

WHAT'S ON

Concert
Debut show by Ghazal Chorus
Venue: Red Shift Café, RADIUS Centre,
Gulshan
Date: May 29
Time: 7pm



Solo Exhibition
River Stories
Artist: Vinita Karim
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge
Date: May 16- June 6
Time: 12-8pm



Group Art Exhibition
Jago Nari Jago Bohnishika
Organiser: Studio 48
Venue: Eric's Bristro, Dhanmondi-5
Date: May 23-June 23; Time: 10am-9pm



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Soft Reflections
Venue: Gallery Cosmos
Date: May 15- June 14
Time: 11am-10pm



Intercultural Dance
Looking Forward to the Past
Organiser: Shadhona Sanskritik Mondal
Date: May 28
Time: 6:45pm



Darirampur ready to celebrate NAZRUL



AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Darirampur in Trishal of Mymensingh, the place gripped with Nazrul's memories, is ready to celebrate the 116th birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, through three-day national level programmes.

The celebrations will begin today at Darirampur Nazrul Mancha and will continue till May 27, organised by Cultural Affairs Ministry and Mymensingh District administration.

A series of programmes has already been undertaken marking the celebrations that include colourful rallies, discussions, cultural shows, poet gathering, staging of dramas and dance sequences. Eminent artistes of the country will attend the cultural shows.

A three-day fair, titled 'Nazrul Mela', will also be held marking the occasion.

Nazrul, born in Churulia of Bardwan district in West Bengal in India -- stayed at village Darirampur in Trishal for a year and studied at Darirampur High School. Kazi Rafiz Ullah, a police sub-inspector working at Bardwan in West Bengal then took Nazrul to his village in Kazir Shimla in Trishal in 1914.

People of Trishal and Mymensingh district hold Nazrul close to their heart till date.

Dr. Gowher Rizvi, foreign affairs adviser to the prime minister, will inaugurate the celebrations as chief guest. Deputy Commissioner of Mymensingh Mustakim Billah Faruqui will chair the opening ceremony, sources said.

Poet Mohammad Nurul Huda will present 'Nazrul Speech' on the inaugural ceremony.

Meanwhile, the authority of JKNIU, a culture-based university of the country, has also taken a three-day programme at its campus marking the birth anniversary of the Rebel poet. The programmes include placing of floral wreaths at the portrait of the poet, colourful rally, seminars, cultural programmes and a photo exhibition on Nazrul.

Besides, different socio-cultural organisations will also hold cultural shows and discussions marking the occasion.

Ferdous Ara's homage to the National Poet Nazrul Sangeet Samagra to launch today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted Nazrul Sangeet artiste Ferdous Ara has a firm niche in the music world and earned accolades for both recording and performing songs from Nazrul's diverse musical genres -- raga-based, Islamic, Kirtan, Shyama sangeet, patriotic, songs based on foreign tunes, folk and jhumrang songs.

The artiste has taken on the challenge of recording 1,000 songs of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Impress Audio Vision Limited is producing the series of albums titled "Nazrul Sangeet Samagra". The audio CD Company has already unveiled the first two parts of the album last year while the third and fourth installments will be launched today, at the AB Bank-Channel i Nazrul Mela to be held at Channel i premises today marking the poet's 116th birth anniversary.

Every album has 12 songs with diverse melody and lyrics.

"I would like to pay my tribute to the National Poet by recording his 1,000 songs. I am grateful to Impress Audio Vision Limited as they are helping to make my dream come true. It is our collective responsibility to preserve the rich musical legacy of Kazi Nazrul Islam for forthcoming generations. The audience's demand changes with the progress of technology and innovative musical devices. Keeping this in mind, I have recorded the songs so that the upcoming generation of artistes can follow the proper lyrics and notations for rendition and the music lovers can get an authentic taste of Nazrul songs," said Ferdous Ara.

Ferdous Ara focuses on rendering lesser-known songs in her stage performances. She is also recording such songs for her current albums and for those in the pipeline.

"Kazi Nazrul Islam is said to be the pioneer of modern Bangla songs because of his

evergreen lyrics and ever-appealing compositions. He created several distinctive ragas and taals and varied musical forms that have enriched the realm of Bangla music. We get all the diversity of Bangla song in Nazrul Sangeet. His compositions are equally accepted by both the Muslims and the Hindus," asserted Ferdous Ara.

