

Playing fire over water

Fire spinners at the Dhanmondi Amphitheatre



ELITA KARIM

EVEN though it was a rainy day, people from all over Dhanmondi and elsewhere gathered at the Dhanmondi Amphitheatre to watch the fire spinners in action.

To collect donations and funds for the flood victims, on August 12, Naur, the group of fire spinners in Dhaka, displayed a spectacular show of fire spins and dances. This function was held for the first time in the country on a large scale. In the course of the event, sponsored by Citycell, about 30 spinners consisting of young men

and women showcased enormous strength and creativity while spinning balls and sticks of fire.

The show began with an appetiser of Ajob, an upcoming band performing folk fusion numbers and compositions. However, right after Labeek, the vocal began with his mix of *Khanchar bhetor achin pankhi*, it started to rain which put the band off, to everyone's disappointment. Once the rain subsided, Naur exhibited their skills and talents of taming the fire and playing with it. The stage was surrounded with poles lit with fire, which were used to light up the spin-

ners' equipment for the show.

The spinners, attired in red and orange coloured t-shirts and *gamcha* styled bandanas, seemed to depict realism in their fire filled actions. They jumped over the fire and seemed to stop the fire from licking their bodies while doing it. At one point, a girl and a boy seemed to swallow the fire. The fire-spinners sometimes reflected on sensuality and flexibility while twisting their bodies out of the way of the fire.

In the course of a conversation with Supantha (a graduate from North South University and also one



(Top left) A mesmerised audience watching the show while performers (above and left) stage a fiery display



of the senior most fire spinners) he said that Naur was planning to organise and fund the whole event themselves. 'It was just the day before, when Citycell offered to sponsor the event, and we readily agreed to the idea,' he said. According to some younger spinners, Naur tamed fire for fun and the alluring excitement that it involves. 'Many in the group are working. We even have a doctor or two amongst the spinners!' they quipped.

The fire spinners took a break in the middle, while volunteers went around with tins and containers collecting money from the audience for the flood victims. Naur had the awe-struck audience dancing to their feet while spinning on popular numbers like *Krishno* from Habib, Jon Bon Jovi's *It's my life*, *Maya* from Habib, Punjabi mixes and many others.

Dhanmondi was definitely lit in yellows, red and oranges for an hour or two that evening. Maybe, one day the innate talents of these youth will be promoted through such splendid fiery performances.

A musical night to remember

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

COMING up with their fifth musical programme, event management company Orchestra once again delighted the audience with a musical night. Titled *Aamar golpo shuno*, the function capped previous solo musical nights with renowned musical artistes, starting with Fatema Tu Zohra, Kanak Champa and Farida Parveen.

The programme was held recently at the All Community's Club at Gulshan. Among the melodious performers was Tapan Chowdhury. Zeenat Jahan Munni, an upcoming singer and also winner of several national awards in singing, warmed the crowd with a number of catchy numbers. The audience enjoyed her rendering of all time Bangla numbers like *Jhinuk fota, Kobita porar*, compositions from her album *Potikha*, Lalon compositions like *Aami opar hoye boshe achi, Dekhna mon jhakmari duniyadhar* and many others. Zeenat is also the

anchor of the fortnightly show *Taray Taray* on ntv.

The ambience of the hall, filled with candle lights, created a receptive audience for Chowdhury. He started off with *Aami tomar naam toyota kandi*, and went on to sing a composition by Subir Nandi *Ekhon fagun ridey amar*, and Ayub Bachchu's composition *Aalo bhebe jare aami*. Tapan also sang his first playback number *Dine dinedin je gelo* and went on with Kabir Bakul and Pronab Ghosh's composition *Aakasher buk theke*. Tapan travelled 25 years back in time and rekindled the night with *Dubiyie shey poth* which was composed by the popular band Souls.

'I have been given a threat that if I don't do this next number, I won't be able to leave this place!' Tapan quipped, before singing the soothing *Ek dupure kathachilo tumi ashbe*.

Orchestra will be organising more of these musical programmes in the future with popular artistes of the country.



Tapan Chowdhury and Zeenat Jahan Munni rendering a number

Fund raiser effort by Theatre (Baily Road)

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Theatre (Baily Road) staged their current production *Madhobi* at the Experimental Theatre Stage on August 14, a fund raising effort for the flood victims.

Before the show, the audience paid their respects to the late intellectual of the country Dr. Humayun Azad who passed away recently in Germany.

Indian playwright Bhisham Sahni has adapted *Madhobi* from the *Mahabharata*. The story is a sharp attack on the gender inequality issue, which has been prevalent since the beginning of human civilisation. Directed by Ramendu Majumdar, *Madhobi* played to an enthusiastic crowd.



Rare Elvis memorabilia on sale

It was a unique opportunity for Elvis fans to snap up rare memorabilia on the 27th anniversary of his death.

Elvis's personal gold plated Walther PPK 9mm handgun, engraved with his motto 'TCB' (taking care of business) was to be a star item until it was pulled from the sale.

Media regulators have refused to allow it because advertising guns on TV is forbidden. Instead it will be sold through the channel's website.

With the auction expected to fetch upwards of US\$ 250,000, bidding for Elvis's handgun is expected to reach US\$ 60,000 - the highest amount ever paid for a single lot on a TV auction.

Source: Internet



BAMBA's charity concert

HARUN UR RASHID

In line with many cultural organisations, the only association of band groups in the country, Bangladesh Musical Bands' Association (BAMBA) also comes forward now to the aid of the flood affected people. BAMBA is organising a charity concert at the Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton on August 19 and 20.

