

Indigenous Performing Art Festival

Behula-Lakhindar's myth staged through 'Royani Gaan'



myth through music, dance, recitation and drama. Four male instrumentalists played indigenous instruments such as *kartal*, *harmonium* and *bansi*. And another male performer participated in the chorus. The tune of the music is highly influenced by *kirtan*. Sometimes the choir presented songs with rhythm and sometimes without. But the main attraction of the show was the incorporation of aesthetic sentiment during presentation by the lead singer Shubhashini.

As per the tradition the show began with *Bandana*. It was followed by an episode where the reason behind composing *Padmapurana* by Bijay Gupta was narrated. Till the marriage scene of Behula-Lakhindar in *Padmapu-rana*— Swapno Bari, Manoshar Janmo, Manoshar Bibaho, Manoshar Banobash, Rakahl Bari Puja, Chander Baad, Chhoy Kumar Bodh, Chander Durabosha and Lakhindarer Janmo—the performance was basically dance, recitation and music oriented. In the marriage scene, one artiste enacted the role of Lakhindar and another female actor performed the role of Behula. Dramatic presentation was evident from this part on.

As the troupe stage *Royani* all night long in rural areas, time and space limitation were the major obstacles faced by the troupe. Consequently, they had to cut short the performance using the narrative technique.

ERSHAD KAMOL

BE ANGLADESHIS are well acquainted with the legend of Behula-Lakhindar. Sri Sri Maa Manosha Mangol Sampradaya, a community living in Barisal, staged *Royani Gaan* (an indigenous performing art form that presents a tragic story in a melancholy tune through a nightlong

Artistes perform Royani Gaan at the Experimental Theatre Stage

performance) based on *Padmapuran* at the Experimental Theatre Stage. The troupe put up the show as part of the ongoing indigenous performing art festival arranged by the Department of Theatre and Music of Bangladesh ShilpakalaAcademy.

Through *Ronayi Gaan* the troupe narrated the myth of Behula-Lakhindar composed by Bijay

Gupta some 600 years ago. The USP of *Royani Gaan* presented by the troupe was that the choir narrated the whole myth in a circular movement centering a square small space while the audience occupied the four sides. This was the first time women actors performed in the festival. The lead singer, Shubhashini Bikram, with three other women singers presented the

Beauty in beads

Nahar's display of ornaments

FAYZA HAQ

Miniature painting was Nurun Nahar Papa's major at the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, and she switched on to mural painting for her MFA from the MF University of Baroda, India. She also studied print making under graphic artists of Germany and Bangladesh. In addition she took professional training in leather, metal work, embroidery, doll making and the making of bead jewellery. She is not an artist to limit herself to one field only. She gives her attention to those areas which are often ignored by art academics.

Speaking at the café of Bengal Gallery where her bead exhibition is being currently held, Syed Jahangir, one of the eminent guests said, "This is a unique exhibition in Dhaka. Ornaments are something that one enjoys physically. Ornament designing by well known artists is common in Europe and America but in Bangladesh qualified artists have not gone into it before. From the outset Nurun Nahar has been an artist of a different kind: she used to dress and speak in a different way from others. Her work too was very avant garde when she worked on leather and mural. There is scope for other artists to follow Nurun

Nahar's footsteps."

Nurun Nahar said, "Jewellery has been a passion from my childhood. When I was a girl, my father gave me a Sindhi beaded necklace and I treasured it until I finally lost it while travelling in Boston. I've done many courses in beads such as African Zulu and Red Indian specialities. I've studied with Martha Forsythe and Eve Perterson. I've a team with 30 people to help me with my bead work which I began in 2005."

There were necklaces with African colours of blue and red as well as contrasting black and white. Earrings came in the shape and colours of pineapples and Zulu stars. There were necklaces with triangles of blue and gold. Hanging pieces in orange and blue were Latin American in flavour. Earrings with shocking coloured pompoms were also in evidence. Snake designs were there to be found along with more formal necklaces with turquoise and pearls. Native American and tribal African colours and motifs were seen everywhere.

Elements of folk art have been combined with modern flavours in Nurun Nahar's creations. The designs are detailed and imaginative. "The jewellery is not just to adorn but to rekindle aesthetic pleasure," the artist says.



