

CULTURAL FEAST

Classical Music

Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi

Artistes: Shama Ahmed, Fayzul Haque, Bijoy, Chowdhury Mostaq Hossain

Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra

Date: June 30, at 7pm

Exhibition

Title: Tapestry Exhibition

Artist: Tajul Islam

Venue: Shilpanagan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi

Date: June 18-29, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

Title: Metaphor of Agony

Artist: Nazlee Laila

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts

Date: June 23-July 06, from 12pm to 8pm

Title: Terra Cotta Exhibition

Artist: Tayubuzzaman Tapu, Mazharul Haque Iqbal, Shahidul Hassan

Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts

Date: June 24-30, from 10:30am to 8pm

Title: Miniature Art

Artists: 105 artists

Venue: Shilparag, House 15, Road 16, Dhanmondi

Date: June 03-30, from 11:30am to 2pm and 4:30pm to 9pm

Music Festival

Organiser: Alliance Francaise

Date: June 30-July 2, at 5pm

Schedule

June 30

05:00pmPiano recital by Students of Alliance Francaise Music Schools

06:15pmTagore songs by Nilufar Banu Lilly

07:15pmNazrul songs by Chhayanaut

08:15pmClassical songs by Anil Kumar Shaha and Yusuf Khan

Venue: Alliance Francaise

July 01

04:15pmLatin Dance by Neelima and Shahriar

05:00pmMusical soiree by Students of Alliance Francaise Music School

06:00pmGhazal Mezbah

07:00pmModern songs by Uronchandi

09:00pmFrench and Arabian songs by Madjid Ziouane

Venue: Alliance Francaise

July 02

12:00pm Musical soiree by the students of Dhaka University

03:00pm Music rendition by Duma

04:00pm Musical soiree by Kamol

05:00pm Pop music by Rumi

06:00pm Fusion music by Meghdal

07:00pm French and Arabian songs by Madjid Ziouane

Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University

Theatre

Title: Natyatroyee

Group: Nagorik Natiyasampradaya

Venue: Experimental Theatre stage

Date: June 30, from 7pm

Title: Metamorphosis

Group: Centre for Asian Theatre

Venue: Goethe-Institut, Dhanmondi

Date: June 30, from 7pm

Costume Display

Title: Summer Collection

Boutique: Ananya

Venue: 60, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Bonani

Date: June 01-30

In Conversation

Arif Dewan carries on rich tradition of *palagaan*

ERSHAD KAMOL

THE two names, Khaleque Dewan and Malek Dewan, are synonymous with the folksong genre *palagaan*. Keeping that *parampara* (family tradition) alive is Arif Dewan, grandson of Malek Dewan.

Explaining his musical lineage, Arif says, "The followers of Alfu Dewan, a mystic poet and my great grandfather, use the title *Dewan*. Alfu rendered mystic songs such as *adamatwa*, *dehotatwa*, and *shariat* among others. Alfu Dewan's two sons-- Khaleque Dewan and Malek Dewan-- popular bards in Bangladesh, later presented these mystic songs in a unique dramatic style called *Sawal-Jawab* (question and answer). Like my grandfather, my father Khabiruddin Dewan is also a popular *palagaan* singer. My grandfather has given me the responsibility of the *Dewans*."

Dewans are the bards who are enlightened and gather knowledge through their songs that link man with God and the mysteries of nature. The style of presenting songs by the *Dewans* is called *palagaan*. In *palagaan* two *Dewans* participate in a musical debate with a touch of the mystic. They usually play violin, *mandira* and *dhol* as the instruments.

How is *palagaan* different from *kabigaan*? Arif says, "Though both of the music genres are dramatic presentation of two bards, *palagaan* is a *gurmukhi bida*(imparted through the teacher). *Palagaan* form starts with devotional song and then either *nabatwa* (teachings of the Prophet S.M.) or *dehotatwa* (songs dealing with human body and soul) becomes the subject of the *pala*. In the *pala*, the two rival



Arif Dewan rendering a song

bards display the emotion of different characters during the dramatic presentation. The aim of the nightlong *palagaan* is to glorify God. On the other hand, in *kabigaan*, the subject of debate between the two bards is open. *Kabigaan* also starts with devotion and then come narratives. Moreover, *toppa* (rhythmic repetition), *dhonya* and *malshi* are included in *kabigaan* form."

"Nowadays, because of increasing commercialisation all round, the folksong forms are losing originality. Some of the forms have

become vulgar. And *palagaan* is no exception. In the process, the preservation of the rich tradition is in jeopardy," says Arif.

Thankfully, authentic *palagaan* remains popular amongst the masses. Each year more than 30,000 followers of Alfu Dewan gather at his *Oros* at Keraniganj to pay their respects to the mystic poet. Foreign researchers have worked on Alfu Dewan Mazar and his folk style.

