

WHAT'S ON

Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Najib Tareque
Venue: Dwip Gallery, 1/1, Block-D, Lalmatia
Date: Nov 29 – Dec 15
Time: 3pm – 9pm (Except Mondays)

Concert
Title: 20 years of Artcellism
Venue: ICCB Expo Zone
Date: December 24
Time: 3 pm onwards

Art Exhibition
Title: For the Love of Country
Artist: Dr Farida Zaman
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
Date: December 6- December 11
Time: 9:30 am - 6:00 pm

Concert
Title: Miles 40th Anniversary
Venue: ICCB, Hall – 3
Date: December 24
Time: 6 pm onwards

Film Festival
Title: 15th International Short & Independent Film Festival Dhaka 2019
Venues: Central Public Library, National Museum and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: December 7 – 13
Time: 4 pm (Opening Ceremony)
For more information, visit <http://isiff-bd.org/>



PHOTO: CHOWDHURY SIFAT

Dilip Kumar

Turns 97

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Legendary Indian actor Dilip Kumar, born as Muhammad Yusuf Khan in Peshawar to Ayesha Begum and Lala Ghulam Sarwar Ali Khan, turns 97 today. Popularly known as 'The Tragedy King' and 'The First Khan', he has been credited with bringing realism to film acting since his first film, *Jwar Bhata*, in 1944.

Kumar was an excellent method actor of his time, as noted by Satyajit Ray. In the 1952 film, *Daag*, produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty, Kumar played the role of Shankar, who lives a life of poverty with his mother. He makes and sells mud toys to earn money. Being the lone bread winner of the family, Shankar is unable to meet the needs, and his debts start increasing when he gets addicted

to alcohol. Kumar also played the titular character in Bimal Roy's *Devdas* (1955), a film adaptation of Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay's novel of the same name, set against the backdrop of rural Bengal during feudal times. Devdas is a young man from a wealthy Brahmin family in India, who descends into life-threatening alcoholism when his childhood love, Paro, marries another man. Shankar and Devdas are two of Kumar's most memorable roles. He has won nine Filmfare Awards and is the first recipient of the Filmfare Best Actor Award (1954).

His last film appearance was in *Qila* (1998). Recently, he has been hospitalised for pneumonia a few times, but he came out unscathed. We wish the actor good health and a very happy birthday!

