

Theatre

Reaching out to the masses

Bangladesh Potho Natok Parishad organises a colourful event at Suhrawardy Uddyan to mark the formal inauguration of this year's street drama season

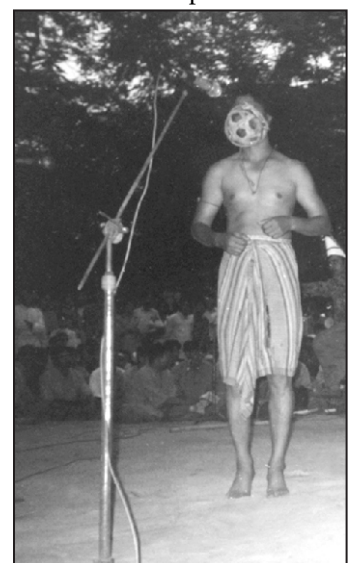
AZIZ AMIRUL

HUNDREDS of passers-by at the Suhrawardy Uddyan watched in amazement the performance of Bangladesh Potho Natok Parishad.

Bangladesh Potho Natok Parishad staged three short plays to mark the inauguration of the annual street drama season in Bangladesh on November 2 near the entrance of the Uddyan.

The season began with leading theatre personalities such as Mamunur Rashid, Aly Zaker, Rokeya Rafiq Baby, Mannan Hira, Nasiruddin Yusuf, Golam Kuddus and Mizanur Rahman participation in a discussion on street theatre and tradition of street drama in Bangladesh. They paid tributes to late S.M. Solaiman, one of the founders of the street drama association.

Mamunur Rashid highlighted different aspects of local drama and pointed out on



Hares Ali, the masked protagonist in Ponta Akali



Curious visitors waited patiently on the floor space to witness the programme

its popularity among the common mass. Though a high number of cultural enthusiasts could be found here but unfortunately they have failed to admire and honour the performers as much as they loved the topic of performance. Speaking on street drama Mamunur Rashid said the need to make the art form popular.

Aly Zaker echoed Mamunur and explained various features of street drama. He said that, more than any one else, a street drama worker could be a great spokesperson of the society to address the society. Street drama could be a more effective platform than any public rally or meeting. Street drama could be a fantastic way to reach the underprivileged people of the country for whom buying a ticket to watch a drama at Bailey Road amount to daydreaming.

The later part of the eve-

ning's proceedings witnessed the presentation of three dramas. With a duration of little



Mamunur Rashid, Aly Zaker and Rokeya Rafiq at the tea-break

over 30 minutes each, the productions included were *Ponta Akali* by Arannyak,

Punorbashon by Dhaka Podatik and *Court Martial*, a translated play.

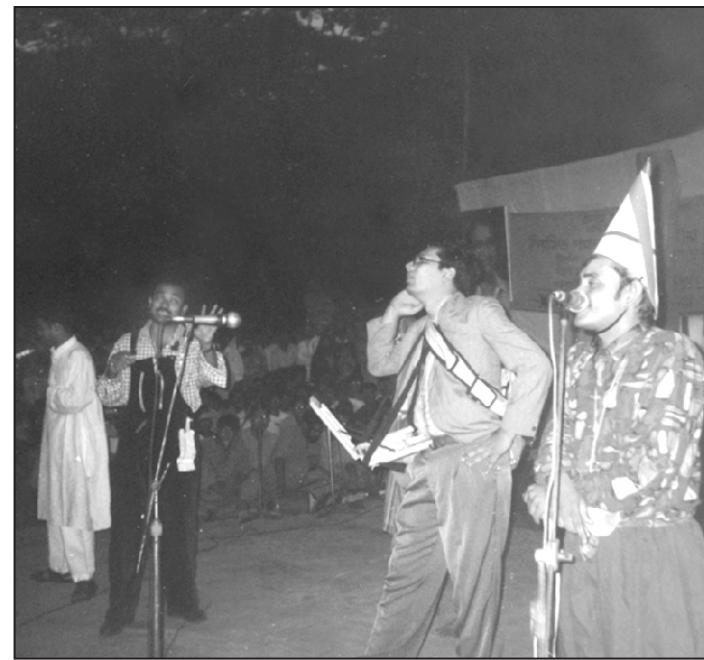
Ponta Akali, (a regional dialect of the term 'Panta bhat') reveals the selfish and hypocritical world of the non-government organisations in this country and how these NGOs are exploiting the unfortunate and deprived class of the country.

