

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Theatre

Play: Kanjush
Troupe: Loko Natyadal
Venue: Mahila Samity
Auditorium, Natok Swarani
Date: August 8
Time: 7pm



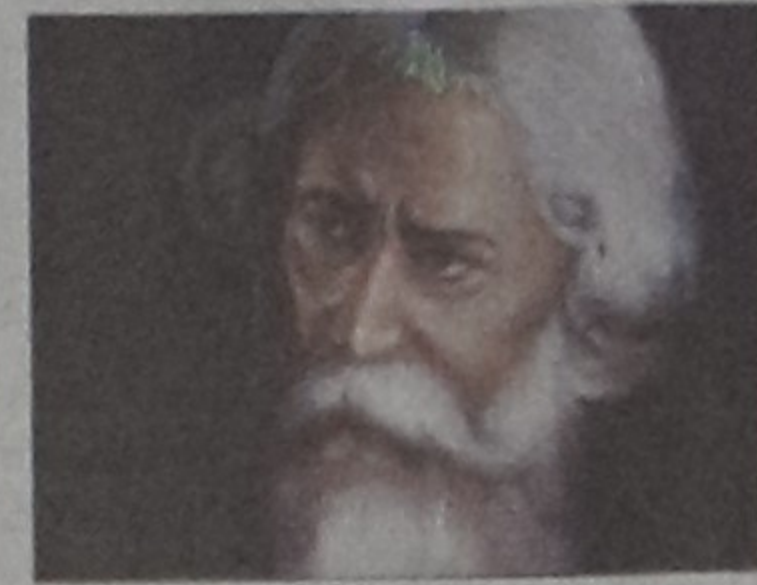
Theatre

Play: Rokto Karobi
Troupe: Nagonk
Natyasampraday
Venue: National Theatre
Stage: BSA
Date: August 8
Time: 7pm



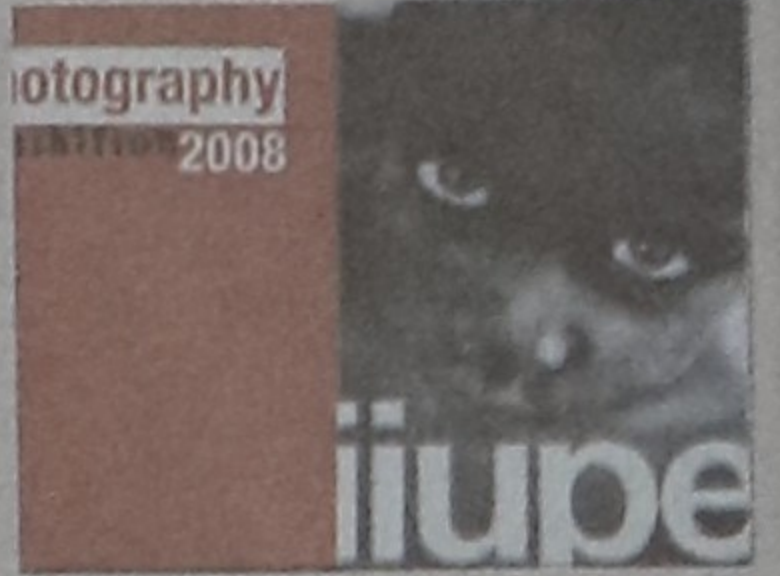
Tagore Death Anniversary

Organiser: Bangalee Shamagra
Venue: Bangalee Shamagra, Khayer Mansion, 235/2, Elephant Road
Date: August 8
Time: 10:30 am onwards



Photography Exhibition

Title: International Inter University Photography Exhibition
Organiser: NSU Photography Club
Venue: National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: August 3-9
Time: 11am-7pm



Tagore's death anniversary observed at Shilpakala



Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya performs at the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ERSHAD KAMOL

"The only Bengali Nobel laureate in literature, Rabindranath Tagore, does not get his due respect in the government level, though he is the lyricist and composer of our national anthem. Only his death and birth anniversaries are celebrated through 'run of the mill programmes' at the national level. However, so far no institutional initiative has been taken by the government," complained Dr. Nurul Anwar, one of the discussants at the programme observing Rabindranath Tagore's 67th death anniversary at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). BSA organised the programme at the Dance and Music Centre on August 6. M. Sharful Alam, secretary to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, was the chief guest and theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar was the special guest at the programme. The discussion was presided over by Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, director general of BSA. Discussing the multifaceted talent of Tagore, discussants at the programme focused on his contribution to our culture and agriculture based economics. Moreover, they also analysed the relevance of Tagore's works in the

contemporary society.