Arif Dewan has staged over 100 stage shows in different corners of the country. Arif says, "Generally I receive invitations

to stage *palagaan* in greater Comilla, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Tangail, Manikganj and Kushtia region. Moreover, I regularly perform in the government programmes. I have performed in England, Oman, South Korea and Malaysia."

Like other folksingers, Arif Dewan believes that the government and electronic media should step in by preserving and popularising folk music. Arif says, "Though the electronic media airs a few programmes of folksongs, the time slot is not suitable for viewers to enjoy folksongs. Most of the programmes are aired in the afternoon when people remain preoccupied."

Besides, *palagaan*, Arif Dewan also sings *kabigaan*, *baulgaan* and other genres of folksongs. Since 1982 Arif Dewan is a special grade singer in radio and TV. Moreover, Arif Dewan is a music composer and lyricist of folksongs.

Arif Dewan is not into fusion folk music. As he says, "There is a harmonious interrelationship between the lyrics and tunes of our folksongs. If, the tune is modified, the harmony is interrupted. And thus, the folksong loses its essence, which is not acceptable. Those who want to blend folksongs with western music should create a new form. However, they should not destroy the authenticity of folksongs."

He has written and composed over 400 songs and has released 23 cassettes and one VCD. His albums such as *Malek Dewaner Bhaber Shudha*, *Beheshti Sawgat*, *Ami Pather Baul*, *Tumito Dayal Khaja* and *Premar Smriti* have made waves both in Bangladesh and India.

The Merchant of Venice

Staged by NSU Cine and Drama Club

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The Merchant of Venice, a pure romantic comedy of the great dramatist William Shakespeare, consists of a series of unimaginable events. On June 26, North South University Cine and Drama Club staged the play at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy as their 6th annual production.

The plot develops through two acts--the bond story and the casket story. The casket story sets the bond story in motion. Bassanio, the hero of the play, needs money to try out his luck in the lottery of caskets to win over the beautiful Portia. He approaches his bosom friend Antonio. However Antonio, a renowned merchant of Venice, has no ready cash. The two go to Shylock for a loan and a fatal bond is signed. Shylock lends Bassanio the money on the condition that if Bassanio fails to return the money in time, Shylock will get a pound of Antonio's flesh. Shakespeare has revealed the violation of human rights, the agony and torture of the minority through the character, Shylock. Thus, the two acts of the play unfold.

Translator Abdus Selim has presented the play with a contemporary approach. The translator has intentionally avoided the religious issues depicted in the original script.



A scene from the play

There are many contrasts and conflicts in the play.

However, the overlapping dialogues and lack of tension in accordance with the demand of a sequence frustrate the audience. Although director Israfil Shaheen has portrayed Shylock as a very cruel person and a stereotypical representative of the Jewish community, his Shylock is not delineated effectively.

The creative and colourful set design of Sudip Chakravarty adorns the stage effectively. Through Abdul Halim's light

effects, the director of the play tries to differentiate between places such as Portia's house, a Venice road, and Shylock's house. However, it was not effective. Colour effects on the cyclorama have little appeal as obstacles are created by the huge set between the cyclorama and audience.

Tony Vincent Gomes as Shylock, Azlina Iqbal as Nerissa, Elita as Portia were impressive. Although a non-professional group, the teamwork and sound effect pulled in a large audience.

Abhijan: A serial for children



Tauquir Ahmed and Zeenat Rehana in the drama serial

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A whimsical and nutty scientist develops a real atom bomb. However, in the process of experimenting with the bomb, which he plans to explode on Dhaka, he loses it. Three children, Nafiz, Johnny and Moni, find the bomb in a botanical garden. The scientist subsequently begins to threaten the children...this is how the story of *Abhijan* progresses.

A drama serial for children, *Abhijan* features Tauquir Ahmed, Dr Enamul Haque, Rafiqullah Selim, Anamika, Usha Mohon, Farabi, Bijoy, Shirsho, Angel and some child artistes. Under the banner of Chiley Kotha, the serial was shot in the beautiful hilly locale of Sylhet. Sheikh Shagar is the script writer and director of the serial. The serial will be aired soon on a satellite channel.

Launching of a long awaited film centre



Speakers at a press conference

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Since its inception in 1975, the Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS) has sought to promote high calibre films as well as a sophisticated audience in the country. In fact, BFFS has been at the epicentre of the film society movement for the last few decades through its effort to check the trend of vulgarity in films. The federation's recent venture is its long awaited

film centre named after the talented Bangladeshi filmmaker and first president of BFFS, late Alamgir Kabir. A press conference was held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium on June 27 to announce the launch of the centre.

