

RECOMMENDATIONS

Australian Film Festival

August 16-17
Australian High Commission in Bangladesh hosts an Australian film festival on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Bangladesh.

Art exhibition

August 2-15
Artist Fakrul Islam holds a solo exhibition of his works at the gallery of Alliance Francaise, complete schedule of which will soon be announced.

Sculpture exhibition

August 12-18
A sculpture exhibition of artist Ferdousi Priyobhashini begins at Bengal art gallery at Dhanmondi in the city.

Children's art exhibition

August 9-13
A children's art display starts at DRK gallery in the city and continues everyday from 3 to 8 p.m.

Dance Festival

September 15-17
A dance festival is to be organised by Nriya Dhara, a local dance institution, at the auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum at Shahbagh in the city that will be participated by over 100 danseuse from across the country including tribal performers from Marma, Santal, Pankho, Chakma and Manipuri communities.

Event

Monsoon oriented music soothes the mind and heart

Sangeet Bhaban greets monsoon through rich musical renditions

AZIZ AMIRUL

THE auditorium of Bangladesh Shishu Academy in the city was packed on the evening of August 9 as everybody waited with patience to relish the following hours that produced songs, classical dances and poetry recitation from artists of 'Sangeet Bhaban'.

The artistes were both, students and the teachers of the academy. Kalim Sharafi, Principal of Sangeet Bhaban and Hashi Biswas, the secretary, delivered brief welcome speeches through which they extended their thanks and gratitude to the audience, students, staffs of 'Sangeet Bhaban' and also to the sponsors of the event, Fantasy Kingdom of Ashulia.

'It has been a great pleasure for me to experience such a wonderful evening among the enthusiastic audience who love music', said Kalim Sharafi. 'This particular event carries extra importance as it coincides with the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore that the country observed a couple of days back', added the elderly maestro. Hashi Biswas, in her speech, mentioned, in short, the past events of the academy in observance of the seasonal celebrations. 'With narrow resources and crossing various hurdles, 'Sangeet Bhaban' has reached a commendable position in the musical arena. We are indebted to patrons and well-wishers, who provide us with relentless support', she added.



Kalim Sharafi (L) renders Tagore song



Young dancers present captivating performance

Artistes Tipu Chowdhury, Lana Khan, Hashi Biswas, Bipasha Dewanji, Moushumi Tarafdar, Mahmud Selim, Pijush Barua, Shamima Parvin, Barkat Hossain, Salma Akbar, Sanchita Dutt and elderly music exponent and teacher, Kalim Sharafi rendered a mixed combination of songs, those of classical, Tagore, Nazrul, Kajari and Atul Prasad forms.

Belayet Hussain Khan, a Bharat Natyam danseuse captivated the audience through his enchanting body-language while in separate numbers, groups of children and teen-age female students presented classical dances and songs.

Pijush Barua, in addition to his fine vocal performance, presented strong and emotional recitation of important Bangla poems.

It was back in 1983 when a group of Bangladeshi graduates returned home after completion of their



Sangeet Bhaban welcomes monsoon

Art Exotica from India

Shehnai and Rajasthani folk dance captivate the audience at the National Museum Auditorium

HARUN UR RASHID

THE city has recently had the pleasure of listening to Indian instrumental music and watching folk dance as Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and High Commission of India in Dhaka jointly organised a two-day presentation at the National Museum Auditorium. Pundit Anant Lal and Gulabi Sapera, both renowned in their respective fields, entertained the big audience by their excellence in their arts: Pundit Lal conjured up spells of classical ragas on the 'shehnai' on August 6, while the latter swayed her audience with the mesmerising rhythm of Rajasthani folk dance the next day.

Pundit Lal's recital of the 'shehnai' is characterised by the 'Bhadat' of his 'Gayaki Ang', thoughtful beautification of 'Alap,' and the taans with its speedy recurring 'Jhalas' that marvel his audience. Indeed, his 'creation' of beauty with the illusory poignant tune of the 'shehnai' could be easily felt even by the most amateur music enthusiast. Especially, when he played the 'Alap,' the magical reciprocity between the 'shehnai' and the tabla created an aesthetic illusion of conversation. Again, since the 'shehnai' is rather shrill in tune, the whole piece of the music was truly plaintive in mood that carried away the listener's mind to a far-away region of unknown emotion--but not incomprehensible.

