

music

Joi Injects Multicultural Spirit in Music

British band Joi performs at Osmani Auditorium

By Ziaul Karim

In the novel *Shesher Kabit* (The Concluding Poem), Rabindranath Tagore brilliantly expressed his view about the emerging new trend in literature as: 'When the fasti mango season is over, I won't say go and bring some lesser quality mangoes, but would prefer aata fruit that is available with the coming of the new season.' Speaking figuratively, Tagore suggested that he was not going to cry for styles and trends that were worn out in literature and would rather welcome fresh trends even if they were not comparable to the high standard of classical literature. Many people present at the Osmani on March 4 felt somewhat like that.

The band Joi, brain child of British-Bangladeshi Shamsher brothers, started off as a community project in the 80's in London's East End, the highest concentration of the Bangali community in UK. As the second generation of British Asians the Shamsher brothers have seen the ugly face of racism, were raised in a multiracial society like London, inherited the music that their parents carried with them and inhaled the pop, rock, reggae and techno from the society as they grew. They are no longer the Asians their parents were, nor even the Britons they wanted to be. This new breed of people as they are termed British-Bangladeshi or British-Indian wanted a new identity and found the expression in fusion or in blending of the Asian and the Western cultures. Joi's chutnified music is the symbolic expression of its multicultural spirit and literally it is a multicultural troupe. Farook Shamsher in keyboard is of Bangladeshi origin, Lachen Lahbib in percussion from Mo-



Susmita Banerjee with her Bharat Natyam - Marshal art dance fusion sets
Osmann alight

rocco, Sonia Mehta the vocalist is from Punjab, Susmita Banerjee the dancer is from Calcutta, and the guitarist Aziz Ibrahim is from Pakistan. The guitarist Aziz has played for internationally famous band Simply

Red and Susmita has training in Bharat Natyam and in marshal art. They have successfully incorporated their diversified cultural inheritance to their music. The result is stunning. Their first major vinyl outing



Sonia Mehta the vocalist performs the sargam - Star photo by Arman Hossain



Farook Shamsher of Sylheti origin, one of Shamsher brothers (Haroon died prematurely last year) who conceived the Joi

Desert Storm earned them Single Of The Week status in the NME and their effort was greeted as 'one of the most inventive dance records ever made.'

They approach music as an intimate element for dance for which they work with sound system and in fact Joi began as a sound system. Quite naturally dance floors are their ultimate hunting ground and the single Fingers set the dance floors around UK alight.

Now what is interesting about their music? For most of the music lovers of the city, Joi may not be as thrilling as they have been in UK dance floors mainly because the dance (a mix of Bharat Natyam and marshal art) they have incorporated in their presentation may not be something refreshing for the audience nor the infusion of sargam or classical style tarana may appear as something exotic as they do in the western eyes. And if we look at Joi's triumphant tours throughout the past year one thing will be clear that they have been to European cities and a successful tour in USA. So basically Dhaka is for Joi the first Asian exposure.

Joi's musical talent and experimental got paid off with the coveted The BBC Asia Music Award in 1999 going their way. Post-colonial critics might raise their eyebrow why the award dubbed as Asian Music and not international music. Aren't they are ready to recognize Joi's contribution to the international mainstream?

In the formation of the Western modernist aesthetics encounter with African cultures in the so-called 'scramble for Africa' period of the 1880s and 1890s was crucial. In the formation of the future western post-post-modernism these fusion would play a crucial role. At present they are going through a transition searching for an authentic multicultural identity - an identity of the truly global citizen.

In Celebration of Language

International Language Fair at the National Museum brings together interesting items for all

By Muneera Parbeen

THE on going International Language Fair at the National Museum premises has attracted a large number of visitors in the past two weeks. The fair being held by the National Museum in collaboration with the Chittagong University Museum was formally opened on February 19 last, on the eve of the first International Mother Language Day.

A large number of attractions await the visitors to the fair. Apart from items of local interest the fair has put on display a variety of items to with languages all over the world. Most of these materials were collected through the cooperation of the foreign embassies in the country.

There are currency notes, flags, newspapers, charts of alphabets of different languages and the like artifacts from different countries of the world on display. Provisions have also been set up to listen to music in different languages as well as the national anthems of different countries. There are also written statistics on display proclaiming the usage of different languages around the world. Bangla finds itself in the seventh place on this list, based on



Visitors at the International Language Fair looking at the bloodstained clothes of language martyr Shafigur Rahman. — Star photo

statistics collected in 1997, which means it's the language used by seventh most people on earth. Chinese is the language used by most number of people in the world.

There are old documents on display, original papers containing the handwritings of poets Kazi Nazrul Islam, Ra-

bindranath Tagore, Michael Madhusudan Dutt and other historic personalities as Ishwarchandra Bidhysagar and Begum Rokeya. Also on display are manuscripts and documents related to sale of articles in the old period using Revenue stamps with values as one anna and the like. A canon used in the period of famous Bengal ruler Isha Kha which is inscribed with Bengali alphabets. Different types of currency used in Bengal, both the old metal coins to the different types of paper currency is also on show.

