

WHAT'S ON

Duet Musical Concert
 Title: "Cello-Piano-Audio"
 Artists: Philip Hazra & Yulia Evdokimova
 Venue: Café la Veranda, AFD
 Date: May 26
 Time: 6pm

Group Art Exhibition
 Marking 13th Anniversary of Galleri Kaya
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
 Date: May 5-28
 Time: 11am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 The Empire of Dream
 Artist: Ripon Saha
 Venue: Kala Kendra, Mohammadpur
 Date: May 6-30
 Time: 5-8pm

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: Sense, Perception and Interpretation
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka
 Date: May 19-27
 Time: 3pm-9pm

Solo art Exhibition
 Golden Doors
 Artist: Prashanta Karmakar
 Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre
 Date: May 6-28
 Time: 9am-10pm

Film Screening & Cinema 5 Alap
 Organiser: MoviYana Film Society
 Venue: National Art Gallery Auditorium, BSA
 Date: May 26; Time: 3pm onwards

REMINISCING THE LEGACY OF NAZRUL

NAZIBA BASHER

Kazi Nazrul Islam's works have been known to explore themes such as love, freedom, and revolution. His greatest legacy is of opposing all kinds of bigotry, including religious and gender, and encompassing these strong feelings into his words and melodies. The Rebel Poet wrote short stories, novels, and essays but is best known for his poems and songs, in which he pioneered Bengali ghazal.

The Nazrul Institute plays a pivotal role in promoting the literary works of the poet, teaching Nazrul Sangeet with maintaining the proper melodies and *swaralipi*, and recognising excellence in literary research and conferring awards.

In a recent vibrant 'adda' with The Daily Star, Shahid Kabir Polash, a teacher at Nazrul Institute, and his students Zarif Ikram, Toma, Shubho Karmakar, Shara Bani, Tabassum Porna, Salma, Nowshin Kabir, Sadia Tabassum, Arham Sadaf and Ishrat Jahan Mim discussed the importance of promoting Nazrul Sangeet and how the current generation can continue to spread the National Poet's legacy.

"Young participants on reality shows, and musical shows tend to lean towards Nazrul Sangeet while performing. It goes to show how much his popularity still persists among the masses. Singing a Nazrul song will automatically prove your standard as a singer. I see this spark of passion towards the Poet's works in my students as well," says Polash.

Salma adds: "We consider ourselves lucky to be able to delve deeply into the works of Kazi Nazrul Islam. Our teachers at the institute are well-learned; they maintain the authenticity of Nazrul in their tutelage. And through such dedicated teachers, we can hope to carry the torch one day."

When it comes to authenticity, while there have been incidents of singing the wrong tunes, Nazrul enthusiasts across the country took it upon themselves to resolve the situa-



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

tion. "We at Nazrul Institute, including other institutions like Nazrul Academy, Chhayanaut and BAFA, try our best to practice the original *swaralipi* (notations) of the melodies. These institutions made it a point to find the authentic melodies and words and release these records to the public," says Polash.

In Bangladesh, Nazrul's popularity is unparalleled. But the importance of taking his works to a global stage still exists. Shubho says "Taking Nazrul to an international level is taking the country on an international arena. His literary works should be translated properly. His poems like 'Bidrohi' or 'Chol Chol' instil a fire within us. If translated, we could spread this love and passion across the globe." On that note, Polash adds, "The

media is doing good work in promoting Nazrul in this regard. During Nazrul Jayanti (birth anniversary), they play his tunes, his poetry and also television dramas based on his stories."

Lakho Konthey Bidrohi Kobita, held at Dhaka University's central playground was one of the most elaborate celebrations of Nazrul Jayanti so far, where many schools, colleges and universities also held simultaneous events. "Initiatives like this will inspire more of the youth and pique their interest in the wonders of Nazrul's work," says Shara Bani.

We can also see how in recent years more and more songs, some less-heard-of, are now being popularised by enthusiasts across the

country. According to Polash, "A decade back, it was only the popular songs that would be performed and practised over and over again. But in recent years, enthusiasts have taken it upon themselves to perform a more diverse variety of his songs. We make sure that if we perform, say, 10 songs, five of them will be the more popular ones, and the other five will be those that we will make popular. Almost 300-400 Nazrul songs are regularly played, practised and performed countrywide now."

But the problem of new artists and record labels is one that the youth has to face. "The CD market is dull now. There is no proper platform for the younger generation, and if we have to record, we have to do it with our own money. Many listeners have not moved on with technology to the internet, like YouTube. No one buys CDs anymore. How will producers work with us if they cannot sell their CDs?" questions Polash.

Another persisting problem, Shara Bani believes, is the lack of enthusiasm amongst audiences. "The kind of audience that can appreciate Nazrul is decreasing by the day. Fusion, pop and genres as such are more popular amongst the masses now. But classical and pure music is being lost, along with the audience to appreciate it."

On that note, his student, Zarif Ikram, says, "YouTube is now more popular. I think it is time for us younger Nazrul artists to see this as an opportunity. Performing, recording and uploading Nazrul Sangeet on YouTube will help spread our love for Nazrul far and wide."

