# Visions yet to be realised

#### Remembering Begum Sufia Kamal and Jahanara Imam

KARIM WAHEED

NE was a noted poet, writer, organiser, feminist and activist; the other also a writer, educationist and political activist but widely remembered for her endeavour to bring war criminals of the Liberation War to trial. Both became beacons for Bengali women. But trying to categorise them according to their gender would be unfair and unwise. Generations of Bangladeshis with diverse convictions united under

their guidance. June 20 marked the 95th birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal and yesterday was Jahanara Imam's 12th death anniversary. A discussion was held at the Liberation War Museum in Shegunbagicha on June 25 where cultural personalities reminisced on the

contributions of the two icons.

Theatre personality and a member of the Museum's Trustee Board, Aly Zaker said, "I was fortunate enough to have been personally acquainted with both Sufia Kamal and Jahanara Imam. 'Sufia Khala', as we used to call her, with her feeble frame used to slowly get on the stage with the help of others at events. Yet she was a maternal figure to us all, with a vision of a nation, free of gender-discrimination as well as other social injustice.

"Jahanara Imam, enduring the agony of cancer, was the key figure in organising the Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Committee (a committee vowing to bring to justice individuals that committed murders and collaborated with the Pakistani army during the Liberation War). An interesting fact that many may

not be aware of is that when a bed-ridden Sufia Kamal was Thescriptwas edited by Sara Zaker. ridden Sufia Kamal was approached during the formation of the Ghatak-Daial Nirmul Committee, she suggested Imam. Who better to lead the committee than a mother who had lost her son (a Muktijoddha) to the war?"

Actor Subarna Mustafa then

read excerpts from works including

Anya Jibon and Ekatturer Dinguli

by Jahanara Imam. Through Subarna's emotive rendition, images emerged of Imam's childhood, family life, experiences during the war and dealing with a terminal illness. "Allah! Even the blazing pits of *Habiah* (hell) isn't enough for these 'vigilantes'" -goes a line referring to the war criminals from Ekatturer Dinguli, Imam's most notable publication of her journal written in 1971. A visibly moved Subarna seemed to

Veteran theatre activist Ferdausi Majumdar fondly remembered her encounter with Sufia Kamal at the 50th staging of Kokilara (Ferdausi's solo performance). Ferdausi then recited poetry from Shanjher Maya (Kamal's first book of poems). The presentation (edited by Mofidul Haque) also included letters and comments from noted personalities including Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain. Kamal's first book came out in 1938, bearing a foreword from Nazrul and attained acclaim from renowned critics, including Tagore. Shanjher Maya was translated in Russian in 1984. Begum Rokeya, who can be regarded the first feminist of Bengal,

had a lasting impression on Kamal. The poet actively took part in the Language Movement. In 1961, when the Pakistani government banned Tagore songs, she became involved in the movement among Bengalis that ensued. During the mass uprising in 1969, which demanded the resignation of General Ayub Khan, she promoted the cause by forming Mahila Sangram Parisad (a women's organisation) and she was deeply involved in the Liberation War. Kamal was also instrumental in getting the first women's dormitory of Dhaka University to be named Rokeya Hall, after Begum Rokeya.

These pioneering women are not among us any more. However, their visions, yet to be realised unreservedly, should inspire all to continue the struggle on which they had embarked, felt many among the





Ferdausi Majumdar (L) and Subarna Mustafa (R) recite excerpts from works by Sufia Kamal and Jahanara Imam, Aly Zaker speaks at the event

## Theatre Festival, Chittagong

# Today's play Duur Rajonir Swapno



A scene from the play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing theatre festival arranged by Nandimukh to mark the 15th anniversary of the troupe, Nandimukh will stage Duur Rajonir Swapno. Portraying the struggle of a middle-class man

Palace gallery in Vienna. named Nahid, Debashish Roy's

Sengupta directs the play. Duur Rajonir Swapno will be staged today at 7 pm at the Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong.

play features the virtue of honesty

as well as the need to remain hon-

est in a corrupt society. Avijit

### The most expensive painting in the world

A stunning gold encrusted portrait known as the "Mona Lisa of Austria" that was looted by the Nazis and returned to its rightful owner

only this year has been sold for a reported US\$135 million.

Gustav Klimt's iconic portrait of his muse and alleged lover, Adele Bloch-Bauer, was bought by the billionaire cosmetics magnate Ronald Lauder, for what is believed to be the highest price paid for a painting, eclipsing the \$104 million for Picasso's *Boy with a Pipe* in

Bloch-Bauer died in 1925 of meningitis and in her will requested that the painting be left to Austria afterher husband's death.

But in 1938 Nazis seized the

painting, and placed it with three other 'Klimts' in the Belvedere

At the end of the war, Adele's heirs began their battle to regain their possessions.

Some of the lost items were recovered but Austrian authorities ruled that the 'Klimts' should remain in Austria, citing Adele's will. The family's case stalled until 1998, when a journalist tracked down her original will, which expressed a wish, not a requirement, that the 'Klimts' be given to Austria.

only surviving heir. She sued the Austrian Government for the return of the paintings in 2000, taking the case to the US Supreme Court. In January this year, an Austrian court ruled in favour of the family.

