

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre

Play: Lower Depth
Troupe: Department of Theatre and Music
Venue: Natmandol, University of Dhaka
Date: May 25-31 at 07:00 pm



Film Screening

To raise fund for Poet Samudra Gupta
Organiser: Students of Institute of Fine Arts, DU
Venue: Auditorium, IFA
Date: May 27-June 4
May 27
2:30pm Hiraak Rajar Deshey,
4:30pm Spiderman, 7pm Transformers



Film Screening

2nd session of African Film Festival '08
Films: 20 documentaries by African filmmakers
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: May 26-30, Time: 5pm onwards



Theatre

Play: Chhayabrta
Troupe: Shobdo Natyacharcha Kendra
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: May 30
Time: 7pm



Pristine paintings of 34 noted artists

Workshop and exhibition at Gallery Chittrak



Rafiqun Nabi and Jamal Ahmed seen painting at the workshop



FAYZA HAQ

A daylong painting workshop was recently held at Gallery Chittrak in which 34 leading artists participated. The outputs of the workshop were exhibited at Gallery Chittrak from May 16 to 20. Proceeds from sales of the paintings will go to the global campaign "Walk the World" that addresses hunger.

Boats seen in a row, with a golden sky in the backdrop and a royal blue river below is found in Syed Jehangir's painting. Abstractions in grey, gold and black decorate Monirul Islam's piece. Shahid Kabir, with his love for simplicity, has presented a dish of food, the meal appearing to be "daal" and

"bhaat".

Women gossiping, in bright exotic saris, are seen in Abdus Shakoor's painting. Dotted and striped birds and gay buntings complete the creation. A serene, idyllic image of cliffs, boats and the river in the front are seen in Hamiduzzaman Khan's painting. Black and grey life-like pecking crows featured in Rafiqun Nabi's work, while Hashem Khan brings in a semi circle of hungry children, holding a large, empty bowl. Semi-abstract images of nature in greens and blues are seen in Chandra Shekhar Dey and Biren Shome's landscapes.

Rokeya Sultana's swirls and glides in blue, gold and red, containing a woman's figure is also fascinating. The image of a resting

young girl, surrounded by birds in shades of grey by Fareha Zeba is definitely eye-catching. The bird, flowers, boats and the outline of a human figure in Shishir Bhattacharjee's work is also breathtaking.

Maksudul Ahsan has a mother and child theme presented in serene sweeps of grey, with a delicate touch of red to denote the pair of a woman's sari. Jamal Ahmed's riverbank scene with travellers seemed to win many hearts. Ranjit Das' girl child in white, seen against an expanse of chrome yellow, is remarkable too.

Farida Zaman's preoccupation with fishing nets and cats makes a delightful picture in shades of amber gold and grey. Naima Haque's abstraction in splashes of

turquoise and blue is a soft and soothing mass of rhythmic, pulsating colours. Ahmed Nazir's rows of emerald and brown present a serene landscape. Kanak Champa Chakma's delineation of the Hill Tracts woman, seen against an expanse of crimson is fascinating too.

Muniruzzaman brings in shadows of children dancing in a ring, full of joie de vivre. Rezaun Nabi presents an ethereal presentation of delicate trees, hills and rivers, in shades of muted blues and greens. Abul Barq Alvi's abstraction with merging forms and Alokesh Ghosh's birds resting about a pool are amazing too.

The daily Ittefaq, ntv and Radio Today were media partners of the project.

Nazrul to the fore in a cultural programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of the 109th birth anniversary celebrations of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs organised a special programme at the National Theatre stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on May 25.

The event featured Nazrul songs, recitation of Nazrul's poems and dance performance.

The programme began at 7 pm with a dance performance by Nrityanchal. The troupe danced to the strains of the Nazrul number *Karar oi louhokopai*, a well-known Nazrul song on struggle for freedom. The performance was coordinated by dancer Shamim Ara Nipa.

Nine leading Nazrul artistes sang on the occasion. The first was Khilkhil Kazi, grand daughter of Kazi Nazrul Islam, with *Pathik bondhu esho*. Next Yakub Ali performed the folk-based song *Padmar dheu-re*. This was followed by Yasmin Mushtari, who performed *Sheidin probhatey ratul shobhatey*.

Nazrul's collection of *Islami Gaan* include some remarkable *Hamd* and *Naath*. Veteran Nazrul artiste Khalid Hossain performed *Bokhhey amar Kabar chhobi*, one of the many Islamic songs penned by Nazrul.

Artiste Rahat Ara Geeti performed *Ke-bidishi bon udashi basher banshi*. Fatema Tuz Zohra performed a ghazal *Tomar buker phool danitey*. Sujit Mustafa rendered *Sheidin chhilo, ki godhuli lagan* and Bishwajit Roy performed *Amar apnar cheye apor jey jon*.

Rafiqul Islam recited the Nazrul poem *Agomoni*. Shaila Ahmed performed the poem *Naari*, one of the most profound works by Nazrul, that highlights the demand for the equal rights for women.

The event wrapped up with the staging of a dance drama *Kobi Priya* by the artistes of Sargam Lalitkala Academy, Kishoreganj. The production was directed by Shondeep Roy and compiled by Sheikh Akram Ali.



