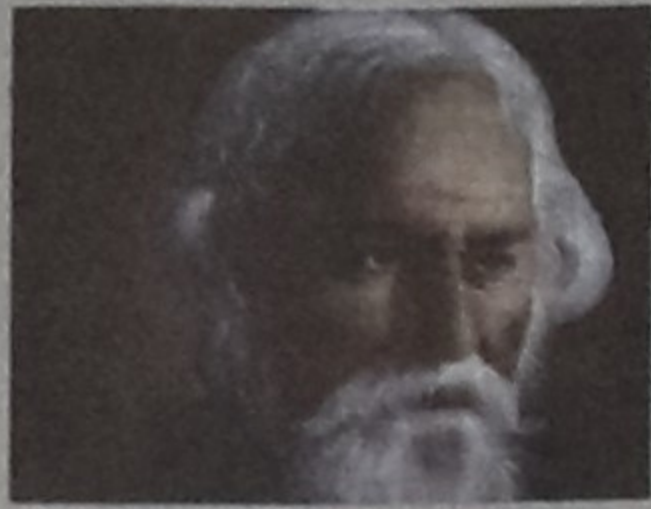


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Tagore Birth Anniversary

Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Seminar Room, Bangla Academy
Date: May 10
Time: 4:30pm



European Film Festival

Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society & AFD
Venue: AFD, Rd 3, Dhanmondi
Date: May 5-15
Time: 5pm onwards
May 10: Loma's Silence (Belgium), The Magdalene Sisters (Ireland)



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Urban Delight
Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: May 7-20
Time: 12-8 pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: The Story of Tea Workers
Photographer: Philip Gain
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15/A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: May 10-19
Time: 3-6pm



Serenading Tagore across the land

Chhayanat celebrates

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To commemorate the 148th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Chhayanat arranged a cultural programme at its main auditorium on May 8. The programme featured a rendition of Tagore songs and recitation from the poet laureate's writings.

The programme commenced with a group rendition of "Bajao tumi kobi." Tamanna Tithi recited excerpts from Tagore's "Porir Parichay," while Zahirul Haque Khan recited a poem, "Pratiksha," from Tagore's "Kheya."

Most of the solo performances of the evening featured young and dedicated Chhayanat artists.

Tanjina Parveen Toma and Nirjhar Chowdhury rendered "Prabhu aaji tomar dakhin haat" and "Majhey majhey tabo dekha pai" respectively. Through their stellar performances, both the young artists demonstrated their immense devotion to the Tagorean genre of music.

Among the well-known artists, Iffat Ara Dewan rendered a 'baitalik' "Dhay jeno mor shakal bhalobasha," while Laisa Ahmed Lisa performed "Poth cheye jey ketey gelo." A.T.M Jahangir sang "Praney khushir tufan utheychhey."

Among others, Tania Mannan, Partho Pratim Roy, Sejuti Barua, Kanchan Mostafa and Shankari Saha performed at the programme.

The soiree also featured several choral performances, including "Tomar premye dhono koro jarey" and "Aaji pranami tomarey." The programme wrapped up with the group rendition of "Tomari madhur rupey."

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated in Sirajganj with much festivity.

To commemorate the occasion, the Sirajganj district administration and several local socio-cultural organisations drew up a three day elaborate programme, including a discussion, recitation, debate, painting competition and cultural functions.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister, Abdul Latif Biswas inaugurated the programme at Kacharibari Auditorium in Shahzadpur on May 8, while deputy commissioner, Mohammad Humayun Kabir presided over the programme.

Speakers in the programme said that



The bard remembered: (top) Artistes of Chhayanat and in Kushtia celebrate Tagore birth anniversary with fervour.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

due to Tagore's contribution, Bangla language and literature branched out into new dimensions. His creative works, they said, still provide inspiration to the new generation.

Among others who addressed the gathering were MP Chayon Islam; Gazi Shafiqul Islam Shafi; Ishak Hossain Talukder; Police Super, Alamgir Rahman; Upazila Parishad Chairman, Hasibur Rahman Swapon; Municipality Chairman, Halimul Haque Miru; district ALA acting president Mostafizur Rahman and secretary K.M Hossain Ali Hassan.

