

<p><b>WHAT'S ON</b></p> <p><b>Photography Exhibition</b> Concealed Artist: Habiba Nowrose Venue: Kala Kendra Date: August 10-31 Time: 5pm-8pm</p>	<p><b>Concert</b> Cello-Piano Audio 2 Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka Date: September 8 Time: 7pm</p>	<p><b>Duet Art Exhibition</b> Artists: Sayed Fida Hossain &amp; Sultan Ishtiaque Venue: La Galerie, AFD Date: August 18-30 Time: 3-9pm</p>	<p><b>Seminar</b> Career in Filmmaking Organiser: Cine Making Association Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association Date: August 30-31 Time: 10am onwards</p>	<p><b>Concert</b> Dhaka Rock Fest Headliner: Bumblefoot Organiser: The Rock Project Dhaka Venue: Russian Cultural Center Date: September 15; Time: 3pm</p>
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## DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF NAZRUL



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Daylong Nazrul tribute programmes on ntv

**A CORRESPONDENT**

Marking the death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, ntv will be airing an array of TV shows. The first of the programmes, "Ontore Tumi Achho Chirodin" will begin at 6:15am. The programme, produced by Humayun Farid and featuring religious songs of Nazrul, will see performances by Khairul Anam Shakil, Yakub Ali Khan, Leena Taposhi Khan, Yasmin Mushtari, Ferdous Ara and MA Mannan. A special TV play, "Shiulimala" based on a Kazi Nazrul Islam story, will air at 1:05pm. Ananta Heera has adapted the story and Shahiduzzaman Selim has directed it. "Shiulimala" stars Intekhab Dinar, Jaya Ahsan and Jamal Uddin Hossain.

A programme called "Nazrul'er Chitthi" will air at 6:45pm, where Aly Zaker, Al Mansur, Piyush Banopadhyay, Shimul Mustapha, Ahkamullah Mithu, Chitralekha Guha and Munira Yusuf Memi will read rare letters Nazrul wrote at various times to different people. Another TV play titled "Dhumketu" will be broadcast at 9:05pm. The play is inspired by Nazrul Sangeet "Amaye Nohe go, Bhalobasho Mo'r Gaan", adapted by Sarwar Reza Jimmy and directed by Tuhin Hossain. It casts Afran Nisho, Tanveen Sweetey, Nisha, Dilara Zaman and AK Azad Setu.

The day's special tribute programmes will come to an end with the 11:30 telecast of talk show "Ar Obhiman Janabo Na", where Sharmin Lucky, Nasim Ahmed, Mohammad Nurul Huda and Sujit Mustafa will speak. It is produced by Hasan Yusuf Khan.

## A ROUSING CALL TO ACTION

Gems of Nazrul release "Nobin Asha" on Nazrul death anniversary

**FAHMIM FERDOUS**

Gems of Nazrul, an initiative to portray National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's musical genius in new light and popularise his spirited songs, released a music video of "Nobin Asha Jaglo Je Re Aj" yesterday, marking the 41st death anniversary of Nazrul. This is the fifth production of Gems of Nazrul.

The song, a quintessential Nazrul anthem, speaks of the spirit of youth, and the hopes pinned on their leadership and energy. Sung in a chorus by a mix of eminent and upcoming singers, along with students of Nazrul Institute, Chhayanaut and Sunnydale School, this rendition wholeheartedly embodies that spirit. Veteran artistes like Fatema Tuz Zohra, Rebeka Sultana, Shelu Barua joined forces with their successors like Nasima Shaheen, Jannet e Ferdous, Rumis Ajnabi, Karim Hassan, Shahid Kabir Palash,

Waqel Ahad, Muhin, Nowreen, Ismat Ara Eva, led by Sadya Afreen Mallick, the noted Nazrul exponent who is the mastermind of the project.

Emon Shaha's musical arrangement brings grandeur to the sound, with the use of Indian classical elements like Veena and mridangam combined with Western elements like a strings section and Gregorian choir.

