

CULTURAL FEAST

Bengal Foundation

A mélange of contemporary and traditional art

KAVITA CHARANJI

DROPPING by at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhanmondi any day, chances are that one will get to see delightful art exhibitions, enchanting music soires, workshops, seminars and discussions. The gallery, which began its voyage in April 2000 through a solo exhibition of Mohammad Kibria, is today an important stop over for culture enthusiasts. Today it has showcased the works of over 200 local and international artists.

Behind the success of the gallery is the Bengal Foundation (founded in 1990), which seeks to promote the arts and culture of Bangladesh. The focus is on music, visual arts and theatre. Explaining the Foundation's main objectives, Luva Nahid Choudhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, asserts, "We want to go beyond the stereotypes of Bangladesh as prone to floods, famine, poverty and illness. There may be shortfalls in funding or education but our aim is to showcase our excellent music and art so that the rest of the world recognises our hidden potential."

On the art front, the Foundation not only hosts exhibitions and discussions. It also organises art workshops and lateral exchange programmes with the purpose of giving an impetus to Bangladesh's art and creating a platform for better exposure of local artists and regional interaction. Among the milestones is the first overseas art workshop held last year in Italy with Bangladesh and Indian artists. Then the Foundation has launched around 30 video documentaries, which profile artists, significant



A display at the Bengal Gallery

events, exhibitions and cover musical performances.

Among the objectives in the musical arena are the launch of fine Bangla and classical music on CDs and cassettes, soires, lecture workshops and demonstrations. One of the Foundation's major projects is *Bengal Bikash* (the nationwide Bangla music talent search programme) which is to hit the final round this August. Apart from this, the Foundation offers scholarships in music for training under a guru in India, programmes for promoting Bangla music in the country and encouraging and motivating music learning centres across Bangladesh.

In the sphere of theatre, the Foundation seeks to create a platform for dedicated theatre activity, promote new playwrights, actors and directors, facilitate research and training in theatre, provide financial assistance to touring productions and assistance in stage construction, lighting and refurbishing theatres. To the credit of the Foundation, it is the single largest sustained sponsor of theatre.

The Foundation has also ventured into publishing. Among its publications are *Jamini*, a superbly designed arts quarterly, *Kali O Kalam*, a monthly Bengali literary journal and *ICE Today*. Though a bigger reach is aimed at, Luva

points out that *Jamini* has a niche market, while *Kali O Kalam*, has done well and is acclaimed in Bangladesh and West Bengal, she says.

The Foundation also holds the annual *Bengal Baishakh Utsav*, with stalls for games and handicrafts and a variety of cultural activities.

Looking ahead, Luva cherishes the dream of stepping out of the Dhaka-centric mode and making cultural inroads at the grassroots level. To some extent, this is already happening with *Bengal Bikash*, but there is greater room for the promotion of art and music, she believes.

Bela Shesher Galpo to be staged today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing theatre festival arranged by Nandimukh, to celebrate its 15th anniversary, the troupe will stage *Bela Shesher Galpo* at Shilpaka Academy Auditorium, Chittagong.

*Bela Shesher Galpo* is a political satire. Featuring the chronological political history of Bangladesh since 1947, Avijit Sengupta's play depicts the adverse effects of political turmoil.

*Bela Shesher Galpo* will be staged at 7 pm.



A scene from the play Bela Shesher Galpo

Mission: Impossible III hits town

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The highly anticipated action-thriller of 2006, *Mission: Impossible III* is running successfully in Dhaka, according to a press release.



The film is presented by Paramount Pictures and is a Tom Cruise and Paul Wagner production. The movie is directed by JJ Abrams and stars Cruise, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Ving Rhames and Michelle Monaghan, among others.

In *Mission: Impossible III*, Cruise returns to one of his challenging signature roles, secret agent Ethan Hunt. In this racy, hair raising action thriller, Hunt is pitted against the toughest villain he's ever faced -- Owen Davian (Hoffman), an ruthless international arms and information provider.

Explaining the raison d'etre behind the film, Abrams says, "From the beginning Tom and I talked about wanting to do a movie that had a surprisingly personal and intimate story. When you hear *Mission: Impossible III*, you know you are going to get extreme situations, great action and incredible stunts. The idea was to take that opportunity and combine it with an intimate story, a love story, and friendships that were real friendships with characters that you get to know and like."