(Clockwise) Models display eye catching bead jewellery and a few selected items



CULTURAL FEAST

Music Festival

Organisers: Centre for Education, Creative & Performing Arts, UNESCO Dhaka
Venue: Shaheed Zia Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum

March 5
Classical, semi-classical and instrumental
Time: 6:30pm

March 6
Folk and Lalon
Time: 6:30pm

Street Theatre Festival 2007

Organiser: Bangladesh Patho Natak Parishad
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises
Date: March 1-7
Time: 4:30pm

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Chhayanat
Venue: Chhayanat Sangskriti Bhaban, House no-72, Road no-15/A Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Date: March 1
Time: 6:30pm

Bead Jewellery Exhibition

Organisers: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Venue: Bengal Café, House no-275/F, Road no-27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: February 24- March 2
Time: 12:00pm-8:00pm

ALL TIME GREATS

MF Husain puts his dot on the universe

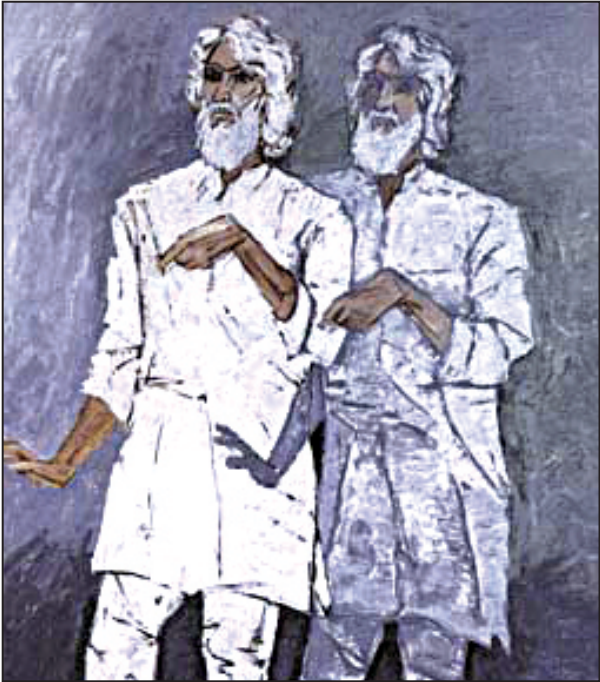
At the ripe old age of 91, artist Maqbool Fida (MF) Husain still goes strong. Recently he held forth on his latest muse, actress Amrita Rao. "She has entered my canvas. I will construct an entire exhibition around her," says the prolific Husain of the *Vivah* heroine. A touch of his obsession with Madhuri Dixit? Comes the quick response: "*Hum aapke hain kaun* was a fantasy while *Vivah* is quite realistic; it catches the heartbeat of a young woman in a small town. It is not a great film, it doesn't extend the language of cinema. It conveys the importance of good, clean-cut values, to audiences as well as to the carping critics."

Husain is no stranger to controversy. Once he was refused admission to the stuffy Calcutta Club on the grounds that his bare feet violated their dress code. Then in the late 1990s his work became embroiled in religious controversy to the extent that he was forced to flee India because of threats to his life. Apparently he evoked the ire of the diehard Hindus for his portrayal of Hindu deities in the nude. The paintings created in 1970, became an issue when they were printed in a Hindu monthly magazine in 1996.

Overseas Husain's art works continue to attract attention. The Peabody Essex Museum (Massachusetts, USA) is holding a solo exhibition of his paintings inspired by the Hindu epic, *Mahabharata*. The exhibition runs from November 4, 2006 to June 3, 2007.

Husain, began his artistic career by painting

cinema hoardings and became well-known as an artist in the late 1940s. In 1947, he joined the Progressive Artists Group. The group was a



MF Husain's self portrait

clique of young artists who wished to break with the nationalist traditions established by the Bengal school of art and to encourage Indian

avant-garde artists engaged at an international level.

In 1952, Husain held his first solo exhibition at Zurich and over the next few years his work was widely viewed in Europe and USA.

In 1966, he bagged the prestigious Padma Shree. He has also been awarded the Padma Bhushan. In the following year, he made his first film, *Through the eyes of a painter*—a winner of a Golden Bear which was viewed at the Berlin Film Festival.

Husain went on to achieve the status of the highest paid painter in India. Some of his single canvases fetched up to US \$2 million at a Christie's auction. That is not all for his distinction he was appointed to a term in the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of India's Parliament.

On the silver screen he has also produced and directed some films, including the passable *Gaja Gamini* (with his favourite Madhuri Dixit who was the subject of a series of paintings which he signed *Fida*) and *Meenaxi: A tale of three cities* (with Tabu). His autobiography is being made into a movie, tentatively titled *The making of the painter*, starring Shreyas Talpade as the young Husain.

