

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Musical Soiree

On Waheedul Haq Sangeet Prabraja
Organiser: Chhayanat
Venue: Chhayanat Sangskriti Bhaban
Date: May 30
Time: 6:30pm



Fund Raising Concert

Venue: Gulshan Youth Club Ground, Gulshan-2
Artists and Bands: Warfaze, Artcell, Aurthohin, Black, Yaatri, Fuad and Powersurge
Date: May 30
Time: 3:30pm onwards



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 30
2:30pm 300; 4:30pm Taxi; 7pm Last King of Scotland



Theatre

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



Facets of Nazrul Sangeet

Chhayanat's homage to National Poet



Khairul Anam Shakil (top left) and other artistes of Chhayanat perform at the programme

KARIM WAHEED

Kazi Nazrul Islam's characteristic diversity set him apart from his contemporaries. His songs epitomise that multifaceted trait. Nazrul fortified the bond between Indian classical music and Bangla songs -- incorporating *dhruwad*, adopting *khayal* and at times pursuing the techniques of *tappa* and *thumri* in his compositions. Nazrul even concentrated on reintroducing obsolete or on the verge of becoming obsolete *raagas*. In the process he created some original *raagas*.

Chhayanat's musical programme at Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library on May 28 highlighted five subgenres of Nazrul Sangeet -- *dhruwad*, *khayal*, *tappa*, *thumri* and *ghazal*. The occasion was Nazrul's 109th birth anniversary. Students and teachers led by Khairul Anam Shakil, general secretary of Chhayanat, began with a chorus of *Desh gauda bijoy debraj* -- composed in the *dhruwad* format.

Dhrupad is considered the oldest form of Indian classical music. It is a poetic form incorporated into an extended presentation style marked by precise and orderly elaboration of a *raaga*.

Another choral rendition, *Srijon*

chhondey anandey, was accompanied with dance -- perhaps to accentuate the song's impression. The dancer demonstrated her *mudras* as the singers rendered *naachey natarang*...

Next were Nazrul's *khayals*. Nazrul introduced two trends with his Bangla *khayals*: "*Hindustani Khayal Bhanga Gaan*", which basically adopted familiar Hindustani tunes; and original tunes that follow the *khayal* format.

Megh medur boroshaye and *Rinikijhnikijhni* -- that belong to the former category -- were performed by Chhayanat artistes. Excerpts from the original *khayals* were performed in between the songs by Khairul Anam Shakil. Dancer Sharmila Banerjee performed with *Rinikijhnikijhni*.

Mita and *Shirley* rendered *Rohi rohi keno shey mukh* (based on *Raaga Narayan*) and *Hey priyo amarey debo na bhulitey* (*Raaga Patadeep*) -- respectively.

In the '40s, Nazrul created some original *raagas*. A unique feature of the compositions was the mention of their names in the lyrics. Bijon Chandra Mistry and Runa performed two of these songs -- *Benuka okey bajaye* (*Raaga Benuka*) and *Hashey akashay shuktaara* (*Raaga Arunranjani*) respectively. Nazrul experimented with

South Indian classical music as well. Quite a few of his songs are based on *Dakshini raagas*, like *Madhumadhobi Sarong* (known as *Madhyamaadi* or *Madhumaad* in South India). Two songs of this subgenre -- *Chaitaali chaandini raatey* and *Neelambari sari porey* -- were rendered by Rezaul and Sumon respectively.

Nazrul was perhaps the last *tappakar* in Bengal. Keeping the essence of the style intact, Nazrul composed several *tappas*. One of them, *Jaha kichhu momo achhey priyotomo*, was performed with precision by Muni.

Performances of Nazrul's *thumris* were next. Dhruvo and Sarah rendered *Swaponey esho nirojoney* and *Poraan priyo keno eleyobelaye* respectively.

Ghazal, originated in Persia, had its wide introduction in Bengal through Nazrul. Inspired by Omar Khayyam, Hafiz and Mirza Ghalib, Nazrul composed Bangla *ghazals* that attained mass popularity. Three of these -- *Boshiya bijoney*, *Keu bholey na keu bholey* and *Tora dekhey ja Amina maa-er koley* -- were performed.

The programme ended with a rendition of the National Anthem; the audience sang along with the artistes as the curtain came down.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.



Nazrul Jayanti celebration in Mymensingh ends



PHOTO STAR

Artistes of Zilla Shilpakala Academy perform at the programme

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The three-day celebration highlighting cultural programmes marking the 109th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam at the 'Nazrul Mancho' in Darirampur, Trishal ended with a discussion recently.

Professor M Shamsur Rahman Vice-Chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University was the chief guest at the discussion. Ministry of Cultural Affairs organised the programme.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Md. Shamsul Alam inaugurated the three-day programme that included discussion, musical soiree, dance drama, poetry recitation and more.

Different cultural organisations performed at the Nazrul Mancho and other venues throughout the district marking the occasion. A three-day 'Nazrul Mela' and book

fair were also held at Darirampur. Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University also initiated an elaborate programme at its premises.

Discussions highlighted the life and works of Nazrul. Six keynote papers were presented by Professor Mansur Musa; Professor Ahmed Kabir; Professor Abul Quasem Fazul Haque; Professor Jatin Sarker; Professor Md. Shahidul Rahman and Professor Mahbul Alam.

