

## Seeking Integration in Cultural Diversity

Spring poetry festival evokes the warmth that is associated with the Rituraj or the king of the seasons

By Ziaul Karim

All that breathes, or moves, or blossoms, is sweeter, my love, in Spring

IS how the great Sanskrit poet Kalidasa viewed spring. Poets who are highly sensitive to the seasonal changes in nature would naturally be drawn to the magnetic charm of spring, the season that evokes the sense of rejuvenation and rebirth. For Rabindranath Tagore, the most season-sensitive Bengali poet, the new blooms of spring brings him his garland of freedom.

In Indian mythology Vasanta or the lord of the Spring is seen dancing in the garden of love surrounded by beautiful

ladies and the raga Basant is depicted as gold-hued and clad in yellow garments. Some of the finest ragas of classical music such as Basant, Bahar and Hindol are the romantic expressions of spring.

The Spring Poetry Festival which has virtually become an annual rendezvous for poets organised by the poetry magazine *Kabikantha* provides the poets the right platform to share their ideas and enthusiasm centering poetry. There was no exception to this at the 9th Spring Festival of Poetry 2000 held on Sunday, April 9 at hotel Purabani.

Heavily decorated with marigold flowers, the dais at the centre was glowing in yellow, the predominant colour of this season of youth, beauty and

flowering gardens. Each year the carnival spirit of the festival centres around the guests poets from the South-Asian countries. This year the pre-eminent poet of contemporary Urdu poetry Nida Fazl and the central figure of modern Kannada poetry H.S. Shiva Prakash were the cynosure of the poets and poetry lovers.

Poet Fazal Shahabuddin, front-ranking poet of contemporary Bengali poetry and founder editor of the *Kabikantha*, who conceived the idea of a poets congregation back in the 80s has turned the festival with his magical charms into an annual ritual where the poets get to know each other and listen to their compositions in the spirit of understanding and bonhomie.

In his welcome speech, Fazal narrated the story of *Kabikantha's* coming into being and how he disposed of the gold ring his mother gave him for 43 takas to publish a 48-page slim *Kabikantha* back in 1956. The first issue of *Kabikantha* was significant for another reason it featured, he said, two unpublished poems from now celebrated *Dhushar Pandulipi* by Jibananda Das. Poetry has an inner language just below the diversity at the surface. This inner language speaks the language of love and understanding, said Fazal in his usual aura.

Then he introduced the guest poets and emphasized the exchange of ideas between the poets and writers of the South-Asian countries.



Shiva Prakash

The first poet to recite his compositions was Nida Fazl. Born in Gwalior, Nida did his MA in Urdu from Vikram University. He writes in both Urdu and Hindi. He is also a noted critic and a fiction writer. He has won several awards for his contribution to poetry including prestigious Sahitya Academy award for literature.

Fazl recited three poems in the finest tradition of *musayara*. The theme of poem Death of Father by Fazl was much appreciated for its unusual approach where the poet says he does not believe that his father dies. He says a father does not die rather it is the son who dies with the death of a father. So, I can't take part at your funeral. In Fazl's inspirational performance the poem transported the audience to a transcendental world.

Shiva Prakash, the living legend of Kannada poetry, was next to mesmerize the poetry lovers. His presence at the festival was an historic event for Bangladeshi poetry for he was the first ever poet to read his compositions before the city's

poetry lovers. He recited his poems in original Kannada and then read them in English translation. The resonance of the Kannada language bewitched the audience. Shiva also sang a



Fazal Shahabuddin

lullaby written by him to the resounding cheers of the crowd. Later he said, 'Your people respond well to music than poetry, that is what inspired me to sing the lullaby.' Who can resist the temptation of quoting the lullaby:

