

# Kindling memories of Nazrul

## Selina Bahar reminisces on the Rebel Poet

SABIRA MANIR

I met poet Nazrul five times. Each time I met him, it was an exhilarating experience for me,' says a nostalgic Selina Bahar Zaman. Going back in time to those idyllic days, Selina, a Nazrul enthusiast, recalls the close relationship between her father Habibullah Bahar and Kazi Nazrul Islam. 'While we were living in Kolkata, my father never had the time to take us to visit the ailing poet. He took us to the newspaper offices, friends' houses, and cultural conferences but never did we get to meet the poet. Perhaps, he avoided seeing the poet in a misery,' she says.

After the partition of India in 1947, while Selina's family returned to the then East Pakistan, the poet continued to live in Kolkata. Nine years later, in 1956 an excited Selina got the long awaited opportunity to meet the poet for the first time in 1956. 'We went for my father's treatment to Kolkata and thus came this momentous occasion. The poet lived with his wife and children in a two-storeyed building in Rajendra Lal Street. My instant reaction when I saw him first was to compare the real poet with the portrait of him I had in my mind,' recalls Selina.

Once again in 1962, she had a chance to see the poet. Selina reminisces, 'On our way to Ajmer Sharif, we made a stop at Kolkata just to visit the poet. He was living at CIT Road then. There was a considerable change in the poet's family between 1956 and 1962. The poet's beloved wife Pramila had passed away the year before and he seemed very disturbed at her demise.'



Kazi Shabyasachi (sitting left), Kazi Nazrul Islam (sitting 3rd from left), Habibullah Bahar (sitting right) and Selina Bahar Zaman (standing 3rd from left) in a family photo of the Bahars

Nazrul was brought to Bangladesh after the country's independence, in 1972, and was taken to a house at Dhanmondi which the government had arranged for his stay. This time around, Selina Bahar went to see him again in 1972. 'The house was full of people. The poet was sitting on a divan and the artists were singing in front of him,' says Selina. The last time Selina saw him

was after his death in 1976.

Selina's memories about Nazrul are enriched by her father's musings about the poet. As she has learnt from her father, Nazrul visited her grandfather's residence in Chittagong in 1926. People were thrilled to have the poet among them. The excitement spread like wildfire all over Chittagong. The whole city was enthralled with Nazrul's speech

and songs. She heard that people streamed into the yard of her grandfather's house only to have a glimpse of the poet. The whole city followed every step the poet took.

During his second visit to Chittagong in 1929, Nazrul wrote a poem, *Shishu Jadukar*, about a newborn baby of the Bahar family.

'The place where Nazrul stayed

during his visit to Chittagong is still there on the Jubilee road. There were a few Areca palm trees beside the room where the poet stayed. These are the trees that he mentioned in his classic poem *Batayan Pashe Gubak Tarur Shari*,' as Selina recalls.

Inspired by Nazrul's memory, Selina has written a series of articles on him. Her first effort on the bard *Nazrul Pandulipi* (the manuscripts of Nazrul) was published in May 1994. 'During the poet's visit to Chittagong, he wrote some poems in an exercise book which was later preserved by my father. After my father passed away, my mother preserved it. A few years later it was passed on to me,' Selina informs how the manuscripts have come down to her. The poems were adapted in the poetry books of *Shindhu-Hindol* (1927) and *Chakrobak* (1929).

Selina's second publication is the adaptation of *Dhumketu* (a magazine edited by Nazrul), published in February 2001. *Dhumketu* was the first magazine that was owned and edited by Nazrul.

Selina says, 'I did not get all the issues of *Dhumketu*, also the printed copies that I collected were not distinct. So in this adaptation I have used 27 copies. In the next edition I have plans to use three more copies,' she adds.

Selina Bahar wants to do more research-orientated works on Nazrul. She has plans to write a biography of Nazrul and publish an essay collection on Nazrul. With more such dedicated Nazrul researchers, the Rebel Poet's memory is likely to remain fresh in the minds of his admirers.

