

CULTURAL FEAST

Fundraiser

Painting exhibition
Organiser: Gallery Chitrak and Try Foundation
Venue: Gallery Chitrak
House # 21, Road #4 Dhanmondi RA Dhaka
Date: June 20-23
Time: 10am-8pm

Exhibition

Title: Tales of Pseudo Myth
Artist: Ronni Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Date: June 21-30
Time: 12am-8pm

Book Fair

Title: Barshar Boi Mela
Venue: Bashundhara City Shopping Mall
Date: June 15-30

Cinema

Organiser: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, Rd # 3, Dhanmondi

Film: Jeanne d'Arc
Date: June 23
Time: 10:30am and 6:00pm

Fete de la Musique

Organiser: Alliance Francaise, Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, Rd # 3, Dhanmondi
Event: Performance by Choir of Alliance Francaise
Time: 6:30pm

Date: June 22
Event: Music Night
Time: 8:30pm

Date: June 23
Event: Classical Guitar by Muktidar Hossain
Time: 7:00pm

Event: Modern song and Ghazal by John Sumit
Time: 7:30pm

Promoting awareness on classical dance

A buzz-worthy programme at Shilpakala Academy

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

JUNE 19 was the second of the three-day classical dance and instrumental programme organised by the Department of

Production, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). While the first day of the programme was dedicated to the teacher-student duo in classical dance, the second day was exclusively for the students to

showcase their solo flair in this magnificent form of art. The third day will be for the teachers of classical instrumental music.

According to Zinnat Barkatullah, director, Department of

Production, BSA, "Prior to 'Participation', Bangladesh, India and Pakistan shared a common culture. However, after 1947, the classical dance forms almost became exclusively Indian. Hence to reincarnate

the classical dance form in our country we have been sending many of our students to prestigious dance schools in India to learn the art. Today will be a display of their finesse."

True to her words, one by one the performers came on to a simple yet elegantly decorated stage, dazzling the audience with their vibrant choice of costumes and an array of graceful performances. They were selected from all over Bangladesh, not to mention the dancers exclusively trained in India. The numbers of spectators gradually picked up to a full house. With the auditorium resonating in classical beats and *taals*, the dancers presented splendid soul appetising solos.

There were four main dance forms, namely Odissi, Manipuri, Bharatnatyam and Kathak. The performers were Proma Obonti, Warda Rihab, Bebi Rozario, Sabbir Ahmed Khan, Sudeshna Swayamprabha, Shumaiya Chowdhury, Salma Begum, Shampreeti Rezwanah Rahaman, Bidhan Chandra, Rokeya Begum, Sarita Haidar, Mehrab Haque, Samina Hossain, Orno Komolika, Tahmina Islam, Trina Das, Sabrina Sati and Tabassum Ahmed.

In the words of Bharatnatyam dancer Rokeya Begum, "It is for the first time in Bangladesh that a government initiative has been taken to showcase exclusive classical dance. While there are many private organisations doing the same, an effort by the government should boost the art." Adds 17-year-old Kathak dancer Mehrab, "The number of classical dance enthusiasts in our country is limited. Such programmes will generate interest and appreciation for the art among the masses."

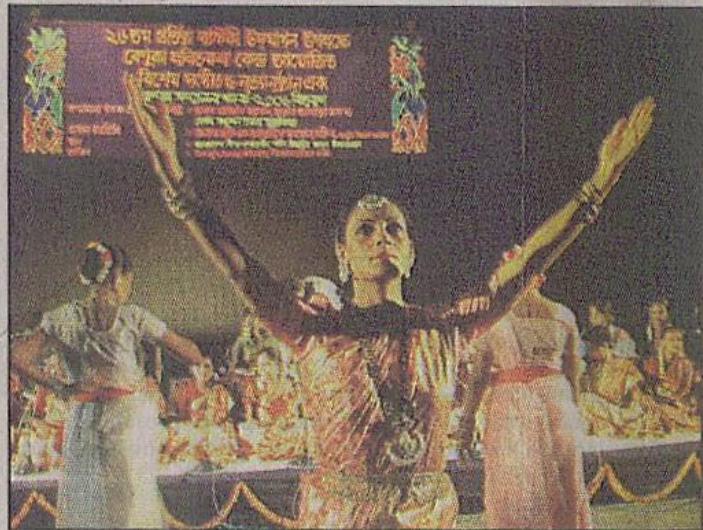


Graceful dancers charm the audience at the programme



PHOTO: STAR

Benuka Institute of Fine Arts celebrates 26th anniversary



Performers at the celebration

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Benuka Institute of Fine Arts (BIFA) honoured three eminent artistes at the organisation's 26th anniversary programme on June 19. The ceremony took place at the Shishu Academy auditorium.

The event was divided into three sessions. In the first session, BIFA presented awards to the recipients. Then followed a short discussion, and then the main attraction—the cultural event, featuring songs, dance and recitation by students and teachers of BIFA.

This year's awardees are Azad Rahman, Amanul Haque and Rawshan Ara Mustafiz.

Cultural personality and composer Azad Rahman received the

National Film Award in 1977 and in 1993. He is the secretary of Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies.