Sleep! Sleep, my daughter! Sleep! Sleep! Like clouds on the lap of the sky

Sleep! Sleep, my daughter Like a thunder hidden in the cloud's breast

Sleep! Sleep, my daughter Like a volcano hidden in the sea's belly

Sleep! Sleep, my daughter Like yearnings in the hearts' depth

Sleep! Sleep, my daughter

The poetry session continued in captivating charm and wit featuring front-ranking poets of the country. Fifteen poets excluding the guest poets read their compositions. They were Alauddin Al Azad, Al Mahmud, Mohammmad Moniruzzaman, Kausul Haq, Saiful Bari, Al Mujahidi, Abid Azad, Mahbub Hasan, Nasir Ahmed, Atahar



Nida Fazl

Khan, Abdul Hye Shikdar, Jahangir Firoz, Shahin Reza, Zamaluddin Bari, Fahim Firoz, Aminue Rahman and Fazal Shahabuddin.

A poetic exchange like this, one hopes, expand the boundary of language and understanding.



Aminur Rahman



Poets on the dais symbolising the bond of understanding and bonhomie.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Australia-Portraying a Nation ends today

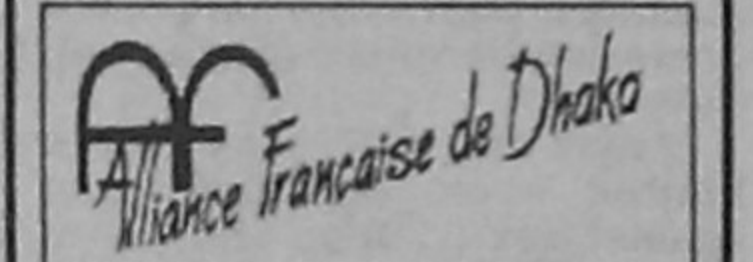
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and the Australian High Commission in Bangladesh has organised a week-long photography exhibition titled *Australia-Portraying a Nation*. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition was held on April 4 at 5.00pm at the Academy Gallery.

Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs was present as chief guest on the occasion. H E Robert Flynn, High Commissioner of Australia in Bangladesh was present as special guest at the ceremony.



#### Shishir at Gallery 21

Shishir Bhattacharjee's solo exhibition at Gallery 21 has been extended till April 15. The exhibition was inaugurated on March 31. Artist Quayyum Chowdhury inaugurated the exhibition. Starting from Shafiqur Ahmed, Mohammad Kibria, Aminul Islam to Rafiqun Nabi, Munirul Islam, Mahmudul Haq, all of his teachers were present at the inaugural ceremony.



#### Image of The City

The 10th solo painting exhibition by Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed is being held at the gallery of Alliance Française de Dhaka. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition was held on April 7. Nazrul Islam, professor Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest, while Azad Rahaman, director general, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was also present as special guest.

The exhibition will remain open to all from 5.00pm to 8.00pm till April 21.

#### Dress Exhibitions

An exhibition of fashion apparels for men and women by designer Monir is about to start at the auditorium of Alliance Française de Dhaka from April 10.

The exhibition will remain open to all from 3.00pm to 8.00pm till April 13.

Another dress exhibition by the fashion house Altamira will start at the Conference Room of Alliance Française de Dhaka on April 12. Altamira will present their latest collection of fashion apparels for men and women.

#### Rickshaw Paintings

Uzzal Arts will present a collection of Rickshaw plates at the Gallery of Alliance Française de Dhaka from April 28.

The exhibition is scheduled to remain open daily from 9.00am - 12.00pm and 3.00pm - 8.00pm till May 11.



#### Friday Movies

Alliance Française de Dhaka has the following movies scheduled for screening on April 14.

#### L'autre / The Other at 4.00pm

This includes two documentaries: *Solitudes* by Gerard Partis and *Julie, itinéraire d'un enfant du siècle* of Dominique Gros.

Fear, desire, grappling with life: an encounter with men and women who have 'gone off the deep end', and the discovery of the private world of a woman named Julie.

#### Les huis-clos / In Camera at 6.00pm

This also includes two documentaries: *Si bleu, si calme* of Eliane de Latour and *Le Convoi* of Patrice Changnard.

Seeking a reason to go on living, weather within the four walls of a prison cell or behind the wheel of a 38-ton truck in a humanitarian aid convey.

