ZAHANGIR ALOM

While inaugurating the International

Memorial Hall on June 24, chief guest

Nazrul Conference at the Osmani

of the programme Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina urged that Nazrul's

works be promoted globally. She also

presented the Nazrul Award 2011 to

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury

and eminent singer Nilima Das for

Nazrul's literary creations.

their rich contribution in promoting

the publication of Nazrul's "Bidrohi"

(The Rebel), the most outstanding of

the National Poet's creations, Nazrul

Ministry of Cultural Affairs organised

yesterday. The prestigious conference,

brought together scholars and delega-

Chaired by National Professor Kabir

tions from USA, Netherlands, China

Chowdhury, the opening day's event

delivered by Rashid Haider, the execu-

Poet Mohammad Nurul Huda pre-

versalisation of the Rebel" while guests

of honour Dr. Peter Custers, writer and

journalist from the Netherlands; Young

sented his keynote paper titled "Uni-

Weing Ming, editor and presenter,

China Radio International and Dr.

Rachel Fell McDermott, Barnard

College, New York, USA; gave in depth

apt quotations, allusions and refer-

presentations on Nazrul at the confer-

kicked off with a welcome speech

tive director of Nazrul Institute

the two-day conference that ended

held at the National Theatre Hall of

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy,

and India.

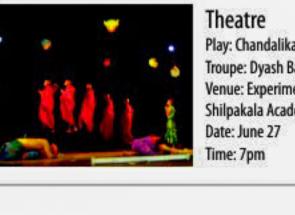
Institute, joining hands with the

To celebrate the 90th anniversary of











Troupe: Theatre Art Unit





Nazrul: The wonder of 20th century literature

speaker has been learning Bengali for

Nazrul Sangeet. She also elaborated on

the last 11 years and is now learning

how Nazrul is finding a firm place in

translation of one of Nazrul's poems

In her paper titled "Ninety Years of

Rachel Fell McDermott, a researcher of

Nazrul's Shyama Sangeet broadly cited

Nazrul, Nazrul's achievements, Nazrul

as the National Poet of Bangladesh and

"Just as Russians are obsessed with

four legacies of Nazrul: memorising

Nazrul as a socio-political critique

the death of Pushkin, their national

poet, whose early demise in a duel

Russian literature and imagination

since 1837, so too with Nazrul: the

mystery and tragedy of his life from

1942 until 1976 continue to haunt l

modern-day heirs. In this sense

Nazrul's tragic humanity is

has been repeatedly relived in

China. Then, she recited a Chinese

Rebellion? The Present Legacies of

Bidrohi in Bangladesh and India",

International Nazrul Conference ends in the capital



ences. Huda drew attention to the

different layers of meaning in Nazrul's

"All the best works of arts are innova-

tions in some way or other, not exclud

newer texts by the extraordinary talents

of the coming generations with a view

to catering to their needs. Thus Nazrul

which is another expression of an art-

In his brilliant bilingual speech (Ben-

focused on various concepts popular-

iste of the highest order belonging to

any bend of time eternal," he con-

gali and English), Dr. Peter Custers

Renaissance", "Firm Opposition to

Equality", "Mysticism and Syncretism

and "The legacy of Religious Tolerenc

Islam: Bengal's Prophet of Tolerance".

Custers said, "Nazrul needs to be insti-

poems, songs and love are not for the

people of a single religion, rather for

universal humanity. Nazrul focussed

'Mahabharata' and 'Ramayana' from

different perspectives. He termed the

exploited and downtrodden people as

In her presentation, (in Bangla)

Young Weing Ming said, "My Nazrul

titled 'Banglar Nazrul: China-r Nazrul

practice started with the recitation of

'Bidrohi'. Just after reading the poem,

an astonishing feeling swept my body

and mind which is comparable with a

volcanic eruption or Tsunami." The

on religious scriptures like

'Gods' in his literature."

