

Festival

The carnival of truth and beauty

Curtain falls on the two-day National Poetry Festival 2001

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

In every three persons I find a poet in this country that is how the pre-eminent Indian poet and novelist Sunil Gangopadhyaya described the poetry loving people of the country, while talking to The Daily Star on the concluding day of the two-day National Poetry Festival which ended in the city on February 2.

'Poetry festival is the festival of truth and beauty' was this year's slogan of the festival which attracted over 400 poets from across the country and West Bengal ended with the call to unite against the oppression of poets and any evil design to clip the freedom of expression.

Amid fanfare, with the tune of national anthem, the immortal song of Ekushey's and the official poetry festival song 2001, poet Shamsur Rahman officially announced the 15th National Poetry Festival 2001



Guest poet Anubav Tulshi

open at the library premises of the University of Dhaka on first day of February.

Before the inaugural ceremony the National Poetry Council paid their respect to our national poet



Sunil Gangopadhyaya, one of the literary giants of contemporary Bangla literature, finds the poetry festival inspiring for him.

Kazi Nazrul Islam and artist Quamrul Hasan and palced bouquets on their graves. Floral tributes were also paid to the central Shahid Minar.

Front-ranking poets from West Bengal such as Sunil Gangopadhyaya, Shamarendra Sengupta, Anil Sarkar, Joydeb Basu, Bivash Roy Chowdhury, Monorama Bisoyal Mohapatra, Chandrakanta Mursing, Shudhannya Tripura and Anubhab Tulshi made it to the festival to interact and share poetic thoughts with their Bangladesh counterparts.

Poet Rabiul Hussain, Shumadra Gupta, Muhammad Samad of the National Poetry Council spoke on the inaugural ceremony while it was presided over by poet Belal Chowdhury.

The exclusive evening for poetry reading began after lunch where poets from Dhaka and different places read their poems in three different sessions presided over by poet Sajjad Kadir, Asad Chowdhury and theatre personality Ramendu Majumder.

"I have attended almost all the National Poetry Festivals of Bangladesh", said poet Sunil Gangopadhyaya at the Poetry Festival 2001, "And each time I was amazed to see how much people love poetry, and wait patiently from the morning to listen to their favourite poets. They also come from far off places. This does not happen in our country."



Samarendra Sengupta, invited poet from West Bengal, captivates the poetry-loving audience of the festival.

Talking about the changes in contemporary Bangladeshi Sunil said, "Before the poets of Bangladesh use to write against the odds and dictatorship, but now after the liberation I observe some major changes in poetry writing."

While expressing his feelings about the National Poetry Festival, invited poet Anil Sarkar said, "After Rabinranath and Nazrul some people were making poetry difficult to understand and as a result the popularity of poetry was going down. Poetry festival is a protest against the alienation of contemporary poetry and a good step forward to make it pro-people." He also said, "I am amazed to observe how passionately people of this country is in love with poetry. The poetry of Bangladesh is blooming with an amazing variety. The poetry of a nation whose history is written with blood will definitely be bubbling with energy."

Poet Chandrakanta Mursing said, "I have never seen this much life in poetry before. I have attended many festivals before, but after coming here I saw a fair of poetry." He continued, "I have a high regard for poet Shamsur Rahman, Al Mahmud, Tariq Sujat and many others. In their poems one can find the inner thoughts of a soul." Comparing the history of his motherland Tripura he said, "Like Bangladesh, we also fought long for our national language and in 1978



Jaydev Basu, a new voice in contemporary West Bengal poetry, is a regular visitor to the poetry festival.

we received the authority. We were inspired from your language movement in 1952."

Poetry festival may not have been a grand occasion for registering the qualitative improvement of poetry in this country but it has certainly come to serve as a powerful voice against barbarity, philistinism, oppression and obscurantism. The kind of social activism poetry stirred against communalism and autocracy in the late eighties is one of the best things that happened to our cultural domain in the recent times.

At one point it has been in the centre of unnecessary controversy.



Guest poet Mitali Ghosh

A lot of it is due to muddled thinking. It can be useful to remember here that poetry does not set out with any narrow mission confined to a particular place, time and people. Its message is eternal. It is true, poetry may be a weapon against social injustice but that cannot be its only existential justification. Poetry is there because it epitomises the most sublime and aesthetic imagination of human mind from time immemorial; and because it seeks truth.

Overall, it was a great occasion for the poets and the poetry loving people of the country to savour multilayered, multi-falvoured poetry written in Bangla language.



Shamsur Rahman, best known poet of the country, declares the poetry festival open by raising the national flag.



Chandrakanta Mursing reads from his recent works. Photos of the festival are courtesy of Rifat Shahana.

