

Dance

The wind beneath the limbs

'We performed guru-bandana, dhamar, tukra, paran, thumri and godbhao,' says Maria

FAYZA HAQ

THE open-air theatre at the Alliance Française reverberated with music and rhythm as Hero, Maria and Rani presented their "Bharatnatyam" and "Kattak" Saturday at a function arranged by "Nritanchal".



Anisul Islam Hero says, "I went into dancing when I found my friends Sohail Rahman and Anur Kumar Das when I was studying at the Notre Dame College. One was studying at Bulbul Academy and the other at Chhayant. I myself studied dancing at the Bulbul Academy for five years. I studied folk dance with Raiza Khaum Jhunu. Getting a



Bondhu Social Welfare Society, which deals with AIDS, and I treat

another five years with Leila Samson. I studied 'Bharatnatyam' with her. Later I studied modern dance and ballet techniques at Germany and Austria.

"Of all the dances I like 'Bharatnatyam' most as it has the most scope for a solo dancer and it has so many variations of the limb movements and facial expressions which can reach out to the audience. Dance often has a story to tell but sometimes they have only drum syllables. Dance can include drama but this isn't necessary. I also do dances of Rabindranath and Nazrul. My dances have been on the television, stage and overseas. Now I am doing contemporary dance with fusion of the eastern and western techniques. I have a troupe of my own called Srishti Cultural Centre. In my modern dances I work with different themes such as the one on HIV/AIDS and another one on 'Envy' and a third on 'Women'. I have done choreography of other dances too."

"I basically follow Leila Samson not only in my dance but in my behaviour too. As for practice, there is not enough of it in my life as I don't get chance to perform every day. If I have a performance, I practice for three hours every day before the actual performance. I take classes for dancing twice a week and often foreigners come there at a martial art academy. I have about 25 students."

"As I am a professional dancer I don't do any other work. However I do voluntary work at an NGO



this as a social work. Earlier I used to work with slum children. I have done my graduation in Economics."

He adds: "I recently danced in Bangkok and this made waves as I got a very good review in the Bangkok Post."

Asked if there is enough appreciation of dance in Bangladesh, Hero says, "At the moment the multinational companies and NGOs are encouraging us but the government is lagging behind in this respect."

Talking about his own performance that evening, Hero says, "I danced Siv's 'tandob nritra' when the skies were shaking with rain and lightning. The next piece was from Jai Dev's 'Geet-o-Gavind' where Radha was in pain when her beloved Krishna left her to have fun with other 'gopis' so that she recounted the earlier good times that she had with Krishna to her friends. The last one was 'Tilana'



where I danced with 'Uchanga' music. As I do south Indian dances, I

have no live accompaniment and have to depend on taped music. For 'Bharatnatyam' in Bangladesh there is just Wilayat Hussain Khan and me."

Hero has done numerous solo performances in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Germany UK, USA and Far Eastern countries like Japan and Thailand.

Maria Rahman, who performed 'Kattak' that evening, began at the age of four and started at the Jago Art Centre with 'Bharatnatyam' and then learnt folk and modern dance with Dipa Khandakar. She also joined with Shibli Mohammed in 1990 to learn 'Kattak'. She says about her experiences, "I have performed at the Shishu Academy, Shishu Acedemy, Osmani Memorial Hall and the National Museum. These included classical, modern and folk dances. I have performed on TV several times too. I combine my dancing with my pursuit of BBA at the North South University which isn't difficult as I go for my dancing once a week for two hours. I might take it up seriously later if given the opportunity."

"I try to follow Shibli Mohammed and Dipa Khandakar, my teachers. Nowadays people in Bangladesh respond to dances better than they did say a decade ago. I practice thrice a week. In my family my younger sister Sadia dances too. In our conservative society, some people may frown on dancing publicly but my family and friends are very supportive."

