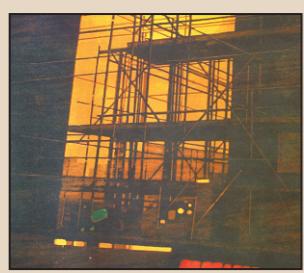


CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

Title: 5th Solo Print Exhibition



Artist: Anisuzzaman
Venue: Divine Art Gallery
Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel; Dhaka
Time: September 17 at 6:00pm

Organiser: Art Collector

Artist: Rafiqunnabi, Jamal Ahmed, Kuhu, Khalid Mahmud Mithu, Kanakchampa Chakma, Harold Rashid, Goutam Chakraborty, Bipul Shah, Karu Titash and Sulekh Chowdhury

Venue: Art Gallery of Art Collector, BNS Centre, Shop: A/7, Plot 87, Sector 7, Uttara, Dhaka.
Time: September 17-October 18, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Title: Shamaman-Shahjan
Venue: Charupath, Munshi Meherulah Road, Jessore
Time: September 10-19, from 10 am to 8 pm

Street Theatre

Title: Quatre symphonies pour une
value
Group: Un trefle a quatre femmes
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur
road, Dharmundi
Time: September 17 at 7:00 pm

Documentary Show
Title: The Naf River & Miracle of the
Creation of Man
Venue: Spectra Convention Centre,
House 19, Road 7, Gulshan 1
Time: September 17 at 4:00pm

My dream is to establish a 'drama village' for Jatra artistes – Nilu

ERSHAD KAMOL

KAMALUDDIN Nilu has his hands full at the moment. General Secretary of Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) he is busy with his directorial work for the new production of CAT, *Brand* of Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen.

Talking about the play, Nilu says, 'Like other Ibsen's plays, *Brand* has a universal touch. Henrik Ibsen has dealt with fundamentalism in Christianity in this play. I will not edit or adapt the play; rather I will only use the translated version of *Brand*, *Manzur-e-Moula*. It will be a six-hour play and be staged in two parts on two consecutive days.'

Nilu is hopeful that *Manzur-e-Moula* will be a new type of production from the Bangladeshi perspective. 'I am taking the risk to stage two parts of a play on two consecutive days. We never go after box-office hit productions. CAT always stages classics all over the world,' Nilu says.

On the genesis of CAT, Nilu says, 'I got the idea when I was studying drama in the National School for Drama (NSD), India. I was held up for funds to start a professional theatre group in Bangladesh. During that transitional period I joined Chittagong University as a drama teacher in the Department of Fine Arts as well as appeared on the screen for BTV plays.'

Later, in 1994 I got a fund from the Norwegian Embassy to fulfil my desire. In 1996, I established CAT. To run the 36-member professional theatre group, we need Taka 30 lakhs per year, as we pay our activists monthly and the salary range is Taka 3,000 to Taka 20,000. CAT has its own theatre hall and required technical hands. In fact, CAT is a model for professional theatre practice in Bangladesh. We collect money by taking part in the mainstream theatre festivals all over the world. For each show in the festivals we get US \$ 5,000. We sell recorded CDs and our publications during the festivals. Grameen Phone is our sponsor. Moreover, Royal Norwegian Embassy extends patronage to us.'



Recently CAT has started another venture- Theatre for Children project-jointly with the Canadian Embassy. 'In 2005 we will divide CAT into two branches-urban and rural. I am planning to establish the rural branch where I aim to establish a "drama village" featuring selected traditional Jatra artistes,' informs Nilu.

'I really enjoy the indigenous art form and the Jatra artistes have got immense potential. I will try to give the art form a polished shape. I believe that all the classics of William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe and others can be adapted well in Jatra. In that Jatra village we will establish a school for the children of the Jatra artistes who will learn the medium from the childhood,' Nilu adds.

Kamaluddin Nilu thinks that theatre groups in Bangladesh should strive for professionalism. To quote him, 'The approach to traditional theatre practice in Bangladesh is not the right one. Theatre leaders usually do not go to watch one another's works. Moreover, they do not

exchange ideas with one another, which is very important for the advancement of any art form. By and large, the theatre activists in Bangladesh are involved with other professions. Theatre in Bangladesh has become a kind of club culture. They are paying more attention to their personal interest rather than creative work. And in maximum cases they have not created any suitable successors. That is why a huge vacuum has been created within every big group. Moreover, the renowned artistes are now very much involved with electronic media rather than theatre, that is why almost every theatrical group is suffering. This can never be a healthy scenario for the theatre of any country.'

