

**WHAT'S ON**

**Solo art Exhibition**  
Golden Doors  
Artist: Prashanta Karmakar  
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre  
Date: May 6-28  
Time: 9am-10pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
The Empire of Dream  
Artist: Ripon Saha  
Venue: Kala Kenda, Mohammapur  
Date: May 6-30  
Time: 5-8pm



**Solo Woodcut Print Exhibition**  
Title: Urban Ruminations  
Artist: Anisuzzaman  
Venue: EDGE Gallery, Gulshan-2  
Date: May 21-June 2  
Time: 10am-8pm



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



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
The Empire of Dream  
Artist: Ripon Saha  
Venue: Kala Kenda, Mohammapur  
Date: May 6-30  
Time: 5-8pm




Hasan Azizul Haque and Sanjida Khatun lay the foundation of the building.

# Chhayanaut lays foundation for Apala Bhaban

## New cultural education centre at Keraniganj

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Chhayanaut, the country's leading school for cultural practices, is setting up a new cultural centre in Keraniganj's Ati Bhawal village, with the vision of spreading Bangalee cultural education outside the capital. The foundation of the Apala Bhaban, named after cultural activist Apala Farhat Noved (1957-2011), was laid on Friday by eminent litterateur and educationist Hasan Azizul Haque.

"Apala Farhat Noved had this vision for a long time and worked all her life towards it,"

Haque said while lauding Chhayanaut for taking the initiative to bring her vision to life. The building is being established on a one bigha land donated by Apala's family.

In her address, Chhayanaut founder and chairperson Dr. Sanjida Khatun elaborated on the background of the project. "It is a big achievement for Chhayanaut to take its ideology beyond the boundaries of the city to the suburbs," she said, stressing on the importance of creating a connection with people of all stages of society.

Other speakers at the event were Chhayanaut vice chairman Abul Hasnat,

local Taranagar union chairman Mosharraf Hossain and engineer Md. Obaid Rahman.

The programme began with a group Bratachari dance by students of Chhayanaut's school Nalanda. Later, the foundation was laid with the song "Phirey Chol Mati'r Taney" being sung in the background, while Chhayanaut artists also sang "O Bhai Khati Sonar Cheye Khati Amar Desher Mati" as Chhayanaut trustee AFM Saifuddaula planted a tree on the premises.

Chhayanaut expects to have the building ready for various activities by the beginning of next year.

# Ascertaining the cultural identity of Bengali Muslims

## In conversation with Khalid Hossain

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Nazrul, The National Poet of Bangladesh, was a harbinger of secularism, liberalism, and interfaith harmony at a time when the sub-continent was mired in religious discord. But that's not all, there was more to Nazrul. His spirituality generated what's considered some of the most magnificent musical and lyrical odes to Divinity -- both in Islamic and Hindu traditions.

Imagine an Eid-ul-Fitr without the song "O Mon Ramzan-er Oi Rozar Sheshey Elo Khushir Eid", or a child's initiation to religiosity in music without "Ei Shundor Phool". Without Nazrul, the cultural identity of Bengali Muslims would be incomplete.

"Nazrul wrote and composed around 400 Islamic songs -- belonging to Hamd, Naat, Marsia and motivational sub-genres. Of them about 300 are available," said renowned Nazrul Sangeet artiste Khalid Hossain. Hossain is known particularly for his emotive renditions of Nazrul's Islamic songs.

"K Mallick first recorded Nazrul's Islamic songs -- 'Muhammad Naam Jotoi Jopi', 'Duar Arab-er Shopon Dekhi', 'Madina'r Shahanshah' and more," he added.

"K Mallick [Muhammad Kasem] was a Muslim but sang under the widely known alias because those were different times. Muslim artistes often had to assume Hindu sounding names to be widely accepted. The reverse happened as well. Since there were no Bengali Muslim female singers around and there was a demand for Bengali Islamic songs composed by Nazrul, Ashchorjomoyi recorded 'Ami Jodi Arab Hotam' under the alias Sakeena Begum. Girin Chakraborty and Chitta Roy also recorded some songs under Muslim names. Of course, Abbasuddin's renditions were hugely popular," said Hossain.

What makes Nazrul's Islamic songs so stirring? "Because these songs are relatable, every devoted Bengali Muslim can find him/herself in these songs. The remarkable demonstration of spirituality and depth in

these songs make them timeless. Nazrul had written about unwavering loyalty to Allah, following the footsteps of the Prophet (PBUH), the five pillars of Islam...virtually every aspect of our religion," Hossain said.

"Whatever Nazrul touched, he conquered. When he took interest in Hinduism, he literally digested everything about the religion, and composed Shyama Sangeet and kirtan that remain unrivalled. Similarly, his Islamic songs -- in Ghazal, folk and Qawwali styles -- are matchless. Besides having an innate ability to master languages and diverse traditions, Nazrul's upbringing provided an edge. Son of an



Imam, Nazrul studied at a *maktab* as a child. His deep interest in Persian literature resulted in the creation of Bangla Ghazal that became a massive hit with the music lovers," observed Hossain.

"Nazrul dreamt of a world where all factions of Islam would come together. There are so many aspects that make his creations incomparable," the singer added.

About the popularity of these songs today, Hossain said: "Compared to 10/15 years ago, more singers are rendering and recording Nazrul's Islamic songs. Not all artistes are equally committed and not all renditions come from the heart. But I consider it a positive trend, nevertheless."

## US BOX OFFICE

# "Pirates" sailing, "Baywatch" sinking

Johnny Depp's "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" will hook in \$75 million during the four-day Memorial Day holiday, early estimates showed.