The chief guest admitted certain limitations but objected to Dr Anwar's complaint that Tagore did not get his due respect at the government level. The discussion was followed by a cultural programme in which leading artists of the country presented music, dance and recitation. The programme started with a group dance performance based on Tagore's poem *Maron re tuhu momo Shyamo saman*, directed by Deepa Khandokar. Presentation of Aji Roy's *Tomari naam balbo* and Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya's *Nibiro ghano andhare* were the highlights of the programme. Seasoned Tagore singer Roy enthralled the audience by his soulful presentation of the song. Other singers performing at the programme included Rokaiya Hasina, Mahadev Ghosh and Rebeka Sultana. Shafi Kamal, Shahadat Hossain Nipu and Naila Tarannum Kakoli recited Tagore's poems. Song *Jokhon porbe na mor payer chinho*. Due to the delay in starting the programme, renowned Tagore singer Sadi Mohammad left without performing.



Artistes perform a group dance.

Rabindra death anniversary observed in Chittagong

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Chittagong

Elaborate programmes were chalked out on the 4th day of the ongoing 5th Rabindra Natya Utshab here on Wednesday (August 6) to mark the 67th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Students of Raktokarobi, an organisation dedicated to the practice of Rabindra Sangeet, started their presentation of Tagore songs on monsoon and narration of the poet's writings titled 'Kichu Bolbo Boley' with a chorus *Mon mor megher shangi*. Shila Momen, director of Raktokarobi rendered *Megher porey megh jomechhey* and *Kon durer manush jeno elo kachhey*. Students of the organisation also performed *Jhoro jhoro borishey bari dhara*, *Dohono raate sraon dhara parichhey jhorey*, *O go shaotali chehe* and *Aaji borishono mukhorito* and a chorus performance of *Kun puraton praan-er taaney*. In between the songs, Professor Ferdous Ara Alim narrated writings of Tagore highlighting the different



Artistes of Raktokarobi sing at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

moods of the rainy season. The presentation ended with a chorus *Jai din sraon din jai*. Students of Gurukul Nriya Academy performed four group dances with *Mon mor megher shangi*, *Pagla haawar badal din-e*, *Aaji jhoro jhoro mukhorito badar-o*

din-e, directed by Gurgy Majumder. Activists of Bodhan Abriti Parishad presented a group recitation of the Tagore classic *Debotar Grash*. Surangama Nriyangan and Prama Abriti Sangathan also per-

formed dances and recitation respectively. Jahanara Faruq Moli and Rashed Hasan directed the programmes. The programme ended with the staging of Tiryak's production *Rathayatra*, directed by Ahmed Iqbal Haider.

Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha observes Tagore's death anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

With a two-day musical programme, Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (BRSS) observed the 67th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Veteran artiste Kalim Sharafi, president of BRSS, inaugurated the event on August 6 at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library. The evening began with a rendition of the National Anthem by the artistes of the organisation. It was followed by a chorus of the song *Aguner poroshmoni chhaao praney*. Tapan Mahmud, general secretary of BRSS, welcomed the audience saying, "Efforts have been made to remove Tagore from our national life several times, but they did not succeed as Tagore is an integral part of the Bengali life. As long as the nation exists, Tagore will continue to shape our psyche." In his inaugural speech, Kalim Sharafi said, "Rabindranath is very much present in our hearts, thoughts and in our lifestyle. As



A group rendition by artistes of Geetanjali.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

we are experiencing a cultural unrest now, we can delve deeper into Tagore's words to find the strength to counter it." Artiste Lily Islam was next on stage. She rendered *Bandhu roho roho shaihey*, followed by Neelotpal Sadyo's rendition of

Jibon moroner shimana chharaye. Mahiuzzaman Chowdhury, Ifat Ara Dewan, Hashi Biswas, Aniket Acharya, Sumaiya Farah Khan, Bishnu Mandal, Seema Sarker and other artistes also sang at the programme.

Artistes of musical organisations Geetanjali, Surer Dhara, Rabi Raag and Baitalik also presented chorus songs at the event. Satellite TV channel Rtv aired the first day's programme live. The event managed by the organisation *Jogandaar* ended yesterday.

