

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Jatra Pala
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 6-12
Time: 7pm
May 7: "Swami-Stri" (Arogami Jatra Unit)



Group Art Exhibition

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 4-10
Time: 12pm-7pm



Cultural Programme

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Auditorium, BSA
Date: May 9-10
Time: 7pm



Poster and Film Show

65th Anniversary of Great Patriotic Day
Organiser: Russian Language Department and RCSC
Venue: Auditorium of Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka
Date: May 10-11
Time: 2.30pm-4.30pm



Serenading Tagore

Tagore birth anniversary celebration around the country



Bangla Academy's homage to the poet

A CORRESPONDENT, Dhaka

On the occasion of the 149th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Bangla Academy organised a programme at the Academy premises on May 8. The programme featured a discussion, award giving ceremony and cultural programme.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad was present as chief guest at the programme. Eminent poet and writer Manzur-E-Moula presented an essay titled "E Ki Shatyo". Noted intellectual and former Professor of Bangla Department of Jahangirnagar University, Hayat Mamud; National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and director general of Bangla Academy, Shamsuzzaman Khan, also spoke on the occasion.

This year the Rabindra Puroshkar was introduced. The honours for the year 2010 went to noted singer Kalim Sharafi and Tagore exponent Dr. Sanjida Khatun for their outstanding contribution to popularising Rabindra Sangeet in our country.

National professor Kabir Chowdhury said, "Tagore was contemplative in nature. Besides being a patriot, he was also a global personality. He is a major source of inspiration for us."

The discussion was followed by a musical soiree featuring artistes Iffat Ara Dewan, Nandita Yasmin, Bulbul Islam, Chhaya Rani Karmakar and Mezbahul Azam Manju.

Chhayanaut celebrates 'Rabindra Jayanti 1417'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Dhaka

To celebrate the 149th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, cultural organisation Chhayanaut arranged a programme at its main auditorium on May 8. Apart from renditions of the maestro's timeless songs, the programme also featured reading out of excerpts from his writings. Members of the organisation as well as noted singers of the country took part in the programme.

A large portrait of Tagore in the backdrop, well-placed décor and limited lighting created a perfect ambience. The full house was eagerly waiting for the renditions. Maintaining their reputation for being punctual, the organisers started the programme in due time through reading out excerpts from Tagore's writings. Shahed Imam read out the excerpts. The artists later read some more excerpts at the programme.

A choral rendition of the song "Hey Nutan Dekha Dik Aarbar" followed the opening piece. Three more group renditions including "Moru Bijoyer Ketan Urao Hey" and "Agnishikha Esho Esho" featured throughout the programme. The artists then rendered solo numbers. A total of 14 selected songs were featured as solos. Except for Ummul Wara Binte Nayeem and Shemonti Manjuri, all artistes rendered two songs each. Among them, Iffat Ara Dewan rendered "Diye Genu Bashonter Ei Gaankhani" and the familiar number "Jey Chhilo Amar Swaponcharini".

Among other noted singers, Mita Haque and Laisa Ahmed Lisa performed at the programme. Mita Haque rendered "Purano Jania Cheo Na" and "Prem Eshchhilo Nishobdocharoney". Lisa sang "Bajao Rey Mohon Ba(n)shi" and "Amarey Koro Tomar Beena".

Tania Mannan, Jhuma Khandakar and Jhumur Ahmed also rendered solos at the programme. Their renditions included



Clockwise from (top-left): Dr. Sanjida Khatun receives her award from Information Minister; artistes in a scene from the Tagore dance-drama "Chintragada" staged at National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; performances at Public Library in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Chhayanaut.

"Amar Shakol Niye Boshey Achhi", "Ami Roop-e Tomaye Bhulabo Na" and "Tobu Mon-e-Rekho".

The evening ended with the rendition of the National Anthem.

21st National Rabindra Sangeet Festival ends

ZAHANGIR ALOM, Dhaka

The five daylong 21st National Rabindra Sangeet Festival ended with daylong a programme, including the celebration of 149th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore on May 8, at Shawkat Osman Auditorium of Central Public Library, Shabbagh, Dhaka.

With the theme "Chalo Podey Poday Shotyer Chhondey, Chalo Durjoy Praner Anandey," Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Shongstha (BRSSS) organised the festival that began on May 4. Banglalink sponsored the event.

The concluding day's programmes began in the morning with National Anthem and choral renditions -- "Hey Nuton Dekha Dik Aarbar," "Amar Pran-er Manush Achhey Praney" and more -- by the artistes of BRSSS. Solo renditions by 10 artistes included renowned singers Anup Bhattacharya and Sajed Akbar. Coincidentally, music exponent and veteran singer Kalim Sharafi's 87th birthday was also on May 8. Members of BRSSS cut a cake on the occasion. Kalim Sharafi hummed the song "Akash Bhora Shurjo Tara".

Second session of the programme started from 5:30 pm. Musical troupes Geetanjali and Boitalik performed *Bhanga Gaan* (songs created from Indian classical compositions) of Rabindranath Tagore.

A number of Tagore artistes performed



Dignitaries formally inaugurate the Rabindra Festival in Pabna.

at the event. General secretary of BRSSS Tapan Mahmud, Salma Akbar, Fahima Samad, Golam Haider, Bula Mahmud, Zafar Ahmed, Nahar Jamil, Mamun Zahid Khan, Sagorika Jamali, Selina Huda, Oli Bhoumik, Anjuman Ferdousi Kakoli and others rendered "Emon Diney Tarey Bola Jay," "Tumi Robey Nirobey," "Tomar Bina Amar Mon-o Majhey," "Jonaki Ki Shukhey," "Jodi E Amar Hridoy Duar," "Shudhu Tomar Bani Noy Go," "Din Shesher Ranga Mukul," "Ei Korechho Bhalo," "Jarey Nijey Tumi Bhashiyechhile," "Kotobar Bhebechhinu," "Bodhu Kon Alo Laglo," "Rangiye Diye Jao" respectively and more at the festival.