Later, artistes from diverse organisations, including Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, performed in a musical programme.

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

A two day programme to mark the birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore ended yesterday at Shelidah Kuthibari in Kumarkhali.

Deputy commissioner of Kushtia, Abdul Mannan inaugurated the event at Rabindra Mancha at Shelidah. The Kushtia district administration organised the programme in conjunction with the Cultural Affairs Ministry.

The programme included a discussion on the outstanding works of the poet, songs, theatre and recitation of poems written by the bard. A total of 25 socio-cultural organisations from the district participated in the function. A traditional



PHOTO: STAR

Grameen Mela (village fair) was also arranged at the Kuthibari premises.

The participants in the programme included guests and discussants: Professor Abul Ahsan Choudhury and Professor Sarwar Murshed Ratan, Bangla Department of Islamic University Kushtia; Dr. Jamir Uddin Sarkar, Department of Bangla Kushtia Government College; Md. Mahfuzul Haque Nuruzzaman, police super of Kushtia; Abdur Rouf, chairman of Kumarkhali upazila; Rabindra Sangeet Sanmilan Parishad Kushtia unit president, M. Maniruzzaman; former Vice-principal of Khkosa Degree College Rabindranath Biswas and regional head

of Banglalink Babul Haq as special guest.

The programme was presided over by Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kumarkhali M. Nuruzzaman.

On the occasion, the Kuthibari was colourfully decorated.

The speakers in the discussion called upon the government to take more initiatives to keep alive the memory of Tagore in Shelidah.

The programme was sponsored by Banglalink.

A day long programme was held to celebrate the birth anniversary of

Rabindranath at Tagore Lodge, the ancestral home of the poet.

Kushtia municipality mayor Anwar Ali inaugurated the programme. The function included a discussion and recitation of songs and poems written by the poet. Various cultural organisations from the district participated in the programme.

Tagore Lodge, situated in Kushtia town, leads to the Tagore Kuthibari by road. Rabindranath's elder brothers used the lodge as an office of Tagore and Company (established in 1895). Rabindranath too was involved with the company.

The municipal authority last year recovered the lodge from an illegal occupant and transformed it into the Tagore Museum at a cost of Taka 13 lakh. The museum also houses a library.

Now the museum has become a hub for cultural events. Visitors from across the country as well as overseas flock to this historical site.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary was celebrated with several programmes in Pabna. Diverse cultural institutions organised several programmes to mark the occasion. The Ekushey Book Fair Celebration Committee, Pabna, organised a musical soiree at Gopalpur school in the district headquarters.

Earlier, a discussion was held, focusing on the life and work of Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore. President of

Ekushey Book Fair Celebration Committee Sultan Ahmed Buro chaired the discussion while the secretary of the organisation Mohammad Jakir Hossain; cultural activists Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Rezaul Karim Mani and Gopal Shannal were the speakers.

The speakers asserted that Rabindranath Tagore enriched Bangla literature and captivated readers all over the world with his writings.

"Tagore is not just a poet but also a social reformer who enlightened society. Tagore's writings cannot leave the reader unmoved and his writings have a rare philosophical depth," said the speakers.

Later, the artistes performed songs of Tagore. Meanwhile 'Awami Shilpi Goshti', Pabna organised a discussion and cultural programme of Tagore songs and dances based on the poet's songs at Pabna town hall premises. The speakers also focused on the life and work of the Nobel Laureate.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

To mark the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the local Rabindra Parishad, organised a day long programme at Rabindra Mancha of Alexandra Castle, located in the Teachers' Training College premises. The function included a colourful rally, discussion and cultural show.

The artistes of Shishutirtha, Anandadhani and Mukul Fouj Sangskritik Academy performed songs and a recitation of Tagore's poems. Chaturanga, another cultural group of the town, staged a dance to the popular songs of Tagore.

Before the cultural shows, a discussion on the life and works of Tagore was held. Professor Mohammad Mokarram Hossein, president of Rabindra Parishad was chairperson, while eminent Rabindra Sangeet artiste and researcher Dr. ABM Nurul Anwar was a participant in the discussion. Advocate Habibuzzaman Khorrum, secretary of the Parishad delivered the welcome speech.

