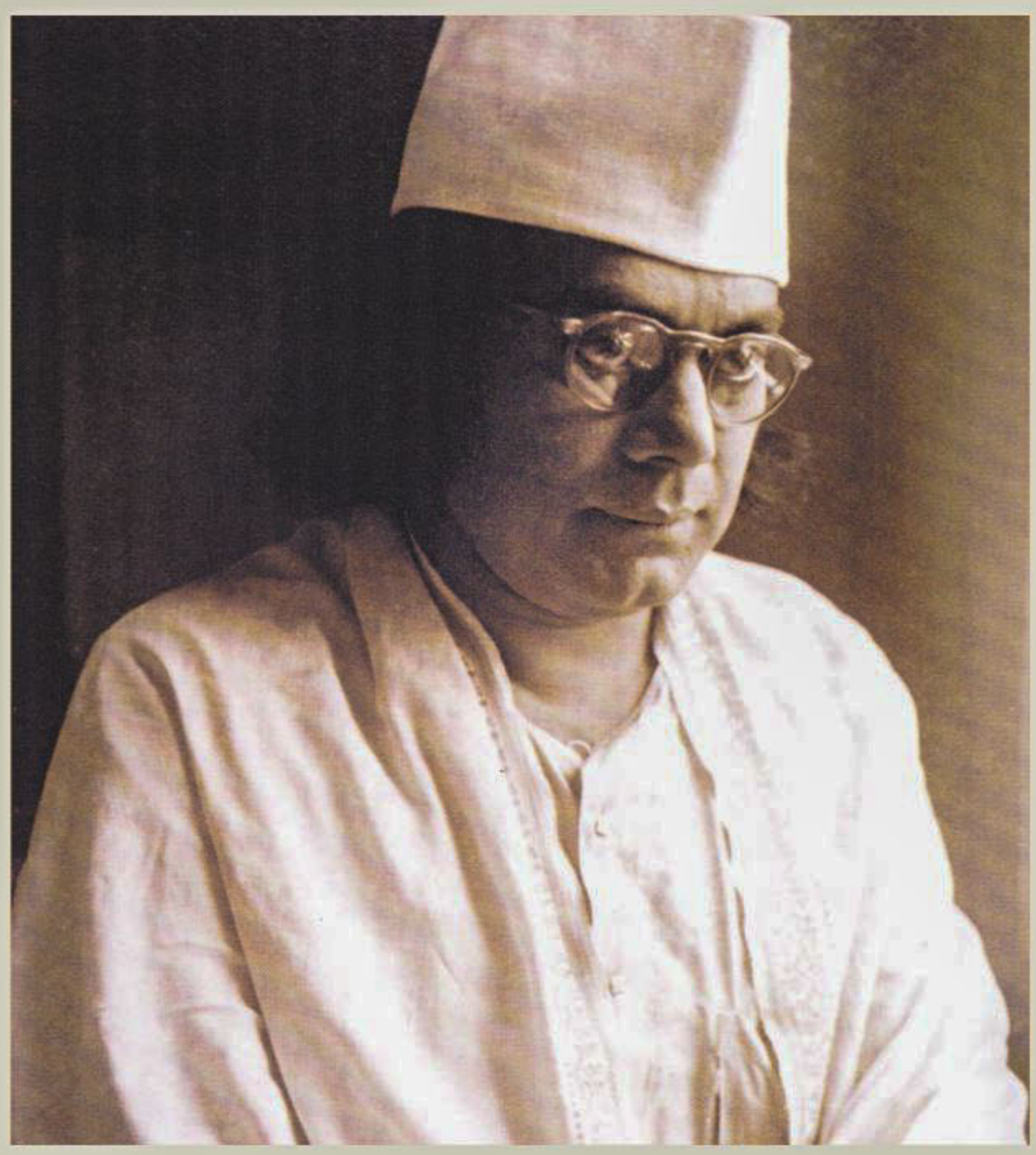


<p>WHAT'S ON</p>	<p>Star Melodies Marking Nazrul Birth Anniversary Organiser: The Daily Star Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall (Level-3), The Daily Star Centre Date: May 31; Time: 6:30pm</p> 	<p>Nazrul Mela Organisers: AB Bank & Channel I Venue: Channel I premises Date: May 25 Time: 4:30pm</p> 	<p>Nazrul Birth Anniversary Organiser: IGCC Artists: Khilkil Kazi & Salauddin Ahmed Venue: IGCC auditorium, Gulshan-1 Date: May 27, Time: 6:30pm</p> 	<p>Solo Ceramic Sculpture Exhibit Title: Moving Roots Artist: Ashim Halder Sagor Venue: Gallery Twenty One, Dhammondi Date: May 20-June 3; Time: 12-8pm</p> 	<p>Tagore Paintings Exhibition Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, Bangladesh National Museum Date: May 14-31; Time: 11am-5pm</p> 
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117th birth anniversary of our National Poet

CARRYING NAZRUL'S LEGACY FORWARD

IN CONVERSATION WITH ANINDITA KAZI



ZAHANGIR ALOM

Anindita Kazi is an elocutionist, singer, Nazrul researcher and the youngest member of the family of Kazi Nazrul Islam, the National Poet of Bangladesh. The Kolkata-based artiste is now in Dhaka ahead of the 117th birth anniversary of the Rebel Poet.