Rabindra Festival in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Shammilon

Parishad, Pabna district unit, has organised a five-day Rabindra Festival in Pabna marking the 149th birth anniversary of Tagore. The festival began last Saturday and the inauguration programme was held at the Town Hall premises.

Vice Chancellor of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) Dr. Mozaffar Hossain inaugurated the festival. A discussion on "Kabiguru Rabindranath and Pabna" was the highlight of the first day's programme. Convenor of the festival, Professor Mohammad Nurunnabi chaired the discussion.

Speakers focused on the role of the poet in Bangla literature and said that Bangla language reached its zenith through Tagore's literary mastery. Rabindranath Tagore came to Pabna several times on different occasions. In 1907 he came to Pabna to attend a function

as the chief guest. Tagore wrote "Shonar Tori," "Postmaster" and some other prominent books in Pabna. He maintained a cordial relationship with the people of the district, said the speakers.

Focusing on the literary splendour of the Nobel laureate, the speakers pointed out that Rabindranath Tagore was not a poet representing a specific group of people. His words enlighten the whole of mankind so he is a universal poet.

Among others, former head of Bangla Department of Pabna Edward College Professor Mohammad Kamruzzaman; Secretary of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Shammilon Parishad, Pabna district unit, Abdul Matin Khan and secretary of the festival committee Rabiul Islam Rabi spoke on the occasion. The speakers also urged that the Tagore philosophy be passed on to the younger generation.

Later a cultural programme was held. Artistes performed Tagore songs, dances and recited poems. The festival also featured painting and recitation competitions for children.

Cultural programme by Rabindra Parshad

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Rabindra Parshad, Mymensingh observed the 149th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore with a cultural programme on the evening of May 8. The programme was held under a banyan tree at the Teachers' Training College (formerly the abode of the Muktagachha Zamindars). Tagore was greeted by the then Muktagachha Zamindars on February 15, 1926 during his Mymensingh visit at this venue.

The programme included a discussion, musical soiree and poetry recitation. Members of Alokdhara, a cultural organisation, performed popular Rabindra Sangeet while artistes of Udhya Digangan and Swabdha Abritti Charcha Kendra recited poems including "Ami Bhoi Korba Na", "Amra Shobai Raja", "Maa-ke Amar Porena Mon-e" and "Dui Bigha Jami".

Earlier, a discussion was held with Professor Mohammad Mukarram Hossein, president of Rabindra Parshad, in the chair.

Professor TMM Nurul Modasser Chowdhury of Fine Arts Department of Rajshahi University; principal of Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam College Dr. Marufi Khan; eminent Tagore singer, Professor Sumita Naha; Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Lokman Hossain Miah; Mohammad Saidur Rahman Khan, principal of Teachers Training College; Professor Tofazzol Hossain and sadar upazila chairman Fayzur Rahman Fakir spoke at the discussion, among others. Advocate Habibuzzaman Khurram, secretary of Rabindra Parshad, delivered the welcome speech.

The speakers at the discussion said that Rabindranath has become a part and parcel of our every joy and woe through his writings. Terming Tagore as the architect of our culture, they said that he depicted political and social truths in his writings.

Commemoration in Faridpur

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

Faridpur Sahitya Parishad (FSP) and Faridpur Sahitya O Sankskriti Unnayan Sangstha (FSOSUS) celebrated the 149th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Both organisations arranged different programmes, including discussions, recitations and rendition of Tagore songs. FSP arranged the programme at its premises yesterday.

A discussion on Tagore's works and life was participated by Professor Sheikh Samad; Professor Abdul Khaleque; Professor Sirajul Haque; Ahmed Kamal; Shajahan Molla; Mafiz Imam Milon and Shunil Kumar Rahut. Professor MA Samad chaired the function.

The speakers were of the view that Rabindranath remains unique on account of his versatile genius. The young should be encouraged to exercise Rabindranath for reshaping themselves, they added.

Poet Anwar Karim, poet Abul Kalam, essayist Abul Kalam Tofazzel Hossain and Rokhsana Parveen recited from Tagore's poems. Singers Selim Mojumder, Banna Ghosh, Mira, Rupa, Babli, Zahid, Rahima and Anny rendered inspiring Tagore songs at the function.

Meanwhile FSOSUS celebrated the anniversary at its own auditorium at Judge Court premises in the town on Saturday evening.

A discussion was participated by Professor Altaf Hossain, convener of Sachetan Nagorik Committee (TIB); Abu Fusian Chowdhury Kushol, secretary of FSOSUS; Anjalee Bala, president of Fulki, Faridpur unit; Syad Sirajul Azam and Salamata Hossain Khan. Abul Fayedz Shahnewaz, a veteran freedom fighter, was in the chair.

Poet Anwar Karim, Muhammad Jahangir Khan, Mamunur Rahman, Poroma, Prattasha and others recited poems on the occasion.

Md Alauddin, cultural officer of Faridpur Shilpakala Academey, Badal Das, Milia Islam Meghla, Puja, Monodeep, Monika, Bishwajit, Katha and Parisha rendered Tagore songs.