

Spectacular Chinese acrobats in town

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and Bangladesh, a two-day performance comprising 40 artistes from China presented various brilliant feats of acrobatics that had the audience spellbound.

A full house before the scheduled start of the programme was a good indicator of the level of expectancy surrounding the performance of The China Arts Troupe at the Shilpakala Auditorium, on April 16.

As the performance rolled on, The China Arts Troupe treated the audience to a medley that lasted for an hour. The audience was warm in its response to the diversity in the dances from the *Cute Actress* to the *Aerial Ballet*, the *Waist Dancing of Chu Style*, followed by the joyful juggling act, and the agility of the acrobats in the *Foot Pagoda of Bowls* and much more.

The dance numbers were based on traditional forms dating back from 2000BC to the modern era. The acoustics accompanied the dancers

in rich costumes of brocade and taffeta in hot pink and emerald green. The overall performance was nothing short of dynamism, energy and youthfulness. The acrobatic feats represented balance and wonderful group synchronisation even in exhausting moves.

Over the years, Chinese cultural performances have traditionally attracted an interested crowd and this was no exception.

I have vibrant memories of watching the Chinese acrobatic teams performing at the National Stadium in Dhaka as a child. We had been a part of the captivated audience, among the thousands, who thronged to watch the spectacular shows. The jugglers, the plates balanced on sticks, the circus team, balance on cycles and many more acts are still etched in the memory of many.

On April 16, many waited eagerly to enter the hall at the Shilpakala Academy, holding placards saying, "Please give us a ticket." Phenomenal shows like these should be held at a more spacious venue as this would attract a wider audience.

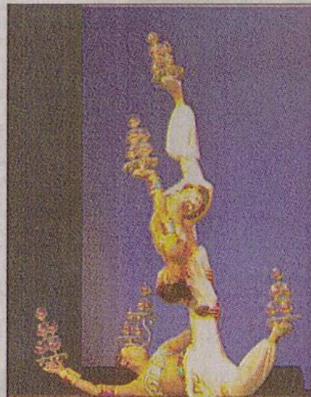
PHOTO: AFSAR AHMED



Group dance presented by Beijing Dance Academy



The Waist Dancing of Chu Style



Rolling Cups and Foot Pagoda of Bowls by China National Acrobatic Troupe



A Kaleidoscopic Journey

Fakruzzaman's solo art exhibition

ERSHAD KAMOL

Bangladesh-born British artist Mohammed Fakruzzaman portrays civilisation from archaeologists' viewpoints. Each and every work of Fakruzzaman, be it an oil painting, etching, mixed media, and two other mediums rather unusual in Bangladesh—collagraph print and viscosity method—displaying at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, depicts the human civilisation.

British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Anwar Chowdhury, inaugurated the solo exhibition.

Mohammed Fakruzzaman has got a few prestigious awards such as the UK National Award at the Winsor & Newton Worldwide Millennium Painting Competition held in 2000.

Professor Anisuzzaman said, "I have never seen Fakruzzaman's work before, as he has built up his career in the UK. But, his works in the exhibition have impressed me."

Of the 56 works on display, 28 are in acrylic, 23 are in collagraph print, four in viscosity method and one in etching.

Each of Fakruzzaman's paintings is done from a bird's eye view with economical use of colour. Not more than four shades of different colours are prominent in each of the canvases. Through the different shades of yellow, red, blue and black, abstractionist Fakruzzaman has portrayed different civilisations with harmonious flavour.

Through the images of a stream, river or desert beside a metro, he has created his civilisation. Sometimes Fakruzzaman builds his works on

the edge of darkness in a way that demonstrates how precarious they are. His paintings also shift between surface and dimensionality and between plan and elevation. All of his paintings have the same title "unnamed" and the most interesting parts of his paintings are using of

that art is the inherent quality of human beings. Each and every person draws in the childhood days, and through the institutional education an artist learns to polish those lines. That is why I use zigzag child-like lines in my paintings."

Other attraction of the exhibitor



An art work by Mohammed Fakruzzaman

"s'graffito technique" with the simplest diagrams of dwellings, pathways and railings. The marks are clear, childlike in their care and spontaneity and yet enigmatic too. Through these lines he connects one civilisation with others. Fakruzzaman says, "I use those lines intentionally to remind the viewers

is the display of "collagraph print". Fakruzzaman says, "Collagraph print is similar to etching, however, no acid is used in collagraph to create texture. Etching is a mechanical process, but collagraph print is more artistic and creative work." Each of his collagraph prints depicts the circle of life.

