

Theatre

Bridging gaps

Drama festival Natyoutsav 2002, organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Indian High Commission in association with Centre for Asian Theatre of Bangladeshi, opens with Kahan Kabir, a play on the Indian mystic poet and philosopher Kabir

AZIZ AMIRUL

I am highly pleased to see that the High Commission of India, with the collaboration of Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Centre for Asian Theatre (Bangladesh), have made a successful effort to bring a number of diverse theatre groups to perform in Bangladesh. This will enable the cultural connoisseurs of Bangladesh to know and understand their neighbours and help bridge cultural gaps', with this Begum Selima Rahman, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, inaugurated Natyoutsav 2002 on January 12 at the National Museum auditorium.

Begum Selima also said, "Theatre is an extremely powerful media, which has been used by man to express and articulate contemporary issues and problem of any society. Theatre has come close to the lives of common people; perhaps this is the reason why such



Scenes from 'Kahan Kabir'

performances are so popular among the commoners, especially among those who live in our part of the world. Bangladesh has a rich tradition of indigenous theatre, some of which include performance done in *Palagaan* and *Jatra*. Some of the drama campaigners still tend to return to the indigenous form that is a high source of inspiration and means of relaxation and entertainment among the rural community of the subcontinent."

She went on to say that, "This festival will give us a glimpse of that traditional medium which is an experience we all share. I am happy to note that a theatre group from Bangladesh is sharing platform with the Indian counterparts in this festival. I am hopeful that prompt

interaction between drama performers and promoters of both the countries will further strengthen the close bilateral relations that exist between us. I hope that this festival would turn out to be a successful one and believe that the High Commission, with collaboration with concerned associates, would arrange more such joint events in the near future to continue the ongoing process of bilateral exchange."

Manilal Tripathi, the High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh, attended the inaugural ceremony as Special Guest, in his welcome speech stated that the Natyoutsav would feature some top class theatrical productions of Indian and Bangladesh, thus would help strengthen the ongoing fine

paradigm of cultural exchanges between the two neighbouring countries.

Kahan Kabir, based on the mystic verses of the legendary poet Kabir, was staged on the opening session. Celebrated Indian theatre group Rang Vidhusak has brought the production in the city. Under the guidance of Banshi Kaul, the theatre group has brilliantly incorporated folk idioms, into its production, available within and outside India in several languages such as Hindi, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil and Sinhalese.

Banshi Kaul was present at the inauguration with his group. Born in 1949 in Srinagar, Kaul has developed a new idiom and performance language. He has experimented

with theatrical spaces by playing with form, colour and sound. The opening scene of Kahan Kabir began with a background song, a verse by Kabir put into music. Kabir's death get announced with the body lying in front of a group of sect leaders eager to complete the last rituals. After a brief scuffle among leaders, the corpse is uncovered only to find a heap of white flowers under the sheet.

Rather than remaining faithful to history, the play tells stories which have kept Kabir alive among the masses for centuries taking him beyond the realm of time and space. The 90-minute play was comprised of 12 scenes that reflected the ego and moral beliefs of the characters like the Sutradhars, Vidvans and the

Pandits, most of who played the roles of moderators in a bid to depict the issues and connotations related to philosophy and ideals of Kabir. Kahan Kabir is not a linear story and does not evolve around Kabir, the protagonist. Rather, the actions drew force from the philosophical beliefs of the great personality, his faith in the existence of abstraction within self of every human. Here we found Kabir among the common masses. His verse reflected his outright disbelief in every kind of religious faction and social discrimination.

His disgust towards the religious hypocrites and his voice against all kinds of social malpractice established strong concentration in the verses, read out in the play. Each of

the verses of Kabir seemed to produce a musical character within itself that emitted sweet melody. Kahan Kabir proved to be a humble effort to render on stage the expanse of space that could be found in his verses.