Presided over by filmmaker Morshedul Islam, President of BFFS, the conference featured prominent filmmakers Syed Bazle Hossain, Tanvir Mokammel, Manzare Hasin Murad, Chashi

Nazrul Islam and Badal Rahman. Dr Zahirul Islam Kochi, General Secretary of BFFS, conducted the conference and gave details about the Alamgir Kabir Film Centre.

"The centre will become the focal point of the city's film connoisseurs," said a hopeful Kochi. "This centre comprises of a 50-seated air conditioned auditorium with good acoustics, a rich library filled with books and magazines on films, a DVD and VCD archive of world classics as well as good Bangladeshi films and an attractive cafeteria," he added. Apart from regularly screening the classic movies of home and abroad, this centre will organise seminars, symposiums, workshops and film appreciation courses. Plans are also afoot to launch diploma courses on filmmaking and small screen productions.

"A long cherished dream of the culture buffs was to have an art centre like Nandan of Kolkata. Although on a smaller scale, Alamgir Kabir Film Centre is a step in the right direction," said Manzare Hasin Murad.

"Our film movement is stagnant. The film aficionados will welcome this new centre, with its medley of activities," said Tanvir Mokammel.

Mainstream filmmaker, Chashi Nazrul Islam said, "In the name of

making films, most of the mainstream filmmakers produce B - grade movies today. So it is imperative to ignite the film movement against such odds."

Another mainstream filmmaker, Badal Rahman got nostalgic while reminiscing on the golden age of our filmdom. He expressed the hope that by creating awareness among the aspiring filmmakers, this centre can take concrete steps for the betterment of our film industry.

Syed Bazle Hossain too articulated a concern. As he said, "It's a pity that the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy doesn't have a film division, although film has been treated the most powerful medium in the world."

Morshedul Islam in his speech pointed out, "BFFS is a civil society organisation. We can only create mass opinion against the current phenomenon of vulgarity in the film industry. It is very difficult to implement such a project privately, but we take it as a challenge. For instance, we may not be able to create an archive for 35mm films, but we can make a good collection of DVDs and VCDs of the classic movies. As Bangladesh is set to celebrate 50 years of cinema next year, we plan to launch 50 great Bangladeshi movies of different genres on DVDs for this occasion."

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) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

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.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m.10:00 am, 11:00 am.1:00pm.3:00 pm. 4:00pm.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) at5:30pm.7:30pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at8:30 pm.11:30 pm.

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

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

BTV

07:30 Shubhechha Nin

09:00 Satellite Programme

12:15 Shongbad Potrer Pata Thekey

12:30 Shashito Tathya

01:05 Selected Programme

02:05 Children's Programme: Sisimpur Hijol Tomal

02:30 Open University

03:05 Geeto Bitan

03:35 Mati O Manush

05:05 News Headlines, Share Market, Weather Forecast

07:00 Amra Shobai Janley Chai

07:30 Amra Shobai Janley Chai

08:30 Amra Shobai Janley Chai

09:00 Drama Serial: Shantikunjio

10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia

10:35 Kemon Achhen

11:00 Swadesh Shangshkriti

12:05 Satellite Programme

CHANNEL i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction

09:45 Trityo Matra

10:45 Sports Time

11:30 Agora Shopping Guide

12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicell Tarokakothon (live)

01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:25 Public Reaction

03:50 Banglar Gaan

04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:15 Janapader Khobor

06:00 Music Plus

06:30 Campus Campus

07:55 RC Travel On

08:25 Drama Serial: Ek

Akasher Tara

09:35 Drama Serial: Din Choley Jay

10:00 Drama Serial: Mega Bond

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Onnodrishti

11:05 Kotha Mala

11:35 Drama Serial: Flat No. 40

12:15 Musical Programme

12:50 Band Show: Ganey Shurey Tarunye Motamot

01:25 Drama Serial: Jol Mohal

03:15 Drama Serial: Nana Ronger Din

03:50 Drama Serial: New Files

04:25 Cinema Cinema

05:10 BSB Education Zone

05:45 Islami Sawal O Jawab (live)

06:20 The Sword of Tipu Sultan

08:00 Drama Serial: Tanaporen

09:00 Drama Serial: Shukher Lagiya

09:30 Drama Serial: Shadakalo

ntv

08:30 Aajker Shokal

09:05 Drama Serial: Belabhum

09:30 Shiray Shonito

10:05 Science Workshop

10:30 Aarshinagar

11:00 Transworld Sports

12:05 Shurer Jolsha

01:25 TVC

02:35 Drama Serial:

PICK OF THE DAY

Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe

On ntv at 8:20pm

Cookery Show

Hosted by Sharmin Lucky

That 70s Show

On Star World at 7:00pm

Genre: Comedy

Cast: Topher Grace, Laura Prepon, Ashton Kutcher

03:15 Belabhum

Dance Programme: Nupo

04:25 Cholocchitro Kotha

05:15 Iltihashe Ei Diney

06:20 Shubho Shondha

06:50 Nari Ghorey Bairey

08:20 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe

08:50 Kichu Kotha Kichu

Gaan (Today's guests: Manir Khan and Alam Ara Minu)

09:40 Drama Serial: Sheola

HBO

9:45 Ocean's Eleven

12:00 Conviction

2:00 The Late Shift

4:00 The Final Curtain

5:45 Countdown

7:30 Tango & Cash

9:30 The Core

12:15 Deep Blue Sea

2:30 Ocean's Eleven

STAR MOVIES

7:30 Arachnophobia

9:30 Parent Trap

11:40 Far From Heaven

1:30 Go

3:05 Kaena: The Prophecy

4:40 First Knight

7:00 Critical Assembly

8:30 Barb Wire

10:20 Prozac Nation

12:00 Man From Elysian Fields

AXN

12:30 Axn Xtreme: India Vs Pakistan

1:30 Maximum Exposure

2:30 The Amazing Race

3:30 Csi: Miami

4:30 Alias

5:30 Global Adventure

6:30 Inspector Gadget

8:30 Cold Squad

9:30 Mondo Magic

10:00 Mondo Magic

10:30 Csi: New York

11:30 Fear Factor

12:30 Mondo Magic

STAR GOLD

1:00 Ek Duuje Ke Liye

9:00 Coolie No.1

STAR WORLD

11:30 Pamela Anderson: Laid Bare

12:30 Miss Match

1:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

2:28 Star Asia Travel

2:30 Oprah Winfrey

3:30 Bold And Beautiful

4:30 Hollywood Squares

5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway

5:30 Buffy The Vampire Slayer

6:30 The Simpsons

7:00 That 70s Show

7:30 Friends

8:00 Newsradio

8:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Rescues

9:30 The Practice

10:30 J.A.G.

11:28 Star Asia Travel

11:30 Newsradio

12:00 Friends

STAR PLUS

1:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

2:00 Bhabhi

2:30 Kesar

3:00 Saarthi

6:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai

6:30 101 Dalmatians

7:00 Kim Possible

7:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

8:00 Princess

8:30 Dollieauruskamagichag

8:30 Dekkho Magar Pyar Se

9:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay

9:30 Milee

10:00 Kavyanjali

10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhi Thi

11:30 Kahiin To Hoga

12:00 K. Street Pali Hill

Costla Rica

7:30 Wild Discovery

Sabretooth

8:30 Yatra

9:00 Amazing Baby Videos

9:30 Masacre at Waterloo

10:30 Great Cars

11:00 One Step Beyond

11:30 Horror Stories

Ghostlights

ANIMAL PLANET

1:30 Animal Miracles One

Tough Hero

2:30 King of the Jungle Day 1

3:30 Pet Star

4:30 Growing up

Wild...Cheetahs

5:30 The Jeff Corwin

Experience Arizona : Land of the Serpent

The Planet's Funniest Animals

6:30 Twisted Tales 2 Cat

7:30 Animal Miracles One

Tough Hero

8:30 King of the Jungle

9:30 Pet Star

10:30 Growing up

Wild...Cheetahs

11:30 Monkey Business

12:00 Chimpanzee Diary

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

12:30 Out There

1:00 Curse Of The Methuselah Tree

2:00 Hong Kong's Big Bet

3:00 A Tale Of Three Chimps

4:00 Dogs With Jobs

4:30 Backyard Science

4:45 Doc Eureka

5:00 Serious: Desert

Ng Explorer

5:30 Seconds From Disaster

6:30 The Case Of The Baby - Faced Assassin

7:30 Sea Hunters

8:30 X Force

9:30 Interpol Investigates

10:30 National Geographic's Taboo

STAR SPORTS

10:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Ladies

Singles Q/Men's Round Of 16(R)

3:00 Golf Focus(S)

3:30 The Rugby Show(T)

4:00 Tna Wrestling(T)

5:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships

Men's/Ladies Singles Quarterfinals(L)

Sportsline(L)

ESPN

11:30 Sportscenar India(T)

11:31 Winter X-Games Day 4

Mt. Aspen Co Usa (R)

U.S. Open Golf

Championship Third Round(T)

5:30 Espn School

Quiz 2005 (T)

6:00 Cable In The Classroom:

Sportsfigures (R)

6:30 Coed Cheerleading

Orlando FI Us (T)

7:30 Motorsport Asia (R)

8:00 Hitz(T)

8:30 Sportscenar India (L)

9:00 Mad About Sport (T)

9:30 Fifa Confederations Cup

Pre Show (L)

9:40 Fifa Confederations Cup

Fifa Confederations Cup