Dance

Footprints on canvas

MUNEERA PARBEEN

It was a marriage between visual and performing art at the special exhibition held at Bengal Shilpalaya on the concluding day of the painting exhibition by Indian artists Alka Mathur and Naresh Kapuria.

The Shilpalaya presented a combined exhibition of the works of artists from two different media in a single show held with a view to bridge the beauty of the two arenas. Noted Odissi exponent Sharon Lawen performed at the backdrop of paintings by the two artists in a breathtaking presentation in the combination of colour, movement and sound.

The performance, aptly titled Footprints on Canvas, was held at the Bengal Shilpalaya premises at

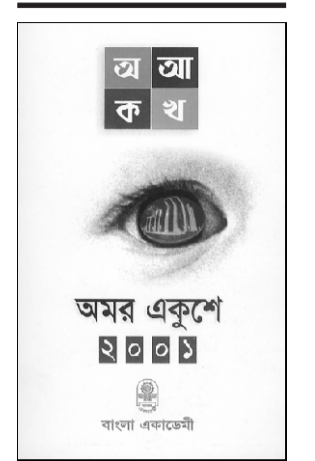


Dhanmondi road no 27 recently.

The programme was an effort to merge the expressions of art in two different media's, that of painting and dance, on a single point. At the onset of the performance, Alka Mathur explained the performance, saying that they had used the entire gallery as a canvas in order to present this merge of arts. In this way the exhibition no longer remained limited to the canvases on the walls but also took into account the space around them incorporated by the movements and rhythms of the dancer.

The audience appreciated this new expression, the merge of the immobile and mobile art, each of which enhanced the beauty of the other. Naresh said that in this way even the audience, who took their places on the floor of the gallery, had become part of the exhibition.

RECOMMENDATIONS



Book Fair

Painting competition for children at 10 in the morning. The theme for the competition is Birds of Bangladesh. Musical soiree in the evening at the premises of Bangla Academy.

Film Festival and Cultural Week

On the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the Victory day of Islamic Revolution in Iran, office of the Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dhaka has organised a Cultural and Film Festival Week on February 4 at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium at 4:00p.m. Professor Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information will inaugurate the occasion as chief guest.

Exhibitions of the holy Quran, books, calligraphy, photo, poster, handicrafts, engraving, video documentary show, photographs on historical places of Iran and photographs on the Islamic Revolution will be displayed everyday from 9:00a.m to 5:00p.m. till February 8. Films will be screened from 4 to 8p.m. till February 8 and there will also be a children drawing competition.

Coming of Age

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.

BTV

Morning session
10:00 Live from National Assembly: The 21st

Songser 2:40 Drishti 3:00 Ekuhey Headlines 3:05 Ondho Shikari 3:30 Shampa Razaer Bothok 4:00 Priyo Gaan 4:30

Gane 10:40 Vasha Amar Ahongker 11:15 I Close Up 11:50 Akattorer Dinguli 12:00 Sports Time 12:40 Sai Sur Sai Gane 1:15 Job Line 2:00 Amar Chobi 2:50 I Focus 3:00 Bangla Cinema: Taka Ana Pai 6:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 6:10 Deser Gane 6:40 Vasha Amar Ahongker 7:15 Special Programme on Hajj 7:50 Ekattorer Dinguli 8:00 Sargam 8:40 Spycam 9:15 Business File 9:50 Amar Channel I 10:00 Anondo Dhara 10:50 I Focus 10:00 Bangla Film: Chamatkar

STAR MOVIES

6:00 Action: Apocalypse Now 145 8:30 Thriller: Backroad Justice 90 10:15 Family: Barney's Great Adventure 74 12:00 Horror: The Blair Witch Project 78 2:00 Thriller: Dad Savage 100 4:00 Action: Paper Bullets 91 6:00 Celebrity Profile: Audrey Hepburn 40 7:00 Monday Comedy: Mafai! 83 9:00 Action: Iron Eagle 2 96 11:00 Thriller: Backroad Justice 90 12:45 Drama: Return To Snowy River 99 2:30 Action: Apocalypse Now 145 5:00 Drama: Blue Sky 96

STAR PLUS (INDIA)

6:00 Tu Tu Main Main 6:30 Star Geetmala 7:30 Hit Ya Fit 8:00 Chhupa Rustam 8:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Star Morning Show: Uttar Dakshin 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 TSN 1:30 Small

HBO

7:00 Stormcatcher 8:30 Deep Core 10:15 When Danger Follows You Home 12:15 Not of This World 2:15 Bad to the Bone 4:00 Her Alibi 6:00 One Crazy Summer 8:00 My Blue Heaven 10:00 Ghosts of Mississippi 12:30 I Q 2:30 Her Alibi 4:30 My Blue Heaven

STAR GOLD

8:30 Beete Hue Din 9:00 An Evening in Paris (Shammi Kapoor, Sharmila Tagore) 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Sawan Ki Ghata (Manoj Kumar, Sharmila Tagore) 3:30 Geet Bahar 4:00 Bewafai



Sargam on channel i at 8:00 pm.