Paramount has chosen DHL Worldwide Express as its official shipping and logistics partner for the action film. The latter is a leading express and logistics company and played a pivotal role behind the cameras.

DHL's agenda was to arrange a charter flight from Beijing to Los Angeles, to packing, crating and shipping technical equipment to numerous filming locations in Italy, US, China and Germany. The DHL team worked with Paramount to deliver movie sets and equipment around the world: camera gear, film material and numerous props were shipped by land, sea and air with the involvement of DHL organisational units.

Children's theatre festival in full swing

ERSHAD KAMOL

A children's theatre festival, arranged by People's Theatre Association, is on in full swing. The 17-day theatre gala at the Shishu Academy Auditorium has attracted a sizeable number of children-both performers and viewers.

Each day six theatre performances are staged and the festival has 80 children troupes as participants. When The Daily Star went to the venue on June 21, the Shishu Academy premises was buzzing with activity-children exchanging notes, discussing theatre performances and a few preparing themselves for the next show. Many of the children were from outside Dhaka.

The plays delivered hard-hitting social messages on gender and racial issues, among others.

Shibli Noman and Nazia Sharmin Linda, two child actors from Dinajpur, were among the major cast members of a play on racial issues. Shibli, a student of class 8, said, "I've been involved in theatre for the last six years. Since 2004 I have been working with a troupe, Amader



Enthusiastic children at the festival

Theatre, Dinajpur. In future, I want to be a prominent actor."

Like Shibli, Nazia Sharmin Linda had high hopes of being a renowned actor. A student of class nine, Linda said, "I've been in theatre for the last seven years. I am fortunate to get the

encouragement of my family to pursue theatre activities."

There were many others like Shibli and Linda. A few came to perform despite exam fever. Sonia Karim, a college student, said, "Even though the first year final is on, I am

here to perform with my troupe, Children Art Theatre, which I joined in Class 5." Her teammate Sheikh Mohammad Saikat added, "Ours is a 40-member team. And we have all come here to participate at the theatre festival."

There are many organisations working in the sphere of children's theatre. But, what's the scenario at the district level? Tareqzaman Tareq, the general secretary of Amader Theatre, Dinajpur, said, "We face infrastructural and financial constraints. Nevertheless, we continue with our mission to create future actors, especially women."

Liaquat Ali Lucky, general secretary of People's Theatre Association, said, "Our aim is to create a future generation of theatre activists. I've been working in this direction for the last 17 years."

"We sell tickets at the rate of Taka five for children and Taka 10 for adults. Swedish ITI, CIDA and a few other local organisations are extending support to us. In future we hope to arrange an international children's theatre festival."

Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Baisakhi Kachi Kanchar Mela in Tangail observed Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti, organising day-long programmes at Public Library Auditorium in the town recently.

The programmes included a painting competition for children, poetry reading, a competition on Tagore and Nazrul songs, a discussion meeting and cultural show.

With Meem Tabassum Elma, a young member of the Baisakhi Kachi-Kanchar Mela in the chair, the discussion was attended by prominent educationist and former director of the organisation Begum Rawshan Ara Islam as chief guest. Other key figures were politician Khandakar Nazim Uddin and poet Mahmud Kamal as special guests.

The chief guest distributed prizes among the winners of the competition in different categories. Later, the members of the organisation and local artistes presented a colourful cultural show at the same venue.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Bishwa Cup Special On Channel 1 at 06:40pm Special Programme Host: Oghor Mondol



FIFA World Cup 2006 On BTv at 08:50pm Germany Vs Sweden Live from: Munich

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 8:00 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-1

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

Teletext 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

Teletext of BTv News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:30 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

Teletext of BTv News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

Every hour on the hour

BTv

09:05 Open University

10:00 Satellite Broadcast

12:15 Shagbad Potrer Pata Thakey

12:30 Shawastho

01:00 Tattiya

01:30 Nebedon

02:15 Sisimpur

02:40 Bangla Feature Film

05:05 World Cup 2006

06:10 Wrestling

07:00 Shoto Fhool Futley

07:30 Selected Programme

08:30 Tektal Thakey Tetulia

08:50 FIFA World Cup 2006 (Germany Vs Sweden)

