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Rabindra varsity demanded

SHELAI DAHA (Kushtia), May 11 (BSS) : A Rabindra university at Shelaiddaha to cultivate and uphold values, culture and thought propagated by the great poet, was demanded at the concluding day today of the three-day national celebrations marking the 129th Rabindra Jayanti.

The demand was voiced by General Secretary of Rabindra Academy of Kushtia when he was speaking in the discourses session this morning on "Rabindranath : nature and people of Bangladesh."

Presiding over the function elderly philosopher Dewan Muhammad Azraf summed up talks with special reference to the humanism of the poet transcending all barriers of caste, creed and religion.

Dr Enamul Huq, Additional Secretary of Cultural Affairs Ministry, referred to the controversy on Rabindranath and said: "controversy would revolve round the poet for many more years to come as is quite natural with the great personalities of the world."

Folklore scholar Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui dwelt on Tagore's keen interest in folk culture and his contribution to the revival, collection and preservation of folklore and folk art.

In the evening, octogenarian associate of the poet Shantidev Ghosh explained with songs the influence of mystic poet Lalou and Sufism on Tagore's works.

The programme had to be cut short as it started raining and the crowd ran for shelter.

However, the enthusiasts of the audience did not die down as they re-assembled and patiently waited in the dripping rain to enjoy the concluding programme of songs and dance recital by Bulbul Academy followed by the drama "Shati" by Khulna Natya Niketan.