

<p>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</p>	<p>Contemporary Norwegian Glass and Ceramics Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, R-16, H-275F, Dhanmondi Date: August 6-20 Time: 12pm-8pm</p> 	<p>Film Screening Film: "Summer Things" Venue: Auditorium, Alliance Française De Dhaka Date: August 13 Time: 6pm</p> 	<p>Musical Soiree Title: Diley Eshechhi Shraboner Gaan Organiser: Wishobh Sangeet Bhawan Venue: Bengal Café, H-275/F, R-27 (old), Dhanmondi Date: August 9 Time: 6:30pm</p> 	<p>Bangla Film Festival Organiser: Weekly Mukhomukhi Venue: Zahir Raihan Colour Lab Auditorium, BFDC Date: Aug 1-8 Time: 5:30 pm</p> 
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Remembering the great bard

A colourful portrayal of dance drama "Tasher Desh"



The set for the dance-drama was minimalistic, using a decorated screen in the front-stage to depict the real world. This was removed to reveal the world of cards, depicted symbolically by a decorated mask and a tiered platform.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

A CORRESPONDENT

After a break of nearly twenty-eight years, Chhayanaut the foremost cultural organisation in Bangladesh, staged a dance-drama by the Nobel Laureate on the occasion of the Poet's 69th death anniversary on 6th August. With the 150th birth anniversary of the Poet coming up in 2011, world-over Tagoreans are preparing to pay a befitting tribute to the far-sighted poet who, amongst other things, was the first to promote the practice of dance within the educated gentry of Bengal. The staging of 'Tasher Desh' with the support of Shadhona--A Center for Advancement of Southasian Dance and Music, is part of these preparations.

The show started with Dr. Sanjida Khatun, president of Chhayanaut, elaborating how everyone had put in their all out effort for this event and appreciated Farhana Ahmed's work for this dance drama. This was Farhana Ahmed's directorial debut, and she did a competent job in spite of the fact that most of the dancers were amateurs who are currently students of dance at Chhayanaut.

'Tasher Desh' is a satire on the then social environment of undivided India during the last phase of the British raj. The play begins with a prince exasperated by the monotonous restrictions and boundaries of the royal palace. In a state of boredom, he embarks on a voyage with a young merchant. As destiny would have it, they fall prey to a violent tempest and after the shipwreck finally find refuge on the 'Island of cards' - a domain inhabited and ruled by cards. The prince makes an



important discovery through the robot-like lifestyle led by the residents of the island. There is no laughter, no mirth and no tears. In other words the inhabitants are devoid of emotions. The prince makes an attempt to break the robotic existence of the 'cards' by explaining to

them what it is like to give in to one's innermost feelings and passion. The result is outstanding.

'Tasher Desh' emphasises the philosophy of creation. Tagore believed that an existence is meaningless if it's devoid of expressions of human emotions. The only means to overcome a stagnant social state is through the removal of rigid regulations. In other words, imposed social order can never be permanent and in such a case society itself looks for a revolution.

Farhana did a good job of portraying the stilted existence of the cards, through contemporary dance movements. This contrasted well with the joyful dances of the Prince and his friends, portrayed by Mukammel Iftekhar Kakon and Jhoton Sylvester. The use of the lilting movement of Manipuri dance to express the breaking of the bonds of regulation by the young subjects of the Kingdom of Cards, was well appreciated. The dance drama was kept very simple yet beautifully carried out by the artistes, Sanjana Haque, Farhana Ahmed, Samina Husain Prema, Sonia Rashid, Belayet Hossain Khan, and other gifted dancers as main characters. Lubna Marium graced the stage with a cameo appearance.

The set for the dance-drama was minimalistic using a decorated screen in the front-stage to depict the real world. This was removed to reveal the world of cards, depicted symbolically by a decorated mask and a tiered platform. Though the costume was colourful and elaborate, it could have incorporated some more of the aesthetics developed in Santiniketan.

Musical homage by BRSSS at Public Library

A CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Shongstha (BRSSS) observed the 69th death anniversary of Bishwa Kobi Rabindranath Tagore at Shawkat Osman auditorium of Central Public Library on August 6.

Artistes of BRSSS began the programme with a choral rendition of the National Anthem. A number of Tagore artistes paid their homage to the poet with solos.

