

Treats from Land of the Rising Sun

Japan Festival begins

FAYZA HAQ

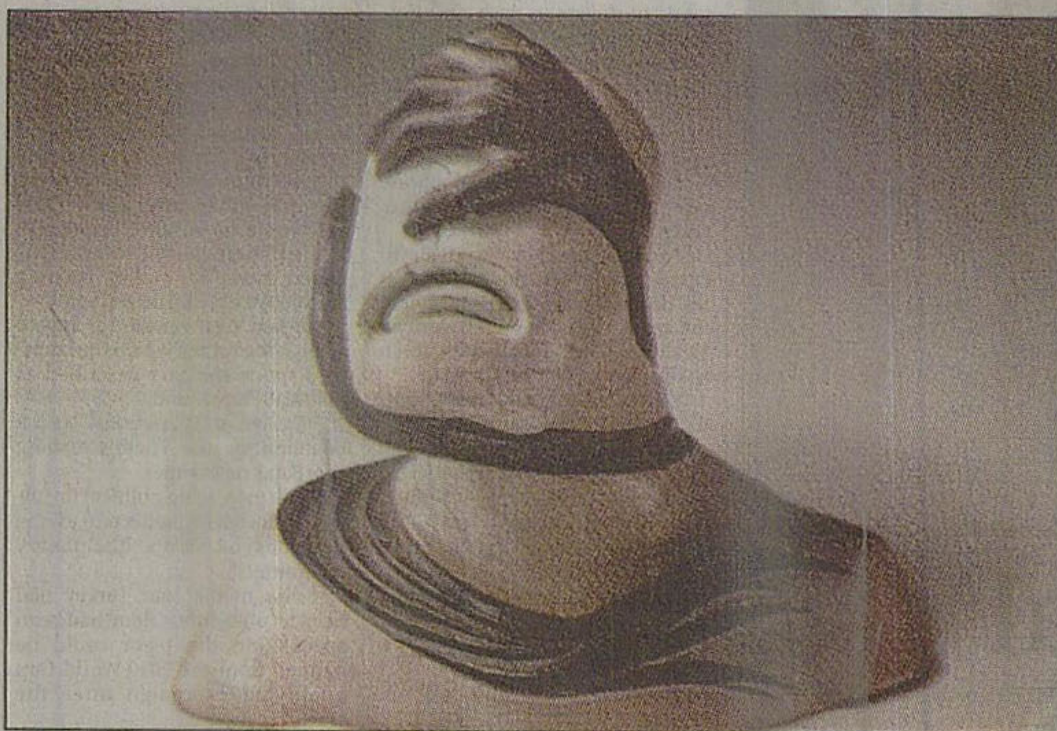
THE contemporary Japanese clay work exhibition at the National Museum, which opened on February 7, was remarkable for its fresh and pristine presentation. It included both abstract and figurative representational forms. The exhibition is part of the 12-day Japan Festival, which runs from February 7 to February 18 at the National Museum premises.

Matsuda worked on parts of human bodies which were like symbols and stood for contemporary society. Kumakura brought in jazz singing of the time of African-American liberation in America with the carved lip forms. These were again reflections of freedom. Nakamura depicts trees, branches, rocks and other conventional elements of Japanese beauty. Suzuki combined specific forms like horses, birds that he wrapped with

affection as he worked with his clay.

In Takako's *Degenerative Bible* we saw pages eaten up by worms and covered with dust. In bronze and black, the realism in it was indeed remarkable. His *Bible on the sand* was another piece in black and gold. The pages appeared torn and separated while the sand below had cracked badly. Yuriko's *Carry on, Carry on!* had twisted feet, an apple and a tray in vermilion and decorated with strands of chrysanthemums in gold. The tray included minute geometrical decorations in red and green. *Package* by Kimiyo was also startling for its modern presentation, in which scraps of newspaper stuffing and a large parcel in clay was the subject.

