

Exhibition

Samarjit's revival of folk art

Samarjit Roy Choudhury's artworks on display

FAYZA HAQ

MARKING 50 years of painting and celebrating his 70th birthday, Samarjit Roy Choudhury, holds his fifth solo at the Bengal Gallery. The ongoing exhibition of 86 entries bring in raw colours and basic forms as introduced by the Cubists and combines them with the favourite themes of folk artists of Bangladesh. His oils, acrylics, water-colour, crayon and pastel on paper portray the strivings of farmers, flamboyant peacocks, iridescent butterflies, sun-drenched fish, fragrant flowers, billowy clouds and emerald tree-tops. In these positive images Samarjit reflects on his carefree and happy childhood days in Comilla.

He was inspired by his teacher Guruswar Chakraborty from Calcutta, his maternal uncle, Jotindra

the *joie de vivre* and the picturesque aspects of rural existence. "Even in the drooping of a flower there is a beauty. Just as there is sunrise there is the following sunset, and one must accept all aspects of our existence while one is on the quest for 'truth and beauty'", comments Samarjit. "I present the joys and festivities to capture the lively moments of the simple Bangladeshi," he adds. "There is wonder and poetry in the flitting birds and insects, just as there is hope and joy in the labouring tillers of the land who come for village, festivities of bunting and merry-go-rounds. In their *lungis* and amulets is a reflection of their sun-drenched days of mynas and cuckoos," he believes.

He was inspired by his teacher Guruswar Chakraborty from Calcutta, his maternal uncle, Jotindra

Kar, a sculptor on wood, and his mother who did fine embroidery, bringing in motifs of flora and fauna. At the Art College in Dhaka he trained under Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan, Anwarul Huq, Mohammed Kibria and Safiuddin Ahmed. He recalls that in his days artists did not have access to the world outside through the internet nor the access to numerous books as do the art students today. However, as their number was limited there was great rapport between them and their teachers.

His subjects are taken from scenes around him. Even the birds around us have such a colourful variety, he remarks. Similarly there are different types of trees and all these simple elements of nature are dear to him. Attractive women forms are also aplenty around him, in his

family, he elaborates.

He blends what he sees around him with folk motif of *Lakhishor* and other forms of local painted pottery of the rural Bangladesh. These are painted over with the primary colours of red, blue and yellow, which he introduces repeatedly in his paintings. He is also inspired by the colours in the ceramics section of the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University. Fishing nets too recur on his canvases as it is an integral part of the riverine existence. Samarjit's choice of hues and lines have also been influenced by Picasso, Braque and Matisse.

Choudhury has exhibited in USA, Canada, Europe, India, Iran, Japan and Zimbabwe among others. He has had five solos and numerous group exhibitions.

Classical dance and instrumental programme begins at Shilpakala

ERSHAD KAMOL

"Dance gurus of Bangladesh, acquiring higher degrees from India in different classical dance genres such as Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Odissi and Manipuri, are subsequently going on to develop quality disciples. I hope they will soon introduce other popular classical genres such as Puripuchi and Mohiniattam," said Zinnat Barkatullah, director of Department of Production, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), in her welcome speech at the inauguration ceremony of a classical dance and instrumental programme.

The two-day classical dance and two-day classical instrument concert with a one-day break on January 30, began at the National Theatre Stage, (BSA) on January 28. Presided over by Director General of BSA, Quamrul Hassan, NDC, Secretary of Ministry of Cultural Affairs, ABM Abdul Haque Chowdhury was the chief guest of the inauguration ceremony.



Munmun Ahmed (C) performs a Kathak piece with her disciples

In his speech the chief guest said, "Because of a limited budget

allocation, we can't take proper steps for the development of our rich cultural heritage. We have already undertaken a bilateral cultural exchange programme with some developing countries. But, in near future we hope to broaden the collaboration with the developed European and North American nations."

Disciples of six renowned gurus presented various classical dance genres including Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Odissi and Manipuri on the opening day.

Guru Munmun Ahmed and her disciples demonstrated Kathak mudras (stances) such as *thaat*, *aman*, *poron*, *tukras*, *tehai* and *jugalbandi*. The Kathak dance performances were followed by Bharatnatyam presented by guru Belayet Hossain Khan and his disciples. The troupe staged *jogigharam* and *tillana*, two popular forms of

Bharatnatyam genre. Later, guru Sharmila Bandyopadhyaya's disciples performed Manipuri dance forms such as *maibijaggoi*, *jugan nartan*, *puncholong* and Manipuri acrobats.