Discussion

Rabindranath: The theologian and philosopher

JAMIL MAHMUD

As the youngest son of Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, Rabindranath delved in theology and metaphysics at an early age, though at that time he was keener on prose and poetry. Rabindranath's elder brother Dwijendranath was more interested in philosophy than him. Despite being reputed as a poet, lyricist, composer, dramatist, artist and novelist, Rabindranath was also a profuse theologian and philosopher. On the occasion of Tagore's 67th death anniversary, Bangla Academy arranged a discussion programme on the topic 'Rabindranath-er Dharmatatwa O Darshan' (Rabindranath's Theology and Philosophy) at its seminar room on August 6. Syed Abul Maqsud read out the keynote paper at the programme. Maqsud went over Rabindranath's way of practicing theology. He said, "Rabindranath practiced theology not like other academic philosophers but rather like a sage." Maqsud referred to a lecture Rabindranath gave at a conference for the Indian philosophers held in 1925. At the conference Rabindranath said, "I do not consider myself as a metaphysician." At the same conference Rabindranath also said, "In India, poets and philosophers are related to each other." Maqsud made references to several essays and poems by Rabindranath including *Manabhatya*, *Nirakar Upashana*, *Panthajoner Shokha*, *Atma Parichay* and *Dharmar Sharal Adarsho*. He also addressed the influences of mysticism and secularism on Tagore's theology. He said,



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

(L-R) Professor Syed Mohammad Shahed, Syed Abul Maqsud, Professor Aminul Islam, Professor Niranjan Adhikari and Professor Galib Ahsan Khan at the discussion.

(in which Debendranath Tagore was actively involved); modern Bengali literature led by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay; and the anti-Raj movement of 1857 (considered to be the first anti-colonial movement in the sub-continent). In his paper Maqsud also mentioned Rabindranath's affinity towards the Vedanta philosophy. He said, "The Vedanta philosophy was a major influence on Rabindranath. He started studying it at an early age as part of his family practice." Maqsud made references to several essays and poems by Rabindranath including *Manabhatya*, *Nirakar Upashana*, *Panthajoner Shokha*, *Atma Parichay* and *Dharmar Sharal Adarsho*. He also addressed the influences of mysticism and secularism on Tagore's theology. He said,

"Rabindranath had notable respect for the philosophy of Sant (saint) Kabir, a secular philosopher from the medieval period, and also Lalon Shai, a Sufi bard of the nineteenth century." In his paper, Maqsud also added that Rabindranath excluded all kinds of formal religious practices from his theology. Professor Niranjan Adhikari and Professor Galib Ahsan Khan were the discussants. In his speech, Professor Adhikari went over the influence of Vedanta philosophy on Rabindranath, while Professor Galib Ahsan Khan went over his poetry-based philosophy. "As a philosopher, Rabindranath was a pessimist," said Professor Galib at the programme. He mentioned several poems of Rabindranath like *Rup naraner kuley*, *Prithibi* and *Biroho modhur holo*, where he found Rabin-

dranath as a pessimist. Professor Galib also said, "No academic philosopher can address idealism and realism simultaneously. But in some of his writings, Rabindranath followed idealism and in some he followed realism." Professor Aminul Islam presided over the programme. He said, "As a philosopher Tagore emphasised on the logic. Where bigotry and argument conflicted with each other, Tagore took the argument." Professor Syed Mohammad Shahed, director general of Bangla Academy, gave the welcome speech. After the discussion, a musical soiree was held at the venue, where noted Tagore singers Ifat Ara Dewan, Bulbul Islam, Shama Rahman, Tapan Bhattacharya and Ishrat Jahan performed songs.

"Akjon Maa Ebong Poroborti Golpo" on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A one-hour play, *Akjon Maa Ebong Poroborti Golpo*, will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 8pm. Written and directed by Russell Ashequi, the play follows the plight of a courageous, self-sufficient mother called Jebunessa Hashi who is also a widow of a freedom fighter. Hashi's grief for her martyred husband is tempered with pride in his courage. After the huge loss, Hashi directs her maternal love to a founding, Belal. An icon of the eternal Bengali mother, tough and resolute, Hashi is a role model for the child. The mother and son live happily. One day, Dalia, a tortured and

distressed girl from the city, comes to their village and asks Hashi for shelter. The story heads towards its climax when Dalia becomes infatuated with Belal. Saberi Alam plays Hashi in the play. "I really enjoyed working in the play because Hashi is a very strong, idealistic character. She loses her husband at a very young age; her family insists that she remarry. But she leaves home and stands on her own feet. She is an educated and respected figure in the village, yet she loves to cook for her foster son," said the actress on her role. Agun, Tanima Hamid, Badhon, Selim Mehedi and others portray other important characters in the play.



Tanima Hamid in the play