Organised by Indra Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Anindita performed in a programme titled "Aninditar Thakurdar Jhuli", featuring recitation, songs and talk on May 20 at the IGCC auditorium as tribute to her grandfather Kazi Nazrul Islam. In a conversation with The Daily Star, she shared her continued efforts to uphold the literary, cultural and humanistic legacy that Kazi Nazrul Islam created in his lifetime. Excerpts:

"I always focus on the story of Dukhu Mia's transforming as Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam when I talk about my grandfather. Many tried to label him as Hindu or Muslim in the past; but the society recognised and revered him as a true poet who uttered the loud and unique voice for the human beings. His poetry, songs and other literary creations are evocative of that. As a descendant of the poet, my responsibility is to uphold and diffuse the entire life philosophy of Kazi Nazrul Islam among the younger generations."

"Nazrul is the voice for the masses. He was ever-young and could inflame the positive and progressive thoughts among the young. From



his early childhood, the poet thought religion can never separate human beings from each others' affection and empathy. He struggled against all forms of bigotry, superstitions and for this he had to go through various tests of time and life."

"The forgotten and the marginalised have been precisely depicted in the literature of Kazi Nazrul Islam. The poet always believed that the

contributions of the labourers, porters and farmers are immense in the making of civilisation. The death of his son Bulbul, the sickness of his wife Pramila, the sublime poverty and never-ending life struggle haunted him all the time. He had to borrow money in exchange of his songs, poems and stories, yet the poet, with his immense creative power, patience, perseverance and artistic detachment, created a vast volume of literary masterpieces that speak of love and rebellion, mother nature and human beings, freedom and emancipation and more."

"The liberal aspect of Kazi Nazrul Islam is unparalleled. Very few poets established the status of human beings, irrespective of religion, gender, caste and creed so high that Nazrul did. We are grateful to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who entitled my grandfather as the National Poet of Bangladesh. The poet peacefully lived his last years in Bangladesh. I am also grateful to Bangladesh's Premier Sheikh Hasina for her commitment to uphold the conscience and philosophy of Kazi Nazrul Islam, which is relevant till date."

Anindita Kazi is the daughter of guitarist Aniruddha Kazi. She got a first class in music from Allahabad University. She was formerly President of Tara TV, one of the most popular Bengali TV channels of India. Anindita is also a reputed Nazrul Sangeet artiste and elocutionist and has given many performances in TV channels and stages in India, Bangladesh and many other countries of the world.

The Prowess of Nazrul's Poetry

In conversation with Soumitra Shekhar



FAHMIM FERDOUS

Dr. Soumitra Shekhar, professor of Bangla at Dhaka University, is a close observer of Bangla literature, and a literary analyst and critic as well. The author of "Nazrul Kobita'r Path-Bhed O Onnanyo Proshongo" recently spoke to The Daily Star, about what makes Kazi Nazrul Islam's poetry stand out. Excerpts:

"When Nazrul began writing, Rabindranath Tagore was reigning in the Bangla poetry scene - in the sense that many had followed his writing style to become poets. From the outset, Nazrul wanted to step out of Tagore. Even before he published 'Agniveena', he had poems like 'Bidrohi', 'Muharram' published in magazines like Muslim Bharat. He arrived in the literary scene to create a poetry style of his own, distinctively different from that of Tagore. And for the next 10 years, he vociferously wrote poetry, before he concentrated in writing songs."

"The first thing that strikes us about Nazrul's poetry is that he spoke of breaking the shackles of the Colonial Rule in his poetry. That kind of sentiment was seen more commonly in politicians, and not in poets. From within the British Raj, Nazrul published 'Dhumketu', and said it wants complete freedom of India. And in his poems, he spoke about it repeatedly -- sometimes directly and sometimes indirectly."

"But it was not just rebellion that we find in his poems. We find romance in his poems; we find love for humanity, and a sense of deep sensitivity and emotions. So Nazrul is a poet of love as well. He has also expressed these emotions expertly in his songs. His book 'Doloncha(n)pa' was a tribute of his love to his wife Ashalata Sengupta, who he lovingly called Duli. In his iconic creation 'Bidrohi', the phrase 'Momo Ek Hatey Ba(n)ka Basher Bashori, Ar Hatey Rono-Turjo' epitomises Nazrul as a poet, who mingled love and rebellion."

"Nazrul's poetry impacted the anti-British political leaders more than the general literary audience: there wouldn't be a meeting or rally by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose where his songs and poems would not be performed; Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das did the same. The most prominent anti-establishment political figures were the first to have been drawn to Nazrul."

