

## WHAT'S ON



Solo Art Exhibition  
Artist: Monirul Islam  
Venue: Gallery Chitrak,  
Dhannondi  
Date: May 27-June 15  
Time: 10am-8pm



Nazrul Birth Anniversary  
Organiser: Nazrul Institute  
Venue: Auditorium, Nazrul  
Institute  
Date: May 27  
Time: 8pm



Dhaka Int'l Theatre Fest  
Organiser: ITI Bangladesh  
centre  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala  
Academy  
Date: May 21-30



19th National Art  
Exhibition  
Organiser: Shilpakala Academy  
Venue: National Art Gallery,  
Shilpakala Academy  
Date: May 28-June 17



Solo Sarod Recital  
Artist: Abhishek Lahiri  
Organiser: IGC High  
Commission of India, Dhaka,  
Auditorium, Shilpakala Academy



Group Art Exhibition  
Title: Ishaan Balababu  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine  
Arts, Dhannondi  
Date: May 23-29  
Time: 12pm-8pm



Jewellery Exhibition  
To raise fund for tsunami victims in  
Japan  
Organiser: Aadi  
Venue: I. Duni, H 24, Rd 113,  
Gulshan 2  
Date: May 27



Friday Film Show  
Film Title: Man to Man  
Venue: Alliance Francaise de  
Dhaka, Dhannondi  
Date: May 27  
Time: 6pm

## Chhayanaut Presents Songs from Nazrul's Plays and Films



### ZAHANGIR ALOM

As homage to the National Poet's 112th birth anniversary, Chhayanaut arranged a musical soiree at its main auditorium on May 25. Songs from Nazrul's plays and films were the highlight of the event.

Kazi Nazrul Islam enriched all spheres of Bengali culture - literature, music, plays and films. Not only Bangla plays and cinema, Nazrul also contributed in Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi films.

Songs performed at the soiree were from Nazrul's plays -- "Raktokamol", "Atanur Desh", "Mahua", "Hindola", "Aleya", "Sharbohara", "Jhilmili", "Arjun Bijoy" and "Karagar"; films -- "Dhrubo" and "Nandini" and the musical "Kaberu Tiey".

A group performance of the number "Modhur Chhondoy Nachey Anandey", by the artistes of Chhayanaut, kicked off the event. Dancers Sudeshna Swayamprabha and Mohona Das performed to the rendition. Solo rendition of the song "Keu Bholey Na Keu Bholey" by Sanwara Jahan Nitu followed.

Chhayanaut teacher Suman Majumder performed "Tumi Shuntee Cheona", while Alokanaanda Subrita offered a delightful melody "Adho

"Dharoni Alo". Renowned dancer and teacher Sharmila Banerjee performed to the song "Jhum Jhum Jhumura", rendered by Mahbub Ara Bipasha.

Seasoned artistes and Chhayanaut teachers -- Shaheen Samad, Kairul Anam Shakil, Bizon Chandra Mistry, Nasima Shaheen Fancy and Mahmudul Hasan -- performed "Beshur Binay Baythar Shur", "Nilambori Shari Pori", "Matir Protima Pujish Ne Tora", "Kemoney Rakhi Ankhi Bari Chapiya" and "Chotti Chander Raat" respectively at the programme.

Perfectly synchronised choruses -- "Garjoyer Gambhir Gagoney Kombi", "Jhara Phool-o Dal-e Ke Oriti" and "Bol Nahi Bhoy Nahi Bhoy" -- by the artistes of the school seemingly stirred the audience and Nazrul enthusiasts alike.

Sanjida Bithika, Mahua Monjuri, Mohit Khan, Progga Chirantonni, Swarna Naag, Tanveer Ahmed, Sushmita Shuchi and Rezaul Karim performed solo at the programme.

Gautam Sarkar and Iftekhar Alom Prodhan on tabla, Almas Ali on violin, Iftekhar Hossen Sohel on keyboard and Prodip Kumar Roy on mondira accompanied the singers at the event.

Rendition of national anthem wrapped up the soiree.

(Top) Sudeshna Swayamprabha and Mohona Das dance to a chorus; a rendition of national anthem by the artistes of Chhayanaut.



PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

## Shilpakala Academy's Homage to the National Poet

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) celebrated the 112th birth anniversary of Nazrul through a two-day programme at its Music and Dance Centre auditorium. The programme was held on May 25 and 26. Enlisted artistes of the academy and invited organisations performed songs, dances and recitations.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA, inaugurated the programme. R.A. Mahmud Selim, director of Dance and Music Centre, BSA gave the welcome speech.

Noted and upcoming artistes performed on the first day. Noted Nazrul singer Fatema-tuj-Zohra rendered two songs, "Drishiti Hoita Srishti" and "Tuli Loh Prothu". Biswajit Roy and Shahid Kabir Palash sang "Bondhu Poth Cheye Cheye" and "Orey Neel Jamunar Jol" respectively.

Veteran singers, Khalid Hossain, Shabnam Mushtari, Bulbul Maholabish, and Joseph Kamol Rodriguez also performed at the event.

Members of cultural organisations Nibedan and Benuka Lalita Kala Academy presented group renditions. Artistes of Nibedan sang "Shyama Boron Bangla Mayer Roop" and "Mora Jhonjhara Moto Udayam", while Benuka performed "Joy Hok" and "Shonka Shunyo".



Rafiqul Islam recited the poem "Agomoni". The first day's programme also featured group dance performances by the organisations Shukunya, Banglar Mati and Spandan.

The day's programme wrapped up through a 10-minute dance adaptation of the poem "Bidrohi".



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

## Islamuddin Palakar steals the show



(Clockwise from top-left) Islamuddin Palakar performs at National Theatre Hall; scenes from "Mahajoner Nao" and "Droho Prem Nari".

### JAMIL MAHMUD

The theatre troupe Prangane Mor staged an adaptation of Kazi Nazrul Islam's lyrical drama "Aleya". The show coincided with the National Poet's birth anniversary, but it was folk artiste Islamuddin Palakar, who was in the spotlight on the fifth day (May 25) of the ongoing 1st Dhaka International Theatre Festival. The other production staged that day was Shubhachan's "Mahajoner Nao", an insight into the life and songs of "Baul Samrat" Shah Abdul Karim.

ITI Bangladesh Centre has arranged the festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, supported by Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

Islamuddin Palakar staged the play "Kamala Shahidguri" at the National Theatre Hall.

Though he performed solo, an eight-member

The audience seemingly enjoyed the over two hour-long performance from start to the end.

As part of the custom, the palakar started his presentation with bandana geeti (devotional ode to Allah and his Prophet). After that he greeted the audience and started narrating the story.

The folk ballad "Kamala Ranir Shagordighi" relates the story of a queen named Kamala Rani. It is a popular tale from the greater Mymensingh region. The other main characters are King Dharma Raj of Susong Durgapur, who

is King Bishnu of Susong Durgapur, who marries Kamala.

Islamuddin's performance is the only traditional folk art form included in the festival that features 25 plays by different troupe.

Though he performed solo, an eight-member

orchestra accompanied the narrator. Islamuddin presented the narrative in the form of dialogue with the members of his troupe. The artiste enacted all the characters, at times assisted by one of the choristers. As props, he only used a pillow and a piece of rope.

Prangane Mor's adaptation of Nazrul's work was titled "Droho Prem Nari". Directed by Ramiz Razu, the play was staged at the Studio Theatre Hall. The play features three individuals who get burned in the flames of love. Nuna Afroz and Ananta Heera were the lead actors of the play.

The ten-day-long festival will also feature a Manipuri adaptation of the Rabindranath Tagore play "Daakghar". Noted Manipuri troupe Kalakshetra Manipur from Imphal will stage the play on May 30.

Written by Shakoor Majid, "Mahajoner Nao" was directed and designed by Sudip Chakraborty. The play was staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall.

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Written by Shakoor Majid, "Mahajoner Nao" was directed and designed by Sudip Chakraborty. The play was staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall.

Throughout the play, the actors -- partly and fully -- sang over 20 songs from Abdul Karim's repertoire. Karim's life is, perhaps, best reflected through his songs. Both the playwright and director have aptly utilised this view to establish the storyline. The play also focuses on the odds that Karim faced in society.

Ahmed Gias, Rupa Nasrin, Fazul Haque and Imran Hossain were among the actors in the play. Apart from directing, Chakraborty also designed the set, light and costumes for the play.

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