The protagonist Hares Ali in Ponta Akali, voices his protest against the usurpation of wealth by the elites of the society. However, after a lot of hassle the poor farmer could manage to break the shackles of the three wicked NGO bosses only to return to his village home.

Punorbashon, meaning rehabilitation, also depicts a similar situation and misdeeds of a certain group in the society. The central character Jorina, a simple village teenager, dreams of a fine future but faced with the grim reality of life, her dreams were shattered. The village headman and his family brought Jorina enough misery to look for a living in the capital city. Here again she has to deal with all sorts of odds. The exploitative nature of certain non-government organisation in name of gender-based development forced Jorina to return to her village.

The third and final play titled *Court-Marshal* was about military coup and murder. This particular drama however, could provide hardly any amusement to the large gathering of Suhrawardy Uddyan mainly due its typically serious plot, often difficult for the common mass to interpret and understand.

Street drama, a bit different in format of presentation than



The superficial NGO characters contributed enough humour in Ponta Akali

the usual proscenium theatre, is nothing new in this part of the world. Since the last couple of centuries, agendas of various religious and seasonal festivities found expressions in street drama.

The period of post-independence in Bangladesh saw numerous production and staging of street drama with the participation of most of the well-reputed theatre groups of the country. Street drama has provided a fantastic platform to give expression to all kinds of social odds and tribulations in the society. The recurrent themes of street drama have been the misdeeds of religious fanaticism, political instability, racial discrimination and social inequality.

Street dramas played a vital role during the anti-Ershad movement. Khepa Pagla-r Pechal (Statement of Khepa, the insane), a political satire,

written by late Solaiman, aroused a great deal of heated anguish and spur among the commoners during the final days of the autocratic reign. Incidentally, Khepa Pagla-r Pechal became the most staged drama of its kind in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Potho Natok Parishad was formed in 1993 with the affiliation of all major theatre groups related with stage drama.

"Street drama has now become a strong means of cultural manifestation and we are certainly hopeful that with the passing of time this particular art form would be able to influence the society and ensure rights for the deprived common mass", said Mizanur Rahman, Vice President of Bangladesh Potho Natok Parishad, while speaking with this correspondent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Classical Indian music

Today, the second day of the two-day long Indian classical vocal and instrumental music programme at the National Museum auditorium Purbayan Chatterjee will give a sitar recital at 7 in the evening.

Satranji show

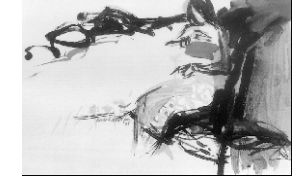
A seven-day exhibition showcasing traditional mat or satranji is being held at the Drik gallery. Open for all from 3-8 pm, the show will run till November 17.

Art show

An art exhibition of the Samakal Art Group is now being held at Shilpangan gallery. After the formation of the group, this is Shamaka's seventh exhibition. Open from 10 am to 8 pm, the show will continue up to November 14.

Contemporary Art of Bangladesh

Aten-day long art exhibition entitled Contemporary art of Bangladesh-Trends-2 is now being held at art gallery of the Indian Cultural Centre at Dhanmadi. The show features works of Abus Satter, Abus Shakoor, Abul Barq Alvi, Alak Roy, Biren Shome, Chandra Shekhar Dey, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Hashi Chakraborty, KMA Quayyum, Kazi Giasuddin, Monsur-ul-Karim, Nazlee Laila Mansur, Shahabuddin, Shahid Kabir, Swapan Chowdhury. Open for all from 12 to 8 pm, the show runs till November 17.



Art show

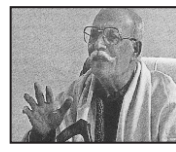
An exhibition of Rokeya Sultan's work is now being held at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House # 275/F, Road # 27, Dhanmadi. The artist's work reflect affliction inflicted on nature and women. The show runs everyday from 12 noon to 8 pm. till November 14.

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



EKUSHEY: 8:00 p.m. *Ebang Biya*. Episode-13: Akmal demands he be treated as per the rule of Geneva Convention, but of no avail. Mohabbat allows Namiddin to stay at his room.



EKUSHEY: 8:30 p.m. *Khan Bahadur Teen Chele*. The detectives sniff something seriously wrong somewhere and trap a terrorist group. They spot Rupashi at a shooting location.



STAR WORLD: 6:00 & 9:30 p.m. *Jag*. Mac prosecutes a Navy Seal jumpmaster charged with causing the drowning death of one of his parachutists. A mysteriously lands in her possession containing privileged information that as a prosecutor she is forbidden to see.