Kinpei's *Introduction to Japanese taste* brought in a combination of three images, one sitting atop the other. There was a black form at the base and on top juggled a spotted red piece. Against these was an



Solar Eclipse by Miwa Ryosaku

abstract form of an embracing lion. His other work was a jug with layers of lines in black, brown and gray going through the vessel. Kaneko Jun's work was a piece in gray and black. Jun's *Double plate* introduced a set of two large dishes, one sitting on another. The one on top being cut away, revealed a whole one at the bottom. Circles of blue, beige and black decorated the pieces.

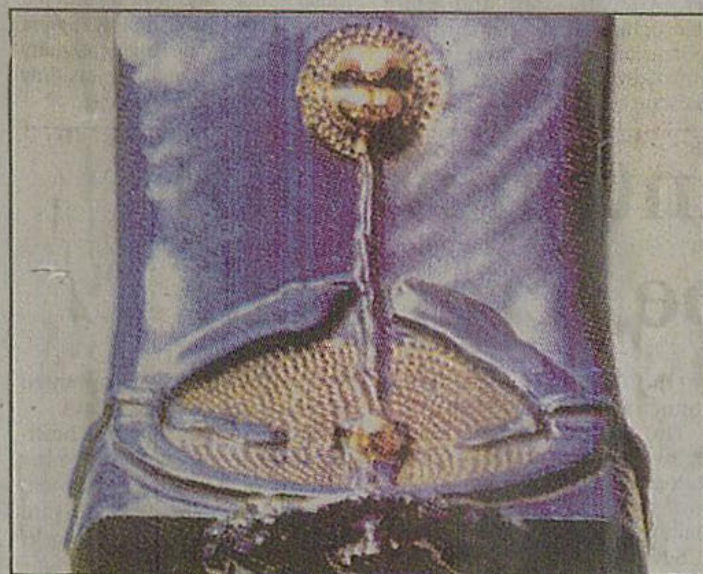
Mutsuo's *Inversion-2* was a massive urn, painted over with gold, silver, pink and white swirls. His *Crossing wind* had two rectangular blocks, one resting on another. Fleecy black and gray conventional shapes of clouds

decorated the forms. Junki Chi's entry was like an open box that had been decorated with gold spots, and larger forms of encircling and entwining shapes. Ryosaku's piece introduced two delicate feet of ladies decorated with flowers and leaves. In the same artist's *Solar eclipse* we came across a tormented man, overcome by the dramatic occurrence of nature. The mouth of the figure was open while a hand covered the eye. Usamo's *Child with a red face* and *Horse* were simplified, modern creations in cubes and semi-circles.

In many forms of clay we saw the powerful moulding of the artists' hands combined with their fancy-

free imagination.

Apart from the clay work display, the components of the Japan Festival are a photography exhibition, a Discover Japan exhibition and a Japanese film festival. The Discover Japan exhibition, organised in cooperation with Dhaka Japanese Language Institute Alumni Association and Bangladesh Japan Youth Friendship Association, will illustrate traditions and lifestyles of modern Japan through different kinds of items including videos, posters, toys, dolls, books, ikebana and bonsai. This display will be held at the National Museum from February 13 to February 14.



Melody by Kumakura Junkichi

Week-long street theatre festival ends

ERSHAD KAMOL

A week-long street theatre festival, titled *Jege Otho Manush Prohore Prohore Hatao Onthokar*, showcased 40 street plays from different corners of the country. The function ended on February 7 at Shaheed Minar Premises. Theatre troupes and members of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), participated in the festival arranged by BGTF in association with Bengal Foundation.

Leaders of BGTF such as Keramat Molla, Liaquat Ali Lucky, Saiful Islam Mahmud and Aktaruzzaman delivered speeches in the closing ceremony.

Speakers extolled the key role of street plays in national movements. Explaining the popularity of this explicit performing art form, the speakers said that street plays can easily convey important message to the masses. Theatre activists expressed the hope that this medium would help generate public awareness on social and political issues.

