

CULTURAL FEAST

THEATRE FESTIVAL SCHEDULES
(JULY 20-JULY 23)

July 20
Play: *Shurj mukha*
Playwright: Rafiqul Islam
Director: Shahidul Islam
Group: Muktamancha Theatre

July 21
Play: *Daybaddhya*
Playwright: Chandan Sen
Director: Aarham Alo
Group: Bahubachan

July 22
Play: *Gandar*
Playwright: Eugene Ionesco
Director: Shafiqul Islam Emon
Group: Prachyanut

July 23
Play: *Bhager Manush*
Playwright: Mannan Heera
Director: Aly Zaker
Group: Samay Shankskritik Goshthi

Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Academy;
Time: 7 pm
Tickets are available at Sagar Publishers, Baily Road and at the venue before shows. Prices: Tk. 30, Tk. 50 and Tk. 100.
Schedules, provided by BGTF, are subject to change without any prior notice.

Misted colours in an Italian evening

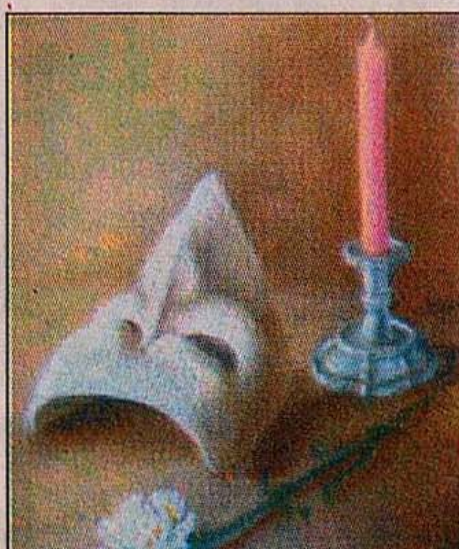
Exhibition of three Italian painters

FAYZA HAQ

It was a delightful display of pastel, tempera and water colours by Italian painters, seen recently at the Italian Ambassador's house. The works had soft muted colours and was a soothing change from the flamboyant abstractions that one confronts so often in the city. Some of the senior artists who were present felt that there was room for more mature work. However, one was quite contented with the fare. You understood what you saw at a flash and there were no layers of meaning to wade through.

The gentle water colours had been done by Guiseppe Rigon, who was born in Vallaverla (Vicenza) in 1928, and is now living near Milan where he is working as a scenographer (who makes settings) for "Alla Scala" Theatre. He studied in the Bera Academy and in the Fine Arts of Venice. He has participated in various international exhibitions and in 1969 received a special prize by the Tourism Board of Vicenza in the "Thiene Exhibition". Critics say that he has nothing to learn of water colour from other painters.

In one of Rigon's works, one found two houses, outlined with black and with splashes of green for lyrical trees in the background and bars of blue for the sky. There was the reflection in the water in front, and the expanse of water included a boat. The scene was a peaceful one indeed. Another scene by the same artist brought in gray boats with brown sails and it had a house in the background, done in splashes of blue pink and orange. There was the reflection of the house and boat, falling softly in front. In a third painting there was a boat in black, with two houses at the back in



One of Laura Frassinetti's pastel paintings

brown, with blue and pink clouds at the back. Yet another had details of tiles, pillars, windows, and lamps. At the back was the vast expanse of the sky and in front was the ground in layers of pink and mauve. All the paintings had a soothing ambience.

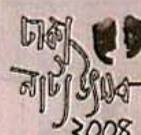
The tempera paintings were done by Massimo Amadeo. Born in 1962, working for the Italian government, his interest in painting began when he was posted in Belgrade during the war. The bruised reality surrounding him pushed him into

introspection which manifested itself in geometrical symbolism, where colours and forms are transformed into surrealistic images. In one of his paintings one found forms, one twirling and gliding into another. They were shapes of red, green, yellow and blue and had twining circles of red, green and black. The background was a vast expanse of pink.

In his next piece, Amadeo had swirls of pink, green and gray, merging and blending into one another. His third piece had rectangles, triangles, circles and ovals. Yet another piece had geometrical shapes in red and black with semi circles and rectangles in bold colours. Triangles and rectangles had also been included. Dots of pinks and grays were also found in the painting to add to the intriguing formations. Shapes of fish were found in his other painting and on top were two circles with entwining snake-like motifs in splashes of pink and white in a deep green background.

