

CULTURAL FEAST

Classical dance and music come together

ERSHAD KAMOL

EMINENT classical dancers Minu Haque, Shubhra Sengupta, Kochi Rahman, Tamanna Rahman, Belayet Hossain Khan, Mun Mun Ahmed along with their students staged different genres of classical dance on June 18.

The programme was a part of the annual activities of the Department of Production of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). A two-day classical dance and one-day instrumental music soiree was arranged at the National Theatre Stage of BSA.

The classical dance display began with the presentation of Odissi dance by the students of Minu Haque. Their first presentation was Gurubandana. Later, the troupe presented several fusion choreographies based on raga jayjayanti and a Tagore song.

Shubhra Sengupta and her students from Chittagong displayed compositions-- shabdham, tillana-- of Bharatnatyam. But, the choreographies lacked the ramdala, the basic stance of the



Performers present an array of dances at the function

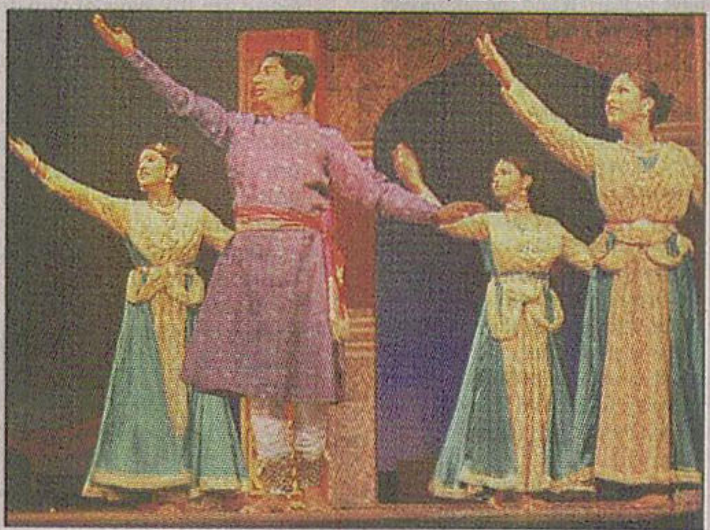
classical dance genre.

Later, Kochi Rahman and his

students presented three choreographies based on authentic Kathak-- barsamangal, nrityankur and thumri. Their display of classical dance was quite impressive.

Tamanna Rahman and her colourfully attired troupe staged four Manipuri dance compositions. The titles were basantaras, gother rakhai, instrument display and ras. Of these, gother rakhai was based on a Nazrul song. However, a few dance sequences were not well synchronised.

Belayet Hossain Khan and his students staged four compositions of Bharatnatyam genre-- bandana, saberi jotishram, naborasa and tillana. The group presentation of the authentic classical dance impressed the audience. Belayet performed a solo titled naborasa.



Classical Music and Dance Programme

Organiser: Production Department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 18-20

Fundraiser

Painting exhibition

Organiser: Gallery Chittrak and Try Foundation
Venue: Gallery Chittrak
House # 21, Road#4 Dhanmondi, RA Dhaka
Date: June 20-23
Time: 10am-8pm

Exhibition

Title: Tales of Pseudo Myth
Artist: Ronni Ahmmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: June 21-30
Time: 12am-8pm

Book Fair

Title: Barshar Bai Mela
Venue: Bashundhara City Shopping Mall
Date: June 15-30

Cinema

Organiser: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, Rd# 3, Dhanmondi
Film: Jeanne d'Arc
Date: June 23
Time: 10:30am and 6:00pm

Children Theatre

Festival '06

Organiser: People's Theatre Association
Venue: Central Konchikancha Auditorium
Date: June 20 from 4:30-8:30

Table with 2 columns: Troupes and Play. Lists various theatre groups and their plays.

Bengal Bikash contestants perform in Chittagong

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The talent hunt by Bengal Foundation, titled Bengal Bikash, has completed its pre-finals. A programme featuring 10 finalists from Chittagong division was held on June 17 at the Chittagong Theatre Institute. The artistes were Mona Lisa Barua, Farzana Akhtar, Sukanta Chakravarti, Fahmida

Rahman, Dilruba Maria, Purobi Barua, Reepa Dutta, Anamika De, Shila Das and Khaleda Yasmeen. The aspiring artistes rendered songs, varying from Tagore to Nazrul, Atulprasad, DL Rai and Rajanikanta. Veteran singers of the region expressed their contentment at the progress of the talent hunt in showcasing the upcoming talents.



