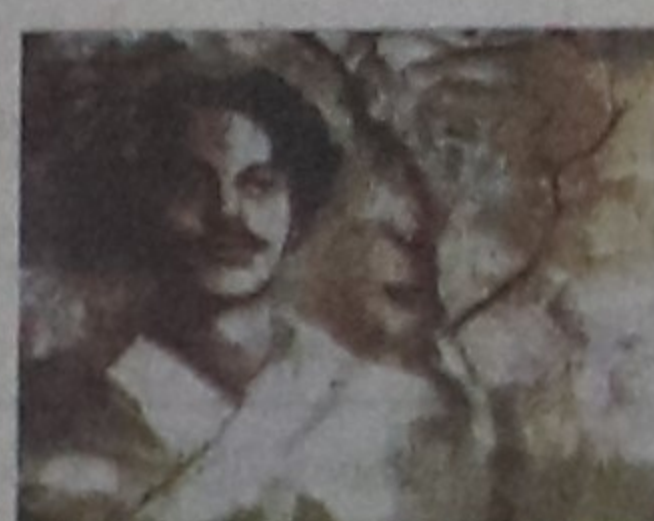


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**127th Birth Anniversary of Gurusaday Dutta**  
Organiser: Bratachari Samiti, Bangladesh  
Venue: Dhaka University Premises  
Date: May 29  
Time: 4pm



**Nazrul Birth Anniversary**  
Organiser: Nazrul Institute  
Venue: Nazrul Institute, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 22-24 & 27  
Time: 3pm



**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Title: Ochin Pakhi  
Artist: Afroza Jamil  
Venue: Radius Centre, Bay's Galleria (5th Floor), 57, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1  
Date: May 15-31  
Time: 11am-11pm (Fridays 3-11pm)



**Film Screening**  
Screening of Oscar-winning films  
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62, Science Laboratory Road  
Date: May 29  
Time: 6pm  
Film: Wall-e



## The Rebel, the songs, the flute

*Nazrul birth anniversary celebrations across the land*



The Bard remembered: Artistes celebrate Nazrul's birth anniversary with festivity.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of the national level celebration of the 110th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs arranged a programme at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on May 25. The programme featured solo and choral renditions of Nazrul songs, recitation of his poems and dance performances.

The programme was the second phase of the daylong celebration by the Ministry. The inaugural programme was held at the Osmani Memorial Hall early in the morning. Similar programmes to mark the birth anniversary of the National Poet were held in Chittagong, Trishal, Darirampur, Comilla and Daulatpur.

A choral rendition of "Ei amader Bangladesh" by the artistes of Nazrul Institute kicked off the programme at BSA. A group rendition by the members of Hindol Sangeet Academy followed. Enamul Haque Babu recited excerpts from Nazrul's "Abhibhashan." The programme also included a group recitation of "Agamani" by the members of Muktadhara Sangskriti Charcha Kendra and a solo of "Gaaner Araley" by Jharna Sarkar.

Dance was the highlight of the

programme and several dance organisations, including Jago Art Centre, Benuka Lalitakala Academy and Amra Ka'jon Shilpi Goshthi from Bogra, presented amazing group performances incorporating Nazrul songs. Jago Art Centre's improvised performance with the song "Kheleche jol debi sunil sagor joley" won applause from the audience. The dance was choreographed by Belayet Hossain Khan.

The musical performance at the evening featured several noted Nazrul artistes. Khairul Anam Shakil rendered "Pardeshi badhua." Yasmin Mushtari sang a popular 'thumri' "Paran priyo keno eley obelaye." Lina Taposhi Khan's rendition of a 'kirtan' "Bajey manjul monjiro" and a performance of 'ghazal' "Pashaner bhangaley ghum" by Sujit Mustafa went down well with the audience.

Among others, Rahat Ara Geeti, Joseph Kamol Roderick, Sharmin Shathi Islam, Salauddin Ahmed, Shahid Kabir Palash and Shikha Rauf performed solo at the programme.

The group rendition at the evening also featured performances by Nazrul Academy and Chhayanaut. The programme wrapped up with the rendition of "Jhar jhanjhaye ore nishan" by the artistes of Chhayanaut.

### Darirampur

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A three day long celebration marking the 110th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam began at Darirampur in Trishal on May 25.

Speaker of The Jatiya Sangsad, Advocate Abdul Hamid inaugurated the gala celebration at Nazrul Mancha. The three day programme is being held as part of the national level celebrations chalked out by Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Mymensingh District administration has arranged the programmes. The programme will conclude on May 27.

The celebrations will be followed by discussions on the life and works of Nazrul and his contribution to Bengali literature.

Around 79 cultural organisations from the district and outside it, and noted Nazrul artistes are participating at the celebrations.