Laura Frassinetti's pastel paintings were also powerful. Frassinetti was born in Venice where she still works and resides. She studied in Venice in the Fine Arts Academy and in the International Graphic Institute. She has participated in various exhibitions. Her best known solo took place in China, in places like Shanghai and Nanking. One of her paintings has a white mask of a devil with two paint tubes at the side, one being white and the other blue. Another brought in a similar mask, seen with an apple and a stick. Lilies with yellow centres and a bowl of fruit were seen in her other conventional paintings.

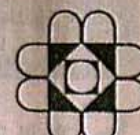
The paintings were reasonably priced and one enjoyed the works despite the absence of the artists.



Dhaka Drama Festival 2004

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation

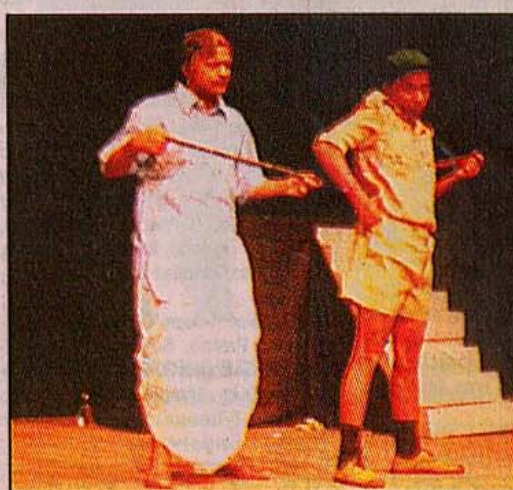
(June 17-July 23)



REVIEW

Narak Gulzar

The play portrays the depressed proletariat



A satire on oppression by the powers that be

QUITE often, rulers turn into oppressors. In the bargain, it is the common people who have to suffer. Indian playwright Manoj Mitra, in his play *Narak Gulzar*, raises a pertinent question: Is the supreme ruler Brahma, the creator, also an oppressor? If the answer is in the negative, why does the Omnipotent one allow the status quo to continue?

Hard questions, such as the above, remained uppermost in the minds of the audience who saw the play

Narak Gulzar. The work was staged by Drishyapat on July 18 at the Experimental Theatre Stage.

Mitra's allegorical play *Narak Gulzar* is a satire on the oppressive tendency of the evil feudal lords, corrupt businessmen, terrorists, controversial religious leaders and evil politicians. The blame for creating a hell-like situation on earth was squarely laid at the door of these autocratic people. The setting of the play *Narak Gulzar* is earth, hell and heaven. The gods Brahma, Narad and Jamraj as well as some human beings are the characters in the play.

In *Narak Gulzar*, Brahma says, 'I have given power to those people who want it. And only to keep the balance, I have created the proletariat.' The gods have sometimes been portrayed in a controversial light. For instance, in his allegorical play Mitra shows Brahma taking a bribe from the evil doers. Of the gods he has shown Narad and Jamraj better than the other gods.

However, Mitra is optimistic in the conclusion. At the end of the play, he has shown the victory of the proletariat over the oppressors.

The typical dialect of Kolkata has been used in the play.

Hasan Shahriar has failed to direct the allegory properly. Because of his flawed direction, the messages of the allegorical satire become weighty for the audience. His set design as well as the light design is also not up to the mark.

However, Hasan Shahriar as Brahma performed well. As Narad, Ali Mahmud's performance, especially his *Bhajans*, were well appreciated. The other performers need to hone their skills.

Meeting a popular demand

Four video films released on DVD

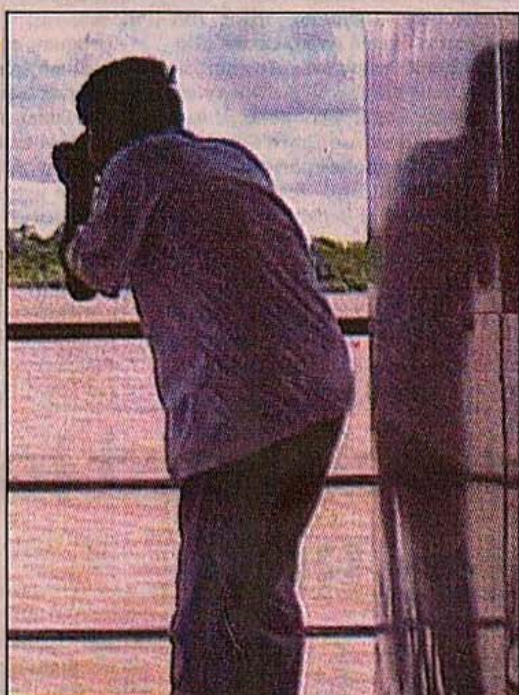


Proti Chunia (To Chunia)

