

WHAT'S ON



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



Praner Khela
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Bengal Shilpala, H
275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhannondi
Date: May 30
Time: 7pm



1st Dhaka International
Theatre Fest
Organiser: IIT Bangladesh
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpaka
Academy
Date: May 21-30



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



Solo Painting Exhibition
Title: Essence of Mystery
Artist: Tarak Mahadi
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance
Française de Dhaka, Dhannondi
Date: June 3-16



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



Local Literary Conference
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: 14, Border Guard
Battalion Hall Room,
Srimangal, Moulvibazar
Date: May 28-29



Ceramic Art Exhibition
Organiser: Haappa
Venue: Dril Gallery,
Dhannondi
Date: May 28-June 4
Time: 3pm-8pm



Film on Dr. Yunus on the cards?



Nationwide Celebration of National Poet's 112th Birth Anniversary

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The national celebration marking poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 112th birth anniversary began at the Nazrul Mancha (stage) at Darirampur in Trishal here on May 25. The three-day programme concluded on May 27. The event was jointly organised by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Mymensingh District Administration.

The programme included a rally, discussions, live performances, gathering of poets, staging of drama and more. Eminent artistes of the country attended the cultural shows.

President Md. Zillur Rahman formally inaugurated the celebration as chief guest while Abdul Kalam Azad, Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs, was in the chair.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Promod Mankin; Advocate Reza Ali and Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Syed Ashraful Islam were special guests.

Secretary (in charge), Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Suraiya Begum; Nazrul's granddaughters Khilkil Kazi and Misti Kazi and Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh, Lokman Hossain Miah, also spoke at the inaugural session.

Poet Nurul Huda delivered the 'Nazrul Memorial Lecture'.

At the opening session, the President said that Nazrul, a symbol of secular spirit and a man of versatile talents, was also a noted dramatist, experienced actor, filmmaker and a social reformer.

He added that through his writings Nazrul highlighted the rampant discrimination against women that prevailed about a century ago. Nazrul was not only a great poet but also a philosopher and a politician with a progressive mind, he said.

The president went on to say that the writings of Nazrul, especially his poems and songs, had been a great source of inspiration for the people of this country during major struggles, particularly the Liberation War.

On the opening day, different cultural groups from in and outside the district performed at a musical soiree, dance drama and poetry recitation sessions.

Nazrul Academy, Trishaptak Sangskritik Academy, Kobi Nazrul Quality School, Swaralipi Sangskritik Academy, Mymensingh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote, Sayanto Club, Dolonchandra Shilpi Goshthi, Trishal Shilpi Goshthi, and others, performed at the opening day's show.

Bidrohi Natya Goshthi staged Nazrul's drama "Agnigiri" on the opening day. The rendition of much beloved songs of Nazrul appealed to the audience the most. Their ranks were "Anjali Lahe Mor", "Chand Heriche Chand Mukh Taar", "Khelichho E Biswa Laye", "Karar Oyi Louha Kapat" and more.

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A day-long programme to observe the 112th birth anniversary of the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was held



in Sylhet last Wednesday in a befitting manner. Sylhet Nazrul Parishad organised the event in association with the City Corporation.

Seasoned Nazrul Sangeet singer Himangshu Biswas formally inaugurated the programme in the morning at the Nazrul Chittar (intersection), at the city's

Rikabibazar area. Among others, Abdul Quaiyum Mukul, Mahbubuzzaman Chowdhury, Syed Monir Helal and Bijon Roy spoke at the programme.

Artistes of Nabarun Shilpi Goshthi, Ditoitowar, Pathshala, Jatiya Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad and Suranjoli participated in the group presentations.

Prizes were given away among winners of competitions on Nazrul Sangeet, recitation and dance in the evening. City Mayor Badaruddin Ahmed Kamran attended the function as chief guest.

In the evening a cultural function was held with the participation of artistes from the capital and Sylhet region.

Shamima Chowdhury recited Nazrul poems before a dance presentation by Nritya Shilpi artistes.

Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad of Sylhet went on the stage with choruses "Gangey Jowar Elo Phirey" and "Tumi Ki Dokhina Pobon".

Shahinur Reza and Manju Saha from the capital rendered Nazrul songs, "Ogo Murshid", "More Priya Hobey", "Jonom Jonom Gelo" and "Amar Noyone Noyon Rakhi" keeping the audience in thrall.