Communalism", "Tolerance and

His paper was titled, "Kazi Nazrul

Terming Nazrul as Mahakabi

tutionalised internationally as his

ised by Nazrul like "National

Awakening", "The Muslim

would be reborn in each of them.

ing 'Bidrohi' --a text that would be

reinterpreted and reorganised into



McDermott went on to add: "There

are 130 shyama sangeet written by

Nazrul which are very much differe

from those written by Ram Prashad

songs on Radha-Krishna and 200

Chairman of Nazrul Institute's

Trustee Board, Dr. Rafigul Islam pre

Professor Kabir Chowdhury wrapped

up the discussion said, "... The sky and

the air free of the piteous groans of the

oppressed...Only when the battlefields

Yet we see the depiction of such bruta

Leena Taposhi began the cultural

evening with her rendition of the son

"Gagoney Saghono". Khairul Anam

Shakil's "Parodeshi Bo(n)dhua" fol-

"Kalo Pahad Alo" while Suman

lowed. Ferdous Ara rendered a jhumu

ity being carried out in Palestine by the

are cleared of jingling bloody sabres.

sented crests to the guests while

and Kamola Kanta. Nazrul wrote 385

emphasised." she said.

Islamic songs."



Chowdhury, Khalid Hossain and Selina Hossain respectively rendered "Pashaner Bhangaley Ghum", "Ashiley E Bhanga Gharey" and "Shoi Nadir Dharey"

PHOTO: MUMIT M

Among the guest artistes from West Bengal, India, Ramanuj Dasgupta, Susmita Goswami and Khishna Majumdar performed "Amar Aponar Cheye", "Brojogopi Kheley" and "Hey Namaji" respectively. The programme wrapped up with a performance by several dancers led by Munmun Ahmed to the accompaniment of the

song "Aami Purob Desh-er". The second day's (June 25) programme was presided over by Professor Emeritus Sirajul Islam Chowdhury. Guests of honour Professor Winston E. Langley, University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA and Professor Pabitra Sarkar, former Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India presented a paper on Nazrul's works. Professor Mohit Ul Alam took part in a

discussion at the event. Chairman of Nazrul Institute's Trustee Board, Dr. Rafigul Islam, presented the vote of thanks as the twoday conference wrapped up.

The cultural programme that featured on the concluding day featured rendition of Nazrul Sangeet by eminent artistes of Bangladesh and India, recitation, dance performance and staging of a Nazrul play.

A three-day (June 24-26) exhibition featuring Nazrul's literary works and publications on the poet is being held at Nalinikanta Bhattashali Gallery of Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh, Dhaka. The exhibition is

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK, back from London

To a purist, the idea of using Tagore songs in a big budget Bollywood flick would set eyebrows arching skywards. What if Jaya and Amitabh Bachchan were to sing a Tagore song in duet? Or the glamorous Waheeda Rahman in her prime dancing to a tune composed by the

But then again, Tagore has featured quite regularly on the silver screen, although almost hidden in obscurity. Only recently did noted composer Shantanu Moitra openly acknowledge that the hit song "Piya Bole", featured in the movie "Parineeta", was inspired by "Phoole Phoole Dhole", a very popular Tagore song. Similarly there have been many songs over the years that remind us of the Nobel Laureate's compositions, but have not always received the recognition.

A recent programme, titled "Adaptation of Tagore's Melodies in Bollywood Music", was held at South Audley Street, Nehru Centre, London. It was conceived, researched and compiled by Anuradha Roma Choudhury and organised by the Indian High Commission cultural wing in London.

The programme explored the adaptation of Tagore songs by musical maestros of Indian cinema over the years, with live demonstrations of both the original compositions and their corresponding Bollywood versions. While Anuradha R Choudhury presented the Tagore songs, her student, Dia Chakravarty, performed samples of the Hindi hits to a full-

Choudhury trained in Classical Indian vocal music for ten years, before completing the Gita-Bharati degree in Rabindra Sangeet from

Gitabitan Sikshayatan, Kolkata with a gold medal. Her book, in Bengali, on the influence of British tunes on Tagore songs, "Bilati-gaanbhanga Rabindra Sangeet", was published in Granddaughter of poet Sufia Kamal, Dia

Tagore in Bollywood?

