

music

## The Flute Show

A performance by Murtuza Kabir Murad at the Alliance Française de Dhaka

By NAJID IMRAN AHMED

CLASSICAL instrumental music is almost forgotten these days. Live classical performances are rare and the new generation is slowly losing interest in learning about the very soul of this performances.

It is thus on rare occasions that we get the opportunity to listen to some authentic classical presentations. One such evening was October 6. The auditorium of Alliance Française de Dhaka was filled with the reverberating and mellifluous sound of flute played by Murtuza Kabir Murad. Biplob Sharma accompanied him on the tabla.

Not only as a flutist, his talent as a musician does not end here. His career as a musician started as a tabla player in 1985. After playing Tabla for two years he started learning flute from Ustad Alauddin Kha. But at the beginning of his career as a musician he had a break for quite some time. Then again in 1992 this devoted and talented musician started to take lessons on Shahnai and flute from Shamsur Rahman. Now as a successful musician Murad is capable of playing all three instruments and is also a teacher at the Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA). Murad also has two books on learning flute, they are Sahaj Bansi Shiksha (in Bengali) and Easy Flute Learning Guide (in English). Both of these books are available in the musical instrument stores.

Murad started the show with a raga, which was perfectly timed. EmraRa in bilambita tria is the perfect raga for the evening. Murad started the raga and the tabla followed a few minutes later. Slowly he led the audience through a wonderful journey into the very soul of music.

It was the enchanting tunes of the flute that brought in people hanging around other places at the Alliance Française de Dhaka to its auditorium to find out what was going on there.

After a short break Murad began the same raga on a different taal, a slower one this time.

The tunes on his flute could almost be felt, it was as if the music was touching the people physically, making them feel each raga that was being played.



Murtuza Kabir Murad performing live at the Alliance Française de Dhaka. He was accompanied by Biplob Sharma in Tabla.

Accompanied by the tabla that matched him perfectly, Murad played the rhythmic patterns of the ragas neatly. He went through the sargams and gave some unique breaks.

Next was the raga of the dawn Aheri Bhayro. He started playing this touchy raga with such passion that the audience could almost feel the true essence of the music. By using the sensitive notes, by emphasizing certain degrees of the scale, and by going from note to note in ways characteristic to the raga, Murad created an atmosphere that is only unique to this beautiful raga of the dawn.

Murad then followed the Aheri Bhayro, in tria. This was faster and with the accompanying tabla created a sound so different and yet the same of the raga. The audience, little familiar with classical tunes, just loved this.

The next raga Murad played was Brindabani Sarang. With this melodious performance, he was able to bring out a spectrum of prescribed moods, which is essential for a raga. The tabla joined in a bit later this time. With

a little break Murad again created the variation in taal and started the same on a faster note. The resulting composition was catchy. The audience clapped and encouraged him. They just loved this performance.

By this time this exclusive performance was about to come to an end. Apart from the classical stuff Murad presented the audience with something different this time. His last number was a folk tune. He stated playing a very sad and common tune. It was a Bhatiali tune in Kaharba taal.

Though Murad was about to end the show, the audience wanted more from him. They cried out for more. That goes a lot to say about the debut performance of an artist.

One of the best things about Murtuza Kabir Murad is that he plays with complete passion and feeling. And his devotion for music has made him the musician he is today. He should keep up the good work and perform regularly so that common people can also share these feelings and listen to some authentic classical performance.

## Shukla's Solo Musical Soiree

By SHAHANA PARBEE

AS Thursday draws near, people's mood starts to take on a mellowed turn. The mere thought of not having to wake up to another hectic day next morning is enough to transport most people to a blissful serenity. It is thus that most of the outings and programs programmed on a Thursday evening turns out to be very relaxed and enjoyable. There is no worried voice in the back of ones mind urging one to hurry back home to catch up on a little rest before hitting the work table next morning.

Perhaps this relaxed ambience last Thursday at the Solo music evening of Shukla Ahmed made the musical soiree so much more enjoyable. This was Shukla Ahmed's second solo performance

Shukla Ahmed's first one was held in 1997 during the launching of her solo album "Anubhabe Tumi".