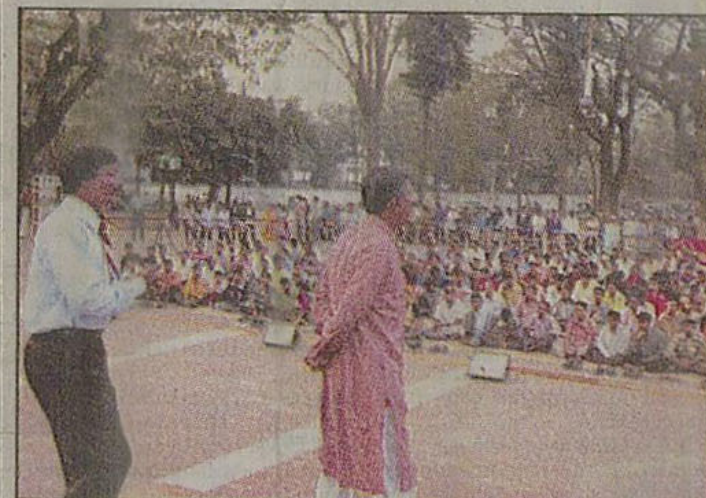


Actors of Sarothi Academy in scenes from *Velkibaji* (Top and Bottom)

Seven street plays were staged at the concluding day. Sarothi Acad-

emy, Rangpur, staged *Velkibaji* by Sirajul Islam Siraj. Directed by Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, the street play lampooned the current political turmoil in Bangladesh. Mymensingh Loko Krishti Sangstha staged NM Nurul Amin Akand's play *Deergha Raat Atopor*, directed by Babul Rehman. *Deergha Raat Atopor* delivered the message that unless the country is freed of corrupt leaders, it will face an uncertain future.

Other plays staged on the concluding day were *Shironamitchee* by Ankur Natya Academy (Jhinaldah), *Purbabhash* by Naborupe (Dinajpur), *Bornamalar Podaboli* by Nowapara Natyagosthithi (Jessore), *Noromedh* by Shubachan Natya Gosthithi and *Chor Choritra* by Bangla Natyam (from Narshingdi).



CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre Festival

Venue: National Theatre Stage, Shilpakala Academy
 Schedule:
 Play Troupe Date
 Circus Circus Prishyanta Feb 9
 Shyamaprem Pringona Mor Feb 10

Movie and TV play screening

Film Director Date
 Lal Shahu Tarvor Mokammel Feb 9
 Ishash Kourya Shanim Akhtar Feb 14
 Organiser: Dhoni Cholochitra LTD.
 Venue: Dhoni Cholochitra Auditorium, 4 Nawratna Colony, New Bally Road.
 Time: 6:30 pm

Photography Exhibition

Title: Salyajit Ray Script to Screen
 Organisers: National gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the High Commission of India in Bangladesh
 Date: February 8-14
 Venue: Bangal Shilpalaya
 Title: My World, My Future
 Organisers: British Council, Dhaka and Map Photo Agency
 Venue: British Council, Dhaka
 Date: February 2-28
 Time: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

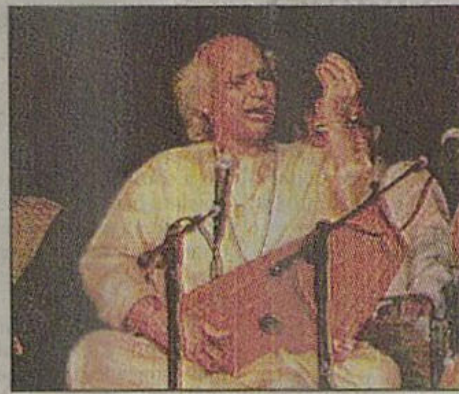
ALL TIME GREATS

Pandit Jasraj: In search of divine music

"If you hear in his voice, the whisper of the unknown...and if you experience in his singing the stillness of unheard song...you are filled with a sense of gratitude that he is here singing and you too are here listening...a witness to a very rich Indian musical tradition...so vibrantly alive, despite the trials of time and the inexplicable twists and turns of life."