Among others, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddique; Professor Wakil Ahmed; Professor Abul Kalam Manzur Morshed; Professor Syed Mohammed Shaheed; Professor Shah Mohammed Quraishi; Professor Rafiqul Islam; Dr. Ataur Rahman; Rashidun Nabi; Dr. Asit Roy; Dr. Mustafa Tariqul Islam; Professor Saifuddin Chowdhury; Dr. Mohammed Huda; Ahmedul Bari; AHM Kamal and Habib-ul-Maula took part in the discussion.

McCartney given honorary degree

Sir Paul McCartney has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree from Yale University in the United States.

The former Beatle had awakened a generation, giving a fresh sound to rock and roll and to rhythm and blues, Yale's president, Richard Levin, said.

"You have pushed the boundaries of the familiar to create new classics," he added, at the ceremony in Connecticut.

A band played Beatles classic *Hey Jude* as Sir Paul, 65, walked on stage to accept his degree.

"From the energy of *I Want to Hold Your Hand* to the melancholy of *Yesterday*, to the spirituality of *Let It Be*, you have played every chord, touched every emotion," Mr Levin said. "We admire your musical genius and your generous support of worthy causes."

Sir Paul, who did not make a speech at the event, was one of eight people to receive honorary degrees, including US poet John Lawrence Ashbery.

More than 3,000 students received their degrees at the same time.

"We're very excited Paul McCartney is here; we're all big fans," student Laura Frye told local TV station WTNH.

"He passed by us really close, so we all waved and smiled and took pictures."

Source: BBC



"Chokher Dekha, Praaner Kotha" Samina's new album of Rabindra Sangeet underway

AUREEN AHSAN

Samina Chowdhury's upcoming album will present the popular artiste in a new light. Titled *Chokher Dekha, Praaner Kotha*, the album features renditions of Rabindra Sangeet by Samina who has established herself in the *adhunik* genre.

The album includes 10 Rabindra Sangeet. Explaining the genesis of her new project, Samina said, "It is the fruition of my ambition, that I've been nurturing for 15 years, to release an album of Rabindra Sangeet. I've received encouragement towards this direction and decided to give my desire a form."

The album includes songs -- *Purano shei diner kotha*, *Esho shyamolo shundoro*, *Tomar khola haowa* and *Pagla haowar badol diney*. The compilation has a few of her favourite Tagore compositions, although she admitted, "It was quite a difficult task to narrow the list down to only 10 songs given that there are so many beautiful Rabindra Sangeet."

Samina has worked in conjunction with Bappa Majumder on this latest oeuvre. The aim is to make the compositions a bit more dramatic and contemporary. "Our idea was to create the right atmosphere for each song so that the listeners are able to visualise the scenario vividly," she said.

Meanwhile, shooting for music videos of seven songs from the album has been completed. One of the music videos features veteran actress Ferdousi Majumder. "It was a wonderful experience



working with her. She is one of the most gifted actors, and we were in awe by her performance during the shoot," Samina said. The singer is looking forward to the release of her album and hopes that her admirers will appreciate it.

"Channel i Shera Kontho '08" Joyjatra round ends

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Talent hunt *Channel i Shera Kontho '08* is in full swing. The *Joyjatra* round (second round) of the programme is about to end. A total of 51 contestants made it to the third round called *Swapnodanay*, scheduled to start soon. Subir Nandi, Abida Sultana and Kanak Chapa were the judges in the second round.

The *Swapnodanay* round will feature Runa Laila and Sabina Yasmin, as judges. The veteran artistes will be evaluating performances by the contestants till the end of the programme.

The last episode of *Joyjatra* round will be aired on Channel i tonight at 7:50 pm.

Channel i Shera Kontho '08 is aired every Tuesday and Friday at 7:50 pm.



Contestants, judges (back row-centre) and host of the show

Tagore-Nazrul birth anniversary observed

KONGKON KARMAKAR, Dinajpur

The cultural institutions of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Joypurhat celebrated the birth anniversary of Tagore-Nazrul with diverse programmes.

The Dinajpur Rabindra-Nazrul Sangeet Sammilan Parishad organised, among others, discussions, a mela, recitation of poems and prose, Tagore songs, plays and cultural events.

Dinajpur Rabindra-Nazrul Sangeet Sammilan Parishad and Nattya Samity jointly organised the programme at Dinajpur Nattya Shamity Auditorium recently.

The programmes included laying of floral wreaths at Tagore and Nazrul's portrait, discussions on their philosophy and vision of Bangladesh, recitation competition and for school and college going students, Tagore songs and cultural programmes including dances. Several plays were also staged marking the birth celebration.

In addition, other cultural institutions of Dinajpur also celebrated the occasion with individual programmes on Tagore and Nazrul to convey the ideologies of these two poets among the youngsters of the district.

Mohammad Shajahan Shah,

prominent cultural personality and Mirza Anwar Islam Tanu convener of Dinajpur Nattya Shamity told *The Daily Star* that the three-day-long programme drew an enthusiastic crowd from the districts.

Naborupe Sangeet Shikha Niketan, Udichi Dinajpur Unit, Monimela, Shuihari Sangeet Niketan and Bhairoby also took part in the celebrations.

Dinajpur Lekhak Forum held a day-long programme at Dinajpur Press Club with prose reading and

discussions, drama and dance. Likewise, Dinajpur Shilpakala Academy and Shishu Academy, two state-run cultural institutions in Dinajpur, also took part.

Different cultural institutions of Joypurhat, such as Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan Parishad held programmes including discussions, Tagore songs and cultural programmes. Thakurgaon and Panchagarh district also observed the birth anniversary of Tagore and Nazrul with elaborate programmes recently.



An artiste performs at the programme

PHOTO STAR