"A number of Nazrul's contemporary poets were impacted by Nazrul's poetry. Even if they did not follow Nazrul's political ideals, their style of expression resonated with poets like Mangalacharan Chattopadhyay, Subhas Mukhopadhyay, and Sukanta Bhattacharya. Verses like 'Bidroho Aj Bidroho Charidike, Ami Jai Tar'i Din-Ponjika Likhe' ('Onubhobon' by Sukanta) resonate with Nazrul's form of expression. And even poets of later generations -- during the Liberation War and the anti-dictatorship movement, wrote poems that belong to the Nazrul genre of poems. 'Ekhon Joubon Jar, Juddhe Jabar Tar Shreshtho Somoy' ('Nishiddho Sompadokiyo' by Helal Hafiz), are somehow or the other the impact of Nazrul. It was he who combined youth, love and rebellion and brought them straight to the streets, and poets of generations after generations have drawn inspiration from it."

Nazrul Memorial Centres could be cultural hubs

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Two picturesque "Nazrul Smriti Kendra" (memorial centres), established at Kazir Shimla and Namapara of Daritampur in Trishal in memory of Nazrul, could well be beautiful cultural hubs. However both have been neglected.

According to insiders, visitors are reluctant to revisit the centres as no new Nazrul memorabilia has been added since their establishment in 2003. The memorabilia at the centres include rare gramophones and records released by His Masters Voice, hand written manuscripts of the poet in Bengali, English, Hindi and Urdu, some photographs of the poet and his family members and a couch.

The memorial centres are also afflicted by a shortage of staff.

The libraries at the centres have not been expanded with books by Nazrul and other writers. Three daily newspapers including two at Namapara centres reveal the poor condition of the library, said Kazi Sumaiya Zaman, a



Nazrul Memorial Centre in a derelict condition. PHOTO: STAR

ninth grade student of Kazir Shimla. The number of visitors has increased in recent days but we cannot keep them engaged with such few publications at the centers, said Md Rusel Hossain, librarian at Kazir Shimla centre.

"If the concerned authorities took right steps, the centres could be a hub for cultural activities and Nazrul artistes," said Arindam Bhattachayya, principal of Shatrio Sangeet Kala Kendra in Mymensingh.

"As Mymensingh has upgraded as a


division, the importance of the centres has increased and they can be developed as a cultural hub for Mymensingh region, a region enriched with folk and traditional culture for centuries," said the classical maestro.

An official of Nazrul Institute in Dhaka on condition of anonymity said that due to financial constraints the authorities are unable to upgrade the centres.

There is much Nazrul memorabilia housed at National Museum and the centres could be enriched through coordination between Nazrul Institute and National Museum authorities, the official informed.

Both the centers could also be ideal institutions for learning classical music and Nazrul Sangeet, said the official. Meanwhile, a year-long training course on "Nazrul's Shuddha Sur and Bani" (authentic tune and lyrics) by Nazrul Institute began at Namapara center three months ago and around 50 students have enlisted so far, said Akhtaruzzaman Mondol of Namapara centre.

A round up of programmes

 <p>Subir Nandi</p>	 <p>Bappa Mazumder</p>	 <p>Kona</p>	 <p>Konal</p>	 <p>Khairul Anam Shakil</p>
<p>Priyanka Gope Guests at the Channel I programme.</p>				

NAZRUL ON TV

A CORRESPONDENT

Marking the 117th birth anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, satellite televisions will air special celebration programmes. Here are highlights of what's in store for viewers:

Bhalobasho More Gaan on Desh TV
Desh TV will air a special live musical programme "Bhalobasho More Gaan" tonight at 9:45pm. Noted Nazrul artistes Khairul Anam Shakil and Priyanka Gope feature in the programme, hosted by Tania Hossain.

Gahi Shamyar Gaan on Channel I
Channel I will air discussion and performances, "Gahi Shamyar Gaan", hosted by Masuda Anam Kalpona, today at 12:05 pm. Produced by Punam Priyam, the show's guests are eminent Nazrul exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick, elocutionist Shimul Mustapha and singer Farzana Sifat Shopna.

"Shedin Chhilo Ki Godhuli Logon" on Banglavisent
Popular singer Subir Nandi will perform Nazrul Sangeet in "Shedin Chhilo Ki Godhuli Logon" to be aired on Banglavisent this evening at 6pm.

"Amare Debo Na Bhulite" on Ekushey TV
ETV will air a musical programme on the National Poet. Hosted by Bappa Mazumder, the show "Amare Debo Na Bhulite" will feature music performances by popular singers Kona, Konal and Bappa Mazumder. The show goes on air tonight at 10pm.

"Noyone Noyon Rakhi" on SATV
SATV will air a celebration programme, hosted by Hasan Abidur Reza Jewel and Naznin Hasan Chumki. The event airs live this evening at 7:30pm. Eminent singers Shaheen Samad, Subir Nandi, Fatema Tuz Zohra and Dr. Nashid Kamal will perform songs while elocutionists Shimul Mustapha, Sharmin Lucky, Rokeya Prachi and Arman Parvez Murad will give recitations.