





Spoken Word Slam Space Slam Organiser: Ampersand Venue: Jatra Biroti Date: May 21; Time: 7pm



Art Exhibition Intimate Fears Artist: Anisuzzaman Sohel Venue: Bengal Art Lounge Date: May 7-June 4 Time: 12-8pm



Mukunda Das remembered in Barisal

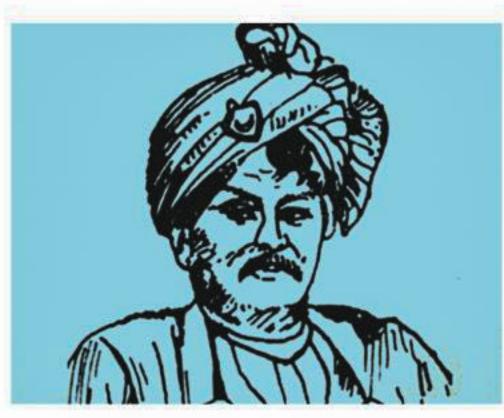
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Charon Kobi Mukunda Das was remembered at Aswani Kumar Hall in Barisal on Thursday evening, marking his 82nd death anniversary. Charon Sangiskritik Kendra arranged the programme.

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Mukul Das, Nazrul Haque Nilu and Manisha Chakraborty addressed the programme. After a discussion on the life and work of Mukunda Das, songs of the poet were presented the programme.

Mukunda Das (born Yajneshwar Das, February 22, 1878 - May 18, 1934) was a poet, ballad singer, composer and patriot, who contributed to the spread of Swadeshi movement in rural Bengal. He was born in Bikrampur, but lived and worked in Barisal all his life. Inspired by a speech from educationist-reformer Ashwini Kumar Dutta against the



proposed partition of Bengal, he composed a drama "Matripuja", on the theme of patriotism and freedom movement. As his play gained popularity in the region, the government of newly-formed Eastern Bengal and Assam clamped down on it, citing incitement

to violence. After the play was prevented from staging, he was arrested in 1908, and imprisoned for three years on charges of sedition. Mukunda Das joined Gandhi's noncooperation movement in 1921 with his repertoire of dramas. When the movement was called off, Mukunda Das settled with his group in Kolkata. "Matripuja" was banned by the government at that time. He began to compose social plays in order to avoid being banne, but in 1932, the government banned all his plays - "Samaj", "Adarsha", "Palliseba", "Sathi", "Kormokhetro", "Brahmacharini" and "Poth" being the notable ones.

After the ban, Mukunda was restricted to singing only. He along with his group performed only musical shows until his death due to ill health. His most famous songs -"Ekbar Bidaye De Ma Ghure Ashi" and "Bhoy Ki Morone" has inspired generations of patriots and revolutionaries after his demise.



Nashid Kamal to launch Nazrul album

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reputed Nazrul Sangeet artiste Nashid Kamal is releasing an album of Nazrul songs today, titled "Ganegane Nazrul Jeeboni". Eminent Nazrul Sangeet artiste Mustafa Zaman Abbasi will launch the album, along with eminent singer and teacher Ferdausi Rahman, and singerelocutionist Anindita Kazi at the Gulshan Ladies' Club. Nashid Kamal will also perform at the launch.

About the album, Nashid Kamal told The Daily Star: "The album consists of narration of Nazrul's life - from his childhood to his last days - and the songs are interjected in between to show that journey. The album begins with 'Hera Hote Hele Dule', an Islamic song, because Nazrul started his life in a maktab (institute of Islamic education). It then goes on to present various kinds of Nazrul songs: love songs, songs of melancholy, folk, raagasrayi, songs from his leto music days, and ends with 'Masjid er'I Pashey Amaye Kobor Diyo Bhai', symbolising his lay to rest next to the Dhaka University mosque."

The album is being released from the ME Label banner.

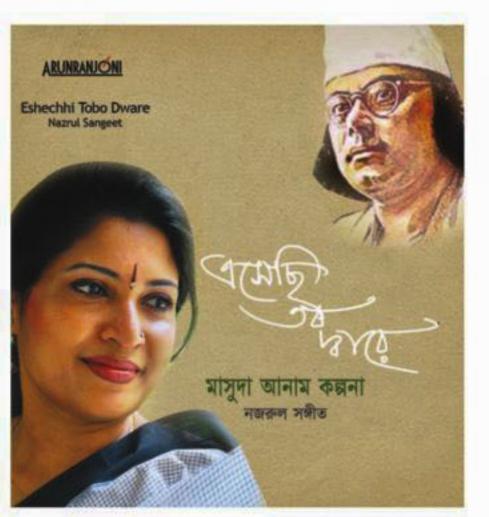
Masuda Anam Kalpona's album to release online

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Masuda Anam Kalpona's 11th solo Nazrul Sangeet album "Eshechhi Tobo Dwar-e", under the label of Arunranjoni, releases online tomorrow (May 22), marking the 117 th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The artiste has recorded 10 lesserknown songs for the album. The album tracks are: "Akashey Bhorer Tara", "Eshechhi Tobo Dwar-e", "Boikali Sur-e Gao", "Ami Surjamukhi Phuler Moto", "Aj Shokaler Surja Otha", "Debjanir Mon-e", "Adho Dhoroni Alo", "Chharitey Poran Nahi Chaye", "Narayani Uma Kheley Heshey Heshey" and "Arun Kanti Kego".