Chakravarty, had an early start in her musical training in Tagore songs. Since moving to the UK ten years ago, she has added Hindi songs to her repertoire. After completing her studies at Oxford University, Dia studied law and became a Barrister in 2008. She has remained active in her cultural pursuits, including being involved with Udayan, a Bengali cultural

The show highlighted many of the instances where Tagore songs featured prominently in the Hindi movies. "Mera Sundar Sapna Beet Gaya", a song with a kirtan flavour, was a smashing hit and breakthrough performance for Geeta Roy (later Dutt) in the '30s. There were other songs but it was "Mera Sundar Sapna..." that left all songs behind and far too.

"Naina Deewane", by singer Suraiya in the

film "Afsaan", is an improvisation of the song "Shedin Dujone Dulechhinu Bon-e". Likewise "Rahi Matwale", a duet by Suraiya and Talar Mahmood in the film "Warish" in 1954, is an adaptation of the Tagore song "Ore Grihobashi". The superhit number "Bachpan Ke Din Bhula Na Dena", in the film "Deedar" directed by Naushad, is an improvisation of the song "Churi Hoye Gechhey Raj Koshey" from Tagore's dance-drama "Shyama". It also has similarity with the tunes of "Keno Pantho E

SD Burman, the illustrious music director, was also known for adapting the tunes of Tagore songs. "Abhiman" (the soundtrack of which was directed by Burman) features

Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan lip-synching the phenomenal "Tere Mere Milan Ke Ye Raina". The tune is an adaptation of Tagore's popular song "Jodi Taare Nai Chini Go". The Talat Mahmood hit, "Jalte Hain Jiske Liye" (in 1959) was inspired by Tagore's "Ekoda Tumi Priye".

The list could go on. Diya Chakravarti in her bright maroon Jamdani enchanted the audience with her rendition of the Hindi versions, while her mentor Anuradha presented 17

Diya once more captivated her audience during her tour of Dhaka, where she performed a variety of Bangla songs at the Indian High Commission yesterday. Considering Tagore's treasure trove of

songs, it's no surprise that several music com-

posers such as Pankaj Mullick, K Mullick, Rai Chand Boral, RD Burman, Hemant Kumar (Mukhopadhyay), Bappi Lahiri and others were inspired by his compositions. The trend of adaptation, imitation or improvisation of Tagore's melodies has its roots in 1930s' Bollywood. However, in most cases it was left unacknowledged. The reason behind could be that until the Visva Bharati's copyright to all of Tagore's songs expired, it was mandatory in India for any music director/singer to obtain permission of the Music Board before releasing a record with songs composed by him. All this was possibly to avoid violation of the copy-

The programme was an eye opener and the cultural wing of the Indian High Commission in London deserves kudos for arranging it. The audience was treated to an evening full of melodies and left the venue deep in thought: what other popular Hindi songs could be traced back to Tagore?





Anuradha R Choudhury and Dia Chakravarty, perform at the programme. Scenes from "Abhiman" (top) and "Parineeta".

Towards a humane society

Book reading programme

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

With a view to promote reading habit among the students of Govt. Ananda Mohan College, a programme was launched at the college library on

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, chairman of Biswa Sahitya Kendra, inaugurated the programme as chief

Among others, coordinator of the programme Afzal Rahman, professor of Bengali Department; Professor Azharul Islam; Professor Bikash Kumar Badra; Professor Jahangir Kabir and Professor Rowshan Alam were present at the inaugural session.

At the opening of the programme Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed said that books can play a significant role in honing the inner talents of human beings and developing a strong moral base. He also told the audience that cultivating reading habit makes for a more humane and rational society.