In addition to the representation of abstract form of the human soul, the play also transformed the limited space of the stage into an infinite, boundless cosmos through songs and narrations that pronounced aestheticism and spiritual interpretation, at their best. Kudos to the organisers for a timely production like Kahan Kabir when the world is active in affairs of carnage and hatred.



Kamaluddin Nilu, Secretary-General of Centre for Asian Theatre gives vote of thanks

RECOMMENDATIONS



Theatre festival

A five day long dance drama festival, organised by Indian High Commission in Dhaka, in collaboration with Centre for Asian Theatre and Indian Council for Cultural Relations, has opened at the National Museum Auditorium in Dhaka. Shows are being held daily at 6:30 p.m., till today.

Today's show: Urubhangam directed by Kamaluddin Nilu of Centre for Asian Theatre, Dhaka.

Tomorrow's show: Meghad Badh Kabya at Muslim Institute Auditorium, Chittagong.

Art show of three Bengali pioneers

An exhibition showcasing works of pioneer artists Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan and S.M. Sultan-of Bangladeshi art movement is being held at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts at Dhanmondi. This show is the second of a series presented from the collection of Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation.

Group Art Show

The 45th Grand Group Art Exhibition of leading Bangladeshi artists organised by Saju Art Gallery is now being held at its gallery space at Gulshan, North Super Market 2nd circle. The month-long show, open to all, will run until February 7 from 10 am to 8:30 pm barring Fridays.

2nd solo



exhibition

The 2nd solo art exhibition by artist Rezaul Hoque Lito is being held at the High Commission of India Cultural Centre (754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi)

The exhibition will remain open for all from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. everyday, till January 24.

TV GUIDE

EKUSHEY TV

- 9:30 Coca-Cola Test Series-2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second Cricket Match Live Telecast from Chittagong
- 12:00pm Ekushey Miday
- 12:30 Coca-Cola Test Series-2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Second Cricket Match Live Telecast from Chittagong
- 3:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 3:05 Coca-Cola Test Series-2002 Bangladesh-Pakistan Test Cricket Match Live Telecast from Chittagong
- 5:00 Documentary Programmed: Japan Video Tropic
- 5:30 Drishti
- 5:50 Aker Potriky
- 6:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 6:05 Classic Cartoons
- 6:30 Charidike
- 6:55 Ekushey Headlines
- 7:00 Chips & Bites
- 7:30 Ekushey News
- 7:58 Ek Minute
- 8:00 Drama Serial: Bondhon
- 8:45 Program of Song: Anondo
- 9:00 Ekushey News
- 9:05 Pothor Pachile
- 9:30 Drama Serial: Sundoree
- 10:00 News: Simulcast From BT
- 10:30 Chittogetee
- 11:00 Ekushey Nightly News
- 11:30 Sumprotique
- 12:00 Ekushey Headlines
- ATN
- 5:30am Islamic Prog.
- 7:00 Musical Prog: ATN Music
- 8:00 ATN Bangla News
- 8:25 Musical Prog.
- 9:00 A Special Programme on Former President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed
- 9:30 Drama: Khude Goenda
- 10:50 Drama serial: Bondhon
- 11:20 Bangla film: Biswas Abiswas
- 12:00pm ATN Bangla News
- 6:07 Healthcare prog: Sustha Thakun
- 6:45 Film Songs prog: Sur Chobi
- 7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News
- 7:35 Drama serial: Rang Beranger Din
- 8:10 Film Magazine: Dhaliwood Bichitra
- 8:45 Cooking prog: Ranna Banna
- 9:20 Drama serial: Brierher Bhalobasa
- 10:00 ATN Bangla News
- 10:35 Drama serial: Bondon
- 11:15 Bengali feature film: Jebon Sangit
- 11:30 ATN Bangla News