CULTURAL REPORTER

Four video films written by Anisul Haque and directed by Mostofa Sarwar Farooki were released on DVD and VCD. The launching ceremony of 'Shehnai Movie Express' was held on Friday last at the Russian Cultural Centre at Dhanmondi, with the release of these popular tele-dramas: *Ainamahal* (House of Mirrors), *Protyabartan* (The Return), *Kanamachhi* (The Hitchhiking Game), and *Proti Chunia* (To Chunia). These films were previously shown on different television channels and were immensely popular. There has long been a demand of these TV dramas on DVD and VCD formats. Now 'Shehnai Movie Express' has been launched to meet audience demand.

The launching ceremony was attended by eminent cultural and literary personalities of the country, namely, poet Belal



Kanamachhi (The Hitchhiking Game)

Chowdhury, educationists Dr. Syed Manzoorul Islam and Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and journalist Sajjad Sharif. They unwrapped the covers of these four tele-dramas. They emphasised on the importance of collaboration and team-work in producing creative works in such a composite medium like television.

M A Bashir Bhuiyan, the man behind the 'Shehnai Movie Express' has long been interested in bringing out popular and quality TV dramas on DVD and VCD. This was his first venture which he would like to continue.

The launching ceremony were also attended by writer Anisul Haque, director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, artists Shrabonti, Marzaki Russell and others. Two of the tele-dramas *Protyabartan* and *Kanamachhi* were screened after the ceremony, which were well appreciated by a packed audience.



Ainamahal (House of Mirrors)

A flute fusion

A musical recital by Ustad Azizul Islam

AFSAR AHMED

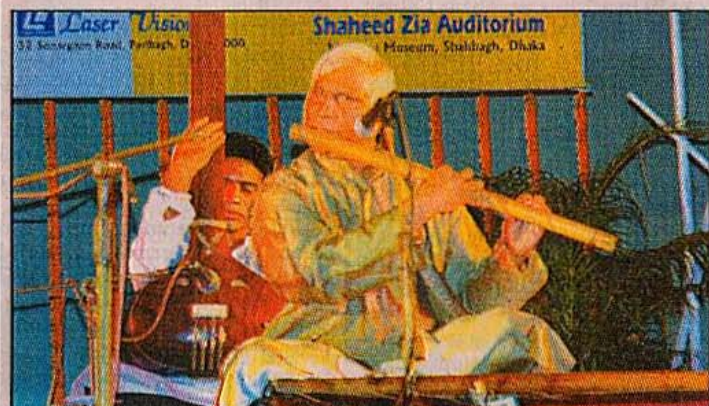
Ustad Captain (Rtd.) Azizul Islam is the only Bangladeshi artiste to have taken part in the prestigious silver jubilee celebration of Dover Lane Music Conference -- the biggest Indian classical musical event in Calcutta. His live performance at that celebration was captured by the HMV and later the CD was released in India. The Bangladesh edition of the CD, launched by Laser Vision, and a flute evening was held at the National Museum Auditorium recently.

Islam's love of the flute goes back to his early days when he was the captain of a ship. In moments of solitude, he often played a flute to alleviate the loneliness out at sea. The ocean's waves gave his flute a rhythm and the movement of the ship gave it a tempo. The flute recital of Panna Lal Ghosh always inspired me at that time, recalls the artiste. And thus stands today's Ustad Azizul Islam.

With the fusion of *Jhumra* and

Tritaal, he started with raga *Mian Ki Malhar* which is dedicated to the monsoon. What better way to usher in the rains? Then he played his own composition in raga *Imon* in *Setarkhani* taal and raga *Jhinjhoti* with a blending of *Rupak* and *Kaharba* taal. The last attraction was his own composition in raga *Kirvani*, which he dedicated to violin maestro Pundit VG Jog, sitar player Ustad Belayet Khan and to late singer Niloufer Yasmeen. The audience thoroughly enjoyed Islam's performance.

Prior to the recital, in a small ceremony, chief guest Dr. Osman Faruk, Minister for Education, launched Islam's CD. On that CD, the artiste presented raga *Sree* and *Joy-Joyanti* and a *Bhatiyali dhun*. Syed Margub Morshed, Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission; Professor Mahmudul Haq, Director General of the National Museum and AKM Arifur Rahman, chairman of the Laser Vision, were also present on the occasion.