DID YOU KNOW?

The very first Indian movie distributor in the subcontinent was Heeralal Sen, who was originally from Dhaka. He was also the first to make documentaries and ad films in India. On April 4, 1898, Heeralal's The Royal Biscope Company organised its first film screening. Later, he opened some movie theatres. Among his documentaries, *Transportation and People on Chitpur Road* and *King George the 5th in Delhi* received appreciation. Heeralal made some feature films as well, such as *Seetaram*, *Dol Leela*, *Buddha*, *Alibaba* and *Bharamar*.



Kazi Nazrul Islam made his debut as a film actor and director with the movie *Dhruvo*. He was perhaps the first Bangalee Muslim film director. Nazrul portrayed the Hindu mythological character, *Narad*. However, he faced some harsh criticism for his portrayal of the role. The film was released on January 1, 1934.



The first Bangalee Muslim actress to grace the silver screen was Rokeya Khatun. She was possibly the first Muslim actress in Indian cinema as well. However, because of religious and social stigma associated with being an actress in those days, she could not work in Bengal. She had to go to Lahore to become an actress and her real name and background were concealed, as her father was a barrister. Rokeya's still pictures were published in monthly *Saugata* in 1937.



Jago Hua Savera (Day shall dawn), an Urdu movie made in the 50s on the lives of the hard working, common folks of the rural east Bengal, was based on the renowned literary work *Padma Nader Majhi* by Manik Bandyopadhyay. The movie was made by AJ Kardar.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent
PHOTO COURTESY: BANGLADESHER CHOLCHOHITRER ITHASH BY ANUPAM HAYAT

CULTURAL FEAST

Meena Media Awards 2005

Organisers: UNICEF AMIC
Venue: Bengal Foundation, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Time: April 18, at 11am

Film Screening

Title: Russian War Films
Organiser: Jahangirnagar University and the Russian Centre of Science and Culture
Venue: TSC auditorium, Jahangirnagar University
Time: April 27-28

Exhibition

Title: Bokhiti
Artists: Ferdousy Priyobhashini, Ra Kajol, Tayabuzzaman Topu
Venue: British Council, 5, Fullet Road
Time: April 13-30, 10am to 7pm

Buzz

Paani: Bringing Hollywood and Bollywood together

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

When two greats of Hollywood and Bollywood come together, the final product is potentially astounding.

Hollywood filmmaker Barrie Osborne, who shot into international limelight with multi-Oscar winning epic *Lord of the Rings*, blockbuster *Matrix* and *Face Off*, is set to make his Bollywood debut by teaming up with acclaimed producer-director Shekhar Kapur to make *Paani*, a movie about a world where water is a scarce and precious commodity.

"I'm working on this film with Kapur and I hope I will get the needed assistance from Bollywood," said Osborne who just wrapped up a tour of Indian cities - Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore, apparently looking for locales for the shooting of *Paani*.

The film will be made in English and Hindi and its soundtrack will be composed by A.R. Rahman. Although the cast of *Paani* is yet to be finalised, there are rumours that Bollywood superstar Vivek Oberoi might be one of the actors.

Paani is set in an imaginary land 25 years in the future where water supply dries up. There is a romantic spin to the story as a boy from a class of society that owns the water, falls in love with a girl from a class that does not and there breaks out a conflict.

The story of the proposed film revolves around how water is used like currency.

Osborne said new animation technology would be employed in the making of the film and plans were also afoot to introduce computer graphics as this is going to be a very contemporary film.

He is also reported to be planning a film on South African national liberation movement icon Nelson Mandela and another movie on Buddha.

Kapur's Hindi film *Masoom*, starring Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi, had earned critical acclaim in the early 1990s. The Hollywood filmmaker said he also watched some films by Kapur, including his *Bandit Queen* made on Indian Member of Parliament Phoolan Devi.

"The way *Lord of the Rings* has become a catalyst for cinema in New Zealand can be repeated in the case of Indian cinema too," he added.

