

## FOCUS

DANCE FESTIVAL '97

## Taking Corporate Patronage to Art

by Ayesha Fariha



Leela Samson: Bharat Natyam



Madhabi Mudgal: Odissi

our local artistes, and inspire them to achieve that standard."

The festival extends from February 28th to March 11th and features two Kathak performances by Prerana Shrivastava, two Mohiniyattam performances by Bharati Shivaji, two Odissi performances by Madhuri Mudgal, two Bharat Natyam performances by Leela Samson, and two dance dramas

by the local artistes. Of the latter, one troupe will perform Tagore's Chandalika, directed by Sharmila Bannerjee with the music direction by Rizwana Choudhury, at the opening night of the festival; a troupe consisting of students of the Jago Art Centre, the dance school founded by the late Gauhar Jamil, will perform the Folk Dance Drama called Kanchanmala at the closing. In be-

tween the festival performances the visiting Indian dancers will participate in two other functions. The International Dance Council, presided by Laila Hasan has organised a dance workshop at the Shilpakala Academy on the 3rd of March, and the Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation has organised a programme named "Sankriti", at the National Museum Auditorium on the 10th of March,

the proceeds of which will go towards the rehabilitation of handicapped children.

The four Indian performers each require about 5 accompanists, and their entourage includes a total of 22 persons. The local participants number include about 40 dancers and other artists. Unfortunately, the Chandalika and the Kanchanmala will be performed to recorded music as there are few musical instrument artists in the country, and they devote most of their time to the commercial field. Mrs Roushan Jamil of the Jago Art Centre rues — "The movie industry pays these artistes so much, that the classical art programme organisers have little access to their talent" — which indicates that the main struggle of the culturalists is the procurement of funds.

In fact, if Lever Brothers did not pick up where the zamindars left off, there would probably be no Dance Festival '97. The cost of one Dance Drama amounts to at least Taka 2 lakhs, a sum that many indi-

viduals or families cannot afford, no matter how keen he or she or they may be. As one artiste puts it, "If the corporate world does not support art and culture, we have a bleak future." Mrs Geetlata Choudhury, a representative of Lever Brothers as regards the Dance Festival, feels corporate patronage is necessary too. She envisions a fundamental link between the corporate world and the art world. "As a company we strive for the best product, and therefore we should support those who strive for the best in their fields," she says. Lever Brothers contribution has enabled Shadhona to keep the prices of the tickets to a reasonable Taka 500, Taka 300, and Taka 100. To gain the widest possible audience, the organisers are trying their level best to air a recorded performance on Bangladesh Television.

All parties involved in the organisation of the Dance Festival '97 have done more than their fair share of their respective dues. All that remains is the contribution of the audience. The top classical dancers and eminent local artistes are not joining forces to awe or impress, rather they are working together to drive home the point that the world of art and culture does not belong only to a few intellectuals, but to every member of the sub-continent. To show them a little appreciation requires only a little bit of our time.

