

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Exhibition

Exhibition in aid of flood victims

Title: Bangladesh Art--A Collection of Contemporary Painting

Organiser: The Society for Promotion of Bangladeshi Art

Artists: 82 artists including M Kibria, Rafiq Nabi, Qayum Chowdhury, Hashem Khan and Rokeya Sultan

Venue: Shajau Art Gallery

Time: August 14-21, from 9:00am to 8:30pm

## Contemporary Group Art

Venue: Exhibition Hall of Russian Cultural Centre, House 510, Road 7, Dhamondi/R/A

Time: August 12-21

## Photography Exhibition

Title: Colour of Youth

Photographer: Sajal Khaled

Venue: Goethe Institut Dhaka, House 10, Road 09 New, Dhamondi

Time: August 15-24

The photographs depict the graffiti culture in Germany.

## Exhibition of stamps and postcards

Organiser: Russian Centre of Science and culture

Venue: Library of Russian centre of Science and Culture

Time: August 23-31

## Documentary Shows

Title: 'Bandarbani's Bomang' and 'Creation of the Universe'

Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, King's Hall BallRoom, House- 19, Road-7, Gulshan 1

Time: 04:00 pm

Date: August 20

## BAMBA Charity Concert

Venue: Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton

Time: August 19 &amp; 20, from 2pm to 10pm

August 19 The Trap, Vikings, Renaissance, FeedBack, Warfaze, Dhaka, Black, Dalchut &amp; NagarBaul

August 20 Miles, Obscure, Aarthiin, Souls, Pentagon, Artcell, LRB &amp; Bangladesh

Date: August 20

# Responding to the rhythms

## Madan Gopal Das' passion for the Tabla

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

REGULAR viewers of the *probhati* (morning session) programme at the lush greens of Chayyanaut's new-year celebration are well acquainted with the chorus tabla recital by a group of young tabla players. The group is invariably led by their ustad Madan Gopal Das, or Madan Da as he is widely known. Over the four decades that he has been playing the tabla, the bespectacled Madan Das, has earned repute amongst musicians. However, the soft-spoken Madan Das chooses to maintain a low profile.

'I am more keen to develop students than make money,' says Madan Das. 'I always feel both excited and proud when I see that many of my students are now well set in their career path,' he adds. 'One of my disciples, Niti Ranjan Biswas, who passed out with credit from Baroda, is now in Holland for higher studies in music,' says a jubilant Madan Das.

Although not born in a family of professional musicians, tabla became the second nature to Madan Das. At a very young age he took private lessons from Bhagirathi Das, a distant relative. His parents didn't want him to lose sight of his studies, so his tabla lessons came atop his regular school-work. In fact, Madan Das recounts his promise to his grandfather that he would finish his matriculation before he continued with his tabla lessons.

Eventually, after passing his exams he became a disciple of Bhagirathi Das and started a rigorous training schedule. In time, he began to perform at private recitals and showed both promise and maturity from a young age. From that time onwards, the magic of classical music had him enthralled and he decided never to play for anything but classical-based songs and compositions. Going against a popular trend, he avoided entering the world of commercial playback music.

During the many training phases, he also came to be groomed by ustad Sakhawat Hossain Khan during 1960-1971. For further training he took lessons from Udit Mitra Dey from 1971 to 1975. He is influenced by the great maestros of the Benaras Gharana--Pandit Shanta Prasad and ustad Keramat



Madan Das (L) accompanying the legendary singer Angur Bala on tabla in a rare photograph

Ullah Khan.

I had the opportunity to play with luminaries like Angur Bala, Shideshwar Mukhopadhyay, Suchitra Mitra, Kanika Banerjee, ustad Sagiruddin Khan, Krishna Banerjee and Dhirendrachandra Mitra,' Madan Das reminisces. He also accompanied the sitarist Imrad Khan and his two sons Wajahat and Irshad Khan when they came over to Bangladesh for a musical performance.

Madan Das has been performing since the 1960s. He had been involved with BTV, Chayyanaut Sangeet Biddyatana and Nazrul Academy since their inception.

While reminiscing on his performance in Germany in 1984, Madan Das says, that after his perfor-

mance a few of the spectators came up to the stage to get a better glimpse of the tabla and inspected his hands carefully. They were so charmed by his performance that they offered to buy his tabla set as a memento of the performance.

Madan Das feels that the tabla has come a long way since his early days of struggle. He feels that the work of many modernists like the legendary ustad Zakir Hossain have popularised tabla to a new height. Now, it is up to the new generation of tabla players to continue to develop and maintain this popularity in the face of competition from western musical instruments.