6:30 Charidike 7:00 Toyota World of Wildlife 7:30 Ekuhey News 8:00 Pepsi Concert 8:30 Bangla Movie: Abiskar 10:00 BTV News 10:20 Bangla Movie: Abiskar (remaining part) 11:00 Ekuhey Latenight News

CHANNEL-i

6:15 I Close Up 6:50 Akattorer Dinguli 7:00 Sports Time 7:40 Sai Sur Sai Gane 8:00 Din Protidin 8:25 Job Line 9:00 Amar Chobi 9:50 I Focus 10:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 10:10 Deser



Pepsi Concert-4th part on Ekushey TV at 8:00 pm.

session of the Parliament Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Circus 3:20 Open University 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Educational programme 4:30 Programme on mother



Toyota World of Wild Life on Ekushey TV at 7:00 pm.

and child health care 4:45 Sports programme 5:20 Anu-paramanu 5:45 Facts on Nutrition 6:00 Khabar 6:10 Unmesh 6:35 Programmes of Chittagong centre 7:00 Dolan chanpa 7:25 Batikram 8:00 News in Bangla 8:20 Drama Chirabali 9:30 Judanagri 10:00 News at Ten 10:20 Antarang Alope 11:30 Khabar/ The News 11:45 Closing.

EKUSHEY

12:00 Ekuhey Headlines 12:05 Aker Potrikey 12:15 Bangla Movie: Ghor

B Saroja Dev) 10:30 Bollywood News 11:00 Singaar (Madhubala, Suraiya) 12:30 Singaar (Cont) 2:00 Geet Bahar 2:30 Bewafai (Rajesh Khanna, Tina Munim) 5:30 Singaar (Madhubala, Suraiya)

Bahu Thi 4:30 Cine Jharokha 5:00 Yit Ya Fit 5:30 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehi Thi 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Fox Kids 7:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 8:00 Tu Tu Main Main 8:30 Gharwali Uparwali 9:00 Saans 9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati 10:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Shagun 12:30 Telebrands 1:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 1:30 Star Movie Show: Uttara Dakshin 4:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 5:00 Saans 5:30 Meri Saheli

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC News 6:30 Asia Today/Reporters 7:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc Asia Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today/Reporters 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Earth Report 11:00 BBC News 12:00 BBC News 12:30 India Business Report 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Correspondent 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Top Gear ex Waterworld 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Correspondent 6:00 BBC News 6:30 Face To Face 7:00 BBC News 7:15 World Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Hardtalk 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Mastermind India 11:00 BBC News 12:30 World Business Report 11:30 Click Online 12:00 BBC News 12:30 World Business Report 12:45 World Sport 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Holiday 3:00 BBC News 3:30 World Business Report

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Ghosts of Mississippi on HBO at 10 pm. Alec Baldwin stars as a dedicated young trial lawyer and Whoopi Goldberg as the victimised widow of the renowned civil rights leader Medgar Evers in this gripping true murder story.

CNN

4:00 CNN This Morning 4:30 Asia Business Morning 5:00 CNN This Morning 5:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today



Antonio Carluccio's Italian Feast on BBC World at 11:30 am and 7:30 pm.

1:30 World Sport 2:00 World News 2:30 Best of Insight 3:00 CNN & Time 4:00 World News 4:30 Biz Asia 5:00 Asia Tonight 5:30 World Sport 6:00 World News 6:15 Asian Edition 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 Hotspots 8:00 Asia Tonight 8:30 World Sport 9:00 World News 9:30 CNNdotCOM 10:00 World News 10:30 Biz Asia 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A South Asia 12:00 World News 1:00 CNN Indiadotcom 1:30 World Business Today 2:00 World News 2:30 Q&A 3:00 World News Europe 3:30 CNN Newroom

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Animal Survivors 7:00 ESPU 7:30 Outer Bounds I & II 8:00 Without Warning I 8:30 Lonely Planet VI 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 I 2:00 Medical Detectives I 2:30 Vital Breakthroughs 3:00 Animal Survivors 4:00 ESPU 4:30 Outer Bounds I & II 5:00 Without Warning I 5:30 Lonely Planet IV 6:30 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files 7:00 Splat II & III 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Wild Asia 9:30 Medical Detectives 10:00 Ultrascience II 10:30 Amazing Worlds 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Wild Asia 2:30 Medical Detectives 3:00 Ultrascience II 3:30 Amazing Worlds 4:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 Vital Breakthroughs