The musical evening was held at the Russian Cultural Center auditorium at Dhanmondi. Although the show was scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. it started much later as people trickled in gradually. However, in the end, Shukla had a jam packed auditorium of enthusiastic and relaxed audience to enjoy her performance. Her programme consisted of two parts. In the first part, she sang old Bengali and Hindi songs as well as ghazals. In the second part she switched to more rhythmic songs in both Bengali and Hindi. She started her performance with Sagorer Teer theke and went on to sing more favourite old songs like Aajare Pardesi (from Madhumati), the ever so popular Ely Raat Tomar Amar, Ely

Shundor Shornal Shondhay and many such melodious soothing songs. The audience consisted of a mixed age group and the younger people were over enthusiastic, whistling and screaming for reasons quite well known to them of course. It was not a pop show after all.

One interesting fact about this show was the fact that all the instrument players were uniformly dressed in punjabis. As a matter of fact, all of them, with the exception of one, wore identical punjabis. This was a pleasant change from the usual carelessly dressed instrumental players the audience is used to seeing. Shukla wore a white saree with multi coloured border which matched the highlights in her hair. The lighting was pretty good and the stage looked resplendent. Shukla simply glowed amidst all the lights and her highlighted

hair.

Shukla Ahmed has been learning music since the age of five. She has trained under Akkas Sadmani (of the Indore Gharana), Ustaad Sagiruddin Kha and Shipra Khan. Shukla has gained popularity in the 90s for her modern and folk songs. She has travelled as a member of Bangladesh's cultural goup to the USA, UK and Canada. She is enlisted as a modern bengali song singer in the Bangladeshi Betar and sings occasionally on Bangladesh Television. On Thursday night's show, she was accompanied in the instruments by Richard Kishore, Pinto, Bappi, Shojol Shaha and Liton d'Costa. The show ran late into the night and was a pleasant way to unwind for the long weekend and Puja days.

## Recommendations

### Mahbub's Fifth Solo at Gallery 21

The fifth solo exhibition by visual artist Mahbubur Rahman was inaugurated on September 29 at Dhanmondi's Gallery 21. Artists Nisar Hossain, Mohammed Eunus, Professor Sayedul Haq and Shishir Bhattacharjee graced the inaugural ceremony as guests of honour.

The exhibition will remain open to everyone from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. everyday till October 9.

### German Film-Week

Goethe Institut in collaboration with the German Embassy, Dhaka will start the German Film-Week from October 8 at the Goethe Institut auditorium. The films will be shown everyday at 3:00 p.m.

The following films will be shown during the festival:

Der Pampelmusenmond, Lola rennt, Killing Heinz, Das Leben ist eine Bausle, Der Sommer des Falken, Quest, Zugvogel - einmal nach Inari, Lippels Traum, Der Sieg, Jenseits der Stille, Der Hund ist weg, Fanny. Plus minus null, Wege in die Nacht.

### Nature of Ceramics

The second solo art exhibition of artist Hamidul Islam Khokon will begin at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts at DU on October 9.

Artist Rafiq Nabi and Mahbubul Haq will be present at the inauguration ceremony.

### Borrowed Faces

An exhibition of photographs of men, women and children title Borrowed Faces by Dr Pierre began at LaGalerie of the Alliance Française de Dhaka in the city's Dhanmondi on October 6.

Dr Pierre Clauquin is a public health expert from France and has been working in Bangladesh since 1972. A total of 48 portraits will be on display at the exhibition that will remain open from 9 am to 1 pm and again from 5 pm to 8 pm everyday till October 12.

### French Musical Evening

French Musical Evening dedicated to the famous French composer Georges Bizet will be held at Alliance Française on Saturday, at 7 in the evening.

## Comedy All The Way

### Creating A New Trend In Country's Film Industry

By TAWIEQUE ALI

DHAKA University Film Society (DUFIS), one of the pioneering film movement bodies in the country, organised a weeklong Comedy Film Festival -2000 at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Hall of Public Library at Shahbagh. The week long festival's came to an end on October 6.