Discussants said that Rabindranath's works will remain a rich legacy of our literature and culture. To preserve our cultural identity, they went on to add, we should carry out more research on the great poet and his unparalleled works which have won global recognition. Earlier, a colourful rally was brought out from the premises of Mymensingh Press Club.

A captivating offering of Tagore songs by Channel 1

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Rudro Alokey Esho, a musical tribute to Rabindranath Tagore by five renowned Tagore artistes, was held on his 148th birth anniversary at the Ballroom of Hotel Sheraton. Organised by Channel 1, the event featured talented artistes Papia Sarwar, Kaderi Kibria, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Lily Islam and Fahim Hossain Choudhury.

Professor Majidul Islam, director Channel 1 welcomed the audience, while stating that the event was the fulfillment of a long cherished dream. The event was telecast live on Channel 1.

Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya was the moderator of the event and gave a background of the songs performed at the programme.

Beginning with a choral rendition of the song "Anondolokey, mongol alokey", each artiste presented two songs. Fahim Hossain Choudhury, the first performer, presented a devotional song, "Bharie deho pran." Bannya explained the essence of Tagore's devotional songs. In her words, "Tagore's creations are enriched with a multidimensional significance. His spiritual understanding of an omnipresent Creator is reflected in his devotional songs that guide the human being to be a complete soul through all his human experiences." Fahim



Five leading Tagore exponents on Channel 1.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

Hossain Chowdhury also rendered the song "Chhinno patar sajai taroni."

The songs of Prokriti Parjay (nature) contain Tagore's unique philosophy and aesthetic thoughts through the admiration of nature. Most of these songs are the products of a more mature Rabindranath. In fact, the last phases of his life were

mostly devoted to writing such songs. In the end, he found God through his creations. Artiste Lily Islam performed the first song of Prokriti Parjay (nature), as found in Geetanjali--"Akash Bhora Surjo Tara" where the admiration for nature mingles with a profound spiritual emotion. Lily's next song was "Tumi je surer agun lagiey

diley", a song from the Puja Parjay (devotional).

In her magical voice, Papia Sarwar enthralled the audience with the songs "Barisho dhara majhey shantiro bari," a song that calls for eternal peace for a troubled human race, and "Amar moner koner bairey" a song from Prem Parjay (love), which deals

with the lure of love.

Kaderi Kibria rendered the song "Hey Nutan, dekha dik arabar jonmero prothomo shubhokhan", a Tagore song that commemorated the poet's own birthday. An interesting sidelight: Sarala Devi, the poet's niece first took the initiative to celebrate his birthday long before the poet became a cultural icon. Later, in his lifetime, Tagore's birthday was celebrated with much enthusiasm in Shantiniketan, the institution that upheld Tagore's philosophical and cultural beliefs.

Kibria's second song was "Sunil sagorey, shyamolo kinarey". Though some differ, the song is thought to be inspired by deep relationship of Tagore and Victoria Ocampo, whom he met in Argentina at the age of 60, said Bannya. Tagore renamed Victoria as Vijaya, conveying the Bengali meaning of her name.

Bannya herself was the last performer of the event. She first rendered a song from the Puja parjay (devotional genre), "Amar hiyar majhey lukiey chhiley." There are some devotional songs, which are very difficult to distinguish from Tagore's love songs; the above she said was an example. However, she ended her performance with a pure love song, "O je manena mana."

The entertaining event wrapped up with another choral rendition: "Gram chhara oirangamatir path."

Kazi Salahuddin's exhibition begins in city

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The inauguration of the two-week solo painting exhibition, titled 'Urban Delight', which showcases the works of artist Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed, was held at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts on May 7. His works delve into the pleasure, enjoyment and various changing

moods of the city-Dhaka. He closely observes the city's structural design, buildings and architectural view.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Professor Nazrul Islam inaugurated the exhibition. A total of 58 artworks of Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed are on display in the exhibition.

The exhibition ends on May 20.



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