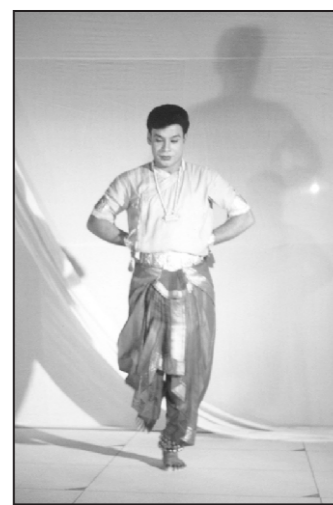
Speaking about her performance, Maria says, "We performed 'guru-bandana', 'dhamar', 'tukra', 'paran', 'thumri' and 'godbhao'. Most of the dances told a story and were parts of 'kattak'."

Rizvana Chowdhury Rani, the third dancer of the group says, "My mother inspired me into going into dancing. She herself had danced in her younger days. In fact, my entire family encouraged me. She says, "I began dancing with Rahiza Khanum Jhunu in Bulbul Academy and then with Sohail Rahman. I began my 'kattak' in 1986 with Shibli Mohammed. Today I am dancing for 16 years having performed on stage and TV. I combine this with my studies of Development



Communications at IUB. I practice on my own sometimes and have regular training with Shibli Mohammed once a week. Earlier I used to do folk and modern dances but now I limit myself to 'kattak' as this is a dance through which you can talk to people. I don't find the other dances so expressive. Biju Maharaj and Shibli Mohammed inspire me. Today, with more appreciation of dance, it is easier to continue dancing."

Rizvana has performed in USA and UK, invited by UNICEF in 1990,



and in 1998 she performed in New Delhi being sent there by the Bangladesh government. Being recently married and with the pressure of her formal studies, Rizvana's practice on her own is seeing a decline though her training with her teacher is as regular as before. However, she is lucky in that her in-laws appreciate and encourage her enormously. Apart from eastern dances, Rizvana is fascinated by ice-skating.



PHOTOS: ABDUL MOJIB

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sitar Recital

Organised by Shadhona - a centre for advancement of subcontinental music, a sitar recital by Alif Laila, accompaniment of Tabla Maestro Pandit Anindo Chatterjee will be held on February 3 at 6:30 in the evening at the main auditorium of the National Museum.

Pandit Anindo Chatterjee will render a solo recital on Tabla at the end of the evening.

Coming of Age

The inaugural of an exhibition of paintings by selected contemporary artists will be held at the European Commission Residence on February 9 at 5:00p.m. venue: 177 Gulshan Avenue. The exhibition is being organised by Gallery 21. The inaugural ceremony will be followed by a cultural event.

The exhibition will remain open on February 10 & 11 from 3:00 - 8:00p.m.

Art Exhibition

Alka Mathur and Naresh Kapuria's joint show is being held at Bengal Gallery. Alka Mathur is a familiar name in the Dhaka art circle. The other is being introduced to the gallery-goers through this exhibition. The show is open till February 2.

Water Colour Show

A special water colour show featuring country's seven celebrated water colour artists now being held at Shilpangan art gallery from 10 am-8pm everyday until February 4.

The participating artists are Professor Abdur Razzaque, Mostafa Manwar, Professor Qayyum Chowdhury, Professor Hashem Khan, Professor Rafiqun Nabi, Monirul Islam (Spain) and Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan.

Exhibition

Nurul Amin's 1st solo exhibition of studio pottery and glass painting is going on at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10am to 8pm till February 3.

EKUSHEY TV

12:00 Ekushey News
Headlines 12:05 Ajker
Potrikay 12:15 Bangla
Movie: Nikah 2:40 Drishti



Drama Nai Piran on Ekushey television at 9:00p.m.