HBO

- 6:30am Devil In A Blue Dress
- 8:30 Dragnet
- 10:45 The Out-of-Towners
- 12:30pm A Kiss Before Dying
- 2:30 Trilogy of Terror II
- 4:15 Urban Legend
- 6:15 Spiders
- 8:15 The Rugrats Movie
- 10:00 Python
- 10:30 Boys On The Side
- 2:15 Dragnet
- 4:30 Urban Legend
- STAR GOLD
- 7:00am Jeene Ki Raah (Jeetendra, Tanuja)
- 10:30 Amul Bollywood News
- 11:00 Geet Bahar
- 11:30 Nadiya Ke Par (Dilip Kumar, Kamini Kausal)
- 3:00pm Amul Bollywood News
- 3:30 Ek Musfir Ek Hasina (Joy Mukherjee, Sadhana)
- 7:00 Geet Bahar
- 7:30 Rang Birangi A Mehboob Ki Mehendi (Rajesh Khanna, Leena Chandavarkar)
- 11:00 Amul Bollywood News
- 11:30 Lakhon Me Ek (Mehmood, Aruna Irani, Pran)
- 12:30 Lakhon Me Ek (Cont)
- 3:00 Geet Bahar
- 3:30 Ek Musafir Ek Hasina (Joy Mukherjee, Sadhana)
- BBC WORLD
- 6:00am BBC News
- 6:30 World Business Report
- 7:00 BBC News
- 7:30 Asia Today Inc Asia Business Report
- 8:00 BBC News
- 8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
- 9:00 BBC News
- 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
- 10:00 BBC News
- 10:30 Hardtalk
- 11:00 BBC News
- 11:30 World Business Report
- 12:00pm BBC News
- 12:30 World Business Report
- 1:00 BBC News
- 1:30 World Business Report /Sports Today
- 2:00 BBC News

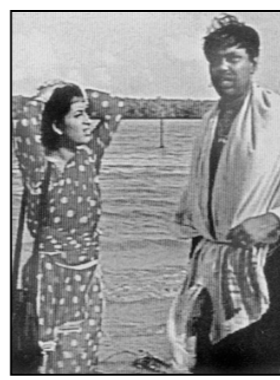
STAR PLUS

- 2:30 Rough Science
- 3:00 BBC News
- 3:30 Reporters
- 4:00 BBC News
- 4:30 East Asia Today/Sport Today
- 5:00 BBC News
- 5:30 Hardtalk
- 6:00am Sanskruti
- 12:00 Boys Geetmala
- 7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain
- 8:00 Aatma
- 9:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
- 9:30 Fox Kids Daily
- 10:30 Small Wonder
- 11:00 Pal Chhin
- 11:30 Meri Saahil
- 12:00pm Shanti
- 12:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
- 1:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
- 1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
- 2:00 Sanskruti
- 2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 3:00 Shagun
- 3:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
- 4:00 Kabhi Sautein Kabhi Saheli
- 4:30 Kaathin Kissii Roz
- 5:00 Meri Saheli
- 5:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
- 6:00 Small Wonder
- 6:30 Fox Kids Daily
- 7:10 Aaj Ki Baat
- 7:30 Sanskruti
- 8:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
- 8:30 Son Pari
- 9:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
- 9:30 Sanjivani
- 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
- 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 11:30 Kaathin Kissii Roz
- 11:35 Aaj Ki Baat
- 12:00 Shagun
- 1:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
- 1:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
- 2:00 Kaathin Kissii Roz
- 2:30 Chhupa Rustam
- 3:00 Pal Chhin
- 3:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
- 4:00 Shanti
- 4:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
- 5:00 Meri Saheli
- 5:30 Hit Filmlein Sangeet
- DISCOVERY
- 7:00am Real Kids, Real Adventures
- 7:30 Wild Discovery
- 8:30 Lonely Planet IV

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



Ekushey: 8:00 pm. Drama serial **Bandhan**. Imran problem persists in the family. The whole family appears to be a mental shock. To ease up the situation, Tarek comes forward in aid of Shirin and Ashgar.



EKUSHEY: 9:30 p.m. Drama Serial: **Shundari**. Dispute arises over the control of the Bada Bon. Gafur plots to kill a few men and a monster. The DFO inquires Zahir about Ishrat. Zahir, in reply, informs that she wants to help. Gafur forms a forest protection committee and goes to Montu Sarkar only to inform him that to maintain peace 'two tigers can never stay in the same jungle'.