### TV Guide

Tuesday 11th April  
(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

#### BBC WORLD

6:00 World News Headlines 6:30 Click On 7:00 BBC World News In 7:00 World Business Report/Asia Today 7:24 Hours 8:30 Asia Today 8:45 World Business Report 2:00 World News 9:30 Asia Today 9:45 World Business Report 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Holiday 11:30 Earth Report- Sting In The Tale 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 Mastermind India 1:30 World Living - Making It 2:00 World News 2:30 Earth Report- Sting In The Tale 3:00 HARDtalk 4:00 BBC World News Today 4:30 Click Online 5:00 BBC World News 5:30 Earth Report- Sting In The Tale 6:00 BBC World News 6:30 Mastermind India 7:30 World Living - Holiday 8:30 HARDtalk 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 World News 10:15 World Business Report 10:30 Wheels 11:00 BBC World News 11:35 World Business Report 11:45 World Sport 12:30 HARDtalk 2:00 BBC News 1:30 Talking Movies 3:00 BBC World News 2:30 Reporters 4:30 World Business Report 5:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report/24 Hours

#### CHANNEL [V]

7:30 [V] Hit Machine 9:30 Virtual [V] 10:00 [V] Hit Machine 12:30 [V] Jungle Jukebox 1:00 [V] First Day First Show 1:30 [V] Hit Machine 4:30 Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 5:00 Virtual [V] / Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 5:30 Tea With [V] 7:00 [V] Hit Machine 8:00 [V] Jungle Jukebox 8:30 [V] Dating Game 9:00 [V] Hit Machine 9:30 [V] First Day First Show 10:00 [V] Hit Machine 10:30 [V] Late Night 12:30 [V] Hit Machine

#### STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:15 The Trial Show - Film Trailer 9:30 Tvc Shopping 10:00 Srimati Sharma Na Kechi Thi 10:30 Daily Soap- Maal Hai To Taa Hai 11:00 Small Wonders 11:30 Daily Soap- Kabhi Kabhie 12:00 This Week That Year 12:30 Tvc Shopping 1:00 Film Based Prog- Hit Ya Fit 1:30 Daily Soap- Saahil 2:00 Hindi Serial: Katha Sagar 2:30 Daily Soap: Swabhimani 3:00 Serial: Pal Chhin 3:30 Star Talk 4:00

Srimati Sharma Na Kechi Thi 4:30 Ninja Turtles 5:00 Wwf Superstars 6:00 Small Wonders 6:30 Daily Soap- Maal Hai To Taa Hai 7:00 Film Based Prog- Hit Ya Fit 7:25 The Trail Show-Film Trailer 7:30 Star News 8:00 I Love My India 8:30 Hera Feri 9:00 Kora Kagaz 9:30 Star News (English) 10:00 Serial: Antaraal 10:30 Darr 11:00 Aaj Ki Baat 11:30 Daily Soap- Kabhi Kabhie 12:00 Star News-Late Night Edition 12:30 Daily Soap- Saahil 1:30 Aaj Ki Baat 2:00 Daily Soap- Maal Hai To Taa Hai 2:30 Hera Feri 3:00 Zindagi 825 3:30 Antaraal 4:00 Janata Ki Adalat 4:30 Daily Soap- Kabhi Kabhie 5:00 Ninaad 6:00 I Love My India

#### STAR WORLD

6:30 Hollywood Squares 7:00 Martin Short Show 8:00 Home



Jag on Star World at 6.00 pm

Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 Series: That 70's Show 9:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway 10:00 Series: Chicago Hope 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Series: Everybody's Loves Remond 12:30 Series: Frasier 1:00 The Things People Do 1:30 The Bold and The Beautiful 2:00 Martin Short Show 3:00 The New WKRP In Cincinnati 3:30 Happy Days 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 Home Improvement 5:00 Star News Asia 5:30 Daily Soap- Friends 6:00 Series-Jag 8:00 Series-Millennium 9:00 Daily Soap- Friends 9:30 Series-Jag 10:30 Series-Millennium 11:30 John Woo's Once A Thief 12:30 Daily Soap-Friends 1:00 Series-Jag 2:00 Series-Millennium 3:00 Series-Creolo Dollar 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life In The World With Joyce Meyer 4:30 Sky World News 5:00 Mesia Tv 5:30 The New WKRP In Cincinnati 6:00 Aerobics Oz Style 6:30 Hollywood Squares