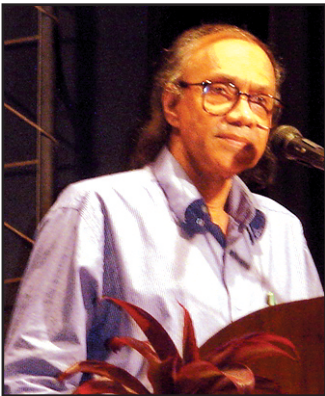
### DEATH ANNIVERSARY DISCUSSION

## Nazrul's love for film and theatre

AFSAR AHMED

KAZI Nazrul Islam was called *Dhumketu*, 'The Comet,' by Rabindranath Tagore, and Mahatma Gandhi described his poem as 'the song of the spinning wheel'. To general people he is much known as *Bidrohi Kobi* (Rebel Poet) for his astonishing masterpiece poem, *Bidrohi*. But renowned film journalist Anupam Hayat introduced another striking aspect of the National Poet: his association with the films and theatre--a feature not much focused hitherto. Anupam presented a key-note paper on *Nazrul's Drama and Films* at a discussion programme organised by Nazrul Institute on the 28th death anniversary of the poet.

'Nazrul's diversity in drama can be seen in his works for the radio and stage, and in his allegorical plays, one act play, *leto* drama (folk-plays), children's drama and even some dramas in Hindi and Urdu,' informed Anupam. 'In the year 1931, the Rebel Poet joined the Madan Theatres Ltd. of Kolkata as a music trainer for brushing up the voices of the artistes. Later, Nazrul emerged in the filmdom as a music director. In the film *Dhruba* (1934) we can find him as an



(L-R) Abdul Mannan Syed and Anupam Hayat speaking at the event



actor, director, singer, music director and lyricist,' he continued.

'He was also associated with other motion pictures such as *Patalpuri* (1935), *Groher Pher* (1937), *Vidyapati* (in Bangla and Hindi, 1938), *Gora* (1938), *Nandini* (1945) and *Obhino Noy* (1945). Nearly 50 Nazrul songs were used for different pictures up to 1945. During 1929-1941 Nazrul was associated with 20 stage plays in Kolkata including his own plays, *Aleya* and *Madhumala*. Some of the other plays were *Raktokamol*, *Mahua*, *Jahangir*, *Karagar*, *Sabitri*,

*Sharbohora*, *Sirajuddoula*, *Devidurga*, *Annapurna*, *Nandini*, *Haraparvati*, *Arjunvijay* and *Black-out*. Altogether, these plays used around 182 of Nazrul's songs,' said Anupam.

Nazrul wrote over 80 plays among which 10 to 12 were of mainstream. From 1931 to 1942, he was involved with 6 to 7 theatre companies. To inspire the Muslims Nazrul, along with Sher-e-Bangla, Abbasuddin and others, formed Bengal Tiger Pictures in 1941.

In his speech, poet Abdul Mannan Syed, who presided over the discussion session, said, 'Music was the primary platform for Nazrul to associate with films and dramas. From *Dhrubato Chaurangi* Nazrul's involvement with the films, and especially his dramas in different languages and dialects such as Hindi and Dhakaiyaa, are remarkable.'

The programme also held with a prize-giving ceremony of painting, recitation and music competition for children. A musical evening by the students of Nazrul Institute followed.



Artistes of the Nazrul Institute rendering songs

## Life after Trinity

With the success of *The Matrix* trilogy, Carrie-Anne Moss has gone from obscurity to Trinity, but she's not exactly leaving her tough-gal rep behind. The 37-year-old actress, who gave birth to a son last September, is preparing to head to Germany with Tom Cruise next summer for *Mission: Impossible 3*. She's even set for more of the gravity-defying heroics that made her performance as Trinity so famous.