PICK OF THE DAY



Python
On HBO at 10:00
With a cast led by Starship Troopers' Casper Van Dien, MTV babe Janny McCarthy and Freddie Krueger himself, Robert Englund, expect nothing but one wild rollercoaster ride of a movie about a giant, genetically-engineered python which escapes and starts picking off the residents of a small US town.

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9:30 Usuaia | 8:30 Battledome | 6:30 Battledome | 6:00am The Women of Windsor |
| 10:30 Great Books | 9:30 The Amazing Race | 7:30 Pacific Blue I | 8:00 Babycakes |
| 11:30 Wild on the Set III | 10:30 Pensacola III | 8:30 The Amazing Race | 10:00 Lonesome Dove: The Series |
| 12:00pm Horse Tales | 11:30 Pacific Blue | 10:30 Movie: Dantes' Peak | 11:00 Choices |
| 12:30 Discovery Sunday | 12:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not | 12:30 Silk Stalkings VII | 1:00pm Sliders |
| 1:30 The Human Body | 1:30 The Amazing Race | 1:30 Pacific Blue I | 2:00 Sesame Street |
| 2:30 Wild Discovery | 2:30 Movie: Cruel Justice | 2:30 Pensacola III | 3:00 Scholastic Clifford |
| 3:30 Let's Dance & Eat | 4:30 Boardwild | 3:30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents | 3:30 Caillou |
| 4:00 Real Kids, Real Adventures | 5:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not! | HALLMARK | 4:00 Lonesome Dove: The Series |
| 4:30 Trail Blazers | | | |
| 5:30 Lonely Planet VI | | | |
| 6:00 Wild on the Set III | | | |
| 7:00 Horse Tales | | | |
| 7:30 Wild Discovery | | | |
| 8:30 Junkyard Wars | | | |
| 9:30 Science Mysteries | | | |
| 11:30 Crime Night | | | |
| 11:30 Trail Blazers II | | | |

STAR NEWS

- 7:00am Breakfast News
- 6:00 Star News Hindi
- 6:30 Bollywood News
- 7:00 Star Bazaar
- 7:30 Saat Baje
- 8:00 Star Khel
- 8:30 Tonight at 8
- 9:00 Star Samachar
- 9:30 Star News English
- 10:00 Star Business News
- 10:30 Star Newshour
- 11:30 Star News English
- 12:00pm Sports Tonight
- 12:30 Star News English
- AXN
- 6:30am Movie: Cruel Justice

ZEE MUSIC

- 7:00 Aalaap
- 7:30 Tara Rum
- 8:30 Hit Pe Hit
- 9:30 Hit Pe Hit
- 10:30 Hit Mix
- 11:00 Music Mag
- 11:30 Music Box
- 12:00 Music Plus
- 1:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 2:00 Jharokha
- 2:35 Dil Se
- 3:05 Tara Rum
- 4:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 5:00 Music Box
- 5:30 Hit Mix
- 6:00 Cool Age
- 6:30 Music Plus
- 7:30 Hit Pe Hit
- 8:30 Best of the Best
- 9:30 Zee Music Box
- 10:00 Sizzlers
- 10:30 Jharokha
- 11:05 Just Jammin
- 11:35 Phoren Maal
- ALPHA TV**
- 7:00 Nayantara