#### STAR MOVIES

7:30 Action: Last Great Warrior (PG) 9:30 Drama: Manhunter (15) 11:30 Thriller: Paradise Lost (\*William Forsythe, Marina Sirtis, Nigel Havers) (12) 1:30 Comedy: Father of the Bride-2 (\*Steve Martin, Diane Keaton, Kimberly Williams, Martin Short) (G) 3:30 Action: Predator-2 (\*Danny Glover, Gary Busey, Bill Paxton, Maria Conchita Alonso) (15) 5:00 Romance: The Myth of The Male Orgasm (\*Bruce Dinsmore, Miranda De Pencier, Ruth Marshall, Macha Grenon) (15) 7:30 Comedy: The Matchmaker (\*Janeane Garofalo, David O'Hara, Denis Leary) (12)

#### PTV-2

8:00 Tilwat Aur Tarjuma/Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30 Khabrain 8:45 Beauty Care 8:50 Fun Kadha 9:10 Dhanak & Health Tips 10:05 Har Taan Hey Deepak 10:30 English Film: Home Improvement 10:55 Milli Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10 Serial 12:00 Sports Hour 12:55 Quran-e-Hakeem 1:02 Bismillah 1:15 The Science Show 2:00 Yeh Jahan 2:25 Animated Classics 3:15 Geography & Sammar School 4:20 Mitti Sona 5:00 Allah Huma Labbaik 5:25 Serial 6:25 Aio Courses 7:00 Serial 7:45 English News 7:50 Saach Much 8:15 UN Quiz 8:45 Serial 9:00 Break for Headline News 10:00 Khabrain & Commercial News 11:20 Do Sitare 12:30 Dr. Quim: Medicine Women 1:35 Khas Khabrain/Close Down

#### ZEE News Tv

7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:00 Zee Morning Show 8:30 News In English 9:00 News Outlook 7:00 Business News 7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:30 Business News 9:00 News In English 10:00 Zee Prime Time Show 11:30 News In English 12:00 Business News 12:30 Am to 06:30 AM Every Half Hour - Zee News: Hindi

#### MTV INDIA

8:00 MTV Classic 9:00 MTV Hungout 9:30 Pop Indonesia 10:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 10:30 MTV Most Wanted Vj Shehnaaz 11:30 MTV Top 2000 12:30 MTV Hit Film Music 1:00 MTV Houseful Vj Nafisa 1:30 MTV Fresh Vj Shehnaaz 2:30 Non-Stop Hits 3:30 MTV Love Line Vj Malaika 4:00 MTV Bakra 4:15 Non-Stop Hits 4:30 MTV Select

#### MUSIC ASIA

7:30 Aalaap 8:00 Ta Ra Rum 9:00 Brake Fall 10:00 Pop Busters 10:30 Hit Mix 11:00 Colgate Zig Zag Best Of The Day 11:30 Ponds All Time Romantic Hits 12:00 Bajaj Music Box 12:30 Saare Ga Ma Classic 1:00 Himani Gold T. Jharokha 2:00 Music Mags 2:30 Ta Ra Rum 3:30 Brake Fall 4:30 Bajaj Music Box 5:00 Artist of The Fortnight 5:30 Hit Mix 6:00 Saare Ga Ma Classic 7:00 Ponds All Time Romantic Hits 7:30 Total Recall 8:00 Music Zone 8:30 Dil Se 9:00 Super Vasmol Old Is Gold 9:30 Bajaj Music Box 10:00 Sizzlers 10:30 Himani Gold T. Jharokha 11:00 Jhaakaas 11:30 Shabbab 12:00 Brake Fall 1:00 Colgate Zig Zag Best Of The Day 1:30 Himani Gold T. Jharokha 2:00 Bajaj Music Box 2:30 Teen Talk 3:00 Ta Ra Rum 4:00 Music Zone 4:30 Brake Fall 5:30 Music Mag 6:00 Sizzlers