Any one who has heard Pandit Jasraj is likely to come away spiritually uplifted by his rich, lyrical music. His forte is his perfect diction, clarity of sur and mastery over all aspects of *raga*. He lays emphasis on the choice of the composition and the words. According to the critics, his biggest gift to Indian music is his concept of a novel *jugalbandi* based on the ancient system of *moorchanas*, between men and women vocalists, each singing their respective scales and different ragas simultaneously. This style has won so much acclaim that music aficionados in Pune, India, have termed it *Jasrajji Jugalbandi*.

There is an interesting story behind Panditji's musical inclinations. Apparently, the great maestro, all of six years old, was so taken in by the soulful strains of a *ghazal* titled '*Deewana barana hai to diwana bana de.*' rendered by Akhtaribai Faizabadi (now well known as Begum Akhtar) that he set his heart on singing. The young boy spent



Pandit Jasraj

many hours listening to the gramophone in a small teashop near his school.

Coming from a family that has given the Indian music world four generations of remarkable musicians, Panditji, the proponent of the Mewati gharana had his initial grooming in music under his father, the late Pandit Moti Ramji. Next he went in for intensive training under his elder brother and guru, the late Pandit Mani Ramji. The sublime,

spiritually rich quality has been guided by his spiritual guru, late Maharana Shri Jaywant Singhji of Sanand, another prominent figure in the Mewati gharana.

Panditji has conducted research in Haveli Sangeet, under the tutelage of Baba Shyam Manohar Goswami Maharaj. Far from resting on his laurels, he has composed superb *bandishes* and popularised them. Today he has imparted music instruction to many disciples, in the true Indian *guru-shishya* tradition.

Panditji has received several titles and awards, among them the Padma Bhushan, Surer Guru, Sangeet Martand and Maharashtra Gaurav Puruskar. He has, in addition, been honoured by the Harvard University art museum in the US. Panditji also has a scholarship instituted by the University of Toronto in his name for upcoming Canadian students who wish to study Indian music.

Panditji today continues his arduous search for the divine, in music, in the outer world and within himself.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

World Heritage

Ancient drama outlives repressive era

It outlived the Spanish conquest and a crushing civil war and it survived decades of repression by the Guatemala government of the Maya heartland. Now the oldest drama in the Americas has been declared a global masterpiece.

The *Rabinal Achi* is performed annually at a January festival. Anthropologists say it has been staged since 1400 and tells the story of the clash of two Mayan kingdoms 500 years earlier.

The main character in the drama is a Quiche warrior who invades the neighboring kingdom of Rabinal. After a battle, he is captured and sentenced to death but before the execution he is granted several wishes including a visit to his homeland, giving his word he will return.

He does and is honorably killed by his captors. The whole two-hour drama is played out several times during the week-long festival in different sacred sites around Rabinal, the capital of the former kingdom and now a small country town some three hours from Guatemala City.

The play, now sponsored by the government, was almost extinguished by army massacres and



A dancer performs the *Rabinal Achi* dance

repression during Guatemala's 36-year civil war, when it was viewed as a possibly subversive focus of organising by the indigenous community.

"We were treated like witches," said the play's current director, 69-

year-old Jose Leon Coloch, who oversees everything from the colourful velvet costumes and masks to other details of the staging, a role passed from father to son.

Since the war ended in 1996, the drama has made a comeback, culminating in a successful, government-backed bid for its recognition by UNESCO.

The latest performance is the first since UNESCO named the play a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity at the end of 2005. The award carries no direct financial benefit, but the government and the play's custodians hope it will attract donors to fund performances overseas.