Participants in the talent show

Exhibition

Of myths and fancies

FAYZA HAQ

Ronni Ahmmed, one of the leading surrealist painters in town, will have his solo exhibit at Bengal Gallery from June 21. He undoubtedly established himself after doing his 100 feet scroll on Noah's Ark which combined other elements from world literature such as Kafka's cockroach taken from his Metamorphosis, fairytales like Rapunzel and our local Thakurmar jhuli, Greek mythology, the Mahabharata, depiction of Hitler holding the book War and Peace, the culture of rickshaw painting. The entire piece was dominated by the Noah's Ark theme, the fact that we are facing a critical time, and that we need a saviour.

In Ronni's paintings we find absurdity and melancholia, woven into stories with significantly different characters. Ronni writes short stories and this affects his paintings. The personalities appear to be doing pointless things at times and this is to drive home the absurd elements in our society. The paintings also criticise different elements in our existence such as imbalance of wealth. Discrimination and social crimes are also included in the focus of the artist's canvas. In his creation is a parallel society which reflects our society with the norms of the artist's newly created world of creatures that appear like rats and potatoes at times. This new civilisation appears to be as if some people found a new existence in a far away island where



there are new scientific discoveries. On the canvas we see a society which is sometimes different and at times parallel to our society.

"There is no direct relationship with our real life but there definitely is a metaphysical co-relationship. Poetic elements are present. There is an inclusion of a new written script. The script is connected with the society that I paint," says Ronni. The writing appears like a combination of languages like Roman and Arabic. The present exhibition is called Tales of Pseudo Myth and the characters in the paintings are all mythical. In some of the paintings we get political criticism such as in Meeting of the multinationals and First supper in the garden of mushrooms.

rooms, Night before the next world war. The latter has a dinner party in which a monstrous cooked snake is served.

This exhibition has some installation items too which includes a boti (cutting instrument) which is shaped like a man. This is called Birds of paradise. There is also the Chariots of rickshaw pullers which questions the power structure of our society. This has three wheels and a strong spiral wire base on top of which is a figure of a man cut from steel. There are prints too like the one titled, You need a rope to hang a person, which is also meant to be a historical criticism. Ronni writes on art and literature, apart from painting and has a band of his own.



Art works by Ronni Ahmmed

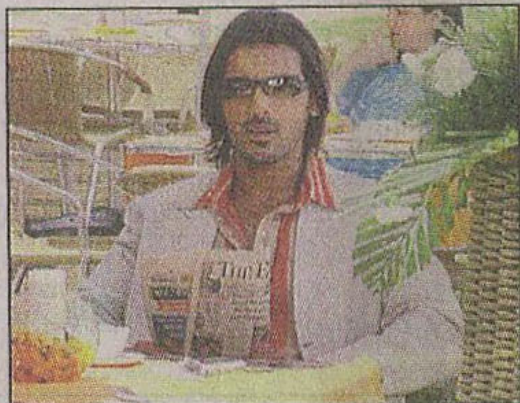
Fizzy drink imbroglio in India

One of Bollywood's upcoming actors, John Abraham has refused to kowtow to pressure from India's Health Minister Anbumani Ramadoss and quit promoting fizzy drinks.

Earlier this week, Ramadoss named prominent stars of Indian sport and the movie industry. He called on them to stop endorsing soft drinks because of concerns over childhood obesity and diabetes.

Some of the biggest names of the Indian screen-- Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Aishwarya Rai, Kareena Kapoor and Preity Zinta, among others-- have been used by soft drinks giants for major ad campaigns.

Abraham, a former model and star, promotes Diet Pepsi said "This is like asking the minister whether he would quit politics. I respect his concern if it is genuine but I feel there is no harm in drinking Diet Pepsi," he told reporters.



John Abraham

Source:AFP

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Jibon Charcha On Rtv at 8:50 pm Magazine programme Host: Afsana Mimi



The Bone Collector On HBO at 09:30 pm Genre: Suspense/Thriller Cast: Angelina Jolie, Denzel Washington

Table with 2 columns: Channel and Program. Lists various news and entertainment programs on different channels.

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