#### DD 7

8:40 Khas Khabar 10:30 Janmadin (Birth Day Greeting) 10:30 Gane Gane 10:35 Daily Soap: Shree Ram Krishna 11:00 Daily Soap: Dropadi 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs- 11:30 Parliament Hour / Musical 12:30 Bengali Movie: 3:30 Daily Soap: Mohini 3:55 Daily Soap: Bhul Thi Kanau 4:20 Nepali Prog. 5:05 Chuching Fak / Harekrakamba 5:30 Sambad 5:40 Employment News/ Modern Songs. / Lalitkal 5:50 Sushastha / Gaan 6:10 Chitro Ghiti 6:40 Khas Khabar 6:50 Daily Soap- Jannabhumi 7:30 Baugla Sambad 7:55 Dintandan 8:00 Manasi 8:30 Aee Norodaha 9:00 Daily Soap- Jannabhumi 9:30 Daily Soap- Shree Ram Krishna 10:00 Khas Khabar 10:20 Mokho Mukhi 10:50 Sambad 11:00 Bengali Movie:

#### DD CHANNEL-1 (National)

5:55 Vande Mataram 6:15 CIET

Programme 6:30 UGC Programme 7:00 IGNOU Programme 7:30 Samachar 7:45 Suba Sabera 9:15 The News 9:32 Imaging Science 10:00 UGC Programme 10:32 Tarang- CIET Programme 11:00 ETV Programme 11:30 Serial: Ardhangini 12:00 Serial: Kamyabi 12:32 Serial: Intezaar Aur Sahi 12:55 Serial: Kiran 1:00 Serial: Tulsi 1:25 Serial: Aapki Saheli 1:32 Serial: Agni 2:00 Serial: Ducevar 2:30 Samachar 2:40 The News 2:50 Serial: Aaina 3:00 Serial- Ingle Raho 3:32 Serial: Aparajita 4:00 Serial: Mitti Ke Rang 4:32 Serial: Aur Ki an Jaag Utha 5:00 Series: aal Kohri 6:00 Prrgramme on Women 6:15 Kala Parikrama 6:32 Krishna Darshan 7:00 Live Show 7:45 Career Hunt 8:00 Serial: Kanyakumari Ki Kahaniyan 8:32 Serial: Antaraal 9:00 Samachar 9:15 The News 9:30 Serial: Sargam 10:02 Serial: Om Namah Shivay 11:00 Serial: Raja Ka Baja 11:32 Ghoorata Aaina 12:00 National Programme of Music 12:32 News Headline 12:32 Serial: Ardhangini (Underrun Closed)

#### SONY TV

7:30 Aatma 8:00 Sant Asaram Wani 8:30 Chartbusters 9:00 Aurat 9:30 Ek Mahal Ho Sapno Ka 10:00 Music Mantra 10:30 Love You 11:00 Saava 11:30 Missing 12:00 Chartbusters 12:30 Movers And Shekhar s-130 Music Mantra 2:00 Boogi Woogi 2:30 Ek Mahal Ho Sapno Ka 3:00 Aurat 3:30 Daily Soap- Ghar Ek Mandir 4:00 Daily Soap- Ithaas 4:30 Daily Soap- Nazdeekiyan 5:00 Junoon 5:30 The Good Home Show 6:00 Rang Birangee 6:30 Family No.1 7:00 C.I.D. 7:30 Music Mantra 8:00 Chartbusters 8:25 Janny Vi Do Paro 8:55 Kanyadaan 9:35 Alpviram 10:05 Bhanwar



Darr on Star Plus at 10.30 pm