Guatemala's cash-strapped Ministry of Culture now subsidises the production with about 4,000 US dollars annually and pays Coloch a salary of about \$400 a month.

"We are doing what we can and we hope that other, international entities start to do the same," said Deputy Culture Minister Enrique Matheu.

Source: Reuters

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
 News (Bangla) at 6:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
 News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
 Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
 News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.
 Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
 News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
 News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
 Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
 News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
 News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
 Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
 Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
 Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
 Every hour on the hour

BTV
 09:25 Shashwato Jibon
 10:00 Satellite broadcast
 12:30 Shashtho Talhya
 01:00 Moneer Kotha
 02:15 Khetley Khetley Computer
 02:40 Selected Programme
 03:05 TV play
 04:00 Ropokthar Deshey
 04:30 Pratikri O Jibon
 05:05 Prolayshar Alo
 05:30 Pralochita
 06:35 Jiboner Alo
 07:30 Egiye Cholar Pohthy
 08:35 Protidin Bangladesh
 08:40 Weekly Drama: North
 04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
 10:25 Tekmil Thaka Tetuka
 10:30 Apnar Shastho

ATN BANGLA
 09:25 Drama Serial: Andharer Jatri
 10:30 Ornodosh
 11:05 ATN Taraka (Aching) 2nd round, Group D
 12:25 Iranian Feature Film, dubbed in Bangla: *Dut*
 03:45 ATN Rannaghar
 04:20 Shundor Jiboner Jonyo
 04:45 Isphani Pure Snax Quiz Time
 05:10 Purakritr Bangladesh Islami Sawwal O Jobab (Live)
 05:45 Prapok
 06:20 Drama Serial: Char Dayyeyr Chand
 08:30 Drama Serial: Ferrari Siron
 09:00 Drama Serial: Horioner Bibi
 09:30 Drama Serial: Britto
 10:35 Char Dayyeyr Kabyo

CHANNEL i
 09:30 Shongbadporey
 Bangladesh
 09:45 Public Reaction
 09:50 Trityamitra
 12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicall Tarokathon
 01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
 01:45 Public Reaction
 02:40 Medha Prokash
 03:05 Hridoye Mali O Manushar Daak
 04:05 Bashudhara Arader Gaan
 04:25 Boimela Protidin
 04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
 05:30 RC Tones and Tunes
 10:30 Music Plus
 06:00 Amar Chhobi
 07:50 Drama Serial: Albatross
 08:20 D Furti
 09:35 Drama Serial: Shampumo Rangin
 10:00 Drama Serial: Pothey Jetye Jetye

Rtv
 06:30 Dasher Gaan
 06:45 Rtv Aikye
 07:30 Hridoye Shur Ashy
 07:45 Shukhi Thinkun Deho Mon-e
 09:30 Juglabandi
 11:30 Grihasthali
 12:00 Drama Serial: Boni Prayer Shita Gaon
 01:00 Shurye Shurye Poth Cholo
 02:30 Sholo Proshno
 03:30 Akter Bangladesh
 04:00 Drama Serial: Bondhujug

PICK OF THE DAY

Britto
 On ATN Bangla at 09:30 pm
 Drama Serial
 Cast: Mamun-Ur-Rashid, Tarin, Nadia

First Blood
 On HBO at 9:30 pm
 Genre: Action/Adventure
 Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Richard Crenna

05:00 Human Nature	06:00 Amar Desh	06:30 Rtv Exclusive	06:35 Akr Obiti	06:00 Drama Serial: Byer Golpo	08:50 R Ranna	09:20 Drama Serial: Kala Kollar	10:50 Drama Serial: Bhoror Swapno
07:30 Moon	07:30 Secret Window	09:30 First Blood	11:30 American Pie: The Wedding	01:30 Tough Luck	09:55 Hollow Man	11:40 A Walk In The Clouds	01:25 The Next Karate Kid
03:00 Kesar	02:30 Saamrhi	03:00 Shagun	06:30 House Of Mouse	07:00 Hercules	07:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa	08:00 Akkad Bakkad Bambye Bo	08:30 Mum Tum Aur Hum
09:30 Milee	09:30 Kasadji Zindagi Kay	09:30 Milee	10:00 Kavyanjali	09:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki	11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi		
09:30 Bahu Thi	09:30 Kahin To Hoga						