Osborne said he was confident that with the development of film-making technology in India, there would be more progress in content and visual effects in this country.

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, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:20pm, 7:20pm.
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

09:45 *Triflyo Matra*
10:45 Live Educational Programme
11:30 *Chithi Pelam*
12:00 Special Programme
12:30 *Aj Dupuroy O Citycell*
13:00 *Tarakakothon*
13:00 *Ebong Cenemar Gaan*
13:25 Public Reaction
13:30 *Shangbadporey Bangladesh*
13:35 Special Programme
13:50 *Banglar Gaan*
14:20 Special Programme
14:45 *Sa Re Ga Ma X-Music*
15:30 Music Plus
16:00 *Banjio O Aurthoniti*
16:30 Business Show
16:50 Drama Serial: *Ponbar O Ekli Company*
17:50 *Sunsilk Apshora*
18:25 Drama Serial: *Shampurna Ranganer*
19:35 Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
10:00 Drama Serial: *Megabond*
10:30 *Annoardishi*
11:05 Drama Serial: *Ek Janamey*
11:35 Musical Programme
12:15 *Dekhi Nayan Mella*
12:45 *Chobir Golpo*
13:00 Drama Serial: *Ghumpoka*
13:15 Drama Serial: *O Amar Chokkhu Nai*
13:30 Cartoon Show
14:25 *Chhotoder Prithibi*
15:10 *Matir Shubash*
15:45 *Islami Sawaal O Jawab*
16:20 *Shobar Jonnyo*

08:00 Drama Serial: *Shukhnagar Apartment*
08:30 Drama Serial: *Shimahn Shimanay*
09:00 *Chithi Pelam*
10:35 *Katha Mala*
12:20 Bangla Feature Film
09:30 *Ain O Jibon*
10:05 *Animal Kingdom*
10:30 *Dhakar Cinema*
10:35 Drama Serial: *Jhut Jhemela*
11:05 *Right Click*
11:30 *Medhabi*
12:25 *Khoobar Deshey Deshey*
13:15 *Aapnar Jigyasha*
13:40 *Desher Khabar*
14:00 *Shubho Shondhaya*
14:25 *Crime Watch*
14:50 *Drama Serial: Spasher Bairay*
15:20 *Alochon*
15:45 *Drama Serial: Anyarakom Dindapan*
16:15 *American Outlaws*
16:45 *Held Up*
17:00 *Phantom Force*
17:15 *A Thousand Acres*
17:30 *New Best Friend*
17:45 *Beverly Hills Ninja*
18:00 *Willard*
18:15 *XXX*
18:30 *Identity*
18:45 *Phantom Force*
19:00 *Empire of the Sun*
19:15 *STAR MOVIES*
19:30 *Submarines*
19:45 *Vertical Limit*
20:00 *Detention*
20:15 *Sony*

3:10 *South Kensington*
3:05 *Total Recall*
3:20 *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*
3:45 *Target*
4:00 *Fall*
4:15 *Submarines*
4:30 *ANIMAL PLANET*
4:45 *Pet Nation*
5:00 *On the Edge*
5:15 *Pet Star*
5:30 *Animal X Cave*
5:45 *Diving*
6:00 *Monkey Business*
6:15 *The Planet's Funniest Animals*
6:30 *Amazing Animal*
6:45 *Wild Discovery*
7:00 *Wild Discovery*
7:15 *Animal Face Off*

8:30 *On the Edge*
10:30 *Animal Planet Showcase*
11:30 *Land of the Tiger*
12:05 *Unknown Seas*
9:15 *Target*
10:45 *Fall*
12:05 *Submarines*
12:15 *DISCOVERY CHANNEL*
12:30 *Wild Discovery*
1:30 *Discovery's Biggest Shows*
3:30 *Night Safari Predator*
5:30 *Animal X Cave*
6:30 *Diving*
6:45 *Monkey Business*
7:00 *The Planet's Funniest Animals*
7:15 *Amazing Animal*
7:30 *Wild Discovery*
8:30 *Animal Face Off*

9:30 *Seven wonders of the Industrial World*
10:30 *Superstructures of the World*
11:30 *FBI Files*
9:50 *Pardesi Babu*
1:30 *Hum*
4:45 *Najayaz*
8:30 *Bobby Deol*
12:00 *Mahaveera*
1:00 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*
1:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
2:00 *Bhabhi*
2:30 *Kesar*
3:00 *Saarthi*