Beginning with raga 'Marubehag,' a raga of the night not very old, the Punditji set the true atmosphere of night's vastness and loneliness, a mood of meditation. After the Marubehag, he recited raga Chandrakosh that cast a feeling of pain and sorrow upon the audience. The presentation ended with a Baranasa Thumri, the original of which Punditji himself sang for the audience. 'Dagara bichu kayse chalu' the Rajasthani folk song's tune was improvised in Thumri style.

Born in a family from Rajasthan with a musical heritage of more than two and a half centuries, Pundit Anant Lal could barely be indifferent



Gulabi Sapera performs

to his family tradition. His father, Pundit Mithai Lal, gave him the first lessons of the 'shehnai' when he was only a boy of nine. Nevertheless, despite his youth, young Lal had the keen interest in the 'shehnai' that made him an intensive student of his master-father. Later, however, he took discipleship under the famous singer Pundit Mahadev Misra.

In the programme, Pundit Lal was accompanied by Sanjeev Shankar and Ashwani Shankar on the 'shehnai', Ratan Kumar Das (who is a Bangladeshi) on the tabla, and Vijay Kumar on the surpeti. The audience will certainly remember for a long time the melodies that the maestro Pundit Anant Lal had rendered that evening.

On the next day, August 7, Gulabi Sapera and her troupe took the stage and presented an exotic display of Rajasthani folk dance. The audience-packed auditorium burst into continual clapping applause punctuated by periods of tension and trepidation as well as utter astonishment that Gulabi Sapera's performances caused. The show of Gulabi Sapera

opened in the traditional way by paying tribute to the Muses with a 'Vandana' song and by welcoming the audience with a short traditional piece of dance. In her first performance, Gulabi Sapera came on stage carrying seven pitchers on her head, one smaller on top of another bigger. The dance involved a lot of skills in keeping the balance of the pitchers, and it quite often created breathless tension among the audience as the pitchers often tilted sideways and appeared to fall down. Besides, the dance included brief performances like picking with the mouth a banknote laid on the stage, stepping on to two glasses, and doing taals on broken pieces of glass. All these had to be done simultaneously with keeping the balance! But Gulabi surely seemed to be an adept acrobat in doing these all with little difficulty.

A 'Banjara' dance was also presented, in which a Banjara, a man from the tribe of the name, was about to go hunting and his beloved, a Banjara, was trying to hold him back. Their whirling together and smiling gestures were well expressive of their love.

Gulabi Sapera comes from Ajmer Katra in Rajasthan. Her first lessons in dance started from within the family with her mother Dakhuri Sapera. Along with that, Gulabi also learned singing from the mother, who herself was also a notable dancer and singer. When Gulabi was about twelve or thirteen, she attracted attention of a few officials of Rajasthan Tourism at the Pushkar Fair. Having recognised her talent and devotion in the art, they picked her as a regular performer of the Tourism department. Since then Gulabi has enchanted her audiences all over India and abroad.

Gulabi Sapera and her troupe, clad in bright contrasting colourful costumes, spread all around colours of their jovial mood; every step that they made, every whirl that they produced on their ghagra, every smile they flashed, and every skill they performed added to the atmosphere of enchantment and enjoyment on that evening.

Thanks to the Indian authorities for presenting such a memorable cultural event.

TV GUIDE

Table with TV channel listings for BTV, CHANNEL-i, HBO, STAR PLUS, STAR GOLD, STAR NEWS, STAR WORLD, and CHANNEL [V].

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



EKUSHEY: 8:30 p.m. Gaaner hat. The program among other topics presents flute performance by reputed flautist Moniruzzaman who recently had his CD 'Samakal' launched.



ATN BANGLA: 8:45 p.m. Pop dhamaKa. The program includes interview of renowned singer Shuvro Dev and a few of the songs from his latest album, 'Sharthopor'.



STAR MOVIES: 7:00 p.m. The Beverly Hillsbillies. The Beverly Hillsbillies are still moving up in the world. From the small screen of the hit 60s television series, the man named Jed and his kinfolk have loaded up the truck and moved to Beverly on the Big Screen.

PICK OF THE DAY



Hard Target
On HBO at 10:00 p.m.
A young woman searching for her missing and homeless father in a seamy section of New Orleans is saved by a martial arts fighter, sometime merchant seaman, when a gang of thugs try to rob her.

Table with TV channel listings for ZEE TV, ZEE ENGLISH, ZEE MUSIC, ZEE NEWS, AXN, and HALL MARK.

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