'When I finished with *The Matrix* I figured I'd never get on a wire again for those kind of stunts, I'd never do another action movie. I spoke too soon,' she says. 'Now it looks like I will be doing some,' she went on, not wanting to give up details on the Tom Cruise project.

Moss's entire career has been something of a high-wire act. The Vancouver native began modelling in Europe before donning Trinity's famous black suit. Along the way, she's distinguished herself in *Memento*, as a most convincing not-so-nice gal.

Now she's hitting theatres in *Suspect Zero*, in which she and Aaron Eckhart are FBI agents tracking a serial killer who kills other serial killers. Ben



Carrie-Anne Moss exits *The Matrix* with a new image

Kingsley plays the lead suspect, a former FBI agent turned vigilante, who seems to have acquired the psychic ability to get into the mind of other killers.

Perhaps it seems that Moss is expected to play tough characters, but she doesn't see it that way. 'When I start thinking about it, I don't know any women who aren't strong. Really I don't,' she says. 'Motherhood, raising a family, balancing a life, it requires toughness.'

Moss never expected *The Matrix* to become one of the top-grossing films of all time, with the three films earning a combined \$3 billion. And that required her to stop being, as she describes it, shy. 'It's sort of the turning point for me,' she says. 'I got the job when I turned 30, and it was this five years of just learning and dealing with the successful movie and all these things I dreamed of.'

Source: Internet

**CULTURAL FEAST**

**Exhibition**  
*Photography*  
**Title:** Himalayar Manohar Mukh  
**Photographer:** Inam Al Haque, M A Muhiit, Musa Ibrahim, Sadia Sultana Shampa  
**Venue:** Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi  
**Time:** August 28-September 01, from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**Stamps and Postcards**  
**Organiser:** Russian Centre of Science and culture  
**Venue:** Library of Russian centre of Science and Culture  
**Time:** August 23- 31

**Painting**  
**Title:** Kachhe Durey  
**Artist:** Saeda Kamal  
**Venue:** Gallery Chittrak, House 21, Road 4, Dhanmondi  
**Time:** August 20-30, from 10 am to 8 pm

**Artist:** Manir Mrittik  
**Venue:** Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi  
**Time:** August 20-30

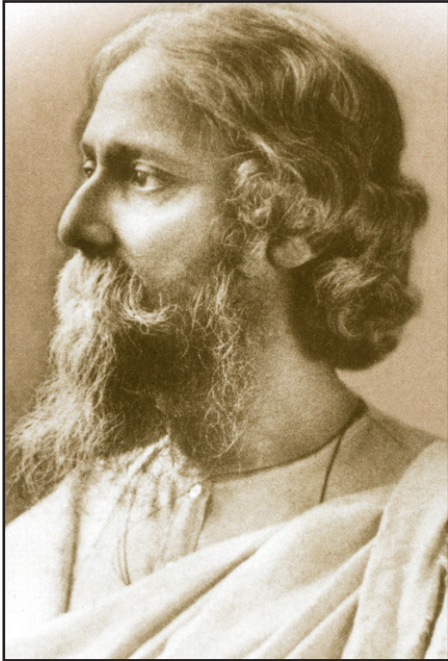
## Tagore-Rolland friendship to be filmed

SAKYASEN MITTRA, Kolkata

ISMAIL Merchant and James Ivory have their sights set on Rabindranath Tagore. The celebrated filmmaking duo's yet-untitled project is a drama based on the friendship between India's first Nobel Prize winner for literature, Tagore (1861 to 1941), and the French intellectual Nobel Laureate, Romain Rolland (1866 to 1944). While details about the film are still sketchy, rumour has it that Tagore is to be played by Soumitra Chatterjee, the man once cast as Apurba Roy in Satyajit Ray's seminal *Apur Sansar* (1959).

