

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibitions

Artist: Aminul Islam
Venue: Shipagan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi
Date: March 18-April 10, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

16th National Art Exhibition

Artists: Eminent and promising artists of the country
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 12-April 11, 1am to 7pm and 3pm to 8pm on weekends

Bangladesh Denmark

Cultural Exchange

Organiser: Royal Danish Embassy, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Occasion: Birth Bicentennial of Hans Christian Andersen

Date: March 17-April 12, at 7pm everyday

Schedule:
 April 09-10
Programme: Staging of the play Nightingale and Ugly Duckling by Puppet Theatre

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Experimental Theatre

April 12
Programme: Screening of the movie Move Me

Venue: The British Council

Yuri Gagarin Science Fest-2005

Programme: Photo exhibition and quiz competition in cooperation with Bangladesh Astronomical Association

Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi

Time: April 06-12

Musical Evening

Artists: Kiran Chandra Roy, Chandana Majumdar

Organiser: Orchestra

Venue: All Community Club Hall, House 40, Road 35, Gulshan 2, Dhaka

Time: April 14, at 7:00pm

Folk Festival

Organiser: Music and Dance Department, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Plaza

Time: April 06-10, at 6pm everyday

Play

Title: Three Sisters

Group: Dramatics Department of DU

Venue: Nat Mandal Auditorium, DU

Time: April 03-08, at 6:30pm

Hajar Poshaki Rajar Galpo

Andersen's play features contemporary society

ERSHAD KAMOL

FAIRYTALES have a universal appeal, as they deal with the natural aspiration of human beings for beauty, order, truth, justice and romance. Legendary Danish fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen's story, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, is thus appropriate for any country or culture, particularly where there rules a leviathan king.

Adapted by Syed Manzoorul Islam with a few contemporary connotations, the play was staged with a new title, *Hajar Poshaki Rajar Galpo* by Theatre (Baily Road), at the National Theatre Stage. The function was a part of the cultural programme arranged to observe the 200th birth anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen.

Andersen's story is about an egoistic king, who has little care for his subjects. During the adaptation, Manzoorul has aptly focused on some economical and political scenarios, which reflect a contemporary Bangladesh.

The story: To ensure a better standard of life for the king, queen and the ministers, the Tax Minister sets new taxes on the subjects. However, none of members of the elite class pays the tax. One day the Tax Minister decides to set the tax even on the beggars so that enough money can be spent for making new dresses for the Emperor.

One day two cheats come to the city and hoodwink the Emperor and his ministers into believing that they can make a wonderful dress, unparalleled by any known fabric in the world. Moreover they claim that the dress is made of a material which is visible only to the honest. The cheats rake in a huge sum of money in the guise of making the imaginary dress.



A sequence from the play Hajar Poshaki Rajar Galpo

Finally, the leviathan Emperor, wearing the imaginary dress—in fact, without a dress—appears before his subjects and becomes a laughingstock.

Director KM Harun has blindly followed Russian Fairytale Theatre, a Russian TV show which popularised Andersen's fairytale. Sometimes it appears that the audience is watching a TV show on the proscenium arch stage. Like the Russian show, Harun has used an entertaining dance troupe with western attires.

However, there is an oriental touch to the costumes of the performers, the design of the set, and the whole drama. And there was no smooth transition between the

scenes. As in the TV show, the performers freeze on the stage, the light goes off, and a new sequence starts.

MA Mannan has used a huge suggestive set. In the right corner of the stage, Mannan has used an entrance for an elite family, and on the left a suggested mobile shop, while in the backstage is the huge castle of the Emperor. However, Mannan's use of a set element between the castle and the cyclorama seems unnecessary.

Light designer Thandu Raihan's use of the "dark lamp" during a dance piece performed by Nityalok Cultural Centre presents the entertainers as a few ghosts dancing on the stage, which is contrary to the

mood of the play. Moreover, his frequent changing of light effects interrupts the viewers' concentration.