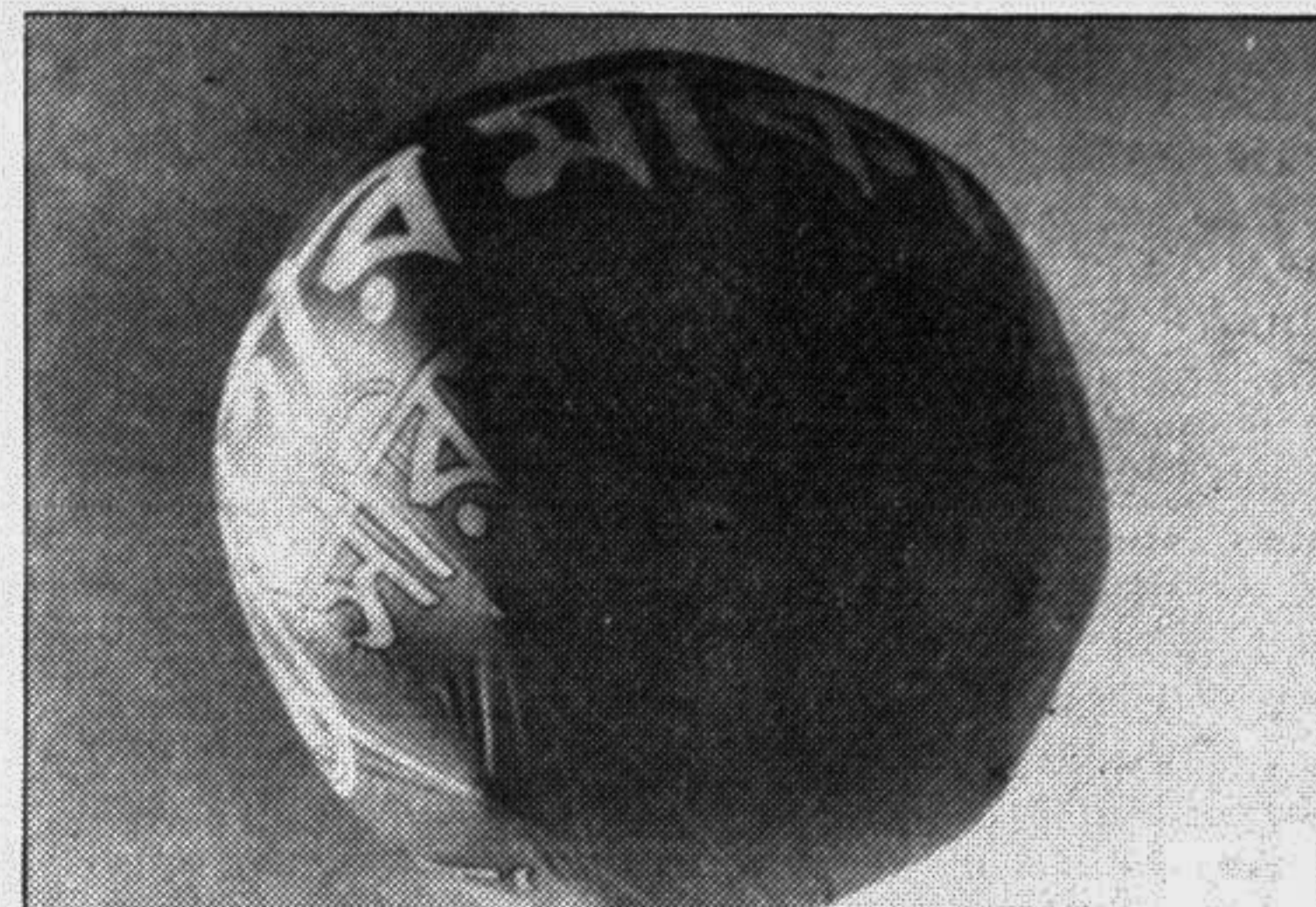
The schedule for the Fair and Lovely Dance Festival is as follows: 28th February — Chandalika, a Tagore Dance Drama. 1st & 2nd March — Kathak. 4th & 5th March — Mohiniyattam. 6th & 7th March — Odissi. 8th & 9th March — Bharat Natyam. 11th March — Kanchanmala, a Folk Dance Drama.

Tickets available at Tangail Shari Kutir, Baily Road & Dolce Vita Ice Cream Parlour at Dhanmondi and Banani. Rates — Tk 500, Tk 300, Tk 100.

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Just a Reminder of Brisk Shopping!

by Anindita Sarkar



Dhaka city certainly wears a very forlorn look these days. Gone are the hordes of eager Eid shoppers and the traffic problem seems to have eased a lot and the streets bear a mildly deserted look. Only the hoarding, billboards, banners and the likes still clamour for your attention — a mute reminder of the festivities just gone by.

Perhaps one would be wrong to call them mute because in today's consumer world their voice is singly the most powerful weapon that makes or breaks a product. Advertising is the buzz word and anybody worth his salt who dreams of making it big has latched on to it. So strategically placed billboards sell the concept of mobile phones, the internet, real estate, company name and brand or simply a brand of moulded luggage. The recent festivities saw a spate of banners and fliers around the main shopping areas, especially Elephant Road, advertising a new shopping complex, a new designer collection of menswear, hand painted saris, the ever popular block printed shalwar

kameez sale or yet another new beauty parlour or restaurant in town. The list is long and equally varied.