Sajed Akbar, Saiful Alam Khan, Satya Chakraborti, Shahjahan Kamal, Bishnu Mondol, Makhon Hawladar, Azizur Rahman Tuhin, Mamun Zahid Khan, Shafiqur Rahman and Fahim Hossain Chowdhury rendered "Purano Janiya Cheyo Na," "Anek Katha," "Timir Obogunthoney," "Tumi Mor Pao Nai," "Amar Matha Noto Korey Dao," "Chhaya Ghonaichhey," "Khelar Sathi," "Ogo Amar Chiro," "Ashar Kotha Hotey Aaj" and "Dhay Jeno Mor Shokol Bhalobasharespectively.

Noted artistes Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna, Auditi Mohsin, Mita Haque, Papiya Sarwar, Lily Islam and others also presented Tagore numbers at the programme.

On the other hand, Salma Akbar, Kanok Khan, Fahmida Hossain, Chhaya Karmokar, Sharmin Ahmed Lipi, Roquiya Hasina Neely, Farhat Hossain,



An artiste presents a Tagore number at the programme.

Naima Ali, Shima Rahman and others sang "Moron Rey Tuhu Momo," "Badol Diner Prothom," "Tumi Ki Keboli Chhobi," "Emon Diney Tarey," "Esho Go Jewley," "Ja Hobar Ta Hobey," "Pothey Choley Jetey," "Bhora Bador Maho Bhador," "Rimiki Jhimiki Korey" and more at the event.

Tapan Sarkar and Raju Chowdhury on tabla; Ashit Biswas on esraj; Shahdat Hossain on percussion; Sumon Reza Khan on keyboard instrumentally backed up the singers.

Tagore singer Salma Akbar anchored the programme.

Observing Tagore death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad (RSSP), Pabna, observed the 69th death anniversary of the Rabindranath Tagore. A discussion and musical programme were held at Shaheed Shadhan Music College on Friday to mark the solemn occasion.

Freedom fighter Robiul Islam Robi chaired the discussion, while veteran politician Advocate Amjad Hossain, cultural organiser, Abdul Aziz and secretary of RSSP, Pabna district unit Abdul Matin Khan spoke. The speakers focused on the literary heritage of Tagore.

Focusing on the literary splendor of

Geetanjali, the speakers said that it is a literary masterpiece.

Later, a cultural programme was held on the occasion. Among the artistes who gave performances were Abul Hassen, Shafique Uddin Ahmed, Dr. Mohammed Habibullah, Saki Rezwana Bonna, Leya Sarkar, Sharmin Lima and Sheikh Toza Fahmida. Artistes also recited poems by Tagore.

Meanwhile a literary magazine 'Folder' was published on Friday as a special issue marking the death anniversary of Tagore. Edited by Idris Ali the special issue contains writings on Rabindranath by noted writers of Pabna.

Cultural programme at Alliance Française



Mitul Dutta (L) and Suman Bhattacharya (C) recite "Bhul Shorgo" at the programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While different cultural organisations in Dhaka observed the 69th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore with programmes on August 6, Alliance Française de Dhaka along with Shimul Music Circle, Kolkata arranged a programme on the day to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Nobel Laureate poet. The programme was held

at the La Galerie of AFD, Dhanmondi. Titled "Shilaidaha Theke Shantiniketan", the programme featured rendition of Rabindra Sangeet, recitation, dance and more. Members of Shimul took part at the programme.

Former mayor of Kolkata, Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya was the guest at the programme. He also took part in the cultural programme. Along with Moushumi Roy,

Bhattacharya recited the poems "Karna Kunti Shangbad" and "Biday Obhishap".

To start with, child artiste Ichhamati Mousumiputri performed Kathak dance with Tagore numbers "Rimjhim Ghana" and "Nupur Bejey Jay". Suman Bhattacharya and Mitul Dutta recited "Bhul Shorgo".


Bangladeshi folk researcher Saymon Zakaria along with Mitul Dutta and Shakil Hussain presented "Praner Manush". The presentation featured Tagore songs belonging to the *Baul Anga* genre and songs of Lalon. Later, Shakil Hussain rendered Rabindra Sangeet at the programme.

As part of the programme, a three-day art exhibition also began at La Galerie that ends today. The exhibition features 22 artworks by 10 Indian artists including Manosh Chowdhury, Subrata Majhi, Dhananjay Ghosh, Shoma Raha, Gopal Das and Rupa Mitra.




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