Lawmakers, Principal Alhaj Motiur Rahman; Advocate Reza Ali; Advocate Muslem Uddin; and Professor Syed Giasuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Jatiya Kobi Kazi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) were the special guests at the inaugural session. Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, A. N.



Shamsuddin Azad Chowdhury also the president of the celebration committee, presided over the inaugural session.

The speakers at the inaugural session said, that Nazrul had inspired the oppressed people and stood against all kinds of injustice

prevailing in society. Nazrul was not only a poet but also a social reformer, said the speakers adding that his literary works are a great source of inspiration for the oppressed people of the world.

Marking Nazrul's birth anniversary, different socio-cultural organisations of the district have also taken up elaborate programmes.

Darirampur and its adjacent areas have acquired a festive look. A three day 'Nazrul Fair' is also being held at Darirampur.

### Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's birth anniversary was celebrated with much festivity in Pabna. Annada Gobinda Public Library organised several programmes including discussions and singing competition in the library premises to mark the occasion.

A discussion was held in the evening. Freedom Fighter Robiul Islam Robi also the vice president of the institution, chaired the discussion while the secretary of the library, Abdul Motin Khan; music teacher of Shahid Shadhan Sangeet College, Abul Hassem spoke among others on the occasion. The speakers focused on the

life and works of the poet.

"Kazi Nazrul Islam is the spirit of the Bengalis. His revolutionary writings encouraged people to fight against the colonialism. Nazrul himself fought against colonialism and inspired the whole nation to do the same," noted the speakers.

The speakers also said that Nazrul was not only a Rebel poet but also a poet of love. Love for mankind was also a priority in his literature.

The speakers said that Kazi Nazrul Islam was the spirit of the Bengalis. Lamenting the present situation the speakers said the young generation often does not know of his literary works. The speakers stressed a study of Nazrul's literature in a focussed manner.

Later a cultural programme was held on the occasion. Artistes performed Nazrul songs and recited his poems. Among the artistes Abul Hassem, Shankar Bishwas, Dr. Habibullah, Marufa Monjuri Khan Shoumi and Mayasha Khatun performed Nazrul songs.

Earlier a Nazrul song competition was held on the occasion. Twenty one students of different educational institutions of the district participated in the competition according to organisation sources.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

To mark the birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam and Rabindranath Tagore, theatre troupe Prachyanat arranged a two day theatre show titled "Joi Nazrul-Rabindra Jayanti" staging their 14th production Raja...Ebong Onnyanya (King of the Dark Chamber...and Others) on May 24 and 25 at the Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Directed by Azad Abul Kalam, the production is a contemporary, experimental theatrical presentation of the classic Tagore play "Raja" (1910).

## Street theatre for working children

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The Semi-Formal Education Bureau has begun a basic education programme for working children in Sylhet with assistance from UNICEF and local NGO-Friends in Village Development (FIVDB). Under the project, a street theatre programme was launched recently at the city's Masimpur playground.

Addressing the inaugural function as chief guest, law-

maker Syeda Zebunnesa Haque said, "Educational programmes for working street children are catalysts for transformation. The well to do people of the country should tie up with the government and NGOs to make this a reality." President of Natyamancha, Rajat Gupta chaired the function, while UNICEF's Tariqul Islam, FIVDB's Abu Hanifa Talukder and Sammita Natya Parishad general secretary, Afzal



Natyamancha, Sylhet stage "Alor Sandhan", an awareness building play.

Hossain were the speakers. Sylhet staged an awareness Later, Natyamancha, raising play "Alor Sandhan".

## Anupam Kher in Woody Allen's new venture

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Last Saturday when actor Anupam Kher marked 25 years of his debut in Hindi cinema, it was a time for both nostalgia and looking ahead.

First to the future. Hollywood's celebrated director Woody Allen has expressed his desire to see Kher in his next venture in which the actor will play the role of the father of Oscar-winning "Slumdog Millionaire" fame Freida Pinto.

"It's a great honour," said Kher after receiving an e-mail from his international agent.

Kher declined to spell out the storyline of Allen's film, saying "As always on Woody Allen's set, the story is only revealed to us once we begin shooting".

Kher said that he looks forward to his role in Allen's work, which he said would be a challenging experience. But then challenge is the last thing that sparks fear in the mind of an actor whose first appearance in Bollywood was in the role of a retired teacher more than double the age he actually was at that time.

Yes, we are talking about early 1980s when Kher burst onto the



Anupam Kher



Freida Pinto

scene in the Mahesh Bhatt-directed "Saaransh" that immediately catapulted him to the big league of accomplished actors. It was a memorable performance by Kher, who was

then 28. Kher celebrated the silver jubilee of "Saaransh" in Mumbai on Saturday along with co-stars Rohini Hattangadi and Soni Razdan.