Moreover, guru Minu Haq, Shaju Ahmed and Shukla Sarkar's disciples performed different forms of Odissi, Kathak and Bharatnatyam genres respectively on the opening day.

On the second-day of the programme, 21 disciples of renowned gurus from different corners of the country performed solos. The dance session is a significant arrangement by Shilpakala Academy. But, the audience would surely welcome an even more comprehensive programme including all leading gurus of the country.



Students of Belayet Hossain Khan present a Bharatnatyam recital

Small screen

'Tara Tin Jon' goes on air

(L-R)Shadhin Khasru, Dr Ejazul Islam and Faruk Ahmed in the TV play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ers, they introduce new and aggressive methods of selling tea. At one point they manage to attract a huge number of customers at the park. Seeing a threat to their business, the other tea sellers unite against them and the story takes a new but rather interesting twist.

The cast includes Dr Ejazul Islam, Faruk Ahmed, Maznum Mizan and others.

Music giant OP Nayyar passes away

Legendary music director O P Nayyar, best known for classic songs like *Jhumka Gira Re* and *Pukarta Chala Hoon Mein*, died of cardiac arrest at his home on January 28 in Thane. He was 81.

Born on January 16, 1926 in Lahore (now in Pakistan), Omkar Prasad Nayyar got his first break as a music composer in the film *Kaneey* (1949).

Director Guru Dutt's *Aar Paar* (1954) was his first major success. This led to his successful partnership with Dutt on films like *Mr And Mrs 55* and *CID*.

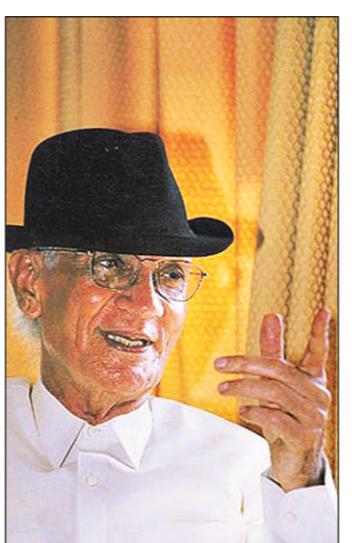
As news of his death spread, a pall of gloom descended on Bollywood, where Nayyar was regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time even though he had not been in the limelight for close to three decades.

Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt described Nayyar -- who was always seen in public in white attire and a hat -- as "an audacious man who was a king in his time".

"Asha Bhosle owes whatever she is to him. The distinct sensuality that was injected into Asha's singing was the contribution of this extraordinary man," Bhatt said.

Extensive use of the typical Punjabi rhythm was the main characteristic of Nayyar's music, and among his evergreen tunes were *Kahin Pe Nigahen Kanhi Pe Nishana* (*CID*), *Mang Ke Saath Tumhara* (*Naya Daur*) and *Ello Main Hari Piyan* (*Aar Paar*).

Nayyar worked extensively with singers Geeta Dutt, Asha Bhosle and Mohammed Rafi but never



with Lata Mangeshkar. Though he mostly composed music for north Indian films, he also did the score for some southern films, including *Neerajam* (Telugu).

Before fading from the Bollywood scene in the early 1970s, he did the music for hits like *Naya Daur*, *Ek Musafir Ek Hasina* and *Kashmir Ki Kali*. He attempted a comeback in the 1990s with the film *Andaz Apna Apna* and recently appeared in the musical TV show *Sa Re Ga Ma*, on which he was accorded a standing ovation during a programme dedicated to his songs.

Actress and Censor Board chief Sharmila Tagore, who starred in *Kashmir Ki Kali*, said, "We will remember him and his name will be there as long as there is the history of music."

Singer Manna Dey said he was saddened by Nayyar's death as no one could replace him. Actor Rajesh Khanna said "originality was the symbol" of Nayyar, whom he described as a "charismatic personality".

Source:PTI

Shilpa Shetty wins British TV show after race row

The 31-year old Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty, at the centre of a raging race row, has been crowned the winner of British reality television show 'Celebrity Big Brother'.

The Indian actress burst into tears on hearing she had won the public vote.

Asked about the race row by host Davina McCall, Shilpa insisted ring-leader Jade Goody "didn't mean to be racist".