No sooner were the paintings back, than museums and collec-tors lined up to bid for them. Mrs

Altmann, now 90, sold them because she could not afford the

The painting, which took Klimt four years to complete, evokes the Adele that her niece remembers well. "I never saw her smile," Mrs Altmann told the New York Times.



By then, Maria Altmann was the The portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer by Klimt

#### Event

#### Thai cultural bonanza in town



Thai performers decked in traditional costumes at the programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A high point in the city's cultural scenario was a Thai performance on June 25, at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The event marked the 60th anniversary of the Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne. A charity performance followed where the donations went to the cause of the Bangladeshi homeless.

The function was organised by the Royal Thai Embassy in collaboration with Thai Airways International Public Company Ltd and Bangladesh-Thai Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Chief guest for the occasion was Begum Selima Rahman, State Minister, Ministry of Cultural Affairs who was received by Suphat Chitranukroh, Ambassador of Thailand to

The Sbun-Nga group from Chiang Mai, Thailand offered the invitees a tasteful and energetic performance with their vast array of vibrant colours and graceful steps. A large screen projector at the background kept the viewers informed about the significance of each dance, explaining its origin and meaning. Sbun-Nga dance troupe is one of the pioneer dance troupes in Thailand having performed in over 50 countries over the past 20 years. "We focus on spreading the message of friendship among nations,' asserted Akadet Nakkabunlung, dance instructor of the troupe.

The performance was divided into four broad categories based on the four different regions in Thailand. The first part of the dance illustrated the hilly areas of north Thailand where people are mild tempered and slow, and hence the dance took a softer approach. The victory drum dance, Finger nail dance, and Peacock dance completed the dance episode, whereas a fusion fashion show titled From the hands of the hill and a song composed by the King, HM Blue took the enthralled audience of the state o ence by surprise at the rich culture of this Asian nation.

The second part was based on the culture of southern Thailand showcasing the vast blue ocean. Their customs are mixed with the Malays and hence a fashion show depicting the *Colour of Asia* was followed by *The Coco*nut shell dance, Manora dance, Batik dance and a Thai

Bangkok--the literal meaning being 'the city of

angels' was the predominant theme of the third part and depicted the glory of central Thailand. Siam drum dance, Harvest dance, Angel dance and a Kingcomposed song: Love at sun down was included in this

North-eastern Thailand--a mélange of Laos and Cambodian traditions, the people are happy go lucky people and hence the performances were fast paced. Happy



dance and the Whisky pot dance ended this section. Last but not the least was the Good relationship dance. All the members of the troupe came together in a whirlwind of whites, silvers and diamonds signifying the bond between Thailand and Bangladesh. The colour combination represented peace, whereas the diamonds showed the value the Thais put on this very special relationship between the two countries. Miss Thailand Universe and Miss Thailand World were among the

## Deepa Mehta's Heaven On Earth

Before she starts with her big venture titled Exclusion which will star Amitabh Bachchan, John Abraham and Terence Stamp, Deepa Mehta has decided to make a a modest budget that revolves around the life of a Punjabi bride living in

The film titled Heaven On Earth follows the story of a Punjabi woman, that takes surprising twists in the course of just seven days. The film is going to be dark like her last film Water. Mehta says that she will shoot the film in seven weeks starting from July 1. The film will be mainly in Punjabi with a bit of

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NATIONAL

GEOGRAPHIC

Knight Rider

Sports Update

Beautiful

Oprah Winfrey Show

The Bold And The

General Hospital

Sports Update

The Simpsons

King Of Queens

The Price Of Frame

Nat Geo Junior

Croc Chronicles

The Dark Side of

Be The Creature

Nat Geo Junior

Croc Chronicles

Storm Stones

Ultimate Adventure

Nat Geo Investigates

Naked Science

Germany - High-

Hippos

Friends

Seinfeld

The O.C.

Source: Internet



#### TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

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

#### News Bulletin

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

News (English) at 3:00 pm. 10:00 pm. Late Night News (Bangla and English)

CHANNEL-I

ATN BANGLA

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

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. Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m,10:00 am, 11:00 am.1:00pm.3:00 pm. 4:00pm.6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 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 Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and

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

BBC WORLD Every hour on the hour

English) at 11:30 pm.