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## All time greats

## Peter O'Toole: A tremendous screen presence

Who doesn't remember Peter O'Toole in his powerful cinematic roles in *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Becket* and *The Lion in Winter*? Nominated seven times for Best Actor Oscars, he definitely qualifies as an all time great on the silver screen. A versatile actor, in his over 40-year-career in film, he has proven his histrionic talent in drama, comedy, tragedy, romance and even a few musicals. O'Toole's gift of acting has been well recognised. In 2003, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded him an honorary Oscar for having 'provided cinema history with some of its most memorable characters.'

One only needs to look back in time to see how O'Toole took Hollywood by storm. His first Oscar nomination was for his performance in the title role of David Lean's World War I desert epic, *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962). This Academy Award-winning Best Picture of the year catapulted him to fame and still remains among his most memorable films.

Two years later he won further acclaim with his role of King Henry II opposite Richard Burton's role of Thomas à Becket in *Becket* (1964). The film was an adaptation of a play by Jean Anouilh. The theme of the cinematic work was the political relationship between the medieval English king and the Archbishop of Canterbury. This powerful film earned 12 Oscar nominations, as well as a Best Actor nods for both O'Toole and Burton as well as a Best Picture nomination. However, the winner of the award turned out to be the hugely popular classic, *My Fair Lady* and its English star Rex Harrison.

Another major film hit was *How to steal a million* (1966) the romantic comedy and crime film. In the film he co-starred with Audrey Hepburn. His role was that of a 'society burglar' who helps Hepburn steal a fake statue from a heavily guarded French art museum.

Then followed *The Lion in Winter*, where he played King Henry II

Peter O'Toole in his epic role in *Laurence of Arabia*

opposite Katherine Hepburn's Eleanor of Aquitaine. Both the stars earned nominations for their outstanding performances. Hepburn came out a winner but O'Toole lost out again.

Yet awards alone do not mark true greatness. Even after all these years, his name is a byword for histrionic excellence.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

## Launching of CityCell Channel-i Music Award

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Telecom giant CityCell and popular TV channel Channel-i have jointly launched the first ever musical award in Bangladesh recently. The award, titled CityCell Channel-i Music Award, will be given in various fields of music from this year.

To launch this award, CityCell and Channel-i jointly held a press conference at Hotel Sheraton on August 16. Intekhab Mahmud, Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing of CityCell and Faridur Reza Sagar, Managing Director Channel-i were present on the occasion.

'Our culture is music-oriented,' said Intekhab Mahmud, adding, 'which is why we are proud to introduce awards in different categories of music every year, starting from this year.' The CityCell Channel-i Music Award 2004 is scheduled to be given to the winners on January 5, 2005.

The categories range from classical music to Rabindra Sangeet, Nazrul Sangeet, spiritual, folk, modern, film, pop music, band music, best music director, best music videos, best lyricist, best debut music for male and female and many more. It will also include Lifetime Achievement Award and the Viewers' Choice Award.

A jury board, comprising renowned musical personalities of the country, will judge the artists' performances over the year and declare the winners. The awardees will receive an eye-catching crest along with Tk10,000 as token money. The winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award will get a certificate, a crest and Tk10,000.

A website will soon be launched through which people can send their feedback on the Viewers' Choice Award.

# Aranyak's latest production *Raaraang* to be staged today

ERSHAD KAMOL

ARANYAK Natya Dal will stage the premier of their new production *Raaraang*, the 40th production of the group, on August 23 at the Experimental Theatre Stage. The Aranyak workers are going through rigorous rehearsals prior to the premier.

Playwright as well as the director of *Raaraang* Mamunur Rashid said, 'In 2002, I attended a protest meeting on the murder of Alfred Shore, a Santal young man, by the Bangali community, in Naogaon. There an elderly tribal leader gave me an arrow and requested me to write a play on the oppression of the ethnic communities of the country by the dominating Bangalees. I promised to do so and I have depicted the story of oppression of the Santal tribe in *Raaraang*.'

'*Raaraang* is not a fragmented story of the oppression, rather it is a tale of their struggle since the partition of the Indian subcontinent. Moreover, through the story of Alfred I have narrated the story of their revolutionary approach against the discrimination.'

I have also mentioned the *National Rebellion* by the Santal community under the leadership of Ila Mitra. All the deprived ethnic people are my subjects in the play,' says Mamun.

Mamun added, 'I have used standard Bangla as the dialect for all the communities in the play. The logic behind doing so is that I should have otherwise used the original dialect, which is not possible for us to comprehend. But, only the evil characters have got a sarcastic animal instinct.'