CARTOON NETWORK

6:30 The Road Runner

Shows

7:00 The Smurfs 7:30 The Popeye Show 8:00 Dexter's Laboratory 8:30 What a Cartoon Show 9:00 The Powerpuff Girls 9:30 Batman The Animated Series 10:00 Garfield & Tweety Mysteries 10:30 Garfield and Friends 11:00 Tom & Jerry Show 11:30 Tom & Jerry Kids 12:00 The Little Lulu Show 2 12:30 Scooby Doo where Are You? 1:00 The Smurfs Robots 3:00 The Little Lulu Show 2 Toon Tamasha 3:30 Flintstones 4:00 The Mask 4:30 Swat Kats 5:00 Scooby & Scrappy Doo 5:30 Dexter's Laboratory 6:00 What a cartoon! Show 6:30 The Powerful Girls 7:00 Batman The Animated 7:30 Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries 8:30

Movies

9:30 At The Circus 11:10 Three Wise Guys 12:40 The Catered Affairs 2:50 Thank Your Lucky Stars

TCM Turner Classic

Garfield and Friends 9:00 The Road Runner Show 5:30 The New Scooby Doo Movies

Highlights (R) 12:00

Sportsline Tonight (T) 12:30 World Wrestling

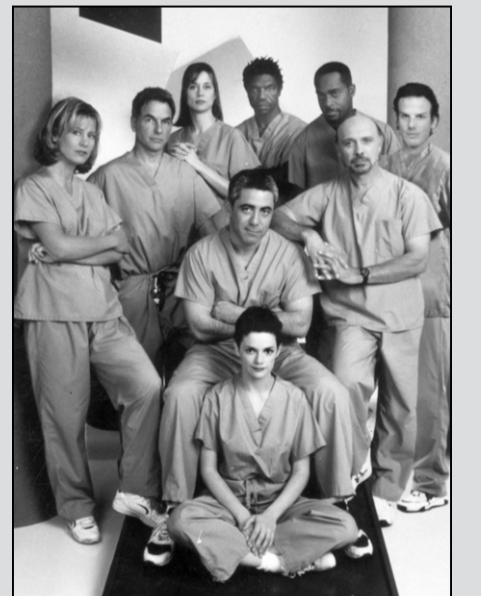
STAR SPORTS

7:00 Gillette World Sports Special 7:30 Sportsline Today 8:30 Spanish Football League 2000/01 Spanish Football League 10:30 Asian Football Show 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:30 Asia Sport Show (R) 1:00 PGA Tour Golf At&T Pebble Beach national pro-Am Pebble Beach, CA USA Day One(R) 3:00 National Soccer Grand Canaria International Football Finals (R) 6:00 World Wrestling Federation Raw (R) 8:00 Sportsline Tonight (L) 8:30 World Wrestling

ESPN

7:30 Junior X-Games Disney Junior X-Games Li Presented By Toyota (T) 8:00 Sportscenter: International Edition (S) 8:30 Italian Serie A Football Italian Serie A 2000/2001 (R) 10:30 English Premier Football League (R) 12:30 Motorsport Asia (R) 1:00 Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA (S) 2:00 Asian X-Games Qualifiers The 2000 Asian X-Games Qualifiers Pres. By Toyota Phuket, Thailand Review (R) 3:00 PBA Bowling

PBA Bowling: the Las Vegas Open Las Vegas, NV USA (T) 4:30 English



Chicago Hope on Star World at 8:00pm

Federation Live Wire (R) 7:30 Sportsline Today (T) 1:30 PGA Tour Golf At&T Pebble Beach national pro-Am Pebble Beach, CA USA Day (S) 3:15 New Zealand Cricket Sir Lanka Tour of New Zealand Auckland, New Zealand Sri Lanka @ New Zealand 3rd Odi, 1st Session (L) 7:00 Sportsline Today (T)

Premier Football League (R) 6:30 Australia Cricket Carlton Series 2001 Perth, Australia Zimbabwe @ Australia 12th Odi, Highlights (R) 7:30 Italian Football Hillies Italian Serie A 2000/2001 Highlights (T) 8:30 Sportscenter Hindi (L) 9:00 Premier Snooker League Premier Snooker League 2001 (T) 11:00 Extreme Programming 2001 Paul Mitchell X qualifier Squaw Valley, CA USA (T) 11:30 Sportscenter Hindi (T) 12:00 XBS (T) 12:30 Argentine Football Copa Ciudad De Mar De Plata Mar Del Plata, Argentina Boca Juniors @ River Plate (T) 2:30 Sport News Sportscenter Hindi (R) 3:00 Billiards Snooker Billiards Espn World Snooker: 2001 Nations Cup Reading, England Round Robin (T) 5:00 Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA (L) 6:00 Motoworld (T) 6:30 Sportscenter Hindi (R) 7:00 Snowmobiling 00/01



That '70s Show on Star World at 6:00pm