Should the number hold, "Dead Men Tell No Tales" would wind up slightly below recent expectations of about \$80 million. The pricey tentpole, with a \$230 million budget, was heading for a \$26 million opening day on Friday.

Dwayne Johnson's "Baywatch", meanwhile, is struggling to make waves, coming in at the low end of projections. The film generated an estimated \$4.5 million on Thursday, which includes \$1.25 million from Wednesday night previews. Paramount's R-rated action-comedy was expected to make between \$32 million and \$40 million during the five-day period, but it's heading for a finish of slightly less than \$30 million.

The fifth "Pirates of the Caribbean" — the first since 2011 — should deliver between \$150 million and \$175 million internationally. It's taken in about \$35 million in its first two days in foreign markets since launching on Wednesday.

The four previous "Pirates" movies have grossed \$1.28 billion domestically and \$2.45 billion internationally, with the North American market representing a smaller share with each new film.

"Dead Men Tell No Tales" centers on Depp's Jack Sparrow battling deadly ghost sailors, led by the Javier Bardem's Captain Salazar. Joachim

Rønning and Espen Sandberg directed "Dead Men Tell No Tales", with Jerry Bruckheimer producing.

"Baywatch" stars Johnson and Zac Efron in a contemporary reboot of the NBC series starring David Hasselhoff. Johnson portrays an experienced and devoted lifeguard, who butts heads with Efron's recruit until they uncover a criminal conspiracy. Other cast members include Kelly Rohrbach, Alexandra Daddario and Priyanka Chopra.

Fox's second weekend of Ridley Scott's "Alien: Covenant" is expected to wind up in fourth place, with around \$16 million for the four days. Disney's "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" should close out the holiday period with around \$335 million in its first 25 days.

The summer is off to slow start, with "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" as the only unqualified success so far. Senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian told Variety that the overall weekend could match last year's \$205 million total — which was only the 10th best of all time. "Fortunately, a very impressive and promising slate of newcomers is on deck, including 'Wonder Woman', 'Captain Underpants', 'The Mummy', 'Cars 3', '47 Meters Down', 'All Eyez On Me', 'Transformers 5', 'Baby Driver' and 'Despicable Me 3' among others, for whom the pressure is on to set things right and reverse this backward slide," he added.

Source: **Variety**

## TV WATCH



# "Ekdin Progga'r Din" on Banglavisision

**A CORRESPONDENT**

New TV series "Ekdin Progga'r Din" will begin airing tonight on Banglavisision, at 8:15pm. Written by Syed Ziauddin and directed by Goutam Koiri, the series revolves around a village girl. Zakia Bari Mamo plays the titular role, with Apurbo, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Intekhab Dinar and Monira Mithu among the central cast.

To communicate with the audience, a Facebook page for the series has also been opened, where viewers can express their opinion of the show.

The title song of "Ekdin Progga'r Din" has been composed by Sandhi and sung by Shithi Saha.

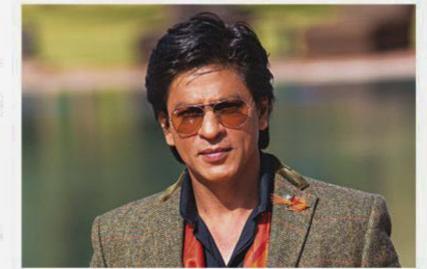
Alpha-I Media Productions Limited is producing the series, which will air every Sunday and Monday.

# SRK to play dwarf in new film, begins filming

Shah Rukh Khan began shooting for filmmaker Aanand L Rai's upcoming film on Tuesday in Mumbai, according to a report on Indian daily Mid-day. The 51-year old actor is playing a dwarf in the untitled film. The report also states that makers have recreated some popular locations of Meerut including in Mumbai's Film City for the shooting.

Initially, Aanand L Rai had planned to start shooting of the film in Meerut. "Aanand L Rai may shoot some portions of the film in Meerut but the entire first schedule will be in Film City. SRK is playing a dwarf which would make shooting on real locations difficult," mid-day quoted a source as saying. Katrina Kaif, who featured opposite Shah Rukh Khan in "Jab Tak Hai Jaan", is one of the female leads while a second heroine has not been finalised as of yet.

Meanwhile, SRK is also shooting for Imtiaz Ali's next with Anushka Sharma. Last month, the actors shot the untitled film in Punjab. "We still haven't locked any title for the film and not even decided promotional campaign for the film. We just have the clear idea about release date of the film," Imtiaz



Ali told news agency IANS. The film was earlier tentatively titled -- "The Ring or Rehnuma".

Shah Rukh and Anushka are co-stars of films like "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi" and "Jab Tak Hai Jaan". The film will release on August 11.

Actors Ronit Roy, Deepak Dobriyal and Zeeshan Ayub, will reportedly co-star with SRK in Aanand L Rai's film.

Source: **NDTV Movies**

## NEWS bytes

# KISS cancels Manchester Arena show

Iconic rock band Kiss has canceled a May 30 show at Manchester Arena in the wake of the suicide bombing of the building, after an



Ariana Grande concert on May 22. The legendary greasypaint rockers were slated to play the 21,000-seat building as part of their Kissworld Tour, but announced on Friday that the show cannot go on.

They become the latest act to pull a show following the horrific attack that took the lives of 22 people and injured dozens of others. Blondie called off a show in London on out of respect for the victims, as did Manchester-formed boy band Take That, who were slated to play a show in Liverpool on the same night followed by three dates in their hometown.

The aftermath of the tragedy has also resulted in the cancellation of the London premieres of "Wonder Woman" and "The Mummy". Ariana Grande has also postponed her tour through June 5.

Source: **Billboard**