Another major problem in our theatre is the lack of young stage dramatists. Very few of those who write stage plays have any idea about the medium. May be their plays have got very good messages, however, theatre is not literature. Expression is very important in theatre or any performing art forms. Say for example, Bangla films often deliver powerful messages. However, due to lack of expression the message remains suppressed and the films appear to be mediocre. And the maximum translators have got the same problem. In the case of the translation, they just emphasise on the craftsmanship. That is thousands of available translated plays cannot be staged as the translators are not acquainted with the performing space,' Nilu adds.

In the year to come, CAT is set to take part in two international drama festivals. The group will stage *The Mission* in the NSD festival in India in January 2005 and later they will stage their new production which has not yet been selected for the Berlin drama festival in Germany in May 2005. After the production of *Brand*, Nilu will direct Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, which will be his last stage work. And then onwards Nilu will dedicate his talent for the development of the indigenous art form of Jatra. He hopes that through his efforts, Jatra will have a definite place in the world drama.

Abriti Angan: Bringing recitation under the spot light

NOVRA DEEPTA

Abriti Angan, a recitation group, recently organised a poem rendition programme titled *Halud Patar Gan*. The programme marked the group's eleventh founding anniversary. The organisation awarded talented reciter Golam Sarwar with the Gulam Mustafa Medal, whereas Robi Sankar Moitri received the Apu Honorary Memorial Award as a promising reciter on the occasion.

Majumdar Jewel, the director of the group, hosted the programme. Poet Saiful Bari, the Advisor of ATN Bangla handed over the award to Golam Sarwar while Robi Sankar Moitri received the medal from eminent drama activist Ramendu Majumdar.

A jubilant Moitri, overwhelmed by the recent award, said, 'Despite our perseverance in recitation, we get very little recognition. That is why I feel that such an award is a significant achievement.' Ramendu Majumdar in his speech once again identified the importance of a separate venue for recitation programmes. He also gave his own perspective on recitation not only as an art form but for developing the inner qualities of a human being.

In his speech, commemorating the eminent recitation artiste Gulam Mustafa, Golam Sarwar ended with a soulful recitation of a poem from Rabindranath Tagore. He



A glance at Halud Patar Gan

emphasised on the need to carry on the struggle to establish recitation as a prominent performing art. Poet Saiful Bari assured every possible help from the television channel ATN Bangla to promote recitation in the country as well as globally. He recited one of his recent poems that depicted the present unrest and hostile situation in the socio-political arena.

The staging of the lyrical drama *Halud Patar Gan* followed the award giving ceremony. Written by Simon Zakaria and directed by Majumdar

Jewel, the performance was as dismal as the muggy weather. The performance started with the song *Halud patar boyer kapon* that played in the background without any instrumental input. The lighting and the background music were impressive but the performance was monotonous, and to a certain extent, a little unprofessional.

Recitation in our country has come of age. However, organisers should show greater drive to enhance quality productions in this art form.

CD by Nash: A bonanza for music lovers

HARUN UR RASHID

While outside it had started to rain again, an unfazed audience was still pouring in at the auditorium of the Russian Cultural Centre to attend the launching ceremony of a new album, *Ishkuler Bondhu*. Inside the auditorium songs from the album were being played on loudspeakers. And the audience discovered the talent of the new artiste, Nasrin Islam Nash.

Many albums come out at regular intervals. However, not all of them can really create long lasting impression on the hearts of listeners. 'While the tunes of most of these songs seldom show innovation, the lyrics are also devoid of any creative imagination,' said eminent cultural personality Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed at the launching ceremony on September 15.

Nasrin's album, however, breaks new ground. With an unusual title, *Ishkuler Bondhu*, the album contains



Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed (2nd from left) inaugurating the album of Nash (centre); officials of Laser Vision are also seen

album, brought out on VCD, is not a good piece of work. Music videos of six songs were shown at the programme. Cinematography, editing and relevance to the songs did not seem up to the mark. Even the models were pretty stiff in their appearance.