Kalpona began singing Nazrul Sangeet from her childhood. As a child, she loved music and often entered in musical competitions and won prizes. She enrolled as a student at Chhayanaut and completed a 5year course in Nazrul Sangeet.



Kalpona is now a regular teacher of Nazrul Sangeet at Chhayanaut. Apart from Nazrul songs, Kalpona also performs songs of yesteryears, Atul Prashad, D L Roy and Rajanikanta.

Nazrul Jayanti programmes on ntv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 117th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, popular TV channel ntv has chalked daylong programming commemorating the National Poet. The day's programmes will begin with "Bangladesh'er Nazrul", at 6:15am. Produced by Zahangir Chowdhury, it will feature discussants Selina Hossain, Professor Abul Kalam Azad and Professor Mustafa Nurul Islam. A musical programme titled "Ontore Tumi ACho Chirodin" will follow at 6:55am, featuring songs by Khairul Anam Shakil, Yakub Ali Khan, Leena Taposhi Khan, Yasmin Mushtari, Ferdous Ara and MA Mannan.

A single-episode TV play, titled "Tomar Pother Dhuli'te", will air at 1pm. Adapted from Nazrul's poem "Nishitho Protim", Nahid Ahmed Pial has written and



A scene from "Tomar Poth'er Dhulite".

directed the play. The drama boasts a heavyweight cast including Suborna Mustafa, Maznun Mizan, Sohana Saba and Shahed Ali. The play centers on two female characters, Bibha and her niece Shyama. Bibha, a lonely woman, sees a love affair unfold between Shyama and Shishir, and sees her own youth and past through the relationship.

A live programme "Nazrul

Jayanti" will air from 2:35pm. Produced by Alfred Khokon and hosted by Farah Sharmin, it will have Dr. Azfar Hossain discussing on Nazrul, recitation by Shimul Mustapha, and songs by Priyanka Gope and Aloke Sen.

Talk show "Nazrul Bhabna" will go on air at 5:30pm, where Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, poet Al Mujahidi and Joynal Abedin Azad will discuss on Nazrul's works. It will be followed by a special episode of ntv's children and adolescents' programme "Amra Shobai Raja", where young artistes will present songs, dance and recitation of Nazrul's works.

A special drama "Amare Debo na Bhulitey" will air at 9:05pm. Based on Kazi Nazrul's song of the same title, Sarwar Reza Jimmy has written it, and it is directed by Tuhin Hossain. It casts Afran Nisho, Aparna Ghosh, AK Azad Setu and others.

SONU NIGAM goes incognito for a cause



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

An aged, bearded man in shabby clothes sitting under a tree on the street of Mumbai's posh Juhu locality was seen playing a harmonium and using his melodious voice to belt out some of Bollywood's superhit songs.

The 'Roadside Ustaad' croons away.

There were several passers-by. Soon, a small crowd gathered around the singer. Among them was a 12-year-old boy who listened to the old man's song and asked him "Uncle, did you have breakfast?" Without waiting for answer, the boy pulled out Rs 12 from his pocket and tucked them into the singer's palm.

That man was none other than Sonu Nigam -- one of the most popular singers of India – going incognito for a noble cause: raising awareness about street singers. The episode was released as a web video recently.

The video, titled "The Roadside Ustaad", was released on Culture Machine's digital channel Being Indian, and immediately went viral on social media. The clip captures mixed reactions of commoners ranging from individuals stopping by and enjoying the old man's singing to those who walked away blissfully unaware of the quality of his singing and the person behind it.

Talking about the initiative, Sonu said in a statement: "I went (on to do this video) without any expectations, totally bereft of any awkwardness for the way I was looking and what I was about to subject myself to. For the first time, I was not me. The make-up was so good and authentic that people standing so close to me, couldn't recognize me," he added.

Sonu Nigam said that the harmonium he used on the street was the one his parents bought when he was born. "It was all so humbling. And from such an unfamiliar zone, I managed to procure something. Gratitude, grace and appreciation for what we have," he said.

Talking about his experience, Sonu Nigam further said what moved him most was when the boy held his hand and asked him if he had his breakfast before

quietly giving him Rs 12. "I've asked my office to frame the currency notes the boy gave me," said the singer.

On the reason behind making this video, Karl Katgara, creative director at Culture Machine, said "The whole idea behind this experiment was to inspire people to take a moment out of their busy lives and appreciate the beauty of music. And we thought who better than Sonu Nigam to do it? He is one of the most sought-after singers in the country and the most recognisable voice. What was interesting to see at the time was, he created the same magic singing, just disguised as an old man, and people could not recognise him at all."

One of the songs belted out by Sonu Nigam was "Kal Ho Naa Ho", the title of the Shahrukh Khan-starrer film that was a massive hit. One hopes there will be many tomorrows for street singers of the world.



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QUIZ - 01

1. The Angry Bird Movie is based on ____?

SUPER CHEF HEATS UP WITH SUPERSTAR MEHAZABIEN

