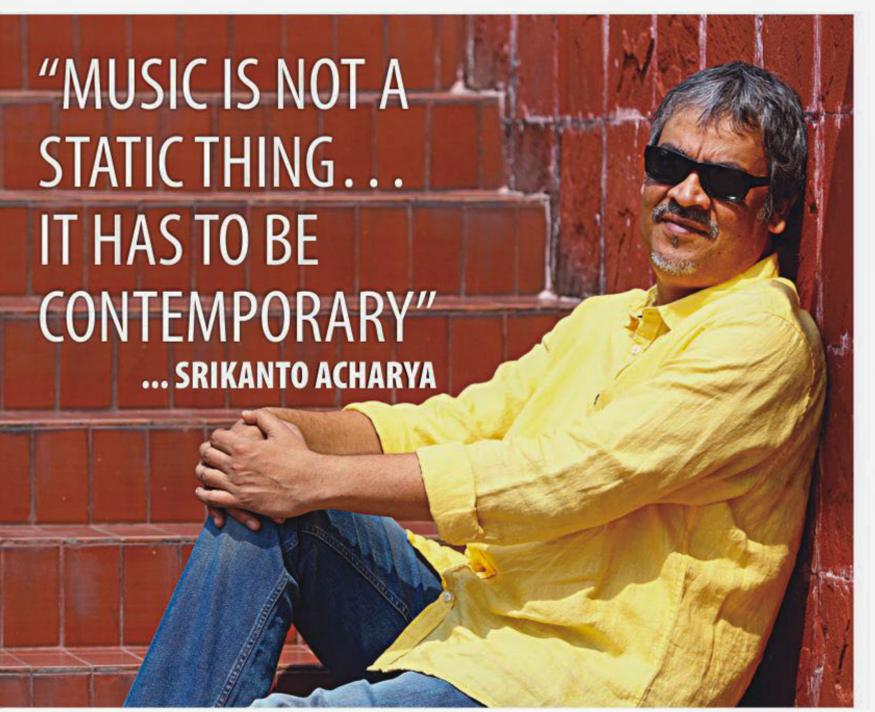


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ZAHANGIR ALOM

“MUSIC IS NOT A STATIC THING... IT HAS TO BE CONTEMPORARY” ... SRIKANTO ACHARYA

Renowned modern Bengali singer-songwriter and music director Srikanto Acharya spoke The Daily Star a couple of months ago, during his visit to Sylhet for The Bengal Sangskriti Utshab, about the timeless appeal of Tagore and old Bengali songs and what makes a song a classic.

What drove you towards recording 'golden oldies' which are now celebrated by audiences worldwide?

Srikanto: When I recorded the albums, there was a trend of remaking songs of yesteryears in Kolkata. Remaking of old songs provided two opportunities – popularising the golden oldies and introducing a new voice to music lovers. Music companies there perceived it as great commercial strategy. I was lucky that the audience received my albums so favourably both in Kolkata, India and in Bangladesh. Some of them were not very popular in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s, but when songs are revived after a lapse of several decades, you have to applaud their power. But, if I might take partial credit, I did try to interpret the songs in my own way.

Tagore has been a great musical inspiration for you. How do you interpret Tagore's songs in this day and age?

Srikanto: Tagore is an all-time great composer. His compositions have a sense of precision and modernity. I don't think of Tagore songs as a thing

of the past. The more I listen to his songs, the more I am struck by the aesthetic essence of his music. Sometimes I come across a lyric of Tagore and think about his brilliance in saying something so ahead of his time. I first try to understand the modernism in Tagore songs and then I apply it to the rendition of other songs.

What do you think makes a song timeless?

Srikanto: Music is not a static thing. Artists will experiment with music and lyrics; some will succeed, some will not. The audience's taste changes with the passage of time – time is the best yardstick to measure the popularity of a song. If the audience takes a song to their hearts, it will become timeless. But we must also remember that music has to be contemporary. That's the challenge – to create music that is contemporary and classic at the same time.

How has the onset of digital media affected the music industry and your own work?

Srikanto: I closely observe the advent of digital media and sites like YouTube, SoundCloud and others along with audience's changing habits and tastes of listening to music. This actually causes harm to the audio industry. But I cannot transform the trend of time and the audience's responses towards it. I should rather cope with the new situation and adapt to the trend. In the middle of this year, I plan to record several Tagore songs together with some original songs for YouTube.