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL POET

Chhayanaut holds Nazrul Utshab 1424

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Leading cultural organisation Chhayanaut arranged a two day (May 24-25) Nazrul Utshab 1424 at its main auditorium marking the 118th birth anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Nazrul aficionados enjoyed the opening day's (May 24) event that featured performance of solo and choral songs, dance, recitation and a speech by noted litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque. Renowned singer and Chhayanaut vice president Khairul Anam Shakil delivered welcome address.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed Hasan Azizul Haque's address. A humorous Haque mentioned, "I was born in the same place where Nazrul was born. So what? There grew many grasses as well at the place." He shared his memories of visiting the place after growing up. While evaluating Nazrul's literary creation, Haque emphasised on his musical creation. "Nazrul is one of the best poets of Bangla Literature. His creations are based on originality. Nazrul blossomed many flowers in a tree. The way he eulogised our prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM.) in his songs and poems, no poets did so in their creations," added Hasan Azizul Haque.

Young artistes of Chhayanaut set off the event rendering a choral patriotic song "O Bhai Khati Sonar Cheye Khati".

A number of artistes beautifully presented lively dances to the spirited songs "Aji Rokto Nishi Bhor-e" and



Sharmila Banerjee performs dance to a choral song.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

"Durgom Giri Kantar Moru". Chhayanaut Guru Sharmila Bandopadhyay performed solo dance with the live choral song "Srijono Chhondey Anonday" by the artistes.

Renowned Nazrul singer Dalia Nausheen performed a romantic Ghazal "Tomar Buker Phuldaney" while Susmita Debnath Suchi rendered a kirtan "Sakhi Sajaye Rakhlo Pushpa Bashor".

Eminent artiste Shaheen Samad offered an Islamic song "Shono Shono Ya Elahi"

while Khalid Hossain presented "Tomar Mon-e Phutbe Jobey". Talented singers Mohit Khan, Tanveer Ahmed and Shrabanti Dhar performed songs "Phuler Jolshaye Nirrob Keno Kobi", "Kedo Na Mago" and "Porodeshi Megh" respectively.

Several noted artistes including Sumon Chowdhury, Khairul Anam Shakil, Yasmin Mushtari, Salahuddin Ahmed, Bizon Chandra Mistry and Nasima Shaheen rendered solos at the event. Noted elocutionist Bhashwar Bandopadhyay recited at

the programme.

Chhayanaut artistes wrapped up the opening day's festival with a choral song "Tora Shob Joyoddhwani Kor".

Kazi Nazrul Islam enriched almost all genres of Bengali songs. His compositions are based on the solid foundation of Indian classical music. Nazrul developed 18 distinct ragas; composed *khyal*, *thumri* and *tappa*-styled Bangla songs; *kabyageeti*, *bhajan*, *kirtan*, *ghazal*, *shyama sangeet*, Islamic songs and more.

NEWS bytes



Grande postpones tour after Manchester attack

Ariana Grande has postponed her tour through June 5 following the terrorist attack on her concert in Manchester, England on Monday. Her label Republic Records, which is a subsidiary of the Universal Music Group, issued a brief statement to the press detailing the decision.

Grande was playing her sixth European date on her "Dangerous Woman" tour when a suicide bomber attacked concert-goers as they were leaving her concert at Manchester Arena, killing 22 individuals and injuring at least 59. The suspect, a 22-year-old British-born national of Libyan descent name Salman Abedi, lived less than four miles from the arena.

Canceled shows include two performances at the O2 Arena in London (May 25-26), a concert at the Sportspaleis in Belgium (May 28), two shows at Atlas Arena in Lodz, Poland (May 31-June 1), and concerts at Festhalle in Frankfurt, Germany (June 3) and Hallenstadion in Zurich, Switzerland (June 5).

If the singer resumes her tour after June 5, her next show would be June 7 at the AccorHotels Arena in Paris, followed by a concert at Halle Tony Garnier in Lyon, France on June 9.

Source: **Billboard**

BRAC University celebrates Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti

BRAC University (BRACU) organised the second musical programme of its "Bangla Gaaner Bhabna O Pothchola" series on May 24, according to a press release. The programme was held at the auditorium of BRACU's Mohakhali campus. The focus of the programme, titled "Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti", was to jointly celebrate the birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The programme began with the rendition of Nazrul songs by students, followed by Khilkhil Kazi reciting two poems written by Kazi Nazrul Islam, her grandfather. Later, students performed Tagore songs along with

renowned Tagore exponent Fahim Hossain Chowdhury. Guest artiste Dalia Nausheen mesmerised the audience with the semi-classical Nazrul song "Srijono Chhonde Anonde".

BRACU Vice Chancellor Professor Syed Saad Andaleeb was present, among others. The programme was also attended by a large number of students and faculty members of the university.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sharmin Neelotpol, assistant professor at BRACU's Department of Pharmacy, and supported by BRACU's Office of Co-curricular Activities and Simantic Creative Concern.