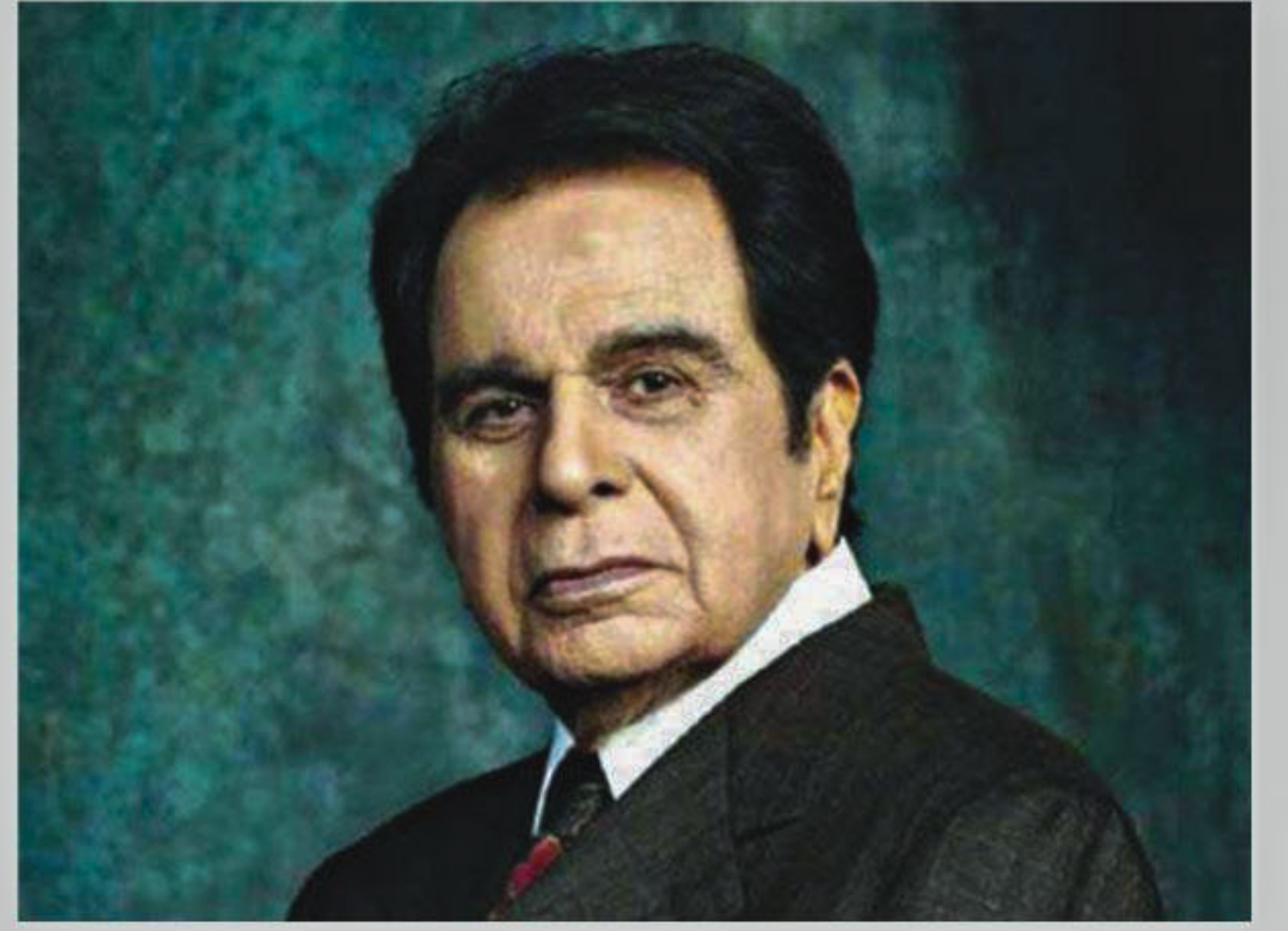


PHOTO: COLLECTED

COMMEMORATING SIX DECADES OF GREATNESS

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

When I interviewed Junoon for the Dhaka International Folk Fest, the legendary Sufi rockers had asked me, "How is Miles doing? Are they still around?" Such is the greatness of one of Bangladesh's pioneering bands, Miles. The juggernauts of the industry are set to celebrate their 40th anniversary on December 24 at International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB).

Coincidentally, that is the same day Artcell, the biggest rock band of the generation, will celebrate 20 years of their *Pothchola*. Their concert will take place at ICCB's Expo Zone.

Amidst many speculations about why the

concerts will take place on the same day, in the same venue, the bands broke the ice with an informal get-together at a restaurant in the capital. "There is, in no way, any animosity between us and Miles, we have always looked up to them," said Lincoln, Artcell's vocalist and riff guitarist. It was difficult, during the meet up, to get a serious conversation going, as the band members were constantly engaging in funny banter – a clear indication of the mutual respect and adoration between the two.

"As it is, it is very difficult to get a venue in these busy months," said Miles' vocalist Hamin Ahmed, "We only got to know that Artcell's concert was on the same date after our plans with our organisers were finalised."

The musicians, however, took the

coincidence positively. "This is a tremendous opportunity to witness two of the biggest Bangladeshi bands performing in parallel venues," said Shaju, Artcell's drummer. "We, ourselves are planning a tribute to Miles by covering one of their numbers."

The members of Miles have long acted as mentors for Artcell, who have grown into staples of the Bangladeshi music industry today. December 24 is going to be a date that is speculated to return listeners to the era of regular ticketed concerts, a much needed step in the right direction.

20 Years of Artcellism is being organised by Asiatic EXP, whereas Windmill is arranging the *Miles 40 Years Anniversary Celebrations* concert.



Professor Shonku goes to El Dorado this December!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Professor Shonku is a popular fictional scientist created by Satyajit Ray. Along with his friends, he will be looking for the mythical city of El Dorado in the upcoming film, *Professor Shonku O El Dorado*. The film, directed by Sandip Ray,