Renowned dance teacher Amanul Haque received higher training in dance from Ghono Shyam Rhythmic Art Centre Karachi. Haque, also a composer, is a recipient of Bachshash award in 1985 for best music director for the film *Dohon*.

Rawshan Ara Mustafiz, an eminent Nazrul artiste is a recipient of the prestigious Ekushey Padak 2006.

The chief guest was ATM Ataur Rahman, secretary Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The ceremony was presided over by Abu Saleh, secretary of BIFA.

An evening of Nazrul songs by Chhayayanat



Students of Chhayayanat render a song

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Nazrul is an integral part of the cultural life of Bangladesh. To uphold the essence of the songs of the maestro, Chhayayanat, a cultural organisation, at the National Museum, on June 19. The function included choral and solo renditions of Nazrul songs.

Debosree took the stage with a song *Keu bholye na keu bholye*. Munni performed *Potho hara*

pakhi. Nobonita rendered *Jak na nishi*. Prayoti's presentation of *Abar bhalobashar shabd* and Kalpana's *Mora chhinu ekela* were well appreciated. The other singers who performed in the programme were Bijon (*Bhoria poran*), Julio (*Dolon champa boney doley*), Anandita (*Adho dhroni ala*), Lucky (*Chokh gelo chokh gelo*) and Monira (*Beshuro binay bethar*).

The event ended with a choral rendition of *Jago nari jago*.

Monsoon Book Fair in the city

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A 15-day long *Borshar Boi Mela* (Monsoon Book Fair), organised by Amritto, is on at the Exhibition

Centre, Basundhara City shopping mall from June 15.

"Our main objective is to create new opportunities for the publishers and distributors to sell

their books during the monsoon," commented one of the organisers. The reason is evident: the Dhaka Book Fair and Amar Ekushey Book Fair are held between December and March. Apart from that, publishers go through a lean period when no major book fairs are held in the city. The situation worsens in the rainy season. "This has prompted us to plan the fair at this time," he added.

The fair has featured 80 stalls, allotted for 62 publishers. Some NGOs, newspapers and foreign cultural centres are among the participants. Foreign publications are available in some stalls. However, the sale of pirated books is prohibited.

Different stalls are offering discounts up to 25 per cent. Visitors have free access to the fair. The fair will remain open from 10 am to 9:30 pm.

Popular author Humayun Ahmed inaugurated the fair while novelist Emdadul Haque Milon was present as special guest.



Teen Pawer Golpo, by Fazilatunnesa was launched at the book fair by Poet Rafiq Azad (3-L). Prominent writers and litterateurs also attended the event

Shubarna Chowdhury
Depicting seasonal diversity in songs

Shubarna Chowdhury

PICK OF THE DAY



Aloy Bhurban Bhora
On Channel-i at 09:35pm
Talk Show
Host: Aly Zaker



FIFA World Cup 2006
On ESPN at 07:50pm
Group D: Portugal Vs Mexico
Live from Gelsenkirchen

TV GUIDE

BTV

10:00 Satellite Broadcast
12:15 Shongbedpoker Pata

9:30 Drama Serial:
Andheror Jatri

10:35 Citycell Face to Face
(live)

Thako

12:30 Shastho Tellyo

Selected Programme

03:05 Hijo Tomal

Geet Bitan

04:00 Protasher Alo

Publi Reaction

04:30 Desh O Bigan

Trityonmota

05:05 World Cup-2006

Sports Time (Live)

Highlights

12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citycell

Melanchya

Tarokakothon

07:00 Shushnoi Thakun

Ebong Cinemar Gaan

08:35 Protidin Bangladesh

Publi Reaction

08:40 Drama Serial: Shap

Selected Drama

09:28 Drama Serial: Meeky

Ludu

10:25 Teknaf Thikay Tellyia

Ghar

04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma

Ganer Opero

06:00 Music Plus

Music Club

11:05 ATN Torka (Gala Round)

Bishwa Cup Special

12:15 Cinema Cinema

Drama Serial:
Mounoliar Shudro

12:45 Tarunyee

Babha

01:30 Motomot

Talk Show

02:30 Shurochhobi

Drama serial:

03:15 Drama Serial:
Bhalobashar Rong

Bedona Anando

03:45 Islam Ki Boley Amra

Ajker Shokal

04:20 Daily World Cup

Colours

04:45 Shobkor Jonyo

Circus Lights

05:10 Islami Sawai O Jobab

Shurer Jolsha

06:20 The Sword of Tipu Sultan

Muktangan

08:00 Drama Serial:
Sharadin

Lebonya Protha

08:30 Pothchola

Drama Serial: Ronger

08:30 Drama Serial:
Shukher Lagiya

Manush

08:30 Drama Serial:
Amader

Shukher Lagiya

09:00 Drama Serial:
Hoi Hoi

Andono Bari

ATN Bangla

10:30 Onnordishi

06:40 Bishwa Cup Special

07:50 Drama Serial:
Mounoliar Shudro

08:00 Drama Serial:
Babha

09:15 Drama Serial:
Ronger

10:00 Drama Serial:
Amader

10:15 Drama Serial:
Amader

10:30 Drama Serial:
Hoi Hoi

nTV

04:25 Tepator Er

05:10 Onrushan