3:00 Ekushey News
Headlines 3:05 Drama
Series: Shodh 3:30
Bhalobasha Kare Koy 4:00
Mon Mon Re Amar 4:30
Expedition to the Animal
Kingdom 5:00 Circus
Circus 5:30 Drishti 5:50
Ajker Potrikay 6:00
Ekushey News Headlines
6:05 Classic Cartoons
6:30 Charidike 7:00
Ovaltin Presents: Kemon
Achen 7:30 Ekushey
News 8:00 New English
Serial: Amazon Peter
Benzoli 9:00 Naal Piran
10:00 BTV News 10:25
Music Hour 11:15 Ekushey
Late Night News 11:30 E
Shoptaher Bishsho 11:45
Ekushey News Headlines

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC News 6:30



Tele-film Manush Mondire on Channel i tonight at 11

World Business Report
7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia
Today/Asia Business
Report 8:00 BBC News
8:30 Asia Today/World



Friends on Star World tonight at 9

World Business Report
12:45 World Sport 1:00
BBC News 1:30 HARDtalk
2:00 BBC News 2:30 Click
Online 3:00 BBC News
3:30 World Business
Report 4:00 BBC News
4:30 Asia Business



New English series Amazon: Peter Benchli on Ekushey television at 8:00p.m.

Report/World Business
Report 5:00 BBC News
5:30 Asia Business
Report/Asia Today

CNN

4:00 CNN This Morning
4:30 Asia Business
Morning 5:00 CNN This
Morning 5:30 Asia
Business Morning 6:00
CNN This Morning 6:15

World News 11:30 Q&A
South Asia 12:00 World
News 1:00 The Artclub
1:30 World Business
Today 2:00 World News
2:00 Q&A News 2:30 Q&A
3:00 World News Europe
3:30 CNN Newsroom

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Animal Survivors 7:00
ESPU 7:30 Outer Bounds
I & II 8:00 Without Warning
I 8:30 Lonely Planet 1 9:30
Beyond 2000 10:00 The
Quest 10:30 Go For It!
11:30 Intimate Escapes
12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30
Medical Detectives II 2:30
Health Showcase 3:30
Animal Survivors 4:00
ESPU 4:30 Outer Bounds
I & II 5:00 Without Warning
I 5:30 Lonely Planet I 6:30
Going Wild With Jeff
Corwin 7:00 So You Want
To Be? 7:30 Wild
Discovery 8:30 Paleoworld
IV 9:00 New Sanctuaries
9:30 Decisive Weapons
10:00 Discovery News
10:30 Wings 11:30
Discovery Profile Series
12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30
Paleoworld IV 2:00 New
Sanctuaries 2:30 Decisive
Weapons 3:00 Discovery
News 3:30 Wings 4:30
Discovery Profile Series

5:30 Health Showcase
Lamhe Pyaar Ke Sharada
(Raj Kapoor, Meena
Kumari) 10:30 Bollywood
News 11:00 Karishmaa
(Kamal Hasan, Reena
Roy) 12:30 Karishmaa
(contd) 2:00 Geet Bahar
2:30 Baaz (Guru Dutt,
Geeta Bali) 5:30
Karishmaa (Kamal Hasan,
Reena Roy)



Jumpstart on Channel V at 7:30p.m.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Deep Core on HBO tonight at 10 As if we don't already have enough natural disasters threatening the end of the world, a group of technicians unwittingly unleash a chain of events that threaten to tear the earth apart when they cause a disruption within the Earth's mantle. It is up to disgraced geologist Brian Goodman (Sheffer) - who warned everyone about it in the first place - to assemble a team and get to the root of the problem - one hundred and twenty miles beneath the surface of the ocean. Meanwhile tropical island are being destroyed, entire towns are being swallowed by giant sinkholes and long-dormant volcanoes are getting their second wind. In the spirit of end of the world, as we know it disaster films, this action-thriller features another nail-biting race against time to save the earth.