Nasrin's introduction to music was through her elder sister at an early age. However, she took her first musical lessons at the Sangeet Bhawan of eminent Kalm Sharafi, where she learned Rabindra Sangeet. Later she went to the famous MS University at Baroda, India, in 1993. There she studied the Hindustani classical music. At present Nasrin is studying nursing in Oklahoma, USA. In the USA, Nasrin has been singing in the choir of the White Christian Church in India.

Nasrin's voice may linger on in the minds of the audience.

Cover jacket of the album

12 songs. Some beautiful lyrics, including two folk songs, have been composed by Basu. The mix of slow

However, the music video of the

Tv GUIDE

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

CHANNEL-i

07:30 Musical Programme: Prothom Shur
09:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh O Public Reaction

09:45 Tritiyo Matra Live Show: Tele Shomoy
10:30 Islam Ki Boley
12:00 Talk Show: Kora Alap

12:30 Drama Serial: Sharey Teen Tala
01:00 Banglar Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
03:00 Islam Ki Boley
04:30 Dekhar Gaan
05:10 Shonar Gaan
05:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
06:10 Janapoder Khabar

07:50 Weekly Drama: Khanika
09:35 Drama Serial: Din Choley Jai
10:00 Drama Serial: Ahonish Bhalobashay Ekjon

ATN BANGLA 07:30 The Sword of Tipu Sultan
10:25 Annodristee
11:05 Islamic Programme
03:40 Binodan

05:10 Jummabar Shesh Akhkor
06:20 Amra Korbo Joy
08:00 Rup Madhuri
08:30 Drama Serial: Khowab

STAR MOVIES 09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni

09:30 Drama Serial: Baba Cine Musical Programme
10:35 Tele film: Bondhu Amar

08:00 Ajaker Shakal
08:30 Jhankar
09:00 Aain O Jibon
09:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom

10:05 Siddika Kabir's Recipe
10:30 Apran Jigyasha
11:30 Trans World Sports

01:00 Smriti Janalay
02:30 Drama
03:45 Circus
05:20 Tiffiner Fankey

06:20 Shubho Shondhya
08:15 Drama Serial: Ronger Manush

08:50 Pepsi Music Express
09:40 Drama Serial: Premier Golpo
11:25 Dindarpur

7:45 Sudden Death
10:00 Born Free
12:00 Hannibal
2:30 Dancing in September

4:45 The Matrix
7:30 The Truth About Charlie
9:30 The Glimmer Man
11:15 Sex and The City
11:45 Puppet Master 4
12:00 Radha Ki Sangam

1:30 The Pianist
10:45 About A Boy
12:30 Till Human Voices

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PICK OF THE DAY

Khanika

On Channel-i at 7:50pm

Drama of the Week

Cast: Shams, Shumon, Deepa, Khondokar, Meghila, Anjali, Anwar Shahi

Ranjan and Arpita go to Cox's Bazar on assignment from the office. After their task, both of them decide to stay there for a few days more. And eventually they become involved with each other. Meanwhile, at the sea shore Ranjan meets Khanika, his previous girlfriend who once refused to marry him. Seeing Khanika so devastated amazes him. Ranjan avoids her and later comes to know the truth that she is severely sick and going to die. And that is why she went away from Ranjan's life. What will Ranjan do now?

STAR WORLD

11:30 Buffy The Vampire Slayer

12:30 Maal Hai To Taal

6:00 Taaza Hits

4:00 Ek Mulaqat

5:00 Oli Star Search - Final

3:00 Taaza Hits

11:30 Karma

11:30 Kahanji Jurm Ki

12:00 Aatish

11:30 Sharat - Thoda

10:30 The Apprentice

11:28 Star Asia Travel

11:30 Baywatch

12:30 The Apprentice

11:28 Star Asia Travel

11:30 Baywatch

12:30 The Apprentice

11:28 Star Asia Travel

11:30 Baywatch

12:30 The Apprentice

11:28 Star Asia Travel

11:30 Baywatch

12:30 The Apprentice

5:00 Adventures Endurance Leap of Fate