The fair, that was put together in a very short period according to the museum authorities, will come across as a very interesting compilation of artifacts for people of any age. Children however will find the fair most interesting, for in it they come upon information about a good fraction of the world and the languages used therein.

The fair, scheduled to end on February 29 was extended on popular demand upto March 8. It is open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm every day except for Thursdays and only in the afternoons on Fridays.



Pictures of language martyrs of 1952.

TV preview

Towkir-Bipasha TV's Best Romantic Pair in Bodhon

Three dramas to be aired on BTV

By Cultural Correspondent

A Impress Telefilm production package drama Bodhon will be aired tonight on BTV after the news in Bangla. Written and directed by Masum Aziz the drama stars Towkir Ahmed, Bipasha Hayat, Abul Hayat, Shabita Banarjee and Upal Zaman.

Synopsis: Towkir stars as a terrorist. In a bid to escape he is being shot by the police and receives bullet injuries. Wounded Towkir sneaks into a house. Bipasha plays the daughter of that house. At first Towkir takes everyone as hostages. But the people of the house helps him to get well. One day he tells them his life story. After hearing everyone likes this man with a gun. The girl falls in love with him. Then...

Jibon Mohana

After the news in Bangla BTV will air the third episode of the drama serial *Jibon Mohana* on March 7. Written by Sheikha Moazzem Hossain and directed



Towkir Ahmed and Upal Zaman in a scene from 'Bodhon'

buys Antu a fish aquarium. On the other hand Mama is worried about the World's environment. He wants everybody to think and act like him. Soalman who lived upstairs buys a harmonium for his daughter. While singing with her new harmonium Rahnuma gets scared to see Arif. She becomes speechless. Arif and Ruma meets two strange people. On the other hand Jamil decides to move on after he was forced to stop. With all the trouble around them Arif and Ruma dreams to live a happy life. But three bullets change everything.

Kalpurush is written by Tanvir Rana and directed by Asad. The drama stars Raisul Islam Asad, Abul Hayat, Bulbul Ahmed, Sharmin Ahmed, Doli Zohur, Rokeya Prachi, Zahid Hasan, Shumi Islam, Nader Chowdhury, Afzal Sharif, Shams Shumon, Khaled Khan, Mojibor Rahman, Dilu, Habibur Rahman, Jalal, Rafiqullah Selim, Mohiuddin Bahar, Upal, Tarin, Ovi and many more.

Kalpurush runs to his cousin for getting her address.

Kalpurush

Second episode of the new drama series *Kalpurush* will be aired on BTV on March 8 after the news in Bangla.

Synopsis: Jamil's wife could not forget the stabbed knife on the table. But Jamil is not bothered at all. At one time Jamil

Bangla Movie- 4:00 Serial: Jigisha 4:30 Serial: Kagojer Bou ("Deveshri")

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

12:30 Wild Discovery Science Frontiers 2:30 Discovery Showcases 3:30 Serial: De-Ray ("Robi Ghosh, Tapas Pall") 8:30 Serial: Mukhoshter Antaray ("Mrinal Kulkarni, Sachin Khadker") 9:00 Bangla Movie- 11:30 Serial: Antaray ("Alpona Gowsam") 12:00 Zee Jalsa 12:30 Chalachitra 1:00 Bahari Ahana 1:30 Serial: Plabon 2:00 Chaloman (Seema Kapoor) 2:30 Bangla Movie- 5:00 Bharat Bhroni 5:30 Asian Sky Shop 6:00 Serial: Premi Tushna 6:30 Serial: Parami Faru ("Nina Gupta, Mohan Vandari") 7:00 Serial: Jagishtha 7:30 Serial: Kagojer Bou ("Deveshri") 8:00 2:30 Di cover Magazine 3:30 Travellers 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet 9:30 Eyewitness 10:00 Eyewitness 10:30 ESPU 11:00 Blue Water Dreaming 11:30 In The Care of Nature 12:00 Animal Survivors 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives 2:30 Di cover Magazine 3:30 Travellers 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet 6:30 Naturequest 7:00 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Blue Reef 9:00 Two Worlds 9:30 The New Detectives 10:30 On The Inside 11:30 Discovery Profile Series

TV Guide

Monday 6th March

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

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News 6:30 World Focus: Reporters 7:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc. World Business Report 7:30 Hours 7:45 Reporters 8:45 Reporters 9:00 BBC News Inc. World Business Report/Usa Direct/Asia Today/24 Hours 9:30 Asia Today 9:45 Reporters 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Correspondent- Walking The Tight #1/2- China Tightrope 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Living: Making It #1/5- Reebok 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 India Business News 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:00 World News 2:30 Correspondent- Walking The Tight #1/2- China Tightrope 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 World Living: Making It #1/5- Reebok 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 India Business News 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:00 World News 2:30 Correspondent- Walking The Tight #1/2- China Tightrope 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Europe Direct 5:00 BBC World News Inc. World Business Report/24 Hours

