

**WHAT'S ON**

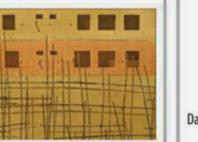
**Nazrul Utshab 1424**  
 Organiser: Chhayanaut  
 Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayanaut  
 Date: May 24-25  
 Time: 7pm Daily



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



**Solo art Exhibition**  
 Golden Doors  
 Artist: Prashanta Karmakar  
 Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre  
 Date: May 6-19; Time: 9am-10pm



**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



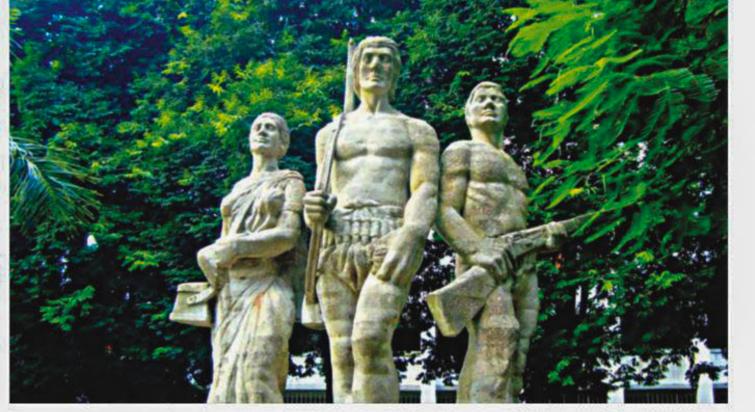
**NEWS bytes**

**Jessica Chastain to play Ingrid Bergman**



Two-time Academy Award nominee and Cannes jury member Jessica Chastain will star in "Seducing Ingrid Bergman", and she and her Freckle Films has joined India's YRF Entertainment to produce it. Arash Amel wrote the script and is also producing. It's based on the 2012 novel by Chris Greenhalgh which tells the story of the torrid romance between the Swedish actress most famous for "Casablanca", and celebrated war photographer Robert Capa. Their relationship began in Paris immediately following WWII, and moved to Hollywood at the time of the McCarthy Communist witch hunts. YRF Entertainment will finance, and its production president Jonathan Reiman will be exec producer. No director has yet been set. YRF CEO Uday Chopra called Chastain "the perfect actress to star in 'Seducing Ingrid Bergman'". Chastain will next be seen starring in the Aaron Sorkin-directed "Molly's Game".

**The invincible spirit never dies**  
 Tribute to pioneer sculptor Syed Abdullah Khalid



**ZAHANGIR ALOM**  
 Death is the harsh reality of life one cannot evade. Eminent sculptor Syed Abdullah Khalid, best known for the iconic Aparajeyo Bangla, passed away at around 11:30pm on May 20 at the ICU of BIRDEM hospital. The sculptor has been suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), chronic lung infection and diabetes for a long while, according to his younger brother Dr. Syed Ahmed Mortada. His body was taken to Faculty of Fine Art, University of Dhaka (DU), at the base of 'Aparajeyo Bangla' and later, following his namaj-e-janaza held at the Central Mosque premises of DU, he was laid to eternal rest yesterday at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur. A dua mahfil on him will take place at Central Mosque of DU after As'r prayer on May 26. "Syed Abdullah Khalid was dynamic artist. He was aggressive towards his works. His 'Aparajeyo Bangla' carries a symbolic value and sentiment. It will remain a great evidence of our glorious history Liberation War. A sculptor deals with hard material; he too did so, but at the same time he was painter who portrayed the soft and innocent aspects of nature. He beautifully merged the contrasting hard and soft aspects of art practice throughout his life. He never tolerated any injustice and protested

aggressively, though he became like a child and reticent at the latter age," said eminent artist Monirul Islam. "I entirely agree with the demand of Syed Abdullah Khalid's wife regarding inscribing of Syed Abdullah Khalid's Name at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla as she demanded it yesterday morning," added Monirul Islam. "Aparajeyo Bangla is one of the best sculptures regarding its compositional beauty. Khalid did the realistic work so proportionately. The freedom fighters' maverick character, resolute morale and indomitable courage have attributed a unique feature of the work. I am fortunate that I was involved with the work," said eminent architect and art critic Rabiul Hussain. "As a painter, he was a naturalist. He beautifully depicted paintings of flowers. After Liberation War, he started sculptures. We find his sculptures at Army and Navy headquarters and at many pharmaceutical industries. His Aparajeyo Bangla is the best and an earliest sculpture of post-independent Bangladesh. The forthcoming generations will be inspired by its value and spirit," said renowned architect Shamsul Wares. Syed Abdullah Khalid is considered one of the pioneer sculptors of Bangladesh. A versatile artist, Khalid has not only excelled in sculpture but also made a great impression with his vibrant paintings.



**Nazrul birth anniversary observed in New Delhi**

**PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi**  
 Kazi Nazrul Islam's multi-faceted talent as a litterateur remains an unknown commodity to the non-Bangali community and there is an urgent need to take him to a much wider international audience through English translation of his works. Speaking at a function at the Maitree Hall of Bangladesh High Commission here to mark Nazrul's birth anniversary, Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali said the artiste had written 6,000 songs but only half of them are conserved and only 300 of them set to music. There has not been much English translation of Nazrul's works and this effort needs to be taken up seriously, he said. "Even in India, Nazrul's works are unknown outside West Bengal," Ali added. He said Nazrul's poems and songs were a source of huge inspiration during the Bangladesh Liberation War and his works needed to be publicised for a much wider audience. The hour-long function saw Delhi-based Nabarun Bhattacharya rendering ten songs of Nazrul including "Anjali Laho Mor", "Money Porey Aaj Shey Kon Jonome Bidaye Sondha Bela", "Bhoria Poran Sunetechi Gaan", "Shawon Raatey Jodi", "Rum Jhum Jhum Jhum", "Karar Oi Lohuakapat", "Chol Chol Chol", "Bagichaye Bulbuli Tui" and "Shono Shono Ya Elahi". Bhattacharya also recited excerpts from Nazrul's most popular poem "Bidrohi" and "Jodi Aar BaNshi Naa Bajey". Senior diplomats of Bangladesh High Commission, their families and some Indians enjoyed the "Nazrul Sandhya".