Nazrul memorial centres in Trishal in poor state

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Two memorial centres in Mymensingh established some 14 years ago to keep alive the childhood memories of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam are yet to be enriched with necessary inputs.

The centres titled 'Nazrul Smriti Kendras' were established at Kazir Shimla and Namapara of Darirampur in Trishal in 2003, said sources.

Nazrul, born at village Churulia of Burdwan district in West Bengal in 1899, was brought to Kazir Shimla in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh in 1913 by Kazi Rafizullah, a Muslim police sub-inspector then posted at Burdwan.

"The collections of Nazrul's memorabilia at the centres have been the same for years and so the centres do not draw attention of visitors as expected," said Kazi Anwar Hossain, grandson of Kazi Rafizullah.

"The centres could be a cultural hub of the country if they are enriched with memorabilia and many other cultural courses and activities," said Kazi Anwar.

No renovation work of the centres was done in last 14 years and cracks developed on a second floor's wall of Kazir Shimla Smriti Kendra three years ago but no steps have been taken yet, according to sources.

The memorabilia at the centres include rare gramophones and records released by His Masters Voice Company, handwritten scripts of the poet in Bangla, English, Hindi and Urdu, some photographs of the poet and his family members and a couch.

The libraries at the centres have not

been expanded with sufficient books of Nazrul and other writers. Only three daily newspapers, including two at Namapara centre, are available, according to sources.

"If the library facilities and Nazrul memorabilia are increased, the number of visitors will increase hopefully," said Kazi Moyeen Uddin, an Honours student of the locality.

"There is a lot of Nazrul memorabilia stored at National Museum and the centres could be enriched through proper coordination between Nazrul Institute and National Museum authorities," said an official.

A photo gallery of 125 photographs of Nazrul was opened at Nazrul Library, adjacent to Kazir Shimla Centre in April this year. The three-room tin-shed house was earlier used as Nazrul Library since 1974, run by Mymensingh Zila Parishad.

"The centres could also be the place of learning classical music and Nazrul Sangeet," said an official.

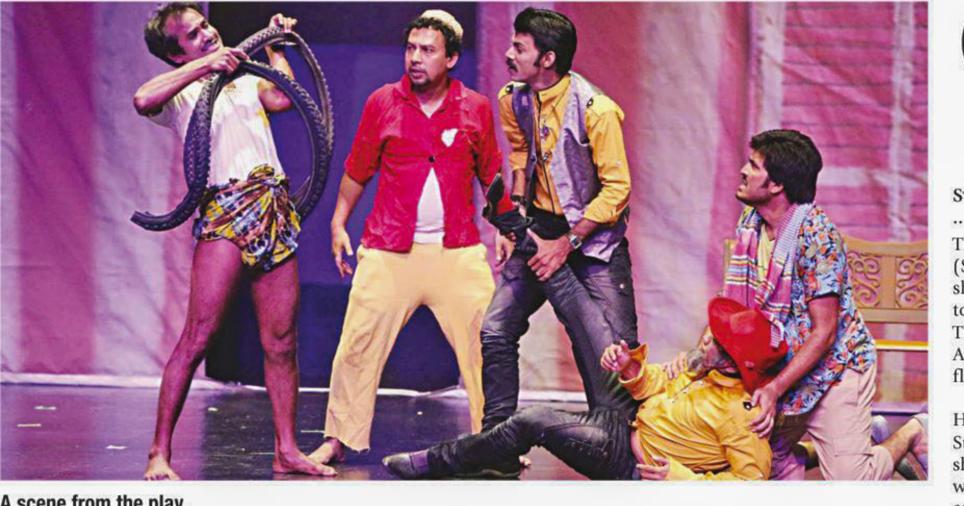
"However, a year-long training course on "Nazrul's Shudhha Sur and Bani" by Nazrul Institute introduced at Namapara centre last year is stopped now," said Akhtaruzzaman Mondol, in-charge of the centres.

"A total of 36 students were enrolled at the centre and of them, 16 sat for examination held in February this year," said the official adding, "They hope to restart the course in July this year."

"To make the centres abuzz, more courses on classical music and dance, poetry recitation and fine arts should be introduced at both centres," said veteran classical maestro Ustad Sunil Kumar Dhar.



PHOTO: STAR



A scene from the play.

Charity show of "Kanjus" today
Fundraising effort for Haor flood victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Loko Natyadal (Siddheswari) will stage the 695th show of its popular play "Kanjus" today (May 21) at 7pm at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, to raise funds for victims of flooding in the Haor region.