Faiz Zahir is the set, light and costume designer of *Raaraang*. Faiz says, 'The set is very simple. I will use empty arena box set at the middle of the theatre hall.'

In case of costume, colourful clothing has been designed for the ethnic people. The tribal men and women will use general costume. But, the Bangali community will use typical



Behind the scenes: Tamalika and co-artistes

the ethnic tribe I have used some attire.'

'I will divide the stage into a few zones and no general light will be used. Moreover, I will express the mood and tempo of the play by using symbolic colour effects,' Zahir added.

Music composer Parimal Majumdar has followed traditional Santal music trend for the play. Tomalika Karmakar is the choreographer of the directorial compositions.

Aranyak Natya Dal will stage two technical shows for *Raaraang* on August 19, August 22 at the Mahila Samity Stage and the Experimental Theatre stage respectively. Finally the premier show will be staged on August 23, at the Experimental Theatre Stage.

## Exhibition on World Photography Day



A photograph from the exhibition

On the occasion of the World Photography Day, the Dhaka Photographic Institute (DPI) has arranged a five-day photography exhibition titled *Alochchire Bangladesh* (Bangladesh in photography), at 400, Kazipara, Mirpur, says a press release. The exhibition, starting today, will be inaugurated by the course director of the institute, Zakiul Haque while photographer Mahfuz ur Rahman will be present as special guest. About 30 colour and black-and-white photographs by teachers and students of the institute will be exhibited in the display which will be open for all from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. As a part of the celebration, a documentary titled *Footpath Camera* (The camera of the footpath), directed by Shahiduzzaman Badal, will be screened at 4:15 pm today.



Renowned cultural personality Mustafa Monwar (2nd from right) launching two new music albums *Kon Kanoner Phul* by Pappy Sarwar, *Je Gan Geyechhilem* by Saadi Mohammad and a dance DVD *Chitrangada* by Nityanthal were released recently in a programme at Sheraton Hotel. Released under the banner of Greenfield Multivision, Saadi Mohammad's album contains both modern and Tagore songs while Pappy's album contains Tagore songs only. Artists (From L-R) Shibli Muhammad, Pappy Sarwar, Shamim Ara Neena, Mustafa Monwar and Sarwar Alam of Greenfield Multivision were also present at the event.

## TV GUIDE

Summer Catch  
On HBO at 7:30 pm  
Genre: Romance / Comedy  
Cast: Freddie Prinze Jr., Jessica Biel, Matthew LillardDitiyo Bektii  
On ATN Bangla at 9:00 pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Azizul Hakim, Tania Ahmed

6:30	The Simpsons	2:30	The Case Studies in Forensic Science	10:30	Sportsline (L)
7:00	Home Improvement	3:30	Material Witness	11:00	U.S. Amateur Open
7:30	Friends	4:30	Power of the Family	11:00	Championship Second Round (L)
8:00	Just Shoot Me	5:00	Zach's Ultimate Guide	11:00	ESPN
8:30	Smallville	5:30	Extreme Weather	11:00	U.S. Amateur Open
9:30	Buffy The Vampire	6:00	Electromagnetic Energy	11:00	Championship First Round(S)
10:30	Slayer	6:30	Great Hotels The Broadmoor	1:00	125cc Ama Motocross-125cc U.S. National (USA)
11:28	Star Asia Travel	6:30	Understanding Air Traffic Control	2:00	Liga Golf Jamie Farr Owens Coming Classic Presented By Kroger Final Round(R)
11:30	Baywatch	6:30	Traffic Control	2:00	English Premier Football League 2004/05 Manchester City Vs Fulham(T)
12:30	Weird Supernatural, Superstars	6:30	Crowned lemurs and the Crocodile Caves	6:00	6:00 Int'l Friendlies (England) Vs Ukraine(R)
1:00	Weird Animal X Cat	6:30	Anaconda Vs Jaguar	8:30	SpotscenterIndia (L)
1:30	Wildlife Specials Lion	6:30	Wild India Tryst with Destiny	9:00	English Premier Football League 2004/05 Norwich City Vs Crystal Palace (R)
2:30	Animal Athletes The Most Extreme Speed	6:30	Bazaar Rio De Janeiro	11:00	8:30:30 SportcenterIndia (R)
3:30	Vets in Practice Blood, Sweat & Tears	6:30	Top ten Hawaiian Beaches	11:30	9:00 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Norwich City Vs Crystal Palace (R)
4:00	Emergency Vets Partial Victories	6:30	Beach Hour	12:00	12:00 SportcenterAsia (S