

WHAT'S ON

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: "Art Against Terrorism - BRAVE HEART"
 Venue: Gallery Cosmos, H-115, Lane-6, New DOHS, Mohakhali
 Date: August 19-31
 Time: 12am-8pm

Nazrul Death Anniversary & Award
 Organiser: Nazrul Institute
 Venue: Bangladesh National Museum (Main Auditorium)
 Date: August 27; Time: 4pm

Photography Exhibition
 Title: Faces. Places. Stories
 Artist: Ata Mohammad Adnan
 Venue: EMK Center, Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 13-31
 Time: 9:30am-8pm

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Artist: Proshanto Karmakar
 Venue: Bay's Gallery, Radius Centre, 57, Gulshan-1
 Date: Jul 30-Aug 30
 Time: 12am-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: "Shilper Aloye Bangabandhu"
 Venue: Gallery 3, National Art Gallery Plaza, BSA
 Date: August 1-31
 Time: 11am-8pm

Theatre
 Plays: "Phirey Dekha" & "Pichhu Daak"
 Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: August 26; Time: 7pm

40TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATIONAL POET

Safeguarding Nazrul Sangeet from distortion

In conversation with Professor Rafiqul Islam

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Kazi Nazrul Islam's poetry is steeped in the triumph of humanity, while his music soothes the senses with its embrace of eternal love. Eminent Nazrul exponent, researcher and chairman of the Nazrul Institute Trustee Board, Professor Emeritus Rafiqul Islam, talks about Nazrul Sangeet and the timely initiatives of Nazrul Institute to aptly document the musical legacy of our National Poet. Excerpts:

"Nazrul had innate poetic abilities. We would like to convey the message of humanity and dignity that Nazrul reverberated in his poetry to the world. We find the relevance of Nazrul's poetry in the present world brimming with violence, fundamentalism and bigotry."

"Bangla Academy has published Nazrul Rachonabali while Nazrul Institute has brought out Nazrul's literary creation separately. We have emphasised the preservation of Nazrul's songs with precise melody. For that, we have suggested singers to follow the original gramophone records. Marking the 40th death anniversary of our National Poet, we are launching a compilation of CD containing 500 original gramophone records. We hope to release another 500 original songs by December this year. Our plan is to complete at least



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

1500 songs in CDs prior to the next birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam."

"I firmly believe once we complete the task, the confusion and distortion of melody in Nazrul Sangeet will be eliminated. This is our prime concern. We are going to publish tomorrow (August 27) a compilation of 500 songs in a noise free CD under the title "Nazrul Sangeet: Adi Sur". The featured singers are those who first recorded the songs maintaining original tunes of Nazrul Sangeet."

"The songs will be treated as the basics of Nazrul Sangeet. Based on the original tunes, we have also

selected another hundred songs that have been recorded by the artistes of our time. Our purpose is to safeguard Nazrul Sangeet from getting distorted. Much distortion and misrepresentation of Nazrul Sangeet has so far happened over the years. Our struggle is to bring back the magnanimity, lost pride and the musical legacy of Kazi Nazrul Islam."

"The singers are free to sing; but you have to maintain the original tunes. Though the rendition style changes with the passage of time, one can arrange music incorporating modern instruments; but one must record and sing following the original tunes."

Holding Nazrul's legacy high

Tete-a-tete with Khilkhil Kazi

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Khilkhil Kazi, the granddaughter of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, is a noted singer and organiser. In a conversation with The Daily Star recently, the artiste talked about various issues on Kazi Nazrul Islam and put forward several suggestions to preserve the rich legacy of the Rebel Poet. Excerpts:

"We have to know and practice the literary and musical creations of our National Poet and conduct proper research on the lifelong struggle of Kazi Nazrul Islam so that the artistes and other people become inspired by the Poet's rich legacy. Mass media should publish and air programmes on Kazi Nazrul Islam all year round instead of only on his birth and death anniversary. The Poet's works must be translated in different languages to reach a wider



PHOTO: STAR

audience."

"Kazi Nazrul Islam is a protagonist in depicting humanity. He preaches unity in diversity. Who has written the vast volume of diverse songs? Who ushered in the trend of Bangla Ghazal? Is there any poet who composed Shyama Sangeet like he did? The poet's 40th death anniversary is tomorrow. We have been demanding since the birth centenary year (1999) that the government should declare the birthday of Kazi Nazrul Islam as a holiday so that we can celebrate the day rendering his songs, reciting his poems, staging his plays and dancing to his musical compositions. Nazrul Sangeet artistes and Nazrul researchers can be recognised on the day."

"Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has built many beautiful places including, Nazrul Tirtha, Nazrul Gallery and Nazrul Mancha as homage to Kazi Nazrul Islam. We, too, can build an international standard Nazrul Conference Hall, a Museum and an auditorium in the memory of our National Poet at the places of the poet's old and new homes. The museum will showcase the life, memorabilia, history and literary as well as musical creations of the Rebel Poet. A separate Nazrul University can be established where students will solely dedicate themselves to Nazrul practice and research. We also demand the placement of a mural of our National Poet at the entry of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka, and of his poems (in Bangla and English) in other important places across all divisional cities of Bangladesh."

"We would also like to see the life sketches/biography and works of the Rebel Poet in every level of National Curriculum. Nazrul is the poet of the masses. He properly portrayed the struggles of the commoners in his work. It is our prime responsibility to hold his legacy high both nationally and internationally."

NAZRUL INSTITUTE: CARRYING NATIONAL POET'S LEGACY FORWARD



Established in 1985, under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Nazrul Institute plays a pivotal role in protecting the literary legacy of the National Poet. The Institute boasts an auditorium, and a rich library as well as other resources including audio records, journals, books on Nazrul Sangeet Swaralipi, and other memorabilia. The organisation offers country-wide annual conventions, workshops, musical events, commemorating events marking the Poet's birth and death anniversaries, training Nazrul artistes, and accommodates research. Each year the Institute honours Nazrul Sangeet singer and researcher with the Nazrul Padak. The Institute is an authentic hub for singers practising Nazrul Sangeet and researchers to conduct life and works of Kazi Nazrul Islam.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"Tobuo Amare Debona Bhulite" on Channel i

A CORRESPONDENT

To mark the 40th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, Channel i will air a special tele-film "Tobuo Amare Debona Bhulite" today at 3:05pm.

Adapted from Nazrul's story, scripted by Gitali Hasan and directed by Satirth Rahman the tele-film will showcase actors Shahed Sharif Khan, Golam Farida Chhonda, Satirth Rahman and more.



GAHI SHAMMER GAAN on Boishakhi TV

A CORRESPONDENT

To pay homage to Kazi Nazrul Islam on his death anniversary, Boishakhi TV will air a special live musical show "Gahi Shammer Gaan", tonight at 11pm.

Hosted by Dr. Soumitra Shekhar, noted artistes-- Tanvir Alam Shawjeeb, Swaralipi and Mahidul Islam will present songs and recite poetry by the Nazrul. Produced by Asif Rahman and Alamgir Russel, the viewers can participate in the discussion via the telephone or text messages.