In reply to the question of why we are still lagging behind popularising Nazrul Sangeet in the country, Ferdous Ara said, "We have many talented Nazrul Sangeet artistes across the country. We need to organise them. We are initially training the mentors. The practice, research and exposure of Nazrul Sangeet are dire necessities today. Both government and private initiatives are required towards this end. Organisations and media houses like Channel i, The Daily Star and Bengal Foundation are doing a commendable job. What we need a concerted effort to achieve the goal."



The many facets of Nazrul Shimul Mustapha talks about the National Poet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

His poetry and nationalist activism earned him the title, 'Rebel Poet'. Accomplishing a large number of much-admired works throughout his life, Kazi Nazrul Islam is more than a rebel. He was an ardent admirer of love and harbinger of patriotism, as well as a versatile lyricist-composer. His poetry added new dimensions in the field of recitation in Bengal. On the National Poet's 116th birth anniversary, renowned elocutionist Shimul Mustapha talked about Nazrul's versatility and genius that continues to encourage reciters.

"Nazrul was a turning point in the field of recitation in our country. Before Nazrul, it was predominantly writings and poems of Tagore that our reciters chose to work with to satisfying their inner feelings. Through Nazrul's poetry reciters started to highlight different political and socio-cultural aspects. Nazrul's son Kazi Sabyasachi was the pioneer in this regard, who came to



fame in the 1960s and '70s," said Mustapha, who is widely known as a poetry reciter in our country for nearly three decades.

"This continuation and revolution in the field of recitation carried out a significant role in our Liberation War," he added.

To signify the essence of Nazrul's poetry and writings that drives the reciters to perform fervently, Mustapha

finds the inner tempo and emotion beneath his highly composed words that are magical to recite.

"Though it is difficult to find out the proper meaning of some of his words, the tempo, emotion and inner strength of them is powerful enough for the reciters to want to read out Nazrul's writings," said Mustapha.

"Nazrul was a versatile genius. He deconstructed himself whenever he wished. He is known as the 'Rebel Poet,' but this title alone does not denote Nazrul on the whole. He was rebellious, yet romantic. I think, he worked on the spur of the moment. Whatever was on his mind, he penned that instantly," Mustapha said of Nazrul's versatility.

Mustapha feels that the lack of interest among the youngsters to learn about Nazrul and other maestros is the cause that's driving us in a culturally vulnerable position. "It is our incapability that we have not completely understood or evaluated Nazrul. I fear we may not be able to bring the message of Nazrul to the youth of our country," said

Musapha. "It is our (Nazrul enthusiasts') duty to introduce his treasure-trove to the nation," he added.

Mustapha suggests the younger generation of reciters as well as artistes from other fields who are working on Nazrul to come forward and highlight more works of the National Poet. According to Mustapha, "The lack of preservation of Nazrul's works is one of the main causes behind the prevalent disinterest. We need more audio-visual works featuring his songs, poems and writings."

Mustapha has had the privilege to work on Nazrul's works. So far, he has released around 30 albums featuring 70 poems, letters and essays by Nazrul. He said, "Usually I select poems by different poets in my albums or solo performances, which is a kind of homage to them." One of Mustapha's albums, "Jugalbandi", along with Indian artiste Saumitra Chattopadhyay features poems of Nazrul and Rabindranath, in which Mustapha recited Nazrul and Saumitra performed Rabindranath.

Nazrul Birth Anniversary Specials



ntv
7am: Musical programme "Bajey Basher Ba(n)shi"
Hosted by: Sadya Afreen Mallick. Artistes: Jalal Ahmed, Munir Hossain.
12:20pm: Drama "Gobhir Nishithe"
Directed by: Pantho Shahriar. Cast: Intekhab Dinar, Badhon, Kazi Ujjal.
1:10pm: Recitation programme "Premik Othoba Biplobi"
Artistes: Shimul Mustapha, Mahidul Islam, Sharmin Lucky.
6:45pm: Musical programme "Ontorey Tumi Achho Chirodin"
Artistes: Khairul Anam Shakil, Yakub Ali Khan, Yasmin Mushtari, Ferdous Ara