Faizur Rahman Dew and Masum Chowdhury in the roles of the two cheats performed really well. The duo has correctly caught the sense of a fairytale performance. Ranjit Shah and Sohail Rana in the roles of the two ministers also gave good performances. A better performance is expected from Zakia Bari Momo in the role of a lavish queen. Rezaul Ekram Raju's performance of the Emperor reminds one of Utpal Dutta's portrayal of the King of Shundi in Satyajit Ray's film *Hirok Rajar Deshe*.



Tshechu Festival

A feast for the senses in Bhutan

AFSAR AHMED, back from Bhutan

Imagine a traditional festival where dancers recreate the myths and legends of the Himalayan Buddhism in a swirl of colour, music and mystery. One may see a magnificent procession of masked dancers in fine clothes and beautiful jewels re-enacting the traditional battles between the peaceful and wrathful deities, or monks in antique silk robes and more. And on the last morning, at the culmination of the

carnival, if one is lucky enough, s/he might witness the rare display of stunning *Thangka*, a four-storeyed-tall silk scroll painting. For this treat for the senses, one has to have the glimpse of the Tshechu Festival which is treated as the "Dance for the Gods, for You and Me."

Situated in a remote region of the eastern Himalayas, Bhutan retains much of the Old World charm and the centuries-old Buddhist traditions. Known to the Bhutanese as *Druk Yul* or "the Land of the Thunder



Dragon," Bhutan has become probably one of the world's last Shangri-las. This is a country proud of its astounding beauty and rich tradition, and Tshechu Festival or the mask dance festival marks the pinnacle of the Bhutanese annual cycle.

Visitors were captivated one chilly spring morning on March 24. This was the fourth day of the five-day long festival at the Paro Rimpung Dzong courtyard. The dance pieces in the programme had religious significance. Intervals were punctuated by folk dances.

Annually, on the tenth day of a certain month, every region of Bhutan celebrates the birthday of Guru Rinpoche, the miraculous figure regarded as the second Buddha, with this dance festival performed by monks. For example, in Thimphu, the Tshechu traditionally takes place on the tenth day of the sixth month and in Paro in spring on the tenth day of the first month of the lunar calendar," said Karma Dwandup, a Thimphu resident who came to enjoy the festival.

"Dances are performed to bless and protect onlookers, and it is believed that through the power of the deities invoked during these dances, adversity may be overcome, luck increased, and wishes fulfilled," said Geley Norbu who never misses this mystical festival.

The festival is also a major social gathering—people decked up in their finest traditional attire and jewellery chattering with each other, children running around gleefully while others gathering with eager anticipation to try their luck at gambling. To many this is the only time of year to gain respite from the hard life of subsistence farming.

The festival markets, stallholders and their families, set up in brightly coloured tents, sold their wares. The market was a cornucopia of treats: dried cheese strung onto pieces of twine hung from tent railings, traditional handmade tapestries, rugs and wall hangings.

A spellbound audience watched the dance of the lord of death and his consort (*Shinje Yab Yum*), dance of the lord of cremation ground (*Durdang*), dance of the stag and the hounds (*Shawa Shachi*), dance of the terrifying deities (*Tungam*), dance of the noble men and ladies, dance of the eight manifestations of Guru Rinpoche (*Guru Tshen Gye*), dance of the sixteen fairies, and others with colourful dresses and masks accompanied with drum beats.

PHOTO: AFSAR AHMED



TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Ek Janomey
 On ATN Bangla at 9:30 p.m.
 Genre: Drama Serial
 Cast: Ferdousi Majumder, Tarin, Jeetu
 Written and directed by Abdullah Al Mamun.



India Vs Pakistan
 On BTV at 9:30am
 Third ODI match
 Live From Jamshedpur, India

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, 3:30 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, 2:00 pm, 7:00 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, 11pm.

News (English) at 8:20 am, 7:00 pm, 11:30 pm.

Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

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

News (Bangla) at 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 6:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

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

BBC WORLD
 Every hour on the hour.