PICK OF THE DAY



The Godfather II
On HBO at 10:00 PM
Robert De Niro plays Vito Corleone, who struggles to make a living, legally or illegally, for his family in Italy. Meanwhile, Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) conspires to make inroads in Las Vegas and Havana pleasure industries by any means necessary.

3:00 Baywatch
4:00 The Simpsons
4:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
5:00 Star News Asia
5:30 Friends
6:00 JAG
6:55 STAR News Asia
7:00 The Pretender
8:00 NYPD Blue
9:00 Friends
10:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki
10:30 The Pretender
11:30 NYPD Blue
12:30 JAG
2:00 The Pretender
2:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
3:00 Creflo Dollar Day
3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries
4:00 Life in the Word With Joyce Meyer
4:30 World News
5:00 Things People Do
5:30 Mork & Mindy

STAR PLUS
6:00 Sanskruti
6:30 Star Geetmala
7:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki
8:00 Aatma
9:00 Sangeet Toppers
9:30 Fox Kids-Daily
10:30 Pal Chhin
11:30 Saahil
12:00 Sansar
12:30 Sangeet Toppers
1:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
1:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki
2:00 Sanskruti
2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
3:00 Shagun
4:00 Men Saheli
4:30 Kaahin Kissii Roz

5:00 Pal Chhin
5:30 Sangeet Toppers
6:00 Small Wonder
6:30 Fox Kids Daily
7:30 Sanskruti
8:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:30 Kalash
9:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz...
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

ESPN
6:00 Sportscenter Hindi
7:00 Motoworld
8:00 NFL Football Nashville, TN USA Baltimore Ravens @ Tennessee Titans
11:30 English Premier League Highlights English Premier League Highlights 2001/02
1:00 Pro Billiards 2001 Int'l Challenge Of Champions Uncasville, CT USA Finals
2:30 NFL Football Nashville, TN USA Baltimore Ravens @ Tennessee Titans
5:30 LPGA Golf Cisco World Ladies Match Play Championship Second Round
7:30 Football Focus
8:30 Sportscenter Hindi
9:00 English Premier League Highlights English Premier League High-

lights 2001/02
11:00 American Muscle 2001
11:30 Sportscenter Hindi
12:00 NFL Football Nashville, TN USA Baltimore Ravens @ Tennessee Titans
3:00 LPGA Golf Cisco World Ladies Match Play Championship Second Round
5:00 Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA
STAR SPORTS
7:30 Sportsline Today
8:30 Trans World Sport
9:30 Yachting Giraglia Rolex Cup 2001 St. Tropez, France Event Highlights
10:00 Rally Racing Mai Indian National Rally Championship 2001 Nashik, India Nashik Rally
10:30 Senior Pga Tour Golf Senior Slam St-Augustine, FL USA Second Round

SPORTS
12:30 Sportsline Today
1:00 English Premier Football League English Premier Football League
3:00 National Sports Report Class 1 Urm World Powerboat C'Ships Fujairah, UAE Fujairah Grand Prix
4:00 Rally Racing Indian National Motorcross Championship 2001 Jaipur, RA India Jaipur Championship
4:30 Yachting World Yachting Series 2001: Women's Match Racing
5:00 This Is The Pga Tour
6:00 Tennis Masters Series By Mercedes-Benz Sydney 2001 Sydney, Australia Early Round Coverage Day
6:30 Sportsline Tonight
7:30 Australian Domestic Cricket Australian Domestic Cricket-Pura Cup Melbourne, Australia Queensland Bulls @ Victorian Bushrangers Day 1 Highlights
12:00 Sportsline Tonight
12:30 Tennis Masters Series By Mercedes-Benz Sydney 2001 Sydney, Australia Early Round Coverage Day
2:30 Trans World Sport
3:30 Sportsline Tonight
4:00 Rally Racing 2001 Fia World Rally Championships Perth, Australia Highlights
5:00 Sportsline Tonight
5:30 Women's Golf Samsung's World Championship of Golf California, CA USA Day Two

6:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
1:00 [V] FDFS
1:30 [V] Hit Machine
2:30 [V] Colossal Chaos Countdown
3:00 [V] Hit Machine
4:30 [V] Hotline
5:30 Very [V]
7:30 [V] Hit Machine
9:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox
10:00 [V] FDFS
10:30 [V] Hit Machine
11:00 Late Night [V]
11:30 [V] Hit Machine
1:30 [V] Hit Machine