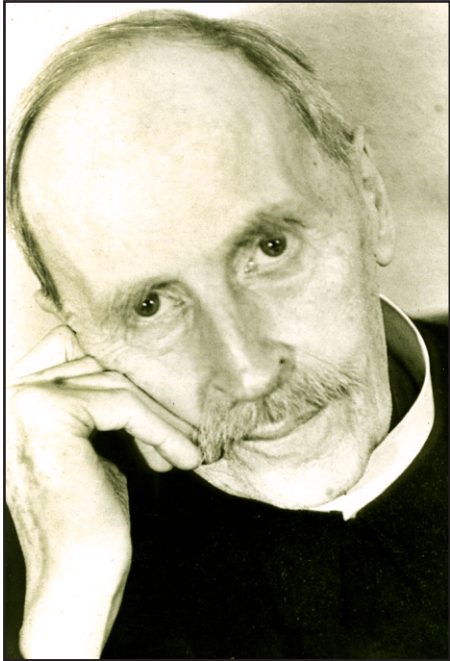
The friendship between Tagore and Rolland can be said to spring from a number of shared beliefs. The Indian poet, novelist and educator was an early advocate of independence. He was knighted in 1915, but surrendered it in protest against the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre. Rolland, on the other hand, was a keen thinker who constantly insisted upon justice and looked towards the work of Indian philosophers for peace during and after the First World War.

When Rolland wrote to Tagore in 1919, complimenting the latter on his definition of narrow nationalism, the seeds were sown for a relationship that would last a lifetime. An interesting snippet of conversation between the two, recorded at a meeting in Geneva in 1930, was published seven years later. In it, Rolland wondered about religious tolerance in India, saying it



Rabindranath Tagore

was unlike anything known in the West. Tagore responded by saying, 'Perhaps that has also been our weakness, and it is due to an indiscriminate spirit of toleration that all forms of religious creeds



Romain Rolland

and crudities have run riot in India, making it difficult for us to realise the true foundation of our spiritual faith.'

The film ought to give us more food for thought.

## TV GUIDE

### PICK OF THE DAY



#### Shakun

On ntv at 8:50 pm

Genre: Telefilm

Cast: Azad Abul Kalam, Bonya Mirza

Makbul, who lives by greasing launches, is among those very fortunate survivors of a launch wreck. Horrified by the memories of the accident, once he goes to see his sick father-in-law and discovers that he can actually sense the experience of the dying person. Makbul experiences the same feeling again when the School Headmaster of the village faces death. After this Makbul becomes confident about his power of experiencing the feelings of the dead. With an obsession of experiencing such extraordinary thing, he runs from door to door seeking sick people. But he keeps indifferent about his own decaying health.

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

### News Bulletin

#### BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

#### CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.  
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

#### ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

#### ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.  
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

#### TARA BANGLA

NewsHeadlines(Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.  
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.  
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

#### BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

#### BTV

07:30 *Bangladesher Hridoy Hote*  
09:00 Athens 2004 Summer Olympic  
11:05 Satellite Programme  
12:15 *Shangbadpotrer Pata Theke*  
01:05 Weekly Drama  
02:05 Online  
02:30 Ta Ta Thai Thai: Dance Programme  
03:05 *Nibedon*  
04:00 Live Telecast of the football match between Mohamedan S C and Brothers Union  
06:10 Wrestling  
07:05 *Shatodal Futa Dao*  
07:30 *Gane Gaan*  
08:30 Athens 2004 Summer Olympic Highlights  
10:30 Aamer Ganer Bhuban  
12:05 Satellite programmes

#### CHANNEL-i

09:45 *Tritiya Matra*  
10:45 *Na Bola Kotba*  
11:30 *Din Choley Jay*  
12:00 *Chitthi Pelam*  
12:30 *Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon* (Live)  
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*  
01:25 Public Relation  
01:30 Bangla Film  
04:00 *Banglar gaan*  
04:30 *Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan*  
05:00 *Sa Re Ga Ma*  
05:45 *Sharif Melamine Sangeetmala*  
06:10 Music Plus  
06:45 Drama Serial: *Abash*  
07:50 Drama Serial: *Dui Talak*  
08:25 Drama Serial: *Boyosh Jakhon Ekush*  
09:35 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*