The music video, produced by Pinhole Films, also brings together visuals of activism, exuberance and celebratory spirit of the youth, gorgeous drone shots of Dhaka and time-lapses interjected with the performance of the artistes. The video of the performance was also shot at a very appropriate location - the Suhrawardy Udyan. The two monuments - the ever-flaming Shikha Chirantan (*The Eternal Flame*) and the Swadhinota Stombho (*Independence Monument*) glass tower

provide fitting backgrounds to the spirit of the song. Brief dance pieces by classical dancer Md. Shahadat Hossain Nipu and the students of Sunnydale also add a nice touch to the video.

The lyrics, like many of Nazrul's songs, are ever-relevant even in the vastly different societal context of three-quarters of a century later. The song is a call to action to the youth, and in a contemporary arrangement and trained, impassioned voices becomes a rousing anthem that could stir the heart of any attentive listener.

The song premiered on TV on Channel i in the first minutes of today (the 12th of the Bangla month of Bhadra, the death anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam), and will also be available on the YouTube channel of The Daily Star.



A still from "Dhumketu".

# NAZRUL

The unparalleled prodigy of music



**ZAHANGIR ALOM**

The story of the birth of Kazi Nazrul Islam is more astonishing and important than that of his death. Born in an impoverished family, he lost his father at the age of nine and struggled throughout his life, after which he emerged as a comet into the sky of Bangla Literature. It's a wonder of the world how he grew up to expand the horizon of the Bangla literature, incorporating an uncommon theme of identity of the common people, through the mass movement against all kinds of oppression in socio-political landscape. His creative life spanned over a period of a little over 22 years. After a sudden attack of paralysis on July 10, 1942, he became silent forever and spent a further spell of 34 years before his death on August 29, 1976, the 12th of the Bangla month of Bhadra (today).

He was a poet, short story writer, novelist, playwright, speaker, newspaper editor, a film actor and music director, a freedom fighter and a political activist. The single and most important aspect of his multifarious genius is that he was a brilliant lyricist and musician. Kazi Nazrul Islam enriched almost all the genres of Bangla songs. His compositions are based on the solid foundation of Indian classical music. In 1940 he had spoken on the radio about his feelings regarding that: "It is not possible for the modern tunes with their monotonous frivolousness to create the exquisite Rasa which may be created with the use of classical music and which may carry the people's minds to a world of an experience that is magnificent and superb".

From this thought, he transformed the stream of classical music into a dominant one in Bangla music. Some of his songs based on some well-known Hindustani bandish are replete with wonderful poetic beauty, being freed from insignificant wordings of the original songs. Nobody has successfully adapted such a large range of North Indian musical styles like

Dhrupad, Khayal, Tappa, Thumri, Dadra, Kajri, Chaiti, and Rasia.

During the last phase of his creative life, he retrieved many nearly-extinct ragas and wrote and composed songs based on them. He created 19 new ragas and wrote songs based on them. He also created 11 new taals. In Bangla music, no other musician has used so many ragas (about 200) as Nazrul has used.

A special category of songs on awakening, patriotism and struggle for freedom from oppression was introduced by Nazrul. His songs on communal harmony, socialistic idea and economic freedom are worth particular mention. His song "Durgama Giri Kantar Moru", written in 1926, still remains unparalleled in its lyric, tune, and aesthetic excellence among songs of this category written till date. Nazrul successfully introduced Bangla Ghazals which were readily accepted by music lovers. In this arena he has no successor so far.

In the category of devotional and religious songs, Nazrul has numerous compositions to his credit. The deeply emotional and charming melodies have made such songs the most adored ones by the Muslims and the Hindus alike. He is the pioneer of composing Hamd, Naat and Islamic songs. Despite being a Muslim by birth, he created a large number of Bhajans, Shyama Sangeets, Agamanis, Kirtans and songs on invocation to Shiva, Lakshmi and Saraswati and on the theme of the love between Radha and Krishna.

Nazrul was one of the frontrunners and the most important composers of Bangla Adhunik songs and Kavyageeti. He had also composed folk songs genres like baul, jhumur, Santali, snake charmers songs, bhatiali and bhawaia. The songs evoke refined lyrics with poetic beauty.

Today is the poet's 41st death anniversary. True, death has taken away his physical presence from us. But the legacy that Nazrul has left behind is immense. The poet will stay alive in the hearts of Bangalees forever.

**KJ**  
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