An artiste performs at the event.



Eminent Rabindra Sangeet exponent Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya (C) receives Paschim Banga (India) government's state award Bangabhushan from its Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee (R). The second highest state award of the Paschim Banga government was conferred on Bannya at the Nazrul Mancha in South Kolkata on Saturday.

**Luva Nahid Choudhury performs at BNM**

**SONGS OF ATULPRASAD IN FOCUS**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
 Luva Nahid Choudhury is known best as the dynamic Director General of Bengal Foundation and one of the driving forces of the Foundation's cultural activities including the marquee Bengal Classical Music Festival, but not many know that she is also an accomplished singer. At the main auditorium of the Bangladesh National Museum on Saturday, the artiste enthralled a houseful audience to timeless Bangla songs, most of them creations of Atulprasad Sen. The solo musical soiree was a part of the weeklong programmes undertaken by BNM marking International Museum Day. The artiste opened the soiree with "Esho Go Eka Ghorey" set on Raga Jaijivanti and then performed a variety of songs including "Ami Sara Sokal", "Tumi Kobe Ashibe", "Ke Jeni Dakichhe", the baul-ang "Ore Bon Tor

Bijone", ghazal-influenced "Bolo Go Sojoni", kirtan-ang "Aji E Nishithe Shokhi", a baitalik number "Krondotsi Pothocharini Tumi Kotha Jao", and "Amar Ghum Bhangano Chand", which she said was a personal favourite. The artiste also performed classic oldies "Bajey Mridongo Beena", Himangshu Dutta-composed "Jhorano Pata'r Pothey", Rajanikanta's "Bela Je Furaye Jaye", and closed with another Atulprasad classic, "Bodhua Neend Nahi Ankipate". In between the performances, Luva Nahid Choudhury also spoke about the 'tin-kobi' (three major poet-composers of Bangla music) - Atulprasad, Rajanikanta and DL Roy. A number of eminent cultural personalities, including artist Hashem Khan, author Badaruddin Umar and Bengal Foundation Chairman Abul Khair, attended the event. BNM Director General Faizul Latif Chowdhury delivered the welcome address at the event.



**Mymensingh Udichi stages "Special Train"**

**AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh**  
 "Special Train", a play protesting the prevailing inequity, deprivation, oppression and frustration was staged by Udichi Mymensingh Zila Sangsad at its auditorium over the weekend. Written by Sirajul Islam, the play was directed by Abdus Salam Ripon. It was the maiden show of the play, said organisers. The play was assisted by Narayan Basak, Jishutush Talukder, Swapnashish Joarder and Shuvra Joarder. The cast of the play included: Dwiju Sutradhar, Rajib Banik, Kotha, Jamal Uddin, Konkon, Sanat Ghosh, Mridul Sanyyal, Mondira Sanyyal Pritha and Ayush. Sarwar Kamal Robin, vice-president of Udichi Mymensingh Sangsad said "The play describes various discriminations prevailing in the society. Though we are the people of the same society, we have to face inequity, deprivation in many aspects including basic rights." Marking the occasion, a discussion was also held. Among others, Udichi Mymensingh Sangsad vice-president Dr Prodig Chandra Kar and Bangladesh Mohila Parishad Mymensingh unit president Ferdous Ara Mahmuda Helen spoke on the occasion. Praising the initiative to focus on the prevailing problems in the society, the speakers said such plays will surely make the people aware to build a society free from all discriminations.



**CANNES 2017 "Hellboy" reboot attracts big bids**

A bidding battle was underway in Cannes for Chinese rights to the reboot of the "Hellboy: Rise of the Blood Queen" franchise. The project is being represented by Avi Lerner's Millennium Films. With bids in the region of \$13 million for mainland China, the film is one of the hottest on the Croisette. International buyers are understood to have been told that the picture will be guaranteed a 2,000-screen release in North America. The new "Hellboy" project emerged a couple of weeks ago with Mike Mignola, who created the original "Hellboy" comic, breaking the news on Facebook. "Game of Thrones" and "The Descent" director Neil Marshall is attached to helm the film, and "Stranger Things" actor David



Harbour in talks to star. Among the highest bids for China is one understood to have come from a Guangzhou-based company that is not known to be a mainstream dis-

tributor. Finding the price too rich and fearing that the deal may collapse, other companies have dropped out. Millennium has several action and genre projects that appeal to mainstream Chinese audiences. It licensed two — "Hunter Killer" and "Escobar" — in Berlin. Since the end of March, Millennium has been 51% owned by diverse Chinese conglomerate Recon. Fans have been asking about a third "Hellboy" for years, following the original 2004 film and the 2008 sequel "Hellboy II: The Golden Army", both of which starred Ron Perlman as the titular superhero and were directed by Guillermo del Toro. Both Perlman and del Toro had previously talked down rumours of a third installment, with Perlman saying last year that "Hellboy 3" "probably will never happen." Sony released the original "Hellboy", with Universal distributing the sequel.