

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Nazrul Birth Anniversary
Organiser: Nazrul Institute (Ministry of Cultural Affairs)
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh
Date: May 31
Time: 5pm onwards



Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti
Organiser: Bangladesh-India Friendship Society
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: May 28
Time: 6:30



Solo Photography Exhibition
Title: Soulscapes- Ontor Bhumi
Photographer: GMB Akash
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: June 1-10
Time: 12-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Rooted Creativity-2
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275/F, Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-29
Time: 12 pm-8 pm



Singing paeans to the Bard

Discussion at Bangla Academy



Professor Rafiqul Islam and Sadya Afreen Mallick speak at the discussion.

JAMIL MAHMUD

To celebrate the 111th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bangla Academy arranged a discussion and cultural programme at its Seminar Room on May 25. Professor Moniruzzaman, former Professor, Department of Bangla, Chittagong University presented an essay highlighting Nazrul through the

Dr. Shamsuzzaman Khan, gave the welcome speech. Dr. Khan said that everyone should be aware of why Nazrul is our National Poet. He also said that so far the academy has published ten volumes of Nazrul's works and the 11th is in the pipeline. He said, "The series would be the largest publication of the Rebel Poet's works."

Professor Moniruzzaman's essay focused on how Nazrul was assessed by his contemporary critics and their contribution to introducing the poet to the masses. According to the essay, Nazrul first came into limelight with the poem "Bidrohi". Since then and till his death, critics never left the poet's side. However, in most cases, these assessments and criticisms were not positive, according to the essay.

"Rather at times, critics have tried to label Nazrul. Nazrul is now being dissected from different points of view. Some are even trying to place him as a competitor to Rabindranath," said Professor Moniruzzaman. The essayist particularly mentioned Buddhadeb Basu, one of Nazrul's contemporary poets, whose criticism was never friendly.

"I think no other poet or critic was as belligerent towards Nazrul as Basu," he said. "Basu's remarks often treated Nazrul as a frivolous individual," he added.

"Nazrul stood tall in his own right. Basu never understood him and contradicted himself when he said, 'he [Nazrul] is a great poet, whose work is voluminous' or 'there is no last word in literature'."

Professor Moniruzzaman also mentioned other critics such as Kazi Din Mohammad, Amalendu Dasgupta and Syed Ali Ahsan.

However, the essayist also mentioned positive evaluations by critics Amalendu Dasgupta termed Nazrul as "Mahakaler Ananta Kobi," literally meaning a timeless, immortal poet.

In her speech, Sadya Afreen Mallick evaluated Nazrul as a songwriter. She said that Nazrul was defiant because he was born in an unfriendly society. She termed Nazrul as "a socialist," considering his songs eulogise equality. From her journalistic point of view, Mallick said that at present many are losing interest in Nazrul. She agreed with the essayist and said, "Nazrul was ill-treated by the political interests of a vested quarter. As a National Poet his birth and death anniversaries are often observed unenthusiastically."

Poet Nurul Huda agreed with the points made in the essay and said that Nazrul's works should be evaluated from post-structural and post-modern views.

Professor Kaiser did not completely agree with Professor Moniruzzaman and focused on some of the limitations of the essay. He pointed out that critiques of Nazrul's works over the last two decades were not included in the essay.

A cultural programme was held after the discussion. Shimul Mustafa and Pijush Bandopadhyay recited Nazrul's poems, while singers Sharmin Shathi Islam, Sujit Mustafa, Lina Taposhi Khan and Sayeem Rana rendered Nazrul Sangeet at the programme.

Chhayanaut's musical rendezvous

A CORRESPONDENT

Through vibrant dance performances and spirited rendition of songs, Chhayanaut paid a rich tribute to National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on his 111th birth anniversary, on May 25.

"Throughout the final stage of his musical career, Nazrul Islam was greatly influenced by the ragas. This period saw Nazrul writing and composing many raga-based songs," Mahmuda Akhter read out at the programme.

At the programme, teachers and students of Chhayanaut performed Nazrul Sangeet based on *Khamaj*, *Chhayanaut*, *Behag*, *Bhairavi* and other ragas.

The programme started with a *bandish* of the *thumri*, "Ab Mora Mano" by Priyanka Gope, a teacher of Chhayanaut.

A group dance performance with the song, "Modhur Chhondey Naachey Anondey," followed.

Other songs based on *Raga Khamaj* that were presented,



Chhayanaut's tribute included Raga-based Nazrul Sangeet and dance performances by teachers and students of the institution.

included "Uchaton Mon Gharey Roy Na" by Susmita Devnath Suchi, "Ganga Sindhu Narmada" by Shabnam Shirin and "Kuhu Kuhu Koelia" by Tanvir Ahmed.

