

The nation's mindshapers

Liberation War Museum pays tribute to poet Sufia Kamal and 'Shahid Janani' Jahanara Imam

HARUN UR RASHID

AS renowned Rabindra Sangeet artiste Mita Haque sang Ami tomar matir konnyaljanani bashundhora, it seemed the most befitting tribute to two of the country's brightest women--poet Sufia Kamal and 'Shahid Janani' Jahanara Imam--who dedicated their lives in moulding the nation in the ideals and values of our Liberation War.

Poet Sufia Kamal was born on June 20, 1911, while Jahanara Imam breathed her last on June 26, 1999. Both of the mindshapers had immense contribution in setting up the Liberation War Museum.

The programme took place at the museum auditorium on June 24. Two of the trustees of the Liberation War Museum--Dr Sarwar Ali and actor Aly Zaker, paid tribute to the two great women of the country on behalf of the museum.

Dr Sarwar Ali narrated an incident to illustrate the tremendous impact Sufia Kamal had on the women of our country, generation after generation. He said he went to the Azimpur graveyard, where Sufia Kamal was buried, on December 6, 1999, and found an elderly lady praying beside the grave of the poet. The lady was accompanied by a young girl. After her prayer, Ali asked her if she had been any relative of the poet. The lady told him that she was not; that she came only because 'the poet did a lot for us.'

Zaker confessed at the programme that he had earlier been a little reluctant to go there. On the previous night of that event, Jahanara Imam called him on the phone and



Poet Sufia Kamal



Jahanara Imam

asked him not to miss Gana-Adalat. 'She ordered me to attend the trial,' said Zaker, 'and I didn't dare to disobey her order.' He referred to a paragraph in a sub-editorial written by eminent Wahidul Haque, published in the Daily Bhorer Kagoj on June 24, 2004, to portray the character of Sufia Kamal. Wahidul Haque termed her as an activist of 'humanisation' at a time when the world was undergoing 'patriarchisation'.

After the discussion, poet Rabiul Hussain recited his poems, Ekaler Batabrikha and Byathito Ek Roktakto

Potaka, dedicated to Sufia Kamal and Jahanara Imam. Poet Mahadeb Saha read and dedicated his poem Pratossharonia, originally dedicated to Sufia Kamal, in memory of both the women of enlightenment. Besides recitation performer Belayet Hossain recited poems Ramoni written by Sufia's youngest son Sajed Kamal, and Shahid Jananike Nibedito Panktimala of Shamsur Rahman.

Finally Mita Haque sang a few songs including Chiroshakha hey, Chokher aloy dekhechhilem, Badal dinero prothomo kadomo phul, Megher koley koley.

Dhaka Drama Festival 2004 Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (June 17-July 23)

REVIEW

Bhaboghure

An Adaptation of Charlie Chaplin?

ON June 24 Theatre (Topkhana) staged Bhaboghure at the Experimental Theatre Stage as part of the drama festival arranged by BGTF.

In Bhaboghure (the wanderer) the playwright Shantanu Biswas has depicted the dark aspects of society like terrorism, chaos, uncertainty, hypocrisy, greediness and degradation of rationality through a man who claims himself as a Muktabeni (wanderer) in a way as the legendary actor Charlie Chaplin did.

The protagonist of the play is an honest and homeless fellow who considers everybody as his friend and always gives a hand to them. As a result the faces troubles by the evil doers of the society. He is one totally unsuitable in the world based on evil.

At the end of the play dramatist Shantanu Biswas shows that Muktabeni again returns to his wandering life in search of peace.

Director Tarun Kumar Basu also seems very much influenced by Charlie Chaplin, particularly in the composition of the comic scenes. He has used chorus as the narrator of Bhaboghure.

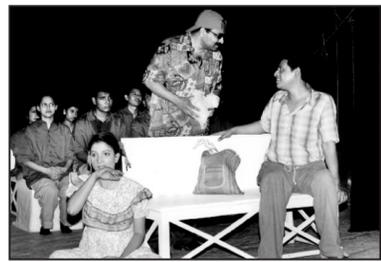
Realistic set design of the play is appreciable. Set designer Deepak has successfully handled the interrogation-cell scene. However, using minimum set elements, he could have given maximum effect which is the basic target of set designing.

Light design was the worst part of the play. Visibility,

the basic requirement of light design, was not maintained properly in Hafizur Rahman Shuruj's design. As a result, in most sequences gestures of the performers were not clearly visible.

Foyez Ali Babu, as the protagonist, performed really well. His bold appearance throughout the play was enjoyable. However, the rest of the performers could not maintain the same standard.

Over all, after the first two plays of the festival viewers got relief by watching another good production.