#### 10:00

Drama Serial: *Amader Chhobi*  
**ATN BANGLA**  
10:30 *Annodrishtee*  
11:15 *Mohona*  
11:50 Rock and Rytham  
12:30 Duronth Gumi  
01:05 *Dekhe Noyon Melia*  
01:35 *Chaloman Desha Business Show*  
02:30 School Bell  
03:10 Drama Serial: *Shirsho Bindu*  
03:45 *Uro Cola Saal Rang*  
04:20 *Cholo Gan Gai*  
05:10 *Shurer Madhuri*  
06:20 Tom and Jerry  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Kajjar Ghale Agni Ullash*  
08:30 Drama Serial: *Kalo Phor o Annano*  
09:00 Drama Serial: *Lal Neel Beguni*  
09:30 Drama Serial: *Baba Chanchollakar Mamla*  
10:30 Chanchollakar Mamla  
12:20 Bangla Film: *Samapte*  
**ntv**  
08:00 *Aajker Shakal Monihar*  
08:30 *Shaptather Khabor*  
09:00 Expedition To Animal Kingdom  
10:05 *Natoker Gaan*  
11:00 *Dhakar Cinema*  
11:30 *Ronger Manush*  
03:05 Drama: *Jhilimili Gallery*  
05:15 *Ithasher Ei Diney*  
05:20 *Apnar jiggesha*  
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*  
06:55 *Shangshkriti ei Shoptaho*  
08:15 Drama Serial: *Tin Purush*  
08:50 Telefilm: *Shokun*  
11:25 *Dindarpan*  
**TARA BANGLA**  
2:00 BFF

#### 4:00

Bole Bollywood  
4:30 Post Mortem Rpt  
5:00 Baise Sbrbon  
6:00 Chhakbaji  
7:00 Tulkalam  
8:00 Telefilm  
9:30 Spl Event  
10:30 Jalsaghar  
12:00 Fully Fatafati  
**HBO**  
8:15 Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles  
10:45 Marsattacks!  
1:00 The Fast and the Furious  
3:15 Big Daddy  
5:15 The in Crowd  
7:15 The Specialist  
9:30 The Truthabout Charlie  
11:30 The Blue Lagoon  
1:30 The Blue Lagoon  
1:30 The Fast and the Furious

#### STAR MOVIES

8:30 *Afi's 100 Years...100 Movies*  
9:20 *The Sixth Man*  
11:15 Transporter  
12:45 People I Know  
2:30 That Dam Cat  
4:00 We Were Soldiers  
6:15 Hollywood One On One  
6:45 Trapped In Paradise  
8:50 In Hell  
10:30 Just Married  
**AXN**  
10:30 WRC 2004:  
11:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not! (Season III)  
12:30 Going Back  
3:00 Enemy of the State  
6:00 30 Seconds To Fame  
6:30 The Amazine Race (Season V)  
7:30 Ripley's Believe It Or

#### 8:30

Not! (Season III)  
Screamers  
7:30 Xena: Warrior Princess  
11:30 Mile High (Season I)  
**STAR WORLD**  
8:30 Ed  
9:30 Journeys In Asian Cuisine  
10:00 Top Drive Getaway  
10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful  
12:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal  
1:00 Travel Asia  
1:30 The Kids From Room 402  
2:00 Roboroach  
2:30 Monster Farm  
3:00 X Men  
3:30 The Kumars At No. 42  
4:00 Cops  
4:30 I Dare You  
5:30 Britannia India's Child Genius

#### 6:30

The X Files  
7:30 Xena: Warrior Princess  
8:30 Tna Wrestling  
9:30 Mutant X  
10:30 Enterprise  
11:30 Baywatch Hawaii  
**STAR PLUS**  
2:30 Mirch Masala  
3:00 Musafir Hoon Yarron  
3:30 Kati Patang  
6:30 Meri Mrs Chanchala  
7:00 Yatra  
7:30 Piya Bina  
8:00 Pardey Ke Peechey  
8:30 Auzaar  
12:00 Yatra  
**SONY**  
10:30 Good Morning Disney  
11:00 Nostalgia Ek Mahal Ho Sapno Ka  
Saturday Matinee Baaz Charbusters