ZEE TV
6:00 Yaadon Ke Pal
6:30 Aalaap
7:00 Yoga For Life
7:30 Jagran
7:50 Zee Gym & Eat Healthy
8:20 News
8:30 Ardhangani
8:45 Yaadein Radio Ceylon Ki
9:00 Nickelodeon
9:30 Nickelodeon
10:00 Guldasta
10:30 Sarhadain
11:00 Ek Tukda Chand Ka
11:30 Ek Nazar
12:00 Woh Haseen Pal
1:00 Manzilein Apni Apni
1:25 Jhalak
1:30 Koi Apna Sa
2:00 Choti Maa Ek Anokha Bhandhan
2:30 Charana
3:00 Feature Film
6:00 Ek Nazar
6:30 Nickelodeon On Zee
7:00 Nickelodeon

7:30 Ek Nazar
8:00 Deewane To Deewane Hai
8:30 Ek Tukda Chand Ka
9:00 Justjujoo
9:30 Choti Maa Ek Anokha Bhandhan
10:00 Koi Apna Sa
10:30 Aap Jo Bole Haan To Haan Aap Jo Bole Na
11:30 Sarhadain
12:00 Gharana
12:30 Muje Dore Koi Khinche
1:00 Sansaar
2:00 Deewane To Deewane Hai
2:30 Manzilein Apni Apni
3:00 Feature Film
5:30 News in Hindi
ZEE CINEMA
6:00 Feature Film
9:00 Kuch Lamhe Kuch Nagme
9:15 Top of the Tops
9:45 Movie Fare
10:00 Feature Film
1:00 Cine News
1:15 Madhyantar
1:30 Feature Film
5:00 Darpan
5:15 Weekend Cinema
5:45 Film Time
6:00 Feature Film
9:15 Chatpatti Chat
9:30 Tara Rum
10:00 Feature Film
1:45 Tara Rum
2:15 Kuch Lamhe Kuch Nagme
2:30 Feature Film
3:00 Chehren

2:00 Hit Pe Hit
3:00 Artist Of The Fortnight
3:30 Tara Rum
4:30 Phoren Maal
5:30 Sizzlers
ALPHA TV BANGLA
6:00 Shesh Prashna
6:30 Goenda Paribar
7:00 Ekushe Paa
7:30 News
8:00 Surer Ei Dharana Dharay
8:30 Sur Taal
9:00 News
9:05 Bharat Bhraman
9:30 Kichu Smriti Kichu Gaan
10:00 Saregama
11:00 Shesh Prashna
11:30 Grohon
12:00 Phiren Elam
12:30 Samayer Sur
1:00 Ingit
1:30 Ek Akasher Niche
2:00 Nayantara
2:30 Rajadrohi Durga Puja Special
5:00 Surer Ei Jharna Dharay
5:30 Manabi
6:00 News
6:30 Grohon
7:00 Shesh Prashna
7:30 Purobita
8:00 Nayantara
9:45 Ingeet
10:15 Football
10:45 Ek Palake
11:00 News
11:05 Ek Palake
11:30 News
11:55 Ek Palake
12:00 Shesh Prashna
12:55 Ek Palake
12:30 Bangla Feature Film
3:00 Monniye
3:30 Bharat Bhraman
4:00 Nayantara
4:30 Ek Akasher Niche
5:00 Chena Mukher Shari
5:30 Football
HALLMARK
12:00 Titanic
2:00 Katts and Dog
3:00 Titanic
5:00 Sesame Street
6:00 Pals
8:00 Blonde
10:00 Lonesome Dove: The Series
11:00 Reunion
1:00 Sliders Season III
2:00 Sesame Street
3:00 Clifford
3:30 Calliou
4:00 Lonesome Dove: The Series
5:00 Star Trek : Voyager
6:00 Sliders Season IV
7:00 Hidden In America
9:00 Star Trek : Voyager
10:00 A Stranger To Love

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3:00 Chehren

ZEE MUSIC
6:00 Music Plus
7:00 Aalaap
7:30 Tara Rum
8:30 Hit Pe Hit
10:25 Star Style
10:30 Hit Mix
11:00 Cool Age
11:30 Music Box
12:00 Music Plus
1:00 Hit Pe Hit
2:00 Jharkha
2:35 Artist Of The Fortnight
3:05 Tara Rum
4:00 Hit Pe Hit
5:00 Music Box
5:30 Hit Mix
6:00 Compact Disc
6:30 Music Plus
7:30 Hit Pe Hit
8:30 Just Jammin
9:00 Dil Se
9:30 Music Box
10:00 Sizzlers
10:30 Jharkha
11:05 Fillers
11:35 Phoren Maal
12:35 Shabab
1:05 Music Box
1:30 Jharkha