Professor Sayeed also opened an 'Anti-drug campaign' conducted by the students of Govt. Ananda Mohan

Professor Afzal Rahman said that the book reading programme which, now has 450 members, will grow in future. The college has around 20,000 students, he asserted hoping that a movement for promoting book reading will start from

The mobile library of Biswa Sahitya Kendra will support the programme by enabling readers to exchange books every Sunday.



Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed at the inaugural session. PHOTO: STAR

Art with accolades

Safiuddin Ahmed's birthday celebrated

Monirul Islam (left) greets Safiuddin Ahmed. Qayyum Chowdhury and Subir Chowdhury are also seen in the photo.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Safiuddin Ahmed has been a distinguished printmaker for over six decades. Among his recurring themes are rural landscapes, riverine life, memories of 1971, Language Movement and flood. His immense contribution to contemporary Bangladeshi art over the years has earned him international acclaim as well.

On June 23, the introverted painter turned 89. On the occasion, Bengal Foundation held a birthday celebration at the artist's residence in Dhanmondi. The celebration no doubt cheered the artist who is critically ill at this moment because of old age complica-

The birthday celebration started with the painter cutting his

birthday cake. Friends, admirers, critics, art enthusiasts and wellwishers greeted the painter with flowers, gifts, books, sweets and

Among others, Chairman of Bengal Foundation, Abul Khair Litu; artists Qayyum Chowdhury, Syed Jahangir, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Monirul Islam, Abdus Shakoor, Abul Barq Alvi, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Mohammad Iqbal, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, director general of Bengal Foundation Luva Nahid Chowdhury; director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Subir Chowdhury; and others wished the artist on his birthday.

Monirul Islam said about his teacher Safiuddin Ahmed, "Safiuddin Sir is a rare artist among his contemporaries, who never gave importance to the sale of his paintings. He would take out his paintings from the locker, examine them and repeat the subjects, improving on them."

Syed Jahangir said, "As a teacher, Safiuddin was a tremendous success. He is reflective and reticent by nature. He was not the type to praise anyone without reason. He did not want to be involved in the business of selling paintings to clients. He would sit and evaluate his work again and again."

The birthday celebration included an informal musical programme, featuring Lalon singer Farida Parvin.

Safiuddin was born in 1922 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), India. He was a student of Calcutta Government School of Art and graduated from the institute in 1942. After the Partition (1947), Safiuddin left Calcutta for Dhaka, and got involved in a movement to set up the first art institute in the then East Pakistan. He was a friend and colleague of Zainul Abedin, one of the founders of Dhaka Art College.

Safiuddin is a fastidious artist. He deliberates over a single piece of work, in search of perfection. Some of his outstanding achievements as a young artist

included the President's Gold Medal'(1945) by Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta, first prize in the category of black and white in International Contemporary Art Exhibition, New Delhi (1946), first prize in the category of black and white (etching and drawing) in Inter-Asian Art Exhibition in New Delhi (1947), Patna Maharaja's Gold Medal (1947). He is a proud recipient of the Ekushey Padak and Shadhinota Puroshkar.

Music to the ears

National Ganosangeet Festival at Public Library



The ceremony began with the rendition of the National Anthem.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day National Ganosangeet Festival kicked off on June 24 at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Ganosang Shamannay Parishad (GSP), a platform organisation for artistes of the genre, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has arranged the

The inaugural ceremony began wit the rendition of the National Anthem. Special guest, veteran journalist and cultural personality Kamal Lohani

formally inaugurated the festival. Pointing to the history of Ganosangeet in the country, Lohani said, "Ganosangeet has uplifted the spirit of the nation during different

socio-political movements". Led by

Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste

Kalyani Ghosh, a group of artistes

rendered the song "Purbo Digante

Surjo Uthechhe".