The contents of these hoarding and banners are more or less same: they espouse the salient features of the product advertised and what better way to do it than to use clichés and jargons that are making the rounds in the city. So some resort to outlandish names to catch the customer's eye while others tickle their weakness by proclaiming that they have an authentic cuisine replete with a cook of that origin! "Herbal," "designer," "never before" are the more hackneyed ones but innovations are not far behind. But whatever it is, garish designs or atrocious spelling, they sure do manage to turn your head.

The latest entrants in this field are the "blimps." These colourful gas balloons that dot Dhaka's sky carry names of popular brands. Though their number is limited to less than ten at present it will surely go up soon because in this field sky is the only limit!

## The South Needs Sit-ups

The disagreements between the North and the South over core issues like trade, foreign investment and labour standards at the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) recent Singapore summit makes it obvious that developing countries need to unite and draft an alternative text that serves their collective interests. And, although the WTO is not the South's favourite negotiating platform, it must be strengthened to counter the Northern moves, writes Adil Najam

It is an irony that the group of 77 (G-77) as a caucus of over 130 developing nations in the United Nations (UN) system — originally created at the first UNCTAD is the only global forum where meaningful global trade negotiations take place. The WTO and its predecessor General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), is understandably, not the South's favourite forum for global dialogue. However, after the recent stripping down of the UNCTAD's mantle and the steady erosion of its secretariat's efficacy as a credible think-tank for developing countries, the WTO has become the single most important negotiating forum for issues on trade and development.

The negotiations which took place recently at the WTO held in Singapore are not only going to effect the trade rules for the next century, but could effectively determine how and which developing country develops along which particular lines in future.

The very fears that had first

spurred the South to united under the banner of G-77 in 1963 — the creation of a global order that would take away from the South the token ability to make their own developmental decisions — are now materialising into reality around those polished tables at the majestic WTO office on the Rue de Lu-sanne in Geneva.

Officially, an institutional decision has been made by the WTO (and the GATT before it) to bar the G-77 from representation; unofficially, a bruised G-77 suffering from pangs of self-doubt seems to have given up on the fight and resigned to being a mere bystander.

This is not a story that the South has sat entirely helpless at the WTO. Regional coalitions particularly countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations have played a leadership role at the negotiations. However, the absence of an organised G-77 has already cost the developing countries dearly. Arguably, an organised G-77 at the WTO would even help the interests of the organisation's leadership by stream-

lining the deliberations and allowing the developing countries to arrive at a joint platform, instead of taking the discussion into all sorts of trajectories as each country pushes for its own particular micro-interests.

Common platform negotiation by the South at the WTO/GATT under the G-77 banner has long been considered a theorem in impossibility by several Northern as well as Southern nations. However, the historical precedents for considering it as such no longer exist.

With the UNCTAD reduced in size, scope and significance, the South can no longer afford to ignore the WTO and chant the mantra of the UNCTAD being the more important global trade organisation.

Simultaneously, the bosses in Geneva can no longer live under the false assumption that the only capitals they owe allegiance to are in North America and Western Europe. Neither can now claim any justification for why the G-77 is still not operable at the WTO.

Having said all of the above, it is not realistic to confront that it was unrealistic for the developing country delegates at the recent WTO to wait for an invitation from the organisation to muster themselves under a G-77 (or a similar) structure. They have missed a wonderful opportunity to unite.

In 1963, it was not the UNCTAD which formally invited the South to unite itself; that was the South's decision emerging from the necessities of time, and enacted with significant opposition from the North.

Whether the G-77 is immediately admitted to the WTO an institutional entity is not the point. The point is that the developing countries of the South must act in union at the preparatory, position-formulation stage of these negotiations.

To call for the developing countries to organise themselves at the WTO is not a call for a new confrontation; it is exactly what it is purported to be — a call for better organisation. CSE/Down To Earth Features



The Chandalika



The Kanchanmala

## The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

**Monday 17th February**  
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes.)

## BTv

3:00 Opening announcement  
3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Patriotic song 3:20 Recitation from the Bible 3:25 Cartoon Film: The Lone Ranger 3:50 Rerelease of selected programmes  
4:45 Educational programme  
5:00 News in Bangla 5:25 Dolan Champa 5:50 Sports programme 6:30 Anu Paramanu  
6:50 Open University 7:00 The News 7:25 Band show 8:00 News in Bangla 8:45 Package Drama 10:00 News in English 10:30 Janamat 11:30 Comedy series: Seemfield 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Tuesday's programme 11:40 Close down

## BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:10 World Focus: The Money Programme 7:00 BBC Newsroom  
inc. World Business Report/Asia Today 7:24 Hours 10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05 The Money Programme 11:00 BBC Newsday 2:00 BBC World News 2:15 World Focus: The Money Programme 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: Top Gear 4:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00 BBC News Headlines 6:05 World Focus: Assignment 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:30 Time Out: Film 9:00 BBC World News 9:15 World Focus: The Money Programme 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Time Out: The Clothes Show 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Time Out: Tomorrow's World 12:00 The World Today 2:00 BBC World Headlines 2:05 World Focus: The Money Programme 2:45 Building Signs 3:00 BBC

World News 3:30 Time Out: Quincey 4:00 BBC World Report inc. World Business Report/24 Hours

## CHANNEL V

6:00am Frame by Frame 7:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Frame by Frame 9:00 Jump Start VJ Alessandra 10:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Videocon Mangta Hai 3:30 [V] 1's 4:00 Frame by Frame 4:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 6:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 By Demand VJ Trey 8:00 TheVibe 9:00 BPL Ovel 10:00 Liberty First Day First Show 10:30 Launch Pad VJ Samira 11:30 The Ride 12:00 Over The Edge 12:30 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 1:00 Haysah 2:00 Frame by Frame 3:00 Big Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 Asian Top 20 VJ Trey

## STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Star News 8:00 Business Agenda 8:30 Star News 9:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics Oz Style 10:00 Ann Williams' Look And Cook 10:30 Videofashion: The News 11:00 Kalle & Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30noon Serial: Dynasty 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Hindi Serial: Reporter 3:30 Hindi Serial: Buniyaad 4:00 Hindi Serial: Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro 4:30 Land of the Giants 5:30 Black Beauty 6:00 Kate & Allie 6:30 Ann Williams' Look And Cook 7:00 Living on the Edge 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 Hindi Serial: Tu Tu Main Main 9:00 Hindi Serial: Imithan 9:30 Star News 10:00 British Comedy 10:30 TBA 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00am Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News 01:30

The X Files 2:30 Star Trek 3:00 Quincy 4:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:00 Barnaby Jones

## STAR SPORTS

6:30am The Asia Football Show 7:30 The International Motorsports News 8:30 Volvo World Cup Showjumping 9:00 9:30 India Open Badminton Day 2 12:00 World Cup Hall of Fame 1:00 World Tour 1:30 The Asia Football Show 2:30 5 Nations Championships Ireland v England 4:00 5 Nations Championships France v Wales 5:30 Trans World Sport 6:30 Standard Chartered Marathon, Hong Kong-Shenzhen (China) 1997 Highlights 7:30 Indian Open Badminton Day 3 10:30 India Tour of South Africa Triangular Series Final H/L 11:30 Asian Honda Classic Day 3 H/L 12:30 Trans World Sport 2:00 Indian Football Philips League East Bengal v Dempo From Calcutta 4:00 US PGA Tour Buick Invitational Final Day 5:00 Sports India 5:30 Australian Open Day 7 Highlights



Top gear on BBC World, today at 3:30

## STAR MOVIES

7:30 Family: Falsely Accused 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 9:30 Classic: Pick Up On South Street 12 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Adventure: Munchief Strikes Back 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Adventure: Rescue Me 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Family: Sam And Me 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 5:30 Family: Planet of the Dinosaurs 12 (Hindi Subtitles) 7:30 Film Fiction: Show All The Devil 15 (Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 This Week That Year 10:00 Comedy: House Party 18 12:00 World Cinema: Johnny Stecchino 18 (English Subtitles) 2:00 Action: The Lawnmower Man (Arabic Subtitles) 3:00 Nam Angels 4:00 Horror: The Lawnmower Man 18 5:30 Comedy: Heart Condition 15 (Hindi Subtitles)

## ZEE TV

6:00 News 6:30 Jagran 7:00 ZED 8:30 Disney Hour 9:30 Gaane Anjane 10:00 Nirma Hum Paanch 10:30 Dream Merchants 11:00 Daak Ghar Apna Ghar 12:00 Helpline