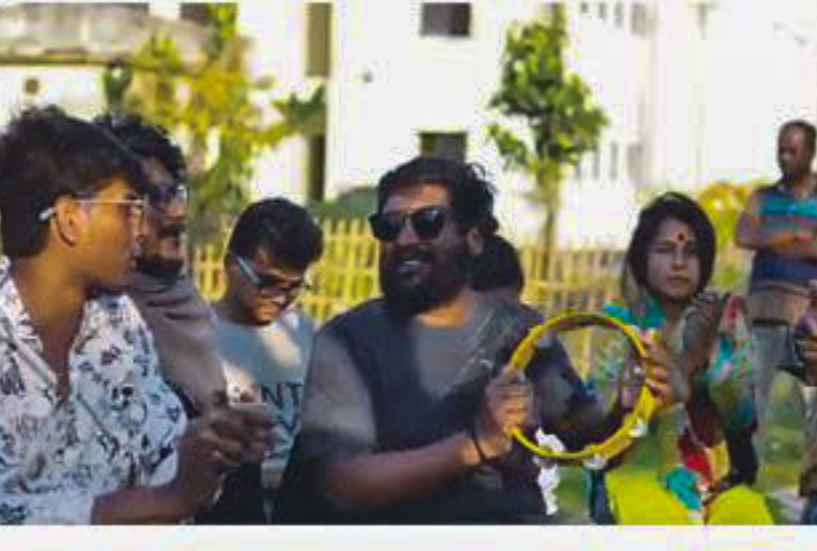
is an adaptation of Satyajit Ray's story, *Nakur Babu O El Dorado*. It will hit theatres on December 20, in India and Bangladesh. Prominent actor Dhritiman Chatterjee will be playing the lead role in this film, which also features Subhashish Mukherjee, Paolo Ricardo Xavier, Roney Facchini and Fernando Borges De Souza.

Fog Festival preparations in full swing at JKKNIU

AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

Jatiya Kabi Nazrul Islam University (JKKNIU) is going to celebrate *Kuasha Utsab* (fog festival) on their campus this month. Students of different departments have come together to arrange this unique two-day festival. A convening committee consisting of 51 members have been formed to supervise the arrangements for the event.

The festival will include, art and photography exhibition on winter, screening of short films, poetry recitation, dance sequences, literary discussions, book fair, *pitha parbon* (cake festival) and traditional indigenous dance performances, mentions Iqbal Hasan Khan, a third year student of Film and Media Studies Department and also one of the organisers. A picture, treasuring rural people's winter memories, will be showcased during the festival, he



adds. The bands, Bangla Five from Dhaka and Swarobyanju from India will also perform at the festival.

The artists in their groups are holding cultural shows on the campus and Mymensingh town to collect funds for the festival. The Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Dr A H M Mustazur Rahman and other teachers are also supporting the students in this initiative. The festival is going to be held on December 29-30.

Gems of Nazrul rejoices with 'Tora Shob Joyoddhwani Kor' on Victory Day



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Gems of Nazrul will release its tenth music video of the song, *Tora Shob Joyoddhwani Kor*, on Bangladesh's Victory Day (December 16). Established as an initiative to promote the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's musical genius to audiences home and abroad, Gems of Nazrul has been regularly marking important occasions in the Bangladesh calendar with renditions of the poet's work.

The most recent production has been dedicated to the Martyrs of the Liberation War of 1971. Performed by senior and upcoming artistes, the spirited song will go on air on Channel i at the stroke of midnight on December 16.

Over 50 prominent and promising Nazrul artistes and singers from several institutions have been featured in the video. "Kazi Nazrul Islam's spirited songs not only symbolised our protest against British Raj in the Indian Subcontinent, but



also sparked hope and spirit in Freedom Fighters in the 1971 Liberation War when singers of 'Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra' and 'Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha' performed on the radio station and at different camps," said Sadya Afreen Mallick, who conceptualised and directed the production.

The Nazrul Sangeet exponent, Sadya Afreen Mallick, also the Chief of Culture initiatives, The Daily Star, regards such compositions of Kazi Nazrul

Islam as national treasures. "The timeless songs are for the people of all ages. We would like to revive the songs with our performances so that the forthcoming generations may appreciate their eternal appeal. To popularise the songs among the new generations, is the prime purpose of this initiative," added the singer.

Eminent and emerging Nazrul singers including Shaheen Samad, Dahlia Nausheen, Sadya Afreen Mallick, Fatema-Tuz-Zohra, Yasmin Mushtari, Shelu

Barua, Karim Hasan Khan, Shahid Kabir Polash, Nasima Shaheen, Champa Banik, Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb, Bizon Chandra Mistry, Tanzina Karim Sharalipi, Chhonda Chakraborti, Mahmudul Hasan, Sonjoy Kobiraj and Badrunnessa Dalia have lent their voices to the song. Artistes of Dhriti Nartanalaya, led by Warda Rihab, danced to the rendition.

Renowned singers Shelu Barua and Shahid Kabir Polash coordinated the initiative with Sadya Afreen Mallick. Amit Banarjee was the music director, and Barovoot Limited shot the video.

The Gems of Nazrul project has made noteworthy progress of finding lesser-known songs of Kazi Nazrul Islam and bringing them to light with a mix of acclaimed and young artistes singing in unison, and *Tora Shob Joyoddhwani Kor* is no exception. Expatriate Nazrul exponent Kashfia Nahreen Billah and Yusuf Razee Billah, along with dressmakers Fitfaat have sponsored the production