BTV 09:05 Open University Songbad Potrer Pata 12:15 12:30 Sastho Tatto 01:00 Cartoon

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Shondha Maloti Quiz Quiz Gaan Shudhu Gaan Teknaf Theke Tetulia FIFA World Cup-2006(Brazil Vs

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Banaladesh **Public Reaction** 09:50 Tritiyomatra 11:05 Cricket Online 11:30 Amar Chhobi Tarokakothon Ebong Cinemar Gaan Public Reaction

12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citycell 01:45 Selected Drama Bosundhora Amde Sa Ra Ga Ma 05:30 Sports 05:00 Speed

06:25 Miror Bishwa Cup Special 05:40 Shera Radhuni 1412 07:50 08:20 Chalti Haowa Drama Serial: Jhora Drama Serial: Jononi ntv 08:35 Aajker Shokal Drama Serial-Labonno 09:05 Probha 09:30 Crime Watch Music Express 11:00 Cine Gaan Gambhira 12:02 Single Episode Drama

Muktangon

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Hundred Years of FIFA

Drama Senal: Amader Anondobari

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Din Dorpon ATN Bangla Anyodrishti 11:05 Atn Taroka Amar Computer 12:50 Drama: Ek Akasher 01:30 Cine Gaan 02:30 Drama Serial: Teen Tekka

Probha

Drama Serial: O Amar 03:15 Chokkhu Nal 03:50 Children's Programme 04:20 Talk Show: Somosamovik 04:45 Daily World Cup 05:10 Talk Show: Nari Islami Sawal O Jobab 05:45 06:20 Avnar Samney 08:00 Drama Serial: Ferari

ATN Taroka, Tarokader

Muldo Shonglap

Talent Hunt Host: Dhrubo and Trisha Riv 09:00 Just Band Tagore Song Aaj Potrikay Drama Serial: Shurey Aka Chhobi Drama Serial: Rater

On ATN Bangla at 08:40pm

ATN Taroka, Tarokader Taroka

09:30 10:00 11:00 Golpo Drama Senal: Aguntok Human Nature Islamic Programme Technology Today 04:00 Tomar Bina Tarer Geet 05:05 Concert Football Carnival 05:30 06:00 Ajker Bangladesh Rtv Exclusive 06:30

Children's Programme

Drama Senal: Shimul.

06:40

Jibon Charcha 10:50 Concert CHANNEL 1 08:40 Shuprobhat Banala Cartoon Bangla Feature Film

01:30 02:00 Bishwa Jurey Shath Din Goalmele Germany 03:00 03:30 Drama: Nakol Poshak 04:30 Bioscope 05:15 Small Ville 06:00 Saaj Bela 06:45 Jonotar Ishtihar Nonggor Drama Serial: Nakol 09:00 Drama Serial: Rode

Jabo

FIFA World Cup 2006 On BTV at 08:50pm Brazil Vs Ghana Live from: Dortmund Expression 11:00

Goalmele Germany HBO 10:00 Consequence 12:00 Gargoyles's Revenge 01:45 Bird on a Wire New on the Big Screen 04:00 in June 04:30 06:45 **US Marshals** Dinocaroc

Shaolin temples Strikes

Back 01:15 Once upon a time in Mexico STAR MOVIES 09:25 Glitter 11:35 That Thing You Do!

11:30

D-Tox 01:45 03:45 05:40 Dunston Checks In 07:35 Fearless Hyena li I, Robot 09:30 11:50

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Shoot STAR WORLD The Drew Carey Show

For Better Or Worse Still Standing

Outside Providence Stop! Or My Morn Will

11:30 Bug Attack ESPN 08:00 08:10

News Special Sportscenter Update Germany(T), Cricket Classics Dravid: The Wall(R), FIFA World Cup Programming 2006 FIFA World Cup

Icc Cricket World(R). 10:50 News Special Sportscenter Update Germany(R), Cricket Classics Great Indian Partnerships(R) FIFA World Cup 2006, Live from Kaiserslautem; Italy Vs Australia Round Of In The Driver's Seat O-Reilly Indoor Karting

lights(T),

Championship Tunica; Ms Usa(T), Cricket Gold(R), FIFA World Cup 2006 03:30 FIFA World Cup Programming 2006 Highlights 07:20 News Special

Creatures of The Night Kung Fu Dragons Of FIFA World Cup The Gospel of Judas FIFA World Cup 2006 (Brazil Vs Ghana) Germany 2006 2006 Wild! Life Adventure Fifa World Cup Germany Sportscenter India Duniya Goal Hai

12:50 FIFA World Cup 2006 (Spain Vs France) STAR SPORTS

11:30

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships London; Uk Day #1 Highlights Team India Programming India Glorious -Headingley Special Yorkshire; England(R)

International

Cricket Classics Great Indian Partnerships(R) Malaysian Field Hockey 15th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Australia Vs Cricket Classics Close Encounters(R) 03:30 Tna Wrestling Programming Tha Ke

Motorsports News

Motorsport News 2006

International

Sikander (T) Sportscenter India Sportscenter Update Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships London: Uk First Sportscenter Update(T) Round 12:00 Sportscenter India Germany 2006 2006 Sportscenter

> TEN SPORTS WWE: Raw 11:30 West Indies v India: 3rd Test Day 5 Highlights Gamer TV

01:30 Legends 03:00 Moto GP :TT ASSEN West Indies v India 3rd Test Day 5 Highlights WWE: Smackdown

07:30 Gamer TV Inside Grand Prix: 10:30

Countdown to Ryder West Indies v India: 3rd Test Day 5