The troupe, in collaboration with Haor developmental organisation "Save Sulla" is staging the special charity show. The proceeds from the tickets will go to assist the destitute people and farmer families of the Haor region

of Bangladesh, who have been suffering as a result of untimely flash floods.

Tarique Anam Khan has translated the play into Bangla from French playwright Moliere's classic, "The Miser". Liaquat Ali Lucky has directed the play. He also planned music for the production.

The play narrates the story of people from old Dhaka. The actors often improvise on stage to keep the play contemporary and interesting.

Swadesh Dasgupta, Ziauddin Shipon, Rubel Shankar, Azizur Rahman Sujan, Masud Suman, Eshita, Mumu

Mashud, Priyanka, Julfiqar Ali Babu and others will don different roles for the special staging.

The play was premiered on May 8, 1989 as a production of Loko Natyadal. The troupe was divided into two factions after 470 shows of the play. When the troupe was divided, Lucky continued with the Siddheswari faction, while the Banani wing found a new director Kamrun Noor Chowdhury.

The production has so far visited many international theatre festivals in India, UK, USA and Monaco and won acclaims and several awards.

Tom Hardy to star in "Venom"
Rubin Fischer to direct Spiderman spin-off

Tom Hardy will star in Sony's long-awaited "Spider-Man" movie "Venom", with "Zombieland" helmer Ruben Fleischer on board to direct.

While "Spider-Man: Homecoming" is still two months away from opening, Sony is acting quickly to build its extended universe, which starts with the "Venom" movie.

Although the studio has been meeting with directors for some time, the actor selection process sped up after Hardy exited JC Chandor's action-thriller "Triple Frontier", and Sony saw an opportunity to court an in-demand



talent.

Fleischer showcased his ability to bring together dark themes and humor in "Zombieland", and according to sources, Hardy is a huge fan of Venom. Hardy's only previous film in the superhero genre is 2012's "The Dark Knight Rises", in which he played another baddie, Bane.

Scott Rosenberg ("Jumanji") and Jeff Pinkner ("The Dark Tower") will write the script for "Venom", with Avi Arad and Matt Tolmach

producing the movie, along with Amy Pascal.

"Venom" is set to hit theaters on Oct. 5, 2018.

Since its inception in 1988, Venom has been one of "Spider-Man's" most popular characters, making it a top priority for the studio to get a movie off the ground. The character is an alien symbiote that needs a human host to survive. The alien vests its victim with incredible powers. Venom made his first big-screen appearance in Sam Raimi's "Spider-Man 3", where he was portrayed by Topher Grace.

Throughout the history of Marvel Comics, Venom has appeared alongside Spider-Man, Iron Man, Deadpool, Hulk, and other Marvel Comics characters.

Hardy most recently starred in the FX series "Taboo" and can be seen next in Christopher Nolan's World War II epic "Dunkirk".

Hardy posted a photo of himself in a Venom T-shirt to celebrate the announcement.

Source: Variety



Plizz Cinema

VIDYA BALAN learning hip-hop

Vidya Balan is learning a new dance form - hip-hop -- for her next film, "Tumhari Sulu".

After her last release Begum Jaan, Vidya Balan dived headlong into her next project, "Tumhari Sulu". After "Lage Raho Munabhai" (2006), this film, which is a slice-of-life comedy, will see Vidya play a radio jockey once again on screen. The film went on floors on May 1 and Vidya, who is currently shooting for it, is also simultaneously training in hip-hop for a few scenes in the film.

While details of whether she will be dancing in a song or a few scenes still remain unknown, sources reveal that the actress has been practicing under the guidance of a Mumbai-based choreographer.

"Vidya has been religiously rehearsing at a Mumbai-based choreographer's studio. She has been putting in extra hours for rehearsals before the shoot and sometimes even post-shoot as she wants to master the dance form. For now the makers don't want to talk about why she is training in the dance form as they want it to be a big surprise in the film. Vidya, who has always been viewed as a powerhouse performer for her intense roles on screen, will have her play a lighter role this time," a Hindustan Times quoted a source as saying.

The last time Vidya trained in dancing was for a lavani number in "Ferrari Ki Sawaari" (2012). Before that she performed Bharatanatyam for a song sequence in "Bhool Bhulaiyaa" (2007).

Source: Hindustan Times

