

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 Supantho (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.

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.



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 Aurthohin 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 tickets 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 the 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.

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



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 Tuz 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 jhaknari duniyadari* 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 loyya kandi*, and went on to sing a composition by Subir Nandi *Ekhon fagun ridoye amaar*, and Ayub Bachchu's composition *Aalo bhebe jare aami*. Tapan also sang his first playback number *Dinedinedin jegelo* and went on with Kabir Bakul and Pronab Ghosh's composition *Aakash buk theke*. Tapan travelled 25 years back in time and rekindled the night with *Dubiye 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 katha chilo 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

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 from 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 Shinghashon* 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 Loko Natya Dal, Swattik Natyasampradya, Drishtipat Natyadal and Natyachakra staged his adapted plays while Space

and Acting Research Centre staged a translation of Moliere's play *Bouder Pathshala* and logically the director has applied 'neo-French Comedy' technique for the play. Among the adapted plays, Natyachakra's production *Bhaddarnok* could reflect 'Comedia Del Arte' technique successfully on the stage.

The other foreign language based adapted plays in the festival were *Aami Gadhla Balchi* by Dhaka Drama Natya Dal, *Shurjomukho* by Muktamancha Theatre, *Babar Bie* by Padadhwoni Theatre and *Gondarby* Prachyanut.

Dhaka Padatik, Theatre Art Natyadal and Theatre Art Unit staged SM Solaiman's plays *Ingit*, *Court Martial*, and *Golapjan* respectively. Some not so well known groups have staged a good number of plays by the dramatists from Kolkata. *Aranya Janaranya* by Natya Fauj, *Shadhucharan* by Pratiwandhi Natya Goshthi, *Narak Gulzar* by Drishyapat, *Daibaddhya* by Bahubachan and *Bhaboghure* by Theatre (Topkhana). These plays belong to either the social play trend or mere comedy trend.

Dhaka Theatre Mancha and Mahakal Natyasampradya staged Ethnic Theatre based plays-- *Birsa Munda* and *Shikhandikatha* respectively.

Shat Gater Kanakari by Theatre (Aarambag), *Shoroshi* by Shanglap Group Theatre, *Good Bye Dhaka* by Bhaskar Natyadal, *Tahader Katha* by Dhaka Sarak, *Aamar Shantan Aamar Aanchal* by Nagarik Natyangang Ensemble *Nagar Alir Kissa* by Drishtipat Natya Shangshod *Sea Morag* by Bangladesh Theatre and *Bhubaner Ghat* by Natyajan

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 Hadai 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 Natyasampradya and *Nitopuran* by Desh Natok 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.
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.

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 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 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 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 Gaan*
01:25 Public Reaction
01:30 Bangla Feature Film: *Nitiban* (Razzak, Sujata)

04:00 *Banglar Gaan*
05:00 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
05:35 *Janapoder Khobor*
05:45 *Alokito Bangladesh Music Plus*
06:10 *Baniyo o Arthoniti*
07:50 Drama Serial: *Keboli Raat Hoye Jay*
08:25 Drama Serial: *Bijli Boarding*
09:35 Film Show: *Beast Master*
10:00 Drama Serial: *Amader Chhoto Nodi*

ntv

10:05 *Natoker Gaan*
10:30 Dhaka Cinema
02:30 Drama Serial: *Teen Purush*
03:05 Right Click
03:40 Drama Serial: *Chena Dukkha Achena Shukh*

04:25 *Putul Naach*
05:20 *Apar Jigyasha*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya Khobor*
06:50 *Shondhaneey*
08:15 Drama Serial: *Sorsher Bairesh*
08:50 *Sunsik Opshora*
09:40 Drama Serial: *Chena Dukkha Achena Shukh*

11:20

Dindarpan

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 Gaan*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Chinotto Ei Jibon*
08:30 Drama Serial: *Rahmat Chachar Ek Raat*
09:00 Live Health Care Programme: *Sushtha thakun Live*
10:35 *Katha Mala*

TARA BANGLA

2:00 Taka Na Sona
2:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo
3:00 Swapner Rang Neel
4:00 Baro Eka Lage
4:30 Filmi Furti
5:00 Ghare O Baire
6:00 Serial YUG
7:00 Taka Na Sona
7:30 Shree Ramkrishna
8:00 Tarpor Chand Uthlo
8:00 Antakshari
9:30 Swapner Rang Neel
10:00 Baro Eka Lage
10:30 Live Dashtai

HBO

9:45 Necessary Roughness
12:00 Full Eclipse
2:00 One Night at McCool's
4:00 Detroit Rock City
6:00 Jawbreaker
7:45 Joe's Apartment
9:30 The Quick and the Dead
11:45 The Fast and the Furious