STAR PLUS
 12:00 Maan
 02:00 Bhabhi
 02:30 Kesar
 03:00 Saamrhi
 03:00 Shagun
 06:30 House Of Mouse
 07:00 Hercules
 07:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa
 08:00 Akkad Bakkad Bambye Bo
 08:30 Mum Tum Aur Hum
 09:00 Kasadji Zindagi Kay
 09:30 Milee
 10:00 Kavyanjali
 09:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

STAR WORLD
 10:30 American Idol
 11:30 Medical Investigations
 12:30 Charmed
 01:30 The A Team
 02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
 03:30 Bold And Beautiful
 04:30 General Hospital
 05:30 Desperate Housewives
 06:30 The Simpsons
 07:00 King Of Queens
 07:30 Friends
 08:00 Seinfeld
 08:30 American Idol
 09:30 The 2006 48th Annual Grammy Awards

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 09:30 Cheating Death
 10:30 Interpol Investigates
 11:30 When Nature Strikes Back
 12:30 In The Shadows Of Vesuvius
 01:30 National Geographic Special
 02:30 Megacities
 03:30 Animal Nightmares
 04:00 On Assignment
 04:30 Backyard Science
 04:45 Doc Eureka
 05:00 Serious: Desert
 05:30 Planet Wild
 06:00 Crittercam-Wildtech
 06:30 Storm Stories
 07:30 National Geographic Special
 08:30 Megastructures
 10:30 Seconds From Disaster

DISCOVERY
 09:30 Impact: Stories of Survival
 11:30 Battlefield detectives
 12:30 Dead Tenants
 01:30 Wild Discovery
 02:30 Detective Stories
 03:30 Celebrity Doubles
 04:00 Zach's Ultimate Guide
 05:30 Life on the Edge
 06:30 Urban Explorers
 08:30 Raw Nature
 09:30 Past Is Wild, Future is Wild
 10:30 Extreme Evidence
 11:00 Massive Engines with Chris Barrie
 11:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive Special

STAR SPORTS
 10:00 Rugby 7's Irb Sevens Series 2005/06 George South Africa High-Lights (R)
 12:30 English Premier Football League 2005/06 London England Chelsea Vs Liverpool (T)
 02:30 Five / Six Nations Championships Royal Bank Of Scotland Six Nations 2005/06 Edinburgh Scotland Vs France Round 1 (R)
 05:30 Cricket Classics Caribbean Kings England Vs West Indies 06:30 Tna Xplosion (R)
 07:30 Cricket Classics Close Encounters
 08:30 Team India Programming India Glorious (R)
 10:02 Cricket Classics David: The Wall (R)
 11:32 Australian Open 2006 Sponsored By Kia Motors In Association With Garnier Women's S Final Match #2 (T)

ESPN
 08:00 Winter X Games Classix (R)
 10:00 Super Spells Super Spells With Wasm Akram (R)
 10:30 English Premier Football League 2005/06 London England West Ham United Vs Sunderland

TEN SPORTS
 09:00 European Tour Weekly
 09:30 Pakistan v India - 1st ODI H/Ls
 12:00 EPGA Johnnie Walker Classic Day 1
 04:00 Gillette World Sport
 04:30 Golf Highlights
 05:30 WWE: The Bottom Line
 06:30 Trans World Sports
 07:30 Portuguese League H/Ls
 06:00 Italian League Highlights
 09:00 Dubai Racing Preview Show
 10:00 Dubai Racing Carnival