STAR GOLD

8:30 Bollywood News
9:00 Neel Kamal (Raj
Kapoor, Begam Para)
12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30
Teesi Kasam (Raj Kapoor,
Waheeda Rehman) 3:30
Bollywood News 4:00 Baaz
(Guru Dutt, Geeta Bali)
7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30

CHANNEL-i

6:15 Samoyer Muke 6:50
Aktoror Dinguli 7:00
Nilajona 8:00 Din Protidin
8:25 Abng Syed Haque
9:00 Megagine : Sayya
10:00 Reciting from Holy
Quran 10:10 I Music 10:40
Addar Table 11:15
Samoyer Muke 11:50
Aktoror Dinguli 12:00
Nilajona 1:15 Abng Syed
Haque 2:00 Megagine :
Sayya 2:50 I Focus 3:00
Bangla Cinema: Basona
6:00 Reciting from Holy



Alley Mc Beal on Star World at

Quran 6:10 Deser Gane
6:40 Vasha Amar
Ahongker 7:15 Silpoloke
7:50 Aktoror Dinguli 8:00
Aber Firee Dhekha 8:40 I
Dream of Jennie 9:15
Samyer Gane 10:00
Drama : Kakhthara 10:50 I
Focus 11:00 Tele film:
Manush Mandir

HBO

7:00 Deadline: Madrid
9:00 Frantic 11:30 The
Shadow 1:45 Stealing
Home 3:45 Addicted to His
Love 5:45 Not of this
World 7:45 The Hunted
10:00 Deep Core 11:45

Uncommon Valor 2:00
Frantic 4:30 Stealing
Home

STAR WORLD

01/02/2001
06:00 Kenneth Copeland
Ministries 06:30 Life In
The Word With Joyce
Meyer 07:00 World News
07:30 Grace Under Fire
08:00 Mork & Mindy 08:30
Murder Call 09:30 The
Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 Home Improvement

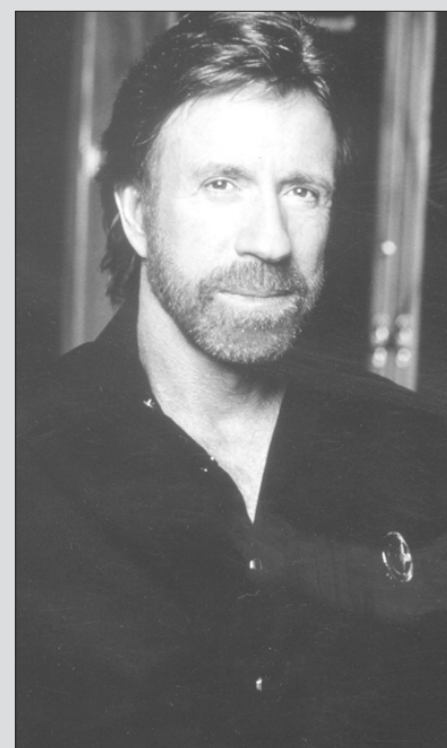


Martial Law on Star World tonight at 8

STAR News
02/02/2001
12:30 World's Wildest
Police Video 12:45
World's Wildest Police
Video 01:30 Walker Texas
Ranger 02:30 Martial Law
03:30 World's Wildest
Police Video 04:30
Walker Texas Ranger
05:30 Creflo Dollar Daily

CHANNEL V (INTERNATIONAL)

01/02/2001
12:30 Billboard US
Countdown 01:25 V News
12:35 Rewind 01:00 Turn
on TV 01:25 V News
03:30 Turn on TV 06:30
AM 01:00 07:00 V News
07:30 Rewind 08:30 AM
11:30 Turn on TV 12:25 V
News 12:30 The Ticket
01:00 [V] Back to Back
01:30 Turn on TV 02:25 V
News 02:30 Turn on TV
03:30 FLUX/Hot Shot Hits
04:30 Top 5 at 5:05:00
FLUX/New Music 05:35 V
News 06:00 FLUX/New
Music 06:30 FLUX/Hot
Shot Hits 07:00
FLUX/M2M 07:25 V News
07:30 [V] Back to Back
08:00 PM 01:55 V News
09:30 The Juice 10:00
Turn on TV 11:00



Walker Texas Ranger on Star World at 7:00p.m.