Shilpa was the firm favourite to win the contest, considered the most controversial in the show's history after she became the victim of alleged racist bullying by fellow contestant Goody.

The Bollywood actress profusely thanked the public for a "fantastic opportunity to make my country proud". Former beauty queen Danielle Lloyd, one of the contestants implicated in the racist abuse, earlier apologised for her remarks to Shetty.

Lloyd, 23, and fellow evictee Jack Tweed were greeted with heavy boozing as they left the house in the first round of evictions held during the final show last night.

Both model Lloyd and Tweed were implicated in the race row, alongside singer Jo Meara. Lloyd immediately apologised for her behaviour towards Shilpa in an interview with host Davina McCall. Lloyd said her remarks had been made "in the heat of the moment".

"I wasn't laughing at Shilpa... it was just nerves," said Lloyd. "I hate confrontation."

The contestants had been locked up in a house since

January 2 and were filmed on how well they handle the frictions of daily life and get their fellow housemates' votes of confidence.

The race row on the show had subsided since viewers overwhelmingly voted last week to evict Jade Goody, 25, seen as the ringleader in the alleged bullying of Shilpa Shetty.

Media watchdog Ofcom received more than 40,000 complaints about the alleged racist bullying in the current series of the Channel 4 reality TV show.

British lawmakers lined up to condemn the programme when the row was at its height last week.

The show triggered a major controversy in Britain with Prime Minister Tony Blair saying in the House of Commons that he was opposed to racism in all its forms when NRI MP Keith Vaz raised the issue.

Meanwhile Shilpa's career has received a huge boost. Offers have poured in for endorsements, a cricket show and maybe even some movies. In fact, the response has been so favourable that her mother flew to London last week to hire UK's leading publicist and media professional Max Clifford to handle Shilpa's future career. The PR guru has already managed to sell the actresses' first exclusive interview with the *Daily Mirror* for reportedly 100,000 pounds.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

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

BTV

08:40 *Bishwa Protidin* 09:45 Bangladesh Public Reaction
09:05 *Shomapti* 09:50 *Grameenphone Tritty omatra*
11:15 *Shukhi Porbar* 11:05 *Cricket Online (Live)*
11:40 *Desher Gaan* 11:30 *Amar Chhobi*
12:05 *Maa O Shishur* 12:30 *Citycell*
12:30 *Drama Serial: Swapno Shonar* 01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:00 *Shobor Jonno* 01:30 *Shangbad Potrey Bangladeshi*

01:30 *Mati O Manush* 01:45 *Public Reaction*
02:15 *Musical Programme* 02:40 *Selected Drama*
02:40 *Cartoon* 04:05 *Amader Gaan*
03:05 *Cartoon* 04:25 *Nirbachoni Olympiad*

03:30 *Tagore Song* 04:00 *Programme*
04:00 *Programme* 04:35 *Sharif Melamine Shangeetmela*
07:00 *Quiz Quiz* 04:50 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
07:30 *Special Programme of Holy Ashura* 05:30 *Special Programme of Holy Ashura*

08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh* 06:00 *Drama Serial: Kanto Shomoy*
08:35 *Special Programme of Holy Ashura* 06:20 *Drama Serial: Okhena Adhar*
10:30 *Special Programme of Holy Ashura* 07:50 *Talkshow: Aktele Shaf Kotha*

10:35 *Rup Rohoshyo* 09:35 *Drama Serial: Shada Ranga Swapno*
10:00 *Aktele Anyodhrishi* 10:00 *Public Reaction*
12:15 *Amar Computer* 12:00 *Grameenphone*

01:30 *Shur Chhobi* 01:30 *Ajker Shangbadpotro*
02:30 *Talk Show* 03:15 *Drama Serial: O Amar Chhokhu Nai*

04:20 *Aha Ki Anondo* 04:20 *Musical Programme*
05:10 *Ainaer Shamney* 10:05 *Bhanno Swader*
05:45 *Perakirit Bangladeshi* 10:30 *Music Express*

06:20 *Aktele Protidin* 11:00 *Ei Shomoy*
08:00 *Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha* 01:00 *Japan Video Topic*
08:45 *Drama: Tara Tin Jon* 03:15 *Kichhu Kotha*

09:30 *Shongbad Potrey* 03:50 *Kichhu Gaan*
01:00 *Drama Serial: Bhalo Basha Mondo Basha*

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ATN BANGLA