3:30 *Kyunkii Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhi Thi*
4:00 *Kahin To Hoga K Street Pali Hill*
4:30 *Maan*
5:00 *Maal Hai To Taal Hai*
5:30 *Adventures Of Mickey*
6:00 *Andonaid*
6:30 *Disney's The Weekenders*
7:00 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
7:30 *Hello Dollie*
8:00 *Dekho Magar Pyaar Se*
8:30 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay Milee*
9:00 *Kavyanjali*
9:30 *Kahaani Char Ghar Kii*
10:00 *Kyunkii Saas Bhi Kabhi*

11:30 *Bhu Thi*
12:00 *Kahin To Hoga K Street Pali Hill*
10:30 *STAR WORLD*
11:30 *The Apprentice*
12:30 *The X Files*
1:30 *Parkinson*
2:30 *Magnum P.I.*
3:30 *Oprah Winfrey*
4:30 *Bold And Beautiful*
5:30 *Hollywood Squares*
6:30 *Whose Line Is It Anyway*
7:00 *Ally Mc Beal*
7:30 *The Simpsons*
8:00 *The 70s Show*
8:30 *Friends*
9:00 *Newsradio*
9:30 *The King Of Queens*
10:00 *Everybody Loves Raymond*
10:30 *Grounded For Life*
11:00 *Frasier*
11:30 *The Casino*
12:00 *Newsradio*
12:00 *Cover Story*

11:30 *S3*
11:30 *Seconds From Disaster*
11:30 *National Geographic's Taboo*
8:30 *STAR SPORTS*
8:30 *English Premier Football League 2004/05 Southampton Vs Aston Villa (T)*
10:30 *Spanish Football League 2004/05 (S)*
12:30 *English Premier Football League 2004/05 Crystal Palace Vs Norwich City (R)*
2:30 *Super 12 Rugby 2005 Act Brumbies Vs New Waratahs Round*
4:30 *Extremes Downunder (T)*
5:00 *Gillette World Sports 2005 (R)*
5:30 *Fa Cup 2004/05 Newcastle United Vs Manchester United Semi-Final*
7:30 *The Fa Cup - "Final Score" (T)*
8:00 *Sportsline (L)*
8:30 *Sportsline Football League 2004/05 (R)*
10:30 *Sportsline (R)*
11:00 *Hitz (R)*
11:30 *English Premier League Highlights 2004/05 (T)*
12:00 *ESPN*
10:00 *Motorsport Asia (R)*
10:30 *English Premier Football League 2004/05 Liverpool Vs Tottenham Hotspur (R)*
12:30 *Nba Basketball*
12:30 *Washington Dc Usa*

12:00 *Cleveland Cavaliers Vs Washington Wizards (R)*
3:00 *Final Score (S)*
3:30 *English Premier Football League 2004/05 London England Fulham Vs Manchester City*
5:30 *Brazilian Football: Paulista Championship Mogi Mirim Sp Brazil Mogi Mirim Es Vs Sao Paulo (S)*
7:30 *English Premier League Highlights 2004/05 (T)*
8:30 *Sportscenter India (L)*
9:00 *AtpMasters Series Monte-Carlo Presented By Hsbc Monte Carlo Monaco Finals(T)*
11:00 *Toyota Football Up Close (T)*
11:30 *Sportscenter India (R)*
12:00 *Sportscenter Asia (S)*
7:30 *Gamer TV*
8:00 *Gillette World Sport*
9:00 *WWE Heat*
9:30 *United Strongman*
10:30 *Legends*
11:30 *History of Football*
1:30 *MotoGP: Grand Prix Rio - Jacarepagua*
5:30 *WWE Specials: WrestleMania XXI*
7:30 *MotoGP: Grand Prix Rio - Jacarepagua*
10:00 *Gillette Italian Serie A - Highlights*
1:00 *WWE Raw*



Shimahn Shimanay
On ATN Bangla at 8:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Indrani Halder, Abul Hayat, Shahed Sharif Khan

Identity
On HBO at 12:00' clock night
Genre: Horror / Mystery / Thriller / Drama
Cast: John Cusack, Ray Liotta, Amanda Peet