STAR MOVIES

9:15 Guarding Tess
11:00 Transporter
12:30 Women Vs. Men

PICK OF THE DAY



Carrie

On Star Movies at 9:15 pm
Genre: Drama / Horror
Cast: Sissy Spacek, Piper Laurie, Amy Irving

2:00 Hudson Hawk
3:40 Heathers
5:20 People I Know
7:00 Windtalkers
9:15 Carrie
11:30 Transporter

SONY MAX

9:30 Mohabbat (Anil Kapoor, Vijeta Pandit)
1:30 Chupke Chupke (Amitabh, Dharmendra)
5:30 Hera Pheri (Amitabh, Vinod Khanna)
9:30 Ram Laxman (Anil Kapoor, Jackie)

SONY

4:30 Heena
5:00 Naam Gum Jayega
5:30 Ghar Ek Mandir
6:00 Kuchh Jhuki Palkein



Poraner Gaan

On ATN Bangla at 6:30 pm
Musical Programme
Hosted by Mahmuduzzaman Babu

9:30 Des Mein Nikkila Hog Chand
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga Kaahiin Kissi Roz

STAR WORLD

2:28 Star Asia Travel
2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
5:30 Miami Vice
6:30 The Simpsons
7:00 Home Improvement
7:30 Friends
8:00 Just Shoot Me
8:30 The King Of Queens
9:00 Still Standing
9:30 Yes Dear
10:30 Boston Public

11:28 Star Asia Travel
2:00 Wildlife Diary
2:30 Built For The Kill
3:30 Devils Of The Deep
4:30 National Geographic Special
5:30 Africa From The Ground Up
6:00 Animal Edens
6:30 Dogs With Jobs S3
7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife
7:30 Horses' Empire: A History Of Conquest
8:30 Croc Chronicles
9:00 Wildlife Diary
9:30 Built For The Kill
10:30 Day Of The Jackal
11:00 Born Wild

DISCOVERY

2:00 Kitchen Chemistry/Fat Free: Fat Free Food for Thought
2:30 Detective Stories: The New Detectives: Case Studies in Forensic Science Corners' Casebook
3:30 Will Discovery: Bush Demon: The Secret Mongoose
4:30 Mystery Hunters : Nazca Lines/Trophy Heads
5:00 Truth or Scare Truth or Scare
5:30 Bazaar Bazaar Miami
6:00 Great Castles of Europe Great Castles of Europe
6:30 Hohensalzburg Ushuaia Nature : Ushuaia (Nature)
7:30 Lords of the Oceans
8:30 Will Discovery: Australia: Continent of Fire
9:30 Amazing Baby Videos
10:30 Monster House: Monster House
11:30 New Detectives: The new Detectives: Case Studies in Forensic Science Lethal Dosage

ANIMAL PLANET

2:30 Animal Planet Show-case: Killer Bees
3:30 Taming the Swarm
4:30 Pet Nation: Vets in Practice Vets have Pets Too

4:00 Pet Nation: Emergency Vets Attitude Adjustment
4:30 Pet Nation Emergency Vets A Waiting Game
7:00 Nation: Amazing Animal Videos Season
7:30 The Most Extreme Predators
8:30 On the Edge: Crocodile Hunter Diaries
9:30 On the Edge: The Snake Buster
10:30 Animal Athletes : Animal Planet's World Championship
11:30 The Most Extreme: The Most Extreme Stinkers

ESPN

2:00 West Indies Tour Of England 3rd Test Day 4 Highlights(R)
3:28 West Indies Tour Of England 3rd Test Day 5 1st Session(L)
5:30 Motorsport Asia (T)

TEN SPORTS

11:30 Gamer TV
12:30 Beach Volleyball Highlights
1:00 India A v Pakistan A (Preview)
4:30 India A v Pakistan A (1st Session)
5:00 India A v Pakistan A (Lunch)
8:00 India A v Pakistan A (2nd Session)
10:00 WWE: Raw
11:00 India A v Pakistan A H/Ls

STAR SPORTS

12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)
12:30 English Premier

Football League 2004/05 Tottenham Hotspur Vs Liverpool
2:30 Bom To Play: Masters Of Football (R)
3:00 Mazatlan Itu World Cup 2004 Event Highlights(T)
4:00 The Golf Club 2004 (R)
4:30 Hungarian Grand Prix(R)
5:14 Formula One World Championships Hungarian Grand Prix(R)
7:30 Chequered Flag: Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix(R)
8:00 Sportsline (L)
8:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05
9:00 Middlesbrough England Mid Diesbrough Vs Newcastle United (R)
10:30 Sportsline (R)
11:30 Sportsline (R)
12:30 Beach Volleyball Highlights
1:00 India A v Pakistan A (Preview)
4:30 India A v Pakistan A (1st Session)
5:00 India A v Pakistan A (Lunch)
8:00 India A v Pakistan A (2nd Session)
10:00 WWE: Raw
11:00 India A v Pakistan A H/Ls