

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Sarod Recital

In honour of Sarod legend Ali Akbar Khan  
**Artists:** Rajrupa Choudhury and Ashim Choudhury  
**Venue:** Chhayanaut Sanskriti Bahaban  
**Date:** July 9, Time: 7pm



### Musical Soiree

**Title:** Srotar Ashor  
**Organiser:** Chhayanaut  
**Venue:** Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanaut Sanskriti Bahaban  
**Date:** July 10  
**Time:** 7:30 pm



### Solo Art Exhibition

**Title:** Pahariya Pathay  
**Artist:** Shohag Parvez  
**Venue:** La Galerie Alliance Francaise de Dhaka  
**Date:** July 3-7  
**Time:** 9-12am, 5-8pm



### Photography Exhibition

**Title:** The Face of Bangla  
**Photographer:** Nayem  
**Venue:** Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka  
**Date:** July 3-11  
**Time:** 3-8 pm



## Chekhov's Cherry Orchard gets a 'Deshi' makeover

Nagarik's Kathal Bagan premiered



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Aly Zaker (left), Sara Zaker (3rd from left) and other actors of Nagarik Natya Shamproday in the play "Kathal Bagan."

NADIA SARWAT

Nagarik Natya Shamproday premiered its new play "Kathal Bagan" on July 4 at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Starring seasoned actors Aly Zaker and Sara Zaker alongside other Nagarik members, the premiere show had a full-house audience. An adaptation of Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard," the play has been scripted and directed by Aly Zaker.

General secretary of Nagarik Natya Shamproday, noted actor-director Ataur Rahman, welcomed the audience and briefly talked about the play.

As a theatre troupe, Nagarik believes in internationalism. The troupe has staged plays by



leading Bengali playwrights as well as celebrated playwrights from around the world.

Nagarik does not want to confine itself in a particular theatrical style. Instead, they

try to integrate global theatre trends into our own, to exchange theatrical experiences. "Kathal Bagan," which is the 40th production of the troupe, reflects this view.

About directing the play, Aly Zaker said, "This play is not a close translation of 'Cherry Orchard,' it's not a typical adaptation either. I was inspired to reset the story in rural Bengal. In my opinion, the feudal society of Russia as depicted in 'Cherry Orchard' is quite relatable. The play shows declining feudal aristocracy confronting the newly found materialism. I tried to give the play a local flavour. To maintain the lyrical language of Chekhov, I took help from our own folk music."

The background of the play is narrated to the audience by

theatre and media personality Asaduzzaman Noor. The play moves forward with the characters -- Zohra, her brother Tasadduk and the domestic held, Adu. Zohra and Tasadduk own an estate known as Kathal Bagan in a village Narayanpur. Upholding the romanticism of a dying aristocracy, Zohra is quite attached to the property, while Tasadduk's irresponsible actions have caused the estate to be mortgaged. Adu has been serving the family for decades, but is now determined to take over the property through an auction. Even the villagers are concerned for the future of the estate, as many of them directly and indirectly depend on the Kathal Bagan for living. While Zohra and Tasadduk can do little or nothing to save the estate, Zohra's daughter Tamanna and an idealistic local school-teacher Sohel represent the optimistic new generation.

Aly Zaker played the opportunist, yet realistic Adu, while Sara Zaker effortlessly played the frustrated Zohra. Pantha Shariar was impressive in his portrayal of Tasadduk. AK Azad, Omer Ayaz, Naznin Naz, Jhumu Majumder, Masud Rana and Md Fakhruzzaman Chowdhury played other major roles. Pijush Dastidar's set design was apt in creating a personal attachment with the estate, while Nasirul Haque's light complemented the set. Sara Zaker was the costume designer. AK Azad, who played a Baul, also did the music, elaborating on the theme of the production.

## Art competition on environmental issues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Ishwardi Municipality organised a painting programme for children with an aim to generate awareness in environment. Over 150 children from local schools participated in the competition held at the Upazila auditorium last Wednesday. The theme was 'maintaining the ecological balance and ensuring healthy environment.'

Ishwardi Municipality Mayor Mokhesur Rahman Babul inaugurated the event. The mayor also handed prizes among the participants. Professor Abul Kalam Azad, artist

Anisur Rahman Pannu, Municipality secretary Rabiul Haque and journalist Mostak Ahmed Kiron, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Speakers said that children are the future nation-builders, so they have to be aware of our environment. The environment faces pollution from numerous sources due to lack of awareness. This must change if we want to survive, they added.

Through their art, children pointed out different ways of environment pollution. Their canvases articulated their experiences. They also learnt ways of preserving the environment and fighting pollution.

## Ganey Ganey Golpo on ATN Bangla tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla will air the musical programme "Ganey Ganey Golpo" tonight at 8:45 pm. Hosted by Bappa Majumdar the programme is aired on Mondays.

Each episode of the show features a celebrity singer as the guest. Tonight's episode will feature renowned singer Subir Nandi. On the show, the artiste will perform some of his popular songs, share his experiences, and more.

The programme is directed by Rumana Afroz.