- 7:30 News In Bengali
- 8:00 Surer Ei Jhamadhara
- 8:30 Zee Jalsa
- 9:00 News
- 9:05 Bharat Bhraman
- 9:30 Purobi
- 10:00 Googly
- 10:30 Prapto Baeskoder Janye
- 11:00 Nayantara
- 11:30 Ebar Jombe Moja
- 12:00 Gandharbi
- 12:30 Chena Mukher Shari
- 1:00 Ingit
- 1:30 Ek Akasher Niche
- 2:00 Pratiimba
- 2:30 Mitir Barir Choto Bou-Feature Film
- 5:00 Surer Ei Jhamadhara
- 5:30 Bhalobasa
- 6:00 News In Bengali
- 6:30 Chokher Bali/De Re 7:00Nayantara
- 7:30 Surer Ei Jhamadhara
- 8:00 Pratiimba
- 8:30 Ek Akasher Niche
- 9:10 Chena Mukher Sari
- 9:45 Ingit
- 10:15 Football
- 10:45 Ek Palake
- 11:00 Bangla News Bulletin
- 10:55 Ek Palake
- 11:00 News In Bengali
- 11:30 Bideshini Bodhu
- 11:50 Ek Palake
- 12:00 Chokher Bali/De Re
- 12:25 Ek Palake
- ANIMAL PLANET**
- 7:00AMK-9 to 5
- 7:30 Animal Doctor II
- 8:00 Zookeepers
- 8:30 Animal Planet Safari
- 9:30 Wednesday Wilderness
- 10:00 Wednesday Wilderness
- 11:00 Animals A-Z
- 11:30 Cats Felines & Pharaohs
- 12:30p.m. Wild Rescues I
- 12:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
- 1:00 Horse Tales
- 1:30 The Aquanauts
- 2:00 Battersea Dogs Home III
- 2:30 Monkey Business
- 3:00 21st Century Ark
- 4:00 Vets in Practice
- 4:30 Crocodile Hunter
- 5:30 Wednesday Wilderness
- 6:00 Wednesday Wilderness
- 7:00 All Bird TV II
- 7:30 Battersea Dogs Home
- 8:00 Animal Planet Safari
- 8:00 Walk On The Wild Side

- 9:30 Champions of the Wild II
- 10:00 Vets in Practice
- 10:30 Crocodile Hunter
- 11:30 Wednesday Wilderness
- 12:00am Wednesday Wilderness
- SONY**
- 7:30 AM Amrit Varsha Others
- 8:00 Sant Asaram Vani Others
- 8:30 Chartist Music
- 9:00 Good Morning Disney Cartoons
- 9:30 Good Morning Disney Cartoons
- 10:00 Music Mantra Music
- 10:30 Dil Se Dosti Drama
- 11:00 Mahayaga Drama
- 11:30 Khwahish Drama
- 12:00 PM Saaya Drama
- 12:30 Boogie Woogie Dance
- 1:00 Kkusum Drama
- 1:30 Ek Mahal Ho Sapano Ka Drama
- 2:00 Kutumb Drama
- 2:30 Weekday Matinee : Caravan Movie
- 3:00 Weekday Matinee (cont'd) Movie
- 6:00 Just Mohabbat Comedy
- 6:30 Disney Hour Cartoons
- 7:00 Disney Hour Cartoons
- 7:30 Chartist Music
- 8:00 Music Mantra Music
- 8:30 19:55 : Khe! Drama
- 9:00 20:25 : Ek Mahal Ho Sapano Ka Drama
- 9:30 Kkusum Drama
- 10:00 Kutumb Drama
- 10:30 Aahat Specials Thriller
- 11:00 Aahat Specials Thriller
- 11:30 Bhanwar Drama
- 12:00 Kaun Apna Kaun Paraya
- ZEE CINEMA**
- 7:30 A.M. Swarnkama - Feature Film
- 10:15 Movie Fare
- 10:30 Main Nashe Mein Hoon - Feature Film
- 1:15 P.M. Madhyantar
- 1:30 Kamyab-Feature Film
- 5:15 Making Of A Legend
- 5:45 Film Time
- 6:00 Dulhe Raja-Feature Film
- 9:15 Cine News
- 9:30 Dadamoni (A Tribute To The Legend(Ashok Kumar)
- 10:00 Raiszaada-Feature Film
- 1:15 A.M. Yaadein Radio Ceylon Ki
- 1:30 Qaid Mein Hai Bulbul - Feature Film