#### 6:00

Music Mantra  
6:30 Disney Hour  
7:00 Disney Hour  
7:30 CID Files  
8:30 Sat Cine Prime Khel  
**SONY MAX**  
9:30 Koi Kisise Kum Nahin (Mind Gunaji, Ronit Roy)  
1:30 Final Match (Holland Cup)  
**DISCOVERY**  
2:30 Friday Spotlight Nova : Search for a safe Cigarette  
3:30 History Weekends Colour of War: The American Story Triumph  
4:30 History Weekends Frontiers of Flight Jet Power  
5:30 History Weekends Great Sphinx : Lord of the Pyramids  
6:30 History Weekends Terra X Phantom of Diamond Mountain  
7:30 Ultimate Guide Ultimate Guide: Pyramids  
8:30 Perfect Man  
9:00 What not to Wear Alice  
9:30 Discover India Wildlife Specials Tiger Hunted Majesty  
10:30 Drama on Discovery Cheating Las Vegas  
11:30 Medical Diary Secrets of the South Pacific : Islands of War After Midnight  
12:00  
**ANIMAL PLANET**  
2:00 Elephant Trilogy: Living With Elephants  
2:30 Wild Encounters  
3:30 Kalahari: Living on the Edge  
New Faces Mad Mike

#### 4:30

and Mark The Predators' Ball  
New Faces Animal  
5:30 New Faces The Snake Buster  
6:00 New Faces The Snake Buster  
6:30 New Faces Seven Deadly Strikes  
7:30 New Faces Lyndal's Lifeline Koala Crisis  
8:30 Animals A-Z Real Macaw  
9:00 Animals A-Z Osprey-The Fish hawks  
9:30 The Blue Planet Making Waves-The Making of Blue Planet  
10:30 Wild Encounters A Dream for My Predators  
11:30 The Life of Birds Problems of Parenthood  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
2:30 Truth Files  
3:30 Wildlife Detectives  
4:00 Hayden Turner's Wildlife Chall  
4:30 National Geographic Special  
5:30 On Assignment  
6:00 Tomorrow's World  
6:30 Dogs With Jobs  
7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife  
7:30 Earth Report  
8:00 Earth Pulse  
8:30 National Geographic Special  
9:30 Ashkelon:The Lost Ship Of Mediterranean  
10:30 National Geographic Special  
11:30 Kival Buddha  
**ESPN**  
11:30 Cricket Gold (T) Here We Go (R)

#### 2:30

Uefa Super Cup 2004 Monte Fc Porto Vs Valencia Cf (R)  
5:00 Sportscenter Weekend (T)  
5:40 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Blackburn Rovers Vs Manchester United (L)  
7:45 Epl Saturday Premiership Saturday (L)  
7:55 English Premier Football League 2004/05 (L)  
10:00 Epl Saturday Premiership Saturday (L)  
10:10 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Final Score (L)  
**STAR SPORTS**  
11:00 English Premier League Preview (R)  
11:30 Locker Room (T)  
12:00 Soccer Masters League Football 2004 - North West Masters Highlights(R)  
1:00 Speedway World Cup 2004 Poole Britain Final(R)  
2:00 Best Of Us Open 2003 Justine Henin-Hardenne Vs Jennifer Capriati Women's Singles Semifinal(R)  
3:55 Nba Inside Stuff Sounds Of The Season: The Finals Game 2 (R)  
4:25 Locker Room (R)  
4:55 Formula One Qualifying 2004 Belgian Grand Prix  
7:00 Tennis Topspin - The Now Generation (R)  
7:30 Tennis Topspin - The Women: Just Say Slam! (R)