Next was a performance based on *Raga Chhayanaut*, which began with a *bandish* by Anindita Chowdhury. This

was followed by a group dance with the song "Dola Lagilo" students of Chhayanaut.

Ashim Kumar performed the song "Shunyo E Bukey", Debosri Antora Das sang "Riniki Jhiniki Jhini" and Rezaul Karim sang "Ogo Antarjami".

Performances based on *Raga Behag* included "Rey Obodh" by Mahub Ara Bipasha, "Nai Ba Pelam" by Afroza Khan Mita, "Keno Diley Kanta" by Fakir Shahidul Islam and "Nishi Nijhum Ghum Nahi Ashey" by Nobonita Chakrabarti.

Raga Bhairavi based songs were featured in the final segment of the programme. The session began with a *bandish* by Latifun Julio, a teacher at Chhayanaut. A group dance performance with the song "Mor Ghum Ghorey Eley Monohar" followed. Nasima Shaheen sang "Shokhi Aar Obhiman", Bizon Chandra Mistry sang "Mor Na Mititey Asha" and Sumon Majumdar performed "Ei Ki Shur-ey". The event ended with the National Anthem.

Prior to each performance, Mahmuda Akhter talked about the highlighted raga and the respective genre.



Sharmin Shathi Islam sings at the programme.

eyes of his contemporaries. Poet Nurul Huda, Professor Shantanu Kaiser and journalist-singer Sadya Afreen Mallick discussed the topic, "Bidrohi Shomalochanaye Uttamarnar Oporishodhito Hrin." Nazrul researcher Professor Rafiqul Islam presided over the discussion.

Director General of Bangla Academy,



Celebrations in Trishal



A group rendition and dance at the national celebration in Trishal.

today. It has been jointly organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Mymensingh district administration.

The three-day celebration included rally, discussions, cultural programmes, gathering of poets, staging of plays and dance performances.

President Md. Zillur Rahman formally inaugurated the celebration as chief guest on May 25. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Promod Mankin chaired the inaugural function.

The President said that Nazrul was a free spirit who

remains a source of inspiration for generations to come. Emphasising Nazrul's multifaceted talent, patriotism and profound empathy for the oppressed, the President also said that apt respect should be shown to the poet with implementation of his visions of a secular society.

On the first and second day of the celebration, cultural groups from in and outside the district staged musical performances, dances, recitation and plays.

Artistes of District Shilpakala Academy; Nazrul Academy, Mymensingh; Trishal Upazila Shilpakala Academy; Trishal Bidrohi Natya Goshthi; Dolonchampa Shilpi Goshthi; Jhilik Natya Goshthi; Nriyangan; Dukhmiyah Theatre; Kalakakoli Sangeet Bidyalaya and Sargam Shilpi Goshthi performed on the opening day.

On the second day, (May 26), local units of Udhichi Shilpi Goshthi; Surabina Sangskritik Sangstha; Alokdhara; Sandipon Sangskritik Sangstha; Natyangan Natya Paribar; Mymensingh Loko Krishti Sangstha; Brahmaputra Sangskritik Academy and Mymensingh Sahitya Sangsad, among others, performed at the programme.

Cultural programme in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Annada Gobinda Public Library, Pabna one of the oldest institutions of the district, celebrated the birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam last Tuesday night at the library auditorium. A discussion and cultural programme were held on the occasion.

Vice-president of the library, freedom fighter Rabiul Islam, chaired the discussion. Speakers at the discussion high-

lighted Nazrul's position in Bangla literature. Among the speakers were noted educationalist Professor Md. Nurunnabi, secretary of the library Abdul Matin Khan and cultural activist Md. Abdul Aziz.

Speakers were of the view that Kazi Nazrul Islam was a rebel as well as a poet of love. Nazrul's works inspired the revolutionaries of his time, they added.

Apart from outspoken protest against tyranny, love, spirituality and other

contemporary issues also find place in Nazrul's writing, speakers were of the view. They also reiterated that Nazrul does not belong to any particular group or community, he represents the whole humanity.

After the discussion, artistes performed Nazrul Sangeet and recited poems. Raisul Islam Joy recited poems of Nazrul. Abul Hashem, Shafi Ahmed, Saki Rezwana Bonna, Shorna and Md. Habibullah rendered Nazrul Sangeet.



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The National Celebration marking Nazrul's 111th birth anniversary was held at the Nazrul Mancho (stage) at Darirampur in Trishal upazila here. The three-day event, starting from May 25, will end



Cultural organisation Shuddho Swar arranged a programme at the CDL Auditorium, Bogra on May 25 to celebrate the 111th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam. Artiste Salamata Hossain Chowdhury rendered several Nazrul songs at the programme.