BTV

08:15 Quiz Quiz

08:40 Bishwa Protidin

09:00 Satellite Programme

09:30 The ODI match between India and Pakistan

06:00 Desh Janapad

06:10 Wrestling

07:00 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast

07:05 Lookik Bangla

07:30 Shurey Shurey

08:25 Protidin Bangladesh

08:30 Swadhinota Mohan Swadhinota

08:35 Drama Serial: Ashapoti Tumi

09:05 Drama: Gayer Pakhi

10:25 Teknaf Thekey Telulia

10:35 Anandajama

11:00 Rangdhanu

12:05 Satellite programmes

CHANNEL-i

09:45 Tiniya Matra

10:30 Tele Shamoy

12:00 Kara Alap

12:30 Koram Shikhar

01:00 Banglar Gaan

01:30 Public Reaction

02:30 Interview Short Film

03:00 Islam Ki Bole

03:30 Sheliyer Shandhane

04:20 Musical Programme

04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:15 Janpadar Khabar

05:30 Shamoyiki

06:00 Music Plus

06:30 Bubble up Music

07:50 Weekly Drama: Adhara Jyotsnar Alo

09:35 Drama Serial: 69

10:00 Close Up Juke Box

ntv

08:30 Aajker Shakal

Drama Serial

Kachher Manush

Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri

10:30 Bangla Feature Film: Parichay

Drama Serial: Kachher Manush

03:15 Pepsi Music Express

03:50 Drama: Ananta Bashor

04:25 Gallery

05:15 Ithashor Ei Diney

05:20 Alopkat

06:20 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 Shonkriy Ei Shoptaho

08:15 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamla

09:00 Telefilm: Meghe Dhaka Manush

11:25 Dindapan

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Anandishree

11:30 Char Deyalar Kabira

Bangla Film: Takar Ohonker

03:45 Musical Programme: Shurur Madhuri

04:20 Chalo Gaan Gai

05:10 Ishki Bela

05:45 Jibon Jigyasha

06:20 Auto Man

08:00 Drama Serial: Lodiya

08:30 Drama Serial: Opera

09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni

09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Janomey

10:35 Musical Programme: Rock & Rhythm

12:10 Bangla Feature Film: Mitun Hobe Kotodine

HBO

9:15 Cobra

11:00 Rasputin

1:15 Holy Matrimony

Drama Serial

Kachher Manush

Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri

10:30 Bangla Feature Film: Parichay

Drama Serial: Kachher Manush

03:15 Pepsi Music Express

03:50 Drama: Ananta Bashor

04:25 Gallery

05:15 Ithashor Ei Diney

05:20 Alopkat

06:20 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 Shonkriy Ei Shoptaho

08:15 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamla

09:00 Telefilm: Meghe Dhaka Manush

11:25 Dindapan

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Anandishree

11:30 Char Deyalar Kabira

Bangla Film: Takar Ohonker

03:45 Musical Programme: Shurur Madhuri

04:20 Chalo Gaan Gai

05:10 Ishki Bela

05:45 Jibon Jigyasha

06:20 Auto Man

08:00 Drama Serial: Lodiya

08:30 Drama Serial: Opera

09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni

09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Janomey

10:35 Musical Programme: Rock & Rhythm

12:10 Bangla Feature Film: Mitun Hobe Kotodine

HBO

9:15 Cobra

11:00 Rasputin

1:15 Holy Matrimony

ntv

08:30 Aajker Shakal

09:00 Aajker Shakal

09:30 Aajker Shakal

10:00 Aajker Shakal

10:30 Aajker Shakal

11:00 Aajker Shakal

11:30 Aajker Shakal

12:00 Aajker Shakal

12:30 Aajker Shakal

1:00 Aajker Shakal

1:30 Aajker Shakal

2:00 Aajker Shakal

2:30 Aajker Shakal

3:00 Aajker Shakal

3:30 Aajker Shakal

4:00 Aajker Shakal

4:30 Aajker Shakal

5:00 Aajker Shakal

5:30 Aajker Shakal

6:00 Aajker Shakal

6:30 Aajker Shakal