STAR PLUS

6:30 Naiad 7:30 Good Morning India (News, Business & Entertainment News) 9:15 The Trial Show - Film Trialler 10:00 Good Morning India Rpt. 12:00 Star Talk 12:30 Tie Shopping 1:00 Daily Soap Based Hit Ya Fit 1:30 Daily Soap Saahil 2:00 Zara Hatke Zara Bachke 2:30 Daily Soap: Kabhi Kabhi 5:00 Sopé: Swabhiman 3:00 Zindagi 3:30 Guinrah 4:00 Kuchha Pappad Pukka Pappad 4:30 Power Rangers 5:00 "wi Wrestling" The Big Show Challange 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Daily Soap- Maal Hai To Taal Hai 7:00 Film Based: Hit Ya Fit 7:25 The Trail Show-Film Trialler 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Srimati Sharma Na Kehu Thi 8:30 Hindi Serial: Tu Tu Main Main 9:00 Hindi Serial: Saans ("Kanwaljeet, Neena Gupta, Kubita Kapoor) 9:30 Star News (English) 10:00 Hindi Serial: Main ("Shakher Suman, Mandira Bedi, Bhairabi, Niranjan Kanat) 10:30 Hindi Serial: Sajid No. One 11:00 Aaj Ki Baat 11:30 Daily Soap: Kabhi Kabhi 12:00 Star News (Late Night Edition) 12:30 Daily Soap: Swabhiman 1:00 Daily Soap: Saahil 1:30 Aaj Ki Baat 2:00 Daily Soap- Maal Hai To Taal Hai 2:30 Saboot 3:30 Main ("Shakher Suman, Mandira Bedi, Bhairabi, Niranjan Kanat) 4:00 Sajid No. One (Sitecom "Sajid Khan) 4:30 Daily Soap: Kabhi Kabhi 5:00

CHANNEL [V]

7:30 [V] Hit Machine 12:00 Vir-

Nirad 6:00 Srimati Sharma Na Kehu Thi

STAR WORLD

6:30 Hollywood Squares 7:00 Martin Short Show 8:00 Home Improvment 8:30 Happy Days - Rules To Date By 9:00 Strange Luck 10:00 Series: Murder Call Ep. Cut And Dried 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Series: Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman 1:00 Fashion TV 1:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 2:00 Martin Short Show 3:00 The New WKRP CmChmat 3:30 Happy Days 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 Home Improvment 5:00 Star News Asia 5:30 Daily Sope- Friends- The One With Russ ("Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry, David Schwimmer") 9:30 Series: That 70's Show 10:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway 10:30 Series: Every Body Loves Raymond 11:00 Series: Fraser Author: Author 11:30 Series: Chicago Hope 12:30 Daily Sope- Friends- The One With The Lesbian Wedding ("Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry, David Schwimmer") 6:00 Series: That 70's Show 1:30 Who's Line Is It Anyway 2:00 Series: Everybody's Loves Remond Ep. Cut And Dried 2:30 Daily Soap: Saahil 3:00 Aaj Ki Baat 4:00 Daily Soap- Maal Hai To Taal Hai 5:00 Saboot 3:30 Main ("Shakher Suman, Mandira Bedi, Bhairabi, Niranjan Kanat) 6:00 Sopé: Swabhiman 6:30 Series: That 70's Show 6:30 Happy Days 6:30 Star News Asia 6:30 Asia News Update (4min). Reporter: Deborah Kan, Joe Kainz & Mark Nin 7:00 Whose Line Is It

ALPHA TV

6:00 Mukho Shier Antaray

6:30 Alaap 7:00 Kee Duruu Dreshow 7:30 Monihaa 8:00 Serial: De-Ray ("Robi Ghosh, Tapas Pall") 8:30 Serial: Mukhoshter Antaray ("Mrinal Kulkarni, Sachin Khadker") 9:00 Bangla Movie- 11:30 Serial: Antaray ("Alpona Gowsam") 12:00 Zee Jalsa 12:30 Chalachitra 1:00 Bahari Ahana 1:30 Serial: Plabon 2:00 Chaloman (Seema Kapoor) 2:30 Bangla Movie- 5:00 Bharat Bhroni 5:30 Asian Sky Shop 6:00 Serial: Premi Tushna 6:30 Serial: Parami Faru ("Nina Gupta, Mohan Vandari") 7:00 Serial: Jagishtha 7:30 Serial: Kagojer Bou ("Deveshri") 8:00 2:30 Di cover Magazine 3:30 Travellers 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet 9:30 Eyewitness 10:00 Eyewitness 10:30 ESPU 11:00 Blue Water Dreaming 11:30 In The Care of Nature 12:00 Animal Survivors 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives 2:30 Di cover Magazine 3:30 Travellers 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet 6:30 Naturequest 7:00 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Blue Reef 9:00 Two Worlds 9:30 The New Detectives 10:30 On The Inside 11:30 Discovery Profile Series