Aminul Islam Liton moderated the function held at the Sylhet Auditorium.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

The District Administration and several local organisations jointly observed the 112th birth anniversary of Nazrul at Natore Zilla Parishad auditorium on Wednesday afternoon.

The programme included a discussion, recitation and rendition of songs. The discussants asserted that Nazrul fought against social injustice, inequality and bigotry. Following the bard's philosophy may enlighten the new generation to work towards a better world, they added.

Dr. Sitara Begum, additional deputy commissioner (general) chaired the meeting while Deputy Commissioner Mazibur Rahman was present as chief guest at the function.

Singers Snigdha Rani and Zillur Rahman rendered Nazrul songs on the occasion. Artiste of Natore Shilpaka Academy, Nrityangan, Dibyo Dance Group, and many local artistes staged dance performances at the programme.

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

To mark the 112th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Sangskritik Biplobi Sangha organised a discussion and cultural function at its auditorium in Manikganj town on Wednesday night.

The cultural programme started with the inspirational chorus "Duo Shourjo Dao Dhoirjo" by the artistes of Sangskritik Biplobi Sangha. Rukhsana Akter Liza, Mohammad Selim, Jasmine Akter and others staged a musical narrative, "Shurer Pakhi Nazrul".

Sunil Chakrabarty and Shukla Roy performed Nazrul's kirtan. Mohidul Islam rendered a ghazal while Syed Nazrul-Promila Parishad organised the discussion at

Nazrul Hasan recited the National Poet's verses.

Earlier a discussion was held at the same venue.

Shahidul Islam Faruque, president of Sangskritik Biplobi Sangha presided over the discussion where Nazrul researcher Poritosh Acharya, Professor Nawroz Mohammad Sayeed and Dipak Kumar Ghosh delivered

Teota on Wednesday afternoon.

Professor Abdul Mannan presided over the discussion where Muhammad Asad, secretary of Nazrul-Promila Parishad and Nazrul researcher Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, among others, spoke on the occasion.

They said that Nazrul spent considerable time at Teota to be with Promila. They demanded that a university be named after them to preserve their memory.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A cultural programme to mark the birth anniversary of the 'Rebel Poet' Kazi Nazrul Islam was held at the district Shilpkala Academy auditorium in Patuakhali.

At the beginning of the programme, a discussion was held with Nirmol Kumar Das Gupta, a noted local cultural activist, in the chair.

After the discussion, artistes of Dakhina Khelaghar Ashor, a local cultural organisation, presented three Nazrul songs in union.

Shahid Kabir Polash, trainer at Nazrul Institute in Dhaka; Ahmad Akhtary of Bulbul Lalitakala Academy; Mollika Roy and Ruma Das, both local Nazrul singers, performed solo at the function.

Artists from Spandan, a cultural organisation from Dhaka, presented dances at the programme.

Over 1,000 viewers including students of different educational institutions, cultural activists and government officials enjoyed the three-hour programme.

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar

A three-day programme and fair on the occasion of 112th birth anniversary of Nazrul concluded in Moulvibazar on last Friday.

The event opened last Wednesday morning at the local Saifur Rahman auditorium.

Moulvibazar District Administration arranged the programme.

Local cultural personalities, teachers and students, politicians, journalists, intellectuals and others participated in the rally and inaugural programme.

On the opening day, a discussion was held with Deputy Commissioner Md. Mustafizur Rahman in the chair.

Artistes of Moulvibazar Shishu Academy and Shilpaka Academy presented songs, recitation and dances at the event.

Local Nazrul Sangeet singer Chhaya Roy; teacher, Music Department of Dhaka University; Mofizul Islam; Goutam Moharana; Mira Sinha and others rendered songs of the poet on varied themes. Deepanakar Roy and Abdul Matin recited poems.

Nazrul with Promila.

speeches on the life and writings of Kazi Nazrul Islam.

At another discussion, speakers demanded that a university be built at Teota under Shivalaya upazila in Manikganj, birth place of Nazrul's wife Promila.

Nazrul-Promila Parishad organised the discussion at

DRAMATISED

READINGS
Tagore's "The Hungry Stones"

KAVITA, New Delhi

Rabindranath Tagore is reputed for his extensive repertoire of short stories in his unmistakeably lyrical prose. A ghost story that makes ones hair stand on end seems far from Tagore's ambit. "The Hungry Stones" ("Khudhudi Pashan"), written 1895, is a notable exception. Recently dramatised readings with a multi-media presentation of "The Hungry Stones" were presented at the Indian International Centre in New Delhi.