Husain certainly has put his dot on the universe and inspired a new generation of painters.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

'Amar Chhobi' on channel-i



Mustafa Monwar, the guest speaker of the show

Nagorik Natyangan staged the 100th show of *Janotar Rangoshala* on February 27 at Mahila Samity Stage. The play is an adaptation by Mojibur Rahman Dilu from Bertolt Brecht's musical theatre, *The Threepenny Opera*. *Janotar Rangoshala* was premiered in 1996. After its 75th performance, Nagorik discontinued the show. Later it was staged under the direction of Dr Enamul Huq. Litterateur Selina Hossain was the chief guest at the 100th staging of the show



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A magazine programme *Amar Chhobi*, highlighting information about the country's film industry, will be telecast on Channel i at 6:20 pm tonight. The episode deals with the eminent actors, directors and musicians who passed away. The show also features video clippings from latest movies along with the last interviews of the artistes.

An Impress Telefilm Ltd production, the show is directed by Shamim Alam Dipen and Shafiuzzaman Khan Lodi.

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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

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

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.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 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.

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm

RTV
News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

BTV

11:15 Cookery Show
11:40 Angona
12:05 Maa O Shishur
12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon
01:00 Shukhi Poribar
02:15 Children's Drama
02:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi
03:05 Cartoon
04:00 Esho Computer
04:30 Shikhi
05:05 Bansuri
05:05 Documentary Programme
05:30 Ityadi
06:40 Jiboner Alo
07:00 Shangita
07:20 Shomoyer Shanglap
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh
08:40 Drama of the week
10:30 Musical Programme

ATN

BANGLA

09:20 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha
10:30 Talk Show: Akel Onnyodirishi
11:05 Aj Kaal Porshu
12:15 Bangla Feature film
03:45 ATN Rannaghar Shundor Jiboner Jonno
05:10 Documentary Programme
05:45 Islami Sawal O Jobab
06:20 Musical Programme
08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha
08:40 Drama Serial: Koto Chena Koto Ochena

09:20

Drama Serial: Chhayamukh
CHANNEL i
09:30 Shangkhabad Potre Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameen Phone
Tritiyomatra
12:30 Citicell Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangkhabadpotre Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Tritiyo Matray Apni
03:05 Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak
04:05 Citycell Medha Bikash
04:35 Amader Gaan
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma Special Programme
05:30 Aktel sms Doradori
06:20 Amar Chhobi
07:50 Special Programme
Drama Serial: Ferari Ekhoi Shomoy
10:00 Nishidho Bonobhumi
12:00 Grammephone
Ajker Shangbadpotro
BANGLAVISIO N
09:05 Media Bhuvan
09:30 Drama Serial: Swapno Chura
10:10 Desher Pathay Chottail Jochhonay Eka Meye
02:30 Drama Serial



Article Thirty Nine
On Banglavisian at 9:10pm
Talk Show
Host: Dr Asif Nazrul

03:05 Music Moments
03:45 Drama Serial: Krishno Pokho
04:20 Ichhey Ghuri
05:00 Protdiner Boimela
05:30 Diner Sheshey
06:30 Shurer Bhuvan
08:35 Drama Serial: Dokhinayon
09:20 Article Thirty-Nine
STAR MOVIES
07:50 November
09:15 The 79th Annual Academy Awards
01:45 Triumph, The
03:20 The Deal
05:10 Guess Who?
07:00 Like Mike 2

08:40 Flubber
10:15 Cape Fear
12:30 Shadows In The Sun
STAR PLUS
09:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
11:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 Kayamath



Cape Fear
On Star Movies at 10:15pm
Genre: Thriller
Cast: Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte

01:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
02:00 Bhabhi
02:30 Kesar
03:00 Saarthi
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
04:00 Kayamath
04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
05:00 Krishna Kathaiyen
05:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 Timon And Pumbaa
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Shararat

07:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
08:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
08:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
09:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
09:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati- Srk
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kayamath
12:00 Paraya Dhan
STAR WORLD
09:00 The Simpsons
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 American Idol
12:00 Heroes
01:00 Grey's Anatomy

02:00 Crumbs
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
05:00 Fashion House
06:00 Arrested Development
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 American Idol
10:00 According To Jim
10:30 Crumbs
11:00 8 Simple Rules
11:30 Fashion House

AXN TV
10:30 Numb3rs
11:30 Ultimate Guinness
12:00 Rockface
01:00 Ultimate Guinness
02:00 The Ultimate Fighter 24 (Season