Featuring the twenty most popular bands of the country, this will be one of BAMBA's biggest events since 1998 when it held another charity concert for the flood victims. The organisation held its last concert on the Independence Day this year at the Dhaka University premises.

'All the big guns in the band music arena of the country including

LRB, Nagar Baul, Miles, Souls, Warfaze, Dalchhut and Aurohoin will perform in the two-day event', says Hamin Ahmed, the present President of BAMBA. 'Besides, other new and upcoming bands will also take part in this humanitarian enterprise', he says.

The funds collected from the sales of ticket will be donated to the Prime Minister's relief fund', Hamin informs. 'We are also counting on CARE Bangladesh and other humanitarian organisations and agencies for their donation', he says.

Priced at Tk. 500.00 the tickets will be available at the Hotel Sheraton, Vega, Candy Floss, Helvetia, Boomers, Sound Machine and Cooper's.



Dhaka Drama Festival 2004: A recap

ERSHAD KAMOL

RECENTLY, the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) celebrated a 37-day long drama meet titled Dhaka Drama Festival 2004 at the Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Academy. The aim of the festival was to introduce a new venue for plays. Earlier, BGTF had arranged long-term drama carnivals of similar nature in the city to popularise several other venues. However, BGTF had not yet been able to shift theatre to Mahila Samity Mancha to other venues.

The recent effort - Dhaka Drama Festival 2004 - received a huge response from the audience as well as from the print media. There was a sizeable turnout of people who watched the plays and tickets were sold a day before the staging of big group productions.

All the groups of Dhaka City took part in the festival with their popular plays. With the exception of Natyakendra, 37 groups staged one drama each in the festival. Besides getting an international standard theatre hall, the audience got a chance to judge the standard of Bangladeshi theatre.

The drama festival started with Mannan Heera's play *Mayur Shinghasan* and ended with the same dramatist's play *Bhager Manush*, which were staged by Aranyak Natyadal and Samay respectively. Among the plays, the most staged play by a single dramatist was French comedy playwright Moliere. Four groups Loka Natya Dal, Swattik Natyasaamprada, Drishtipat Natyadal and Natyachakra staged his adapted plays while Space

and Acting Research Centre staged a translation of

and belong to the social play genre.

Bou Bashonti by Udichi (Drama Department) is the only play in festival that was set against the backdrop of our freedom movement.

Hat Hada by Dhaka Theatre and Atish Dipankar

Shorpoja were two different types of plays in the festival. The former play narrates the story of the people from alluvial lands of the southern part of the country and the latter is based on the biography of Atish Dipankar.

There were five plays in the festival based on myth. Of them, *Teerthankar*, an adaptation from Persian epic the *Shahanama*, was staged by Shubachan. *Karnakatha* by Abayab Natya Dal, *Madhobi* by Theatre (Baily Road), *Kalshondhya* by Nagarik Natyasaamprada and *Nittoporan* by Desh Natyadars were based on the epic *Mahabharata*.

Through the festival the audience got a quality gap that remains between the productions of big groups and that of the mediocre groups.

Another important aspect of this drama festival was the enthusiasm of the new audience, who usually do not go to the Mahila Samity Mancha. During the festival, theatre groups simultaneously staged plays in the only popular venue of the country Mahila Samity Stage.

Important venues like Girls' Guide Auditorium and Mahanagar Natya Mancha are not much in use. The success of this huge effort by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation depends on the continuity of staging plays at the Experimental Theatre Stage. Hopefully, Shilpakala Academy will extend patronage to the theatre groups, so that more such drama festivals will be staged in future.

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTV

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

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 p.m., 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

Telecast of BTV 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.

CHANNEL-i

12:30 Aj Dupurey
01:00 Ebong Cinemar
01:25 Gaan
01:30 Public Reaction
01:30 Bangla Feature Film: *Nitibari* (Razzak, Sujata)

04:00 Bangla Gaan
05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:35 Janapoder Khobor
05:45 Alokito Bangladesh
06:10 Music Plus
06:45 Banijo or Arthoniti
07:50 Drama Serial: *Keboali*
08:25 Drama Serial: *Bijli*
09:35 Film Show: *Beast*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Amader Chhoto Nodi*

10:05 Natoker Gaan
10:30 Dhaka Cinema
02:30 Drama Serial: *Teen Purush*
03:05 Right Click
03:40 Drama Serial: *Chhukha Achenha Shukh*

04:25 Putul Naach
05:20 Apnar Jigysa
06:20 Shubha Shondhya
06:50 Khoborer Shondhaney

08:15 Drama Serial: *Sporsher Bairey*
08:50 Drama Serial: *Sunsilk Ophsora*
09:40 Drama Serial: *Chhena Dukkha Achenha Shukh*

11:20 Dindarpur
ATN BANGLA

11:50 Mile Pholok Rai
12:30 Bangla Feature Film

03:45 Uro Cola Saat Rang
04:20 Flying House
05:10 Matir Shubash
06:20 Poraner Gean
08:00 Drama Serial: *Chhoto Ei Jibon*

08:30 Drama Serial: *Rahmat Chachar Ek Raat*
09:00 Live Health Care Programme: *Sushttha thakun Live Katha Mala*

10:35 Taka Na Sona
2:00 Hudson Hawk
8:00 Antakshari
9:30 Swapner Rang Neel
10:00 Baro Eka Lage
10:30 Live Dashtai

11:00 Taka Na Sona
12:00 Taray Taray

12:30 Transporter

12:30 Women Vs. Men

TARA BANGLA

2:00

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