12:30 Dhara Zaika Ka Safar 1:00 ZED 1:30 Asian Sky Shop 2:00 Hum Paanch 2:30 Tara 3:00 Raahat 3:30 Mere Ghar Ana Zindagi Manasi 4:00 Paakeezah 4:30 Khana Khazana 5:00 ZED 5:30 Bournvita Quiz Contest 6:00 ZED 6:30 Disney Hour 7:30 Raahat 8:00 Gaane Anjane 8:30 TVS Sa Re Ga Ma 9:30 Campus 10:00 Parivar 11:30 Close Up Antakshari 12:30 Yeh Kahan A Gaye Hum 1:00 No Problem 1:30 Raahat 2:00 Shapath 2:30 TMM 4:00 Dastaan 4:30 Ghoomta Aaina 5:00 Jagran 5:30 Surtal

## DD 7

10:30 Jamnadin 10:35 Educ Prog 11:00 Nazrulgeeti 11:15 Folk Songs 12:30 Monorama Cabin 1:00 Jamnabhum 1:30 Trishna 2:30 Aiy Chandeel Ki Anandey 3:00 Bahari (Serial) 3:30 Feluda-30 5:05 Nepali Programme 5:30 News 5:35 Desh Bidesher Khela 6:00 Palli Katha 6:30 Batayan (Drama Serial) 6:55 Bhangran (Serial) 7:30 Bangla Sambad 7:55 Dinandin 8:00 Bipari 8:30 Feluda-30 9:00 Jamnabhum 9:30 Monorama Cabin 10:00 Bengali Movie Club Film Show 1:00 Closed

## SONY ET

8:30am Yaadon Ki Baar 9:00 The Three Stooges 9:30 Dennis The Menace 10:00 Dream Of Jeannie 10:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune (Game Show) 11:00 Faasle (Serial) 11:30 Civil Lines (Serial) 12:00 Jadugar 12:30 Cover Story-Hostel (Serial) 1:00 Jane Kaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji 1:30 The Young And The Restless (Eng. Serial) 2:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 5:30 The Three Stooges 6:00 Dennis The Menace 6:30 Yaadon Ki Baar 7:00 Premier 7:30 Dream Of Jeannie 8:00 Surf-

Wheel Of Fortune 8:30 5 Star Xpressit 9:00 Jevan Mirtu (Serial) 9:30 Yeh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti (Serial) 10:00 Chamatkarak (Drama Serial) 10:30 Ghaav 11:00 The Young And The Restless 12:30 O'Maria (Serial) 1:00 Pehli Mulakat 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune 2:00 Premier 2:30 Closed

## EL TV

06:30 Dance Dance 7:30 Jugal Jodi 8:00 Hindi Feature Film 11:00 Tere V Chup 11:30 Amar Prem 12:00 Monorajan 12:30 Song Yatra 1:00 Bengali Serial 01:30 Bengali Serial 02:00 Aya Saawan 03:00 Shatranj 03:30

Abhinetri 04:00 Bgd. Balwant 04:30 The Music Real Countdown 05:00 Talaash 05:30 Special: Jhum Nacho 06:30 Its My Choice 07:00 Bangla Serial 07:30 Bangla Serial 08:00 Nukkar 08:30 Sory Mery Lory 09:00 Dance Mania 09:30 Karz (Serial) 10:00 Chalo Cinema 10:30 Hindi Feature Film 1:30

Music Time 2:30 Ched Chad 3:30 Jazzbaat

## ZEE CINEMA

6:45 Songs 7:00 Kaise Kaise Log (Sanka, Vijayendra G) 9:00 Box Office 9:30 Sambandh (Vinod Mehra, Rati Agnihotri) 12:15 Reruns 12:30 Mausam

3:15 Ikke Pe Ikka 3:45 Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje (Sandya, Gopikishan) 6:30 Dhal Gula Laghi Kal (Mar) 9:15 Cinema Cinema 9:30 TBA 10:00 Saagar (Rishi Kapoor, Dimple Kapadia) 12:45 Bhai Bhai (Sunil Dutt, Asha P) 3:30 First Take 4:00 Badal (Mitun C, Poonam Dhillon)

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