

**WHAT'S ON**

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

**Praner Khela**  
Organiser: Bengal Foundation  
Venue: Bengal Shilpaya, H 27/6, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: May 30  
Time: 7pm

**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 Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Essence of Mystery  
Artist: Tarak Mahadi  
Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 3-16

**Group Art Exhibition**  
Title: Ishaan Babbar  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 23-29  
Time: 12p-8pm

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

**Ceramic Art Exhibition**  
Organiser: Harappa  
Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi  
Date: May 28-June 4  
Time: 3pm-8pm

# 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 Abul 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 Ashrafur Islam were special guests.

Secretary (in charge), Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Suraiya Begum; Nazrul's granddaughters Khikhi 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, Dolonchanpa 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. In their ranks were "Anjali Laho Mor", "Chand Herichhe 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 Chattr (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, Dwoitoswar, 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 Shoilee 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 Nazrul 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 Snighdha Rani and Zillur Rahman rendered Nazrul songs on the occasion. Artists of Natore Shilpakala Academy, Nrityangan, Dibyo Dance Group, and many local artistes staged dance performances at the programme.

**ZAHAIR SHAH, Manikganj**

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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 "Dao 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

Nazmul 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



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

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 Shilpakala 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 Dakkhina Khelaghor Ashor, a local cultural organisation, presented three Nazrul songs in unison.

Shahid Kabir Polish, 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 Shilpakala Academy presented songs, recitation and dances at the event.

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



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

## DRAMATISED READINGS

### Tagore's "The Hungry Stones"

KAVITA, New Delhi

Rabindranath Tagore is reputed for his extensive repertoire of short stories in his unmistakably lyrical prose. A ghost story that makes ones hair stand on end seems far from Tagore's ambit. "The Hungry Stones" ("Khudhito Pashan"), written in 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 Delhi. 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 Srijut, 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 Srijut 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 Srijut 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 Bangladeshis who pride themselves on their knowledge of his works," asserts Sohaila.

## High Flying Kite festival in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A traditional kite festival was held at Jhitka-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 *Koira*, *Potinga*, *Chila*, *Dol*, *Baj*, *Shap*, *Projapoti*, *Moyur*, *Chyakhmukha* 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 Ataur Rahman sang at the programme.

Two plays were staged on May 27 at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, as part of the 1st Dhaka Int'l Theatre Festival. Nagarik Natya Sampraday staged "Ghasiram Kotwal" (top) at the National Theatre Hall, while Nepali troupe Mandala Theatre staged "Maila Dot Com" at the Experimental Theatre Hall. Vijay Tendulkar's "Ghasiram Kotwal" reflects on social injustice and calls the oppressed to rise against evil forces. The play was directed by Pantha Shahriar. Directed by Dayahang Rai, "Maila Dot Com" zooms in on an unusual relationship between a young woman and an adolescent boy.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



## Film on Dr. Yunus on the cards?



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

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 "Banker 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 makes 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", "Charas" and "Maqbool".

BTV	11:30 05:05	Mati O Manush Jatiya Television Bishwa Adhunik Gaan Din Badal-e Shapno Drama Serial: Eman Ekti Din	06:30 07:45 12:30 11:30 04:30 05:30 06:30	Sanskritir Sharadesh Amra Dujon Dekhte Kemon Total Sports ETV Ekushey-er Business Street Magic Ei Shoptaher Bishwa Desh Jurey Operadhi Porikoma Musical Program: Ta Na Na Media Gossip
ATN BANGLA	01:25 02:40 03:15 05:10 06:15 10:45	Shurer Madhuri Business Week Khetlar Jagot Education Zone Law & Order Bihango Kotha	07:50 10:10 10:10 11:30 01:30	Diganta TV Career Line Moru Diganta-er Hatchani Shastha Diganta Suphala Bangladesh Praner Shure Matir Tane Shombhabaron Bangladesh
CHANNEL i	01:05 03:10 06:00	Ebong Cinemar Gaan Rani Gaane Gaane The Daily Star Jibon-er Galpo	01:05 03:05 08:05 08:30 11:00	
	09:35	Fantastic Family		

dhc Radio FM 99.2	9:00 12:00 02:05	Maikanta Jibon Daron Dugury The Daily Star Jibon-er Joygan Duanta Boleky Shomha Tara Shaj-er Maja Rakt-er Akashy Golper Shesh	9:00 12:30 04:00 05:00 11:00 11:00 08:00 12:00 07:00	Not RADIO FOOTI No Tension Dhaka Calling Full Volume Back to Back music RADIO TODAY FM 89.6 Good Morning Dhaka Today's Adda Tobey Tai Hok
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**Amar Ami**  
On BANGLAVISION at 09:05pm  
Celebrity Talk Show  
Guest: Shahiduzzaman Selim, Animesh Aich

**RoboCop**  
On Star Movies at 10:55pm  
Genre: Action/Sci-Fi  
Cast: Peter Weller, Nancy Allen

**Beauty and Confidence**  
On Rtv at 12:05pm  
Reality Show  
Planned by Dr. Sayeed Ahmed Siddiky

11:30 12:00	Prokriti O Jibon Ajker Shangbadpatro	10:50 01:30	Snake Eyes Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon
10:05 12:50 04:10	Bangla Feature Film Janaar Achhey Bolar Achhey Aponar Jigashya Sholo Ana Bangali Ana Drama: Cheyechi Shudhu Tomake	07:30 09:30 12:15	The Chinese Boxer National Treasure: Book of Secrets The Game Plan
05:30 07:20 09:00	Shudhui Gaan Shokal Belar Roddur Shoundarjo Kotha Bangla Feature Film Ebong Class-er Baiery Business Vision	05:15 07:50 08:50 10:55	Charlie's Angels Letters To Juliet Knowing Robocop
09:05 11:05 12:10 01:05 06:05 11:25	Shudhui Gaan Shokal Belar Roddur Shoundarjo Kotha Bangla Feature Film Ebong Class-er Baiery Business Vision	12:30 02:30 07:15 11:30	Son of the Mask Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen Junior Ninja Assassin
01:10 05:00 05:30	Bangla Feature Film Protidin-er Gaan Gaane Gaane Bhulobasha	12:00 03:30 09:00 11:00	How I Met Your Mother Raising Hope Coffee With Karen Desperate Housewives
06:00 09:50 12:05	Diplomatic Zone Dhruvdro Kahini Beauty and Confidence	09:00 11:00	National Geographic Channel
04:00 04:30	Desh Janopad Durrath	10:30 04:30	Seconds from Disaster Mega Factories

ATN BANGLA	11:27pm	Amader Shongshar	08:15pm 09:45pm	Ladies First All Rounder
CHANNEL i	05:30pm 07:30pm	Nashty Chota Pagel	08:20pm 08:50pm 11:30pm	Galla Ais Com Bak Bakum Payra
RTV	08:15pm	Chader Nijer Kon Alo Nei	08:15pm 09:45pm	Gohinye Sat Kahon

RTV	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 11:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.	BANGLAVISION	News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:50 pm.	News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:50 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).	News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
ATN BANGLA	NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm	News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

BTV	10:25	Ohanglar-e Bangladesh	12:30pm 09:05pm	Tanaka Kothon BANGLAVISION Amar Ami
ATN BANGLA	11:10am 04:25pm 12:30am	Vision 2020 Prosang Lead News	07:40pm 11:45pm	Our Democracy Desh TV Shoja Kotha
CHANNEL i	09:45am	Trinita Matra	12:05am	Ekushey-er Raat