Nazrul birth anniversary -- the Rajshahi way



Artistes take part in the cultural event

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The 109th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated in Rajshahi on Sunday. Samilito Sangskritik Jote, Rajshahi organised a colour of cultural function at the open stage of Shahid Minar Mancha, Buban Mohon Park in the evening.

Different cultural organisations rendered songs, recitation, and dances. Students from Shalee Art and Sangeet Biddiyapit, Udayan Sangeetaly, Sri Sangeetaly, Sur-Dhoni Sangeet Biddiyaly, Silpasram Lalitkala Academy rendered Nazrul's songs.

Students from Sundaram Shilpalok Academy recited Nazrul poems.

Mancha Katha Theatre held a discussion followed by a cultural function at its premises. Nazrul exponents Abdus Salam, Aleya Mahmud, Abul Hossain, Mahmud

Sarker, Monwar Hossain and Kajal Rekha participated in the discussion.

Habib, Sohag, Amjad and Rakib recited Nazrul's poetry, while Ayen Uddin, Jyoti and Sharier Joy rendered Nazrul songs.

Barendra Sahitto Sangskritik Sangsad organised a discussion and a recitation at the Hasinaloy auditorium. The discussants said Nazrul's works played a pivotal role during the struggle against the British Raj as well as in the Liberation War. The great poet, they added, would remain in the public memory for his vision of love, freedom and be a spokesperson against injustice and war.

Among the speakers were Nazrul exponents M Obaidullah, Hasan Ali, Soaib Hossain, and ASM Rakib.

The cover of the fifth issue of *Barendra Path*, a quarterly literary magazine was displayed at the function.

Cultural programme and discussion

Ram Mohan Roy's 236th birth anniversary observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Speakers at a discussion said Raja Ram Mohan Roy was one of the greatest Bengalis and social reformers in the sub-continent.

Noted educationist Sushendra Kumar Paul chaired the discussion. Professor Proshanta Kumar Shaha, Bijoy Krishna Biswas and Kankhit Raj Dutta Shimanta also spoke at the programme. General Secretary of the Sylhet Brahma Samaj, Jyotirmoy Sinha Majumder gave the welcome speech.

The discussion was arranged on May 22 at the Sylhet Brahma Mandir on the occasion of Raja Ram Mohan Roy's 236th birth anniversary.

Speakers discussed the socio-political and economic scene in the subcontinent during the pre-Ram Mohan era and how Roy who is known as the "Father of Bengal Renaissance" influenced the education, culture, language as well as the lifestyle of Bengalis of that age to a great extent. He was a free thinker and encourages new ideas for advancement of the society. Roy was one of the founders of

the Brahma Samaj. Discussants agreed that Roy's principles and philosophies can play a great role in enlightening the nation.

The programme began with lighting *mangal pradip* by Professor Bijit Kumar Dey. Artistes Munmun, Mousumi and Nandita Roy, all students of Umesh Chandra Nirmala Bala Hostel, rendered songs. Wreaths were placed on an image of Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Later, a cultural programme was held. Artistes of the organisation Anandaloke, led by Rana Kumar Sinha, performed at the event.



Artistes of Anandaloke perform at the programme

In Focus

Poet Golam Mustafa's ancestral home in ruins



PHOTO: STAR

Poet Golam Mustafa's ancestral home

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Golam Mustafa is known as a "poet of the Muslim Renaissance." Yet the ancestral home of this renowned poet is in ruins. No step has yet been taken to preserve the place that carries memories of the poet.

Golam Mustafa was born in Monoharpur village close to the Kumer River, under Shaikupa upazila in Jhenidah. Monoharpur is only five kms away from Shaikupa town where this famous poet was born on December 27, 1897.

Though Mustafa had touched every sphere of Bengali literature, his idea of the Muslim nationalism was in particular profound in his works.

The poet's paternal house with a tin roof, specifically the veranda which apparently was Mustafa's favourite part of the house, is in a dilapidated condition. Neither the government nor any of the NGOs has taken any initiative to renovate the house as of yet. Even the poet's

birth and death anniversaries are not observed in a fitting manner.

There is no organisation in the poet's name. *Bishwanabi* (published in 1942), by Mustafa is considered "a masterpiece". Of his other writings, *Raktoraag* (published in 1924), *Hasnahena* (1927), *Khushroze* (1929) and *Sahara* (1935) are more well known. Mustafa also wrote *The Muslim* and *The Star of India*.

For interested individuals, it is very difficult to travel to the poet's ancestral home, as the communication is bad.

A caretaker named Shawkat Munshi Mukul, a relative of poet, looks after the dilapidated tin shed as some of the adjacent plots have been allocated for him.

Abul Hossain, Chairman of Monoharpur union said that they have tried several times to renovate the poet's home but to no effect.

When contacted, Abu Sayed Fakir, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jhenidah said that there is no fund available for this purpose.

Charukala, Barisal has organised a four-day festival titled *Charukala Utsab Barisal* on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, says a press release. The festival was inaugurated on May 23 at the Barisal City College. Works by several artists, originally from Barisal, are on display at the festival.



Pathshala Bachanik Shilpo Charcha Kendra organised a recitation programme titled *Rudra Binaye Shey Ashey* on May 24 at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library. The programme marked the 109th birth anniversary of the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Artistes presented solo and groups recitations of Nazrul's works.