A discussion was also held at the Shawkat Osman auditorium. Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University was the chief guest. Lohani and Nasiruddin Yousuff, president, Shammilito Sangskritik Jote were

Among others, Ganosangeet singer Mahbubul Haider and convener of the festival committee Golam Kuddus spoke in the course of the discussion. President of GSP and noted singer Fakir Alamgir presided over the discussion session.

Rabindra Sangeet Shammilan Parishad

After the discussion, a musical programme was held on the first day. Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artistes Kalyani Ghosh, Timir Nandi and Fakir Alamgir rendered solo numbers, while members of nine organisations including Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshti

(Rajshahi), Satyen Sen Shilpi Goshthi (Dhaka) and Sargaam Lalitkala Academy (Dhaka) performed group songs.

The artistes rendered songs including "O Alor Pother Jatri", "Hei Shamalo Dhan Ho", "Ora Jiboner Gaan Gaitey Dey Na", "Lakho Lakho Haat", "Aamar Pratibader Bhasha", "Aaj Joto Juddhobaj", "Tirhara Ei Dheuer Sagar"

and "Nelson Mandela". The first day's programme also featured a group dance choreographed by Kabirul Islam Ratan.

A total of 33 cultural organisations from and outside Dhaka took part at the festival. Previously the organisers arranged four regional festivals in

Comilla, Jessore, Dinapur and Dhaka. Today, the programme will start at 5pm. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Pramod Mankin will be present as chief guest at the concluding cere-(Jessore), Sangeet Niketan (Chandpur), mony. Members of different cultural

organisations will render songs.

Photo exhibition on Liberation War at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day photo exhibition, titled 'Bangabandhu, Bhasha Andolon and Muktijuddho' was held at Rajshahi University (RU). The exhibition ended on

Muktijoddha Shontan Command, an organisation of sons and daughters of freedom fighters, organised the exhibition at the central library

Around 750 photographs and cartoons on Language Movement, Liberation War and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were on display at the exhibition. Coverage of Liberation War on international newspapers and journals were also displayed

At a discussion held on the opening day (Wednesday), speakers said that Rajshahi University campus had witnessed the war. Many teachers and students of the university were directly involved in the war.

They also said that the exhibition conveyed a much-needed message to the younger generation about the history of the country.



Drama Serial: Nisarga Boishakhi Sanskriti O Business Week 05:10 Education Zone

Shastha Diganta Drama Serial: Quick

All programmes are in local

time. The Daily Star will not

change in the programme

be responsible for any

Z Studio

Stuart Little 2 09:30 Shaolin Soccer Diplomatic Zone Star Movies 11:30 Drama Serial: Bak

On BANGLAVISION





Cast: Subarna Mustafa, Wahida

Sorcerer's Apprentice BANGLAVISION Bangla Feature Film

Prince of Persia: The **Business Vision** Cinemar Gaan Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix Harry Potter and the

Half-Blood Prince Imagine That Star World

12:25

Desh TV

Boishakhi TV

Bangla Feature Fi

07:50pm Choita Pagol

Ekushey-er Business India's Most Desirable

National Geographic Media Gossip 02:00 Sunday Live Channel Extraordinary Dogs

Mega Factories Nat Geo's Most Amazin

09:45pm Sat Kahon

09:30pm Lalita

DRAMA SERIAL BANGLAVISION 09:45pm All Rounder 08:40pm Putul Khela Desh TV 08:15pm Gohinev

08:20pm Abishkar Boishakhi TV **NEWS BULLETIN**

News (Bangla) at 7:30am.

News (English) at 10:00am, ate Night News (Bangla ar 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm elecast on all Bangla News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm ATN BANGLA NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm,

am, 4:00 am

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 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00

TALK SHOW 07:40pm Our Democracy

ATN BANGLA BANGLAVISION 10:30am Lead News Desh TV

09:05pm Amar Ami

11:05am Vision 2020 04:25pm Prosango CHANNEL i 09:45am Tritio Matra

11:45pm Shoja 12:05am Ekushey-er

12:30pm Taroka Kothon

10:40am Tarokalap