A sequence from the play Bhaboghure

'Theatre should not be treated as mere entertainment' --Ramendu Majumdar

Ramendu Majumdar, ex-President of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF), bears the honorary member post at the BGTF current committee. Ramendu is very optimistic about the current condition of theatre in Bangladesh.

As Ramendu said, 'I think the festival is very effective in promoting theatre in Bangladesh. As the alternate space for Mahila Samity Stage, I think, the Experimental Theatre Stage is a very good venue. After the festival, I expect, the



Experimental Theatre Stage will become a good venue. However,

transportation is the main obstacle. I think VAT is unacceptable, as the government should not treat theatre as mere entertainment. If the rate of the hall rent could be decreased, it would be better for the theatrical groups,' Ramendu added.

Ramendu further said, 'My group Theatre (Baily Road), will stage Meraj Fakir Maa in the festival. We have two running productions-- Meraj Fakir Maa and Madhobi. We like to stage our two plays in two different venues.'

ERSHAD KAMOL

Schedules (June 25-July 02)

Table with columns for dates (June 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, July 01, 02, 03) and details of plays, playwrights, directors, and groups.

32nd BACHSAS awards to be declared today



Bangladesh Chalachchitra Shangbadik Samity (BACHSAS) holds its 32nd award-giving ceremony at the Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton at 5:30 pm today, says a press release.

Awards will be given for excellence in different categories including film, television, theatre, music and dance for the year 2003. Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Minister Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, will be present at the occasion as the chief guest.

Recitation of the script of a Mega Serial: Paribar O Ekti Company

AFSAR AHMED

AN offbeat introductory programme of a new mega serial Paribar O Ekti Company held recently at Bishwa Shahitya Kendra. It was a recitation evening of the play script. Eminent artist Mustafa Monowar presided over the programme while renowned theatre personalities Aly Zaker and Ataur Rahman were special guests. The theme tank and the director of the serial is Gazi Rakayet while Akhtaruzzaman writes the script. The production will be done under the banner of Media Impression.

The programme started with the discussion part. 'Whenever I've heard of the word 'Mega Serial' that always reminds me something very noisy and perplexing,' said Mustafa Monowar. 'Now days there's a scarcity of good so called mega serials and Gazi Rakayet's this innovative idea of recitation programme will definitely help to find the solutions', he added. On his speech Aly Zaker hoping that Gazi Rakayet's this venture would be exceptional one.

On this extraordinary step of



Wahida Mallik Jolly and Aly Zaker reciting from the script of the new mega serial Paribar O Ekti Company

arranging recitation of the script, Gazi Rakayet said, 'I always work in a disciplined manner and to get the proper guideline of making this drama we have arranged this recitation programme.' This programme will continue seven more days before starting of the shooting. 'This



will help the members of the unit of the serial to get different views and ideas', expects Rakayet. The shooting will be started from July 1. After the discussion Aly Zaker recited four scenes from the script. Then actress Wahida Mallik Jolly also recited few scenes from the

script. Paribar O Ekti Company, is a story of an honored and rich businessman late Ali Haidar's family and his company Plus Minus Private Limited. Knowing well his four lethargic sons, who have nothing to do except passing their times at the club Shabuj Shangathan, intelligent Ali Haidar makes a plan to protect his assets from being wasted before his death. And thus the formation of the company occurs. After the death of their father as usual the lazy sons start wasting the money that their father left for them in the bank. And when the money in the bank was about to empty their mother Sumaiya comes to know from the GM of the bank that her husband owned a big company which has assets around twenty crores taka. And, thus the story unfolds the melodrama, humors in life and adverse situations that the members of the family face. Apeep Karim, Intekhab Dinar, Mir Sabbir, Sharmin Shila, Bonna Mirza, Ataur Rahman, Jayonto Chattapadhaya, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Deepa Khanokar, Shahidul Alam Sachhu and other will act in different characters of the play.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

Table listing news bulletins and programmes for various channels like BTV, CHANNEL-i, ntv, and BBC WORLD.

Table listing programmes for BTV, ATN BANGLA, and HBO channels.

Table listing programmes for STAR WORLD, STAR PLUS, and STAR MOVIES channels.

Table listing programmes for STAR GOLD, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, and ANIMAL PLANET channels.

Table listing programmes for Wild Encounters, Discovery Channel, and other channels.

Table listing programmes for Legends of the Isles, STAR SPORTS, and ESPN channels.

Table listing programmes for The Natwest Series, ESPN School Quiz, and other channels.

PICK OF THE DAY



I Am Sam On HBO at 9:30pm Genre: Drama, Michelle Pfeiffer, Dakota Fanning Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer, Dakota Fanning



Golbari Station On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm Drama Serial Asaduzzaman Noor, Shankar Shawjal, Rokeya Prachy