Conceived and directed by the versatile Sohaila Kapur, the readings were by redoubtable theatre and TV personality Sunit Tandon, and Sanjeev Desai. There was room for dance too with Sanah Kaintura as the mysterious Persian damsel, backed up by Shampa Das' vocals.

Explaining the germination of the unusual presentation, Sohaila, a reputed writer, playwright, actress and director, says, "I saw a production of the story as a ballet at school when still a little girl and have always been fascinated with it and have wanted to do it as a play. At the moment there was time only to produce it as a dramatised reading. I plan to perform it as a full fledged play perhaps next year."

In its present form the readings capture all the gripping, chilling effects of the original short story. Tandon used his perfect diction to good effect as Srijit, one of the two first person narrators of "The Hungry Stones". The story line: While awaiting a train one of the narrators and his kinsman encounter a man who greatly impresses them with his learning.

The man Srijit has an amazing tale to recount: When younger he was appointed collector of cotton duties at Barich. Lodged near a solitary marble palace, he was warned against spending nights at the house. Refusing to be dissuaded, the young man decided to stay put and spent many "Arabian nights" as he 'heard' the gay laughter of maidens as they frolicked in the river Susta, the tinkling of anklets, the din of chandeliers shaken by the breeze. Sometimes he was enticed by a mysterious beautiful Persian damsel. At other times the illusions chilled him to the bone as when he 'encountered' an African eunuch or heard the crazed laughter and sobs of a woman. Just when the mystery seemed set to unravel the train came in and Srijit went his way, leaving behind the sceptical narrator.

It was a challenge says director Sohaila to "tell a story in a way that is as riveting as a play or film, with just suggestions and symbols to stand in for situations, locations and props." She adds, "A dramatised reading requires much more imagination on the part of the director and the audience and that is perhaps its greatest challenge, as well as merit."

Along the way she hopes to familiarise the public with Tagore's stories, which are virtually unknown outside of Bengal and universities that include his writings in literature courses. "We certainly know much less than the Bengali who pride themselves on their knowledge of his works," asserts Sohaila.



Sunit Tandon (left) with dancer Sanah Kaintura during the reading.

High Flying
Kite festival in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A traditional kite festival was held at Jhirkha-Poddarbari, under Harirampur upazila in Manikganj on Friday. Jatiya Lok-Sahitya Sangraha and Gabeshona Kendra (an organisation that collects and conducts research on folklore and rural traditions) organised the festival to observe the birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Around 50 varieties of kites, including Kora, Potinga, Chila, Dol, Baj, Shap, Projapoti, Moyar, Chakmukha etc created a beautiful visual.

Thousands of enthusiastic people turned their eyes skywards as hundreds of kites fluttered in the sky.

On the occasion, a discussion was held on the Poddarbari premises.

Md. Ramzan Ali, mayor of Manikganj Municipality, was the chief guest at the function. Habibur Rahman, head master of Dakorkhali Govern-



ment Primary School, presided over the discussion. Afzal Hossain, deputy secretary, Ministry of Finance; Ranjan Kumar Saha, secretary and Enayet Hossain, director of Jatiya Lok-Sahitya Sangraha and Gabeshona Kendra spoke at the discussion.

A cultural function was also held. Masud Karim, Deepa Chandra and Aatur Rahman sang at the programme.

Noted Indian actor Irrfan Khan is likely to play the role of Grameen Bank founder Dr. Muhammad Yunus in a film on the Nobel Peace Prize winner, being made by Italian director Marco Amenta, media reports here said.

The film, titled "Banks to the Poor" is based on the bestseller by the same name and portrays the life and times of Dr. Yunus.

The film will show how and why Dr. Yunus worked with the poorest of the poor shunned by other commercial banks.

It will also have Irrfan capture Yunus' dream of empowering the poor and make them stable breadwinners for their families thereby boosting the Bangladeshi economy.

Reports said a meeting between Irrfan and Dr. Yunus is also on the cards before the shooting begins.

Though mainly a Bollywood actor, Irrfan has proven his acting prowess in films like "The Namesake", "The Warrior", "The Mighty Heart", "Slumdog Millionaire", "Midnight's Children", "Chakrash" and "Maqbool".

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

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