The closing ceremony was graced by Prof. Shahadat Ali, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University as Chief Guest, Golam Quddus, General Secretary, Shammillto Shamskrithi Jote as special guest, noted film personality Moshedul Islam and Dr. A.A.M.S. Aerlin Siddique who presided over the discussion meeting. The discussants highlighted various aspects and present condition of the country's film industries.

The discussants at the closing ceremony said that films are an effective tool of teaching the common folk, particularly illiterate and downtrodden masses in our country. Films are thus a very powerful media to disseminate knowledge amongst the masses and people from all walks of life. The not only help create public opinion but articulate views, values, norms and attitudes—both social and political. It is much more powerful than many media, print or electronic. They said that no other media can imprint upon people's mind so

easily as films do. In this context, film plays a vital role not only in providing recreation but to help frame a constructive attitude of the people.

Noted personalities present at the occasion agreed to the aforesaid fact while expressing their views on the matter. The DUFIS has been campaigning over the past couple of years with a view to stop gross degradation in the Bengali films which are, nowadays, in most cases, full of nothing but sex and violence. At the same time its objective is to pave the way for making tasteful and creative films which a large portion of the movie goers always long for.

It is a general acceptance that presently Bangladeshi movies have been suffering badly from obscenity and violence. There has been a rat race over the past years among the film makers to copy specially Bombay films and reproduce them at home in a ludicrous way. In such blind reproduction there remains neither entertainment nor creative efforts in any films. In doing so they virtually stuff the movie viewers with vulgarity. Such films are bare of any social concern and thematically bankrupt that result in moral erosion of the youngsters. Though the film makers blame the viewers' taste in this regard, there are good many instances of success story of art films even in our country. Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali is an

example that has earned a tremendous success.

There are some other reasons responsible for bad movies. Film is an industry which suffers from inadequacy of infrastructure facilities in our country. Dr. Siddique observed, 'Comedy is a difficult genre in film but contributes significantly to create awareness among the mass people', he explained while delivering his address.

Film, specially comedy, is an aesthetic media in which a grave issue or message can be conveyed

through fun and laughter. Among the drawbacks that our film industry suffers from, absence of academic approach is a major one. Prof. Shahadat Ali called for initiative to establish film institute. 'I assure, on behalf of my university, all kinds of academic support required in this respect', he said.

The film festival has proved to be a success with the blessing of the audience's huge response.

The discussion session was followed by the screening of the Bengali comedy film Sharey Chuwattur.



Doolittle was in the list of the Comedy Film Week

## TV GUIDE

### PICK OF THE DAY



### ELIZABETH

Star Movies at 10:00 p.m. Starring Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush and Joseph Fiennes. Directed by Shekhar Kapur with masterful cinematography, lighting and editing. The Queen, Mary Tudor has no heir and her Catholic supporters fear the succession of her half-sister Elizabeth, a Protestant. They convince the queen to have Elizabeth arrested and put in the tower of

the Tower of London.

Power Rangers 10:30 Janata Ki Adalat 11:00 Chupa Rustam 11:30

STARMOVIES 7:00 Thriller: Running Wild (\*Morgan Fairchild, Chandra West, Michael Woods) (15) 9:00 Drama: Joshua Then And Now (PG) 11:00 Bhaskar Ghosh Show

11:30 Sunday Best: Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken (\*Gabrielle Anwar, Vliff Robertson, Michael Schoeffling, Dylan Kussman) (12) 1:30 Thriller: Poison Ivy-3 The New Seduction (\*Michael Dabres Barres) 3:30 Star Kids Club: Free Willy-2 (\*Jason James Richter, Michael Madsen, Jayne Atkinson) (PG) 5:30 Action: Cold Blood (\*Jason Priestley, Peter Riegert, Kimberly Williams) (15) 7:00 Romance: Tin Cup (\*Kevin Costner, Renée Russo, Don Johnson) (12) 9:30 Starbiz 10:00

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