Subir Nandi (left) with the host of the show, Bappa Majumdar.

## Ronald Weasley recovering from swine flu

Harry Potter's best friend, Ronald Weasley, is recovering from a "mild bout" of swine flu, his publicist has said.

After kissing a pig that had been charmed by his older brother and businessman, George Weasley, he became ill. He was successfully treated at St. Mungo's hospital for Magical Maladies and Injuries. Weasley has now returned to work as an auror alongside his best friend and fellow school dropout, Harry Potter.

And he is well enough to attend the world premiere of the biographical film, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" in London on Tuesday.

"He has now recovered and is looking forward to joining his Hogwarts colleagues (Potter and civil servant, Hermione Granger)," his publicist said.

She said that Weasley's doctor had con-

firmed the 20-year-old auror and actor had recovered and was no longer contagious or at risk of infecting others.

"Other scenes were shot in his absence which did not require his involvement and thus filming was not disrupted," she added.

When not hunting down dark wizards, Weasley starred in the British comedy film "Thunderpants" and the comedy drama "Driving Lessons."

Weasley is currently filming "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" -- which details his and his famous friends' last year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The film "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" will be released in the UK on July 15. The rest of the world has to wait two bloody more days to see it.

Source: Internet



## Subarno Kazi: Carrying on the legacy of Nazrul

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Subarna Kazi -- a close relative of the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam -- is a singer, actor, director, activist, and devoted Nazrul enthusiast. He has acted in several TV-plays and short films, mainly donning the role of Nazrul, perhaps because of the uncanny resemblance between him and the 'rebel poet.' In a recent interview with The Daily Star, the artiste from West Bengal shared his experiences and aspirations.

TDS: How did you get involved in acting?

Subarno: In 1994, Bangladesh Shishu Academy produced a short film, titled "Bangla Ma-er Damal Chhele," directed by late Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury. In the film, I played an adolescent Nazrul. That's how it all started.

TDS: What other plays/serials have you done?

Subarno: I again played young Nazrul in a TV-series called "Kazi Nazrul Islam" (produced by Durdarshan, Kolkata) in 2000. The series was re-telecast on BTV in 2002. The series also featured prominent actors of Kolkata including Bivash Chakravarty, Kaushik Sen, Kushal Chakravarty, Rita Koyral, Ashoke Bishwanathan and Arindam

Ganguly.

In 2003, I played the protagonist Siraj in "Shilpi" -- based on a Nazrul drama -- directed by Chashi Nazrul Islam. Diti and Chhanda were my co-actors in the play.

On the occasion of Nazrul's death anniversary in 2004, "Chokher Joler Priya," a play based on Nazrul's life directed by Taher Shipon, was aired. Yet again, I played Nazrul, and Tania Ahmed played Fazilatunnessa.

On the occasion of Pahela Baishakh in 2004, Nargis Akhter directed a play "Batmul." Artistes from Visvabharati and Shantiniketan acted in the play. I played a painter, and film actress Mousumi was cast opposite me.

TDS: Tell us about your experience as a director...

Subarno: I directed a play, titled "Shilpi" that was screened at Toynbee Hall, London in 2006. Channel-S produced the play. Expatriate Bengali artistes Ranjana Chowdhury and Aminul Haq Badshah acted in the play.

TDS: And you've acted in films as well?

Subarno: In 2006, Chashi Nazrul Islam made a film, titled "Dhruvotara," based on a novel by Rabeya Khatun. Set against the backdrop of the Liberation War, the film was released on March 26. In the



Subarno Kazi

PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

film, I played a Dhaka University teacher. My co-artists were Ferdous and Mousumi.

TDS: Moving towards music, West Bengal singers are often blamed for distortion/ inaccurate rendition of Nazrul's songs. What's your take on it?

Subarno: We are very

concerned about this allegation. We've formed a cultural group named 'Gulbagicha' in 2000, with an aim to preserve and uphold original notations of Nazrul's compositions. In Bangladesh, Nazrul Institute has been working tirelessly towards this goal. The institute has already published copies of original

recordings of 1500 to 1600 Nazrul Sangeet. We'll disseminate these in West Bengal and urge the singers to stick to the authentic notations.

TDS: Tell us about Gulbagicha's recent activities?

Subarno: Gulbagicha made its debut with the dance-drama "Boner Bede," based on Nazrul's work. The production was first staged at Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata on May 30, 2000. At present we've been working with Padatik Natyagosthi, of Bangladesh.

TDS: What's next for your group?

Subarno: This winter we are hoping to arrange a grand assembly in Kolkata for Nazrul enthusiasts from all corners of the globe. There we will propose to set up a Nazrul University at Churulia in Bardhaman. We will also place our demand for opening up a department of Nazrul Sangeet, as part of the Fine Arts faculties, at both Visvabharati and Rabindrabharati Universities. Gulbagicha, in association with Padatik Natyagosthi, will arrange the next "Barshoboron Utshab" (Bangla New Year celebration) at Nazrul Mancho, Kolkata in 1417 (2010) with a view to fortify the bonds between Bangladesh and West Bengal.