

BNSS to hold two-day Nazrul festival



A CORRESPONDENT

A two-day festival commemorating the 118th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam will be held at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum from July 21-22. The event, organised by Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha (BNSS), will include an address delivered by eminent Nazrul exponent and researcher Dr. Rafiqul Islam on the opening day.

The festival includes a variety of performances including songs, dance, and poetry recitation. Noted exponents such as Joseph Komol Rodriguez, Khairul Anam Shakil, Salahuddin Ahmed, Yaqub Ali Khan, Selina Hossain, Khilkhil Kazi, Dr. Leena Taposi Khan, Karim Hasan Khan, Kolpona Anam, Nasima Shaheen

Fancy, and more, will render various songs penned by the National Poet at the programme.

BNSS is holding the celebration of Kazi Nazrul Islam's birth anniversary nearly two months after the Poet's birth date, due to various constraints, stated Khairul Anam Shakil. "Normally the event is held very close to the Poet's actual birth date, but there were not large enough venues available right before Ramadan," he said. "The event is open to everyone, and with research on Nazrul's works steadily improving, each year gives us the opportunity to present new findings and new songs. This year the programme is dedicated to the late Sudhin Das, towards whose monumental contributions we are forever indebted to," he added.

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury to present Tagore melodies today



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

NAZIBA BASHER

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury is one of the leading Rabindra Sangeet singers in the country, as well as a founding member and former General Secretary of Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangsad (BRSSS). Today, the artiste is set to perform at a solo soiree at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium at the National Museum. The programme has been organised by the National Museum, and will begin at 6:45pm.

In an interview with the Daily Star, he shares what he will present to the audience today. Excerpts:

What will you be performing for the audience today?

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury: I will be performing songs of many emotions for the audience today. I will begin with a song serenading the month of Srabon- "Emono Din e Tare Bola Jaye". I will be performing a lot of songs that relate to monsoon. Throughout the second half of the show, I will sing songs of Prem and Puja parajays, and try and touch on all emotions that Rabindranath beautifully worded and composed.

What role do you play at the BRSSS and what kind of activities are you involved in currently in spreading Tagore's works to the people?

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury: I was the General Secretary, a post that is now taken up by Mujibul Qayyum. We try and involve both seniors and juniors, no matter the age group, as long as they are passionate about and practice Rabindra Sangeet. We conduct workshops in different districts to teach and spread Tagore's works around the country. We make sure that the notations (swaralipi) are precise and perfect, but I try and teach everyone to sing in their own ways and not follow the way others do it. We also host programmes in which we try to involve newcomers so that they can learn to take responsibility and it also opens them up more.

With so much on your plate already, when do manage the time to practice?

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury: One thing I always maintain is waking up very early in the morning. I wake up at 5:30am, go to the park at 6:00 for some breathing exercises, which I think helps every senior artiste. And then after I come back home from the park, I do my rawaz before I get into anything else, at least for a minimum of one hour.

Kamar wins World Cinema Fund, again

Prestigious Berlinale funding for "Shikolbaha"

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Kamar Ahmad Simon may not be the most recognizable name to the average Bangladeshi film audience, but his international portfolio is quite stunning, with awards and recognition at some of the world's biggest film festivals – including Cannes, Berlinale and Locarno. The Bangladeshi director, best-known for his multi-award winning documentary "Shunte Ki Pao! (Are You Listening!)", has scored his second Production Funding of the World Cinema Fund (WCF), the prestigious funding at the Berlin International Film Festival commonly known as Berlinale.

The funding was awarded for his film "Shikolbaha" (English title "Iron Stream"). The announcement came from the official Berlinale web site, adding that the 40,000 Euro funding was one of the five film projects, the other films being from Palestine, Brazil, Afghanistan and Uruguay.

Kamar had won the WCF last year as well, for the same script which was then titled "Shonkhodhoni" ("Silence of the Seashell"), but he did not access the funding because he did not agree to a time-frame clause on the agreement. "It was a big decision on my part, but as an independent filmmaker I could not agree to that clause, so I decided to re-apply this year as well, and it is very assuring to have received the funding again," Kamar told The Daily Star. The director also informed that the first draft



script was written in 2012, which it went on to win a production funding at Sweden's Göteborg Film Festival that year. He has re-written the draft a few times now, and in 2014 it was one of the 10 scripts invited in La

Fabrique Cinema du Monde at Cannes Film Festival, an exclusive programme fostering promising directors from around the world (under the title of "Shonkhodhoni"). The film also won the national film

grant by the Government of Bangladesh in 2016.

Kamar has been looking for new actors for the film who are not known television or film faces, and opened a casting call on Facebook in March this year. Asked what stage the production is, Kamar said: "The film is in the pre pre-production stage. I still haven't found all the central cast members, and one of the two major locations I need for the story. I had hoped to go into pre-production next month, but it looks unlikely as of now."

Produced by Sara Afreen under the banner of Beginning Productions and Germany's Weydemann Bros, "Shonkhodhoni" is said to be a film that depicts the journey of two young friends who become lost, in search of a river.

A WOMAN JAMES BOND?

Chris Hemsworth makes his pick

Daniel Craig has been playing James Bond for over a decade now, and there's been quite a bit of talk that his tenure as the martini-drinking secret service agent may be ending soon. Naturally, there's also a lot of speculation related to who could take over next, and one major actor has some strong opinions about who should be the next bond. "Thor: Ragnarok" actor Chris Hemsworth recently said he'd love to see Charlize Theron in the 007 role, noting that she has the strut and the stunt capabilities to pull off that sort of gig.

"She embodies every sort of ounce of strength and nobility and dignity and integrity that that character should have. She's smart as hell. She's physically able. I worked with her on 'Snow White and the Huntsman'. Watching her in those fight scenes, doing it in high heels, by the way, and an eight-foot long gown was even more impressive," Hemsworth said.

Although Hemsworth is simply endorsing the idea of Charlize Theron tackling the role, it's pretty easy to see why the topic might be coming up now. Theron is starring in the soon-to-be-released "Atomic Blonde", a spy movie where Theron plays an agent for MI6. While training for the film, she ended up going so hard that she cracked some of her teeth and had to have oral surgery, so clearly she has the drive to take on physical roles and stick with them.

Of course, it could be a while before there is another person playing Bond. As recently as a week ago, it seemed like talks have been faring well for Daniel Craig, and he may have already reached a deal to return as James Bond. Nothing has been officially confirmed on that front in the time since, but there's a good chance Daniel Craig will be back for a fifth film. Other names have also been bandied about by fans, but a recent report stated that Tom Hiddleston, Tom Hardy, James Norton, Henry Cavill and Aiden Turner could all potentially take on the role.

Former James Bond actors have come out to name their picks, and Roger Moore said before he passed away earlier this year that Hugh Jackman (who formerly passed on the role) and Damian Lewis would both be good picks. Pierce Brosnan has spoken out for Idris Elba and Colin Salmon to potentially take on the role.

Source: **Cinemablend**



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