Mannan Heera is a popular stage playwright in the country. His two plays-- *Mayur Shinghashon* and *Bhager Manush*-- are scheduled for the Dhaka Drama Festival 2004. Of those, Aranyak Natya Dal has



'I deal with fundamentalism in my plays' Mannan Heera

already staged *Mayur Shinghashon* and Samay Shankskritik Goshthi will stage the latter on July 23, at the closing day of the festival.

Regular member Aranyak Natya Dal, Mannan said, 'I like to deal with religious issues, particularly fundamentalism, in my plays. In *Mayur Shinghashon*, I have written about

the sufferings of many Hindus people who had to leave their motherland during the Partition of India only for their religious belief. And in *Bhager Manush*, I wrote about the brutal riot that took place in 1947 during the partition of the Indian sub-continent. I have adapted the play from Urdu playwright Saadat Hassan Manto's *Toba Tek Singh*.

There are many quality plays in the festival, however, I like SM Solaiman's *Golapjan* most. The reason behind my liking *Golapjan* is that the play includes colourful lifestyle of the people of the old Dhaka widely known as *Dhakata*, Mannan added.

Within a few days Mannan Heera will complete another script.

ERSHAD KAMOL

'Idol' raises age limit

Think you're too old for American Idol? Think again. The show has decided to raise the maximum age for contenders from 26 to 28, according to the official 'Idol' Web site. Despite Simon Cowell's frequently stated opinion, the minimum age remains 16.

The reason for the change, according to FOX Entertainment President Gail Berman, is that the network felt too many talented older people had been turned away. Don't expect that age-limit bar to be raised any higher anytime soon, though. Berman told the Television Critics Association: 'I'm sure there are people who are tremendously talented above that [age], but we're talking about people who hope to have pop careers afterward.'

Auditions for the show's fourth season, which will begin airing in January 2005, kick off on August 4 in Cleveland at Cleveland Browns Stadium.



American Idol judges Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTB

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Telecast of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTB

07:30 Bangladesh Hridoy Holey

09:00 Satellite Programme

12:15 Shongbad Potrer Pata Thekey

01:05 Cartoon show

01:30 Educational Programme

02:05 Computer Programme

02:30 Janmabhum

03:05 Shukhi Paribar

04:00 Live Telecast of Nitel-TATA National Football League

06:10 Nazrul songs: Shondha maloti

07:05 Quiz quiz

07:30 Musical show: Gaan Shudhu Gaan

08:25 Protdin Bangladesh

08:30 Drama: Aparajita

09:00 Drama: Jaley Taher Chhaya

10:30 Kathamala

09:45 Trilijo Matra

10:45 Green Phone

Cricket online (Live show)

11:30 Bijli Boarding

12:00 Chithi Pelam

12:30 Aaj Dupurey

01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Sangbadporey

Bangladesh and Public Reaction

02:00 Bangla Film: Aashami Grephtar

(Debi, Kanchon)

04:00 Banglar Gaan

04:30 Docu-drama

05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:45 i Sports

06:10 Music Plus

06:45

1-Speed

07:50 Close-Up Juke Box

08:25 Drama Serial: Sharey Teen Tala

09:35 Drama: Shonali

10:00 Drama: Taka

ntv

08:00 Aajkal Shakal

08:30 Gaaner Mala

09:00 Khabor

09:30 Shandhaney

10:00 Images of Lights

10:25 Band-baddi

10:30 Ekhaney Amaar

Desh

11:00 Drama: Journey to

Dhaka

11:30 Quiz quiz

12:02 Shapla Kuri

Drama

02:30 Teen Purush

03:05 Tiffin Fankay

03:40 Drama Serial: Khabor

04:25 Ke Korbey Bajmaat

05:20 Apnar Jigyasha

06:20 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 Frankly Speaking

08:10 Drama: Sorsher

Bairey

08:50 Band music

09:40 Drama Serial: Shawla

11:25 Dindarpan

HBO

8:30 Darkman

10:30 The Final Curtain

12:00 Backdraft

3:00 Limbo

5:30 Mackenna's Gold

8:00 Orange County

9:30 A Nightmare On Elm

Street

11:30 Frequency

2:00 The Apartment

06:45

1-Speed

07:50 Close-Up Juke Box

08:25 Drama Serial: Sharey Teen Tala

09:35 Drama: Shonali

10:00 Drama: Taka

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