Channel i
11:05am: Nazrul Mela Live
Produced By: Amirul Islam, Shahidul Alam Sachchu.
5:30pm: Musical Soiree "Love songs of Tagore-Nazrul"
Event by: Star Melodies. Artistes: Tapan Mahmud, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, Ferdous Ara, Aditya Mohsin, Nasima Shaheen, Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb.
11:10pm Reminiscence programme "Bidrohi Kobi"
Produced and hosted by: Moushumi Barua

Ekushey Television
Special drama "Meher Negar"
Cast: Zahid Hasan, Momo.
4:05pm: Special programme

on Feroza Begum "Otopor Ami"
Produced by: Mohsina Rahman.
10:10pm: Drama "Neel Konthi"
Directed by: Ashrafi Mithu. Cast: Sajal, Monalisa

ATN Bangla
9:15am: Documentary "Khuje Firi Nazrul"
Directed by: Amzad Kabir Chowdhury
5:25pm: Dance programme "Porodeshi Megh"
Directed by: Nahid Rahman
10:55pm: Special musical programme "Mone Pore Aj"
Artistes: Yakub Ali Khan, Fatema Tuz-Zohra, Shaheen Samad, Yasmin Mushtari, Sujit Mustafa.

"Nazrul's lyrics are magical"

...Moidul Islam

SAURAV DEY

Moidul Islam is a noted Nazrul Sangeet artiste. Starting from the early 1980s till date, he has been singing Nazrul songs. Despite being a professional banker, Moidul has a soft corner for music and in spite of the frequent conflicting demands of musical and banking career he is balancing both adeptly. On Nazrul's birth anniversary, Arts & Entertainment talked to him. Excerpts:

Why do you think Nazrul's songs are timeless?
Moidul Islam: Nazrul Sangeet has timeless appeal. His magnificent lyrics and magical tunes are timeless making his songs all-time favorite among singers and audiences alike. Nazrul will continue to live in the hearts of people.

Why is it important for a singer to conceptualize a song before singing it?

Moidul Islam: To conceptualize the lyrics and tunes of songs is a must for singers. Without the proper understanding of the lyrics and the use of ragas, a song won't be properly presented. A singer is tremendously influenced by the lyrics of a song, as it is the words that influence our mind first.

What's special about your presentation?
Moidul Islam: I think the audience will remember me for my singing style, since every singer has their distinguishable marks. Those familiar with my songs know that my voice relates to Nazrul's topka songs and raga-based songs. Not many singers present topka as the genre is a different style that I have learnt from my mentors.

What are some of the essential qualities that a Nazrul singer should have?
Moidul Islam: Singers need prepare themselves so that the song aptly blends



with their voice. Moreover, mastery over classical music is important since majority of the Nazrul songs are set on ragas. For this reason, the number of quality Nazrul singers is less. But nowadays, many are taking deep interest in Nazrul's songs which is quite heartening.

IT'S TRUE!

After the conclusion of the First World War, Kazi Nazrul Islam settled in Kolkata and began writing for the "Bengali Muslim Literary Journal". In 1920 he published his first novel "Bandhanhara" as well as some of his poems like "Bodhan", "Kheya-parer Tarani" and "Badal Prater Sharab." In 1922, Nazrul earned the moniker 'Rebel Poet' following the publication of "Bidrohi". The language and imagery of the poem coincided with the non-cooperation movement, making Nazrul a household name among the rebellious youths of Bengal. As a mark of respect, Rabindranath Tagore dedicated to him his musical play Basanta in 1923. Later, Nazrul expressed his appreciation by composing poem "Aj Srsti Sukher Ullase".



The Daily Star

Standard Chartered

CELEBRATING LIFE 2015
Theme: Celebrating the HERITAGE of Bangladesh



FILM WORKSHOP
Register and send your application before 30 July 2015

Roll Homeat THE DAILY STAR 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1215
Details at: www.CelebratingLifeBD.com & Facebook: Celebrating Life Contents

Two winning scripts at the end of the workshop will be funded by Celebrating Life for actual production. The winners will be the Directors of their films, which will be produced under the supervision and guidance of the organizers.

Partners: 