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Gramsephone Trityo

11:05 Gramsephone Na

11:30 Mukto Bazar

12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citycell

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Shagbadpotrey

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Shath Rang

03:20 Dhaka Guide

03:30 Programme on AIDS

04:05 Educational

04:25 Shottiyer Shonohane

06:00 Music Plus

ATN BANGLA

06:20 Drama Serial: Shethi Goenda

06:40 Bishwa Cup Special

07:50 Drama Serial: Bishuddho

08:20 Drama Serial: Ar Holo

09:35 Hridoya Moli O Manush

12:00 Gramsephone Akker

10:30 Onyodrishti

11:05 Drama Serial: Hortoner Bibi

11:35 Char Dealer Kabjoy

12:15 Bangla Feature Film

03:45 Shurer Madhuri

04:20 Children's Programme

04:45 Special Programme

05:10 Asoy Pasher Manush

05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab

06:20 Danish Bangla Namer

08:00 Drama Serial: Jol

08:30 Drama Serial: The

09:00 Drama Serial: Lal

09:30 Drama Serial: Ek

10:35 Citycell Shustho

08:35 Aker Shakal

10:05 Magic Magic O

Washington Barta

CHANNEL 1

10:30 Dhakar Cinema

01:05 Muktagan

02:35 Drama Serial: Kachhar Manush

03:15 Tomader Peko

03:50 Drama Serial: Kuthak

04:25 Horicks Genius

05:15 Din Darpan

05:20 Alokpat

06:20 Shubho Shonohane

06:50 Amra Ekon Unish Kuri

08:25 Drama Serial: Romizer Aame

09:10 Bhalo Basha Mor

Gaan

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobhat

09:30 Chokh Moley Dekhi

10:00 Taka Ana Pal

11:15 Tele Film: Opamota

01:30 Drama: Achol

03:00 Goalmele Germany

03:30 Drama: Ek Ticketey

04:30 Drama Serial: Dui

05:15 Shoptaho Sheshey

06:00 Saaj Bela

06:30 Top News

STAR MOVIES

09:40 Robocop 3

11:50 George Of The Jungle

01:45 Dino Croc

03:45 The Triangle

05:35 Manhattan

07:35 Last Shot, The

09:30 Amityville Horror

11:25 Thr13en Ghosts

01:00 Travel Asia

01:30 Gillette 2006 Fifa World Cup

02:00 Gillette 2006 Fifa World Cup

02:30 For Better Or Worse

03:30 The Simpsons

04:00 The Drew Carey Show

04:30 Smallville

05:30 Desperate

06:30 North Shore

07:30 Philly

08:30 Tna Xplosion

09:30 World's Most Amazing Videos

10:30 Little Britain

11:00 According To Bex

11:30 Cops

NATIONAL

GEOGRAPHIC

08:00 WWS

08:30 Explorations

09:00 Wild Orphans

09:30 Dogs With Jobs

10:00 Dogs With Jobs

10:30 Nat Geo Junior

12:30 Wildlife Diary

01:00 Wildlife Diary

01:30 Violent Earth

02:30 Human Edge

03:00 Human Edge

03:30 Megastructures

04:30 Megastructures

05:30 Secret Bible

06:30 Sunday Night Special

07:30 Rough Trades

08:30 Rough Trades

09:00 Hayden Turner's Wildlife

09:30 Game For It

10:30 Human Edge

11:00 Human Edge

11:30 A Different Ball Game

STAR SPORTS

09:00 Pride Fc Archives

10:00 Pride Fc Archives

11:00 Tna Impact

12:00 Ioc Cricket World

12:30 Moto Gp Highlights

01:30 Wimbledon Library

02:30 Sri Lanka Tour Of

03:43 Sri Lanka Tour Of

07:30 Cricket Classics

08:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of

ESPAN

09:00 News Special

09:10 Cricket Classics

10:00 Nba Action

10:30 FIFA World Cup

12:20 News Special

12:30 Malaysian Field Hockey

02:00 Cricket Classics

02:57 Fim World Motorcycle

07:00 FIFA World Cup

08:00 Germany 2006

08:50 FIFA World Cup

11:00 Germany 2006

11:30 Cricket Classics

08:30 WWE: Velocity

09:00 Rally World

11:00 West Indies v India: 3rd

Test Day 2 Highlights

11:30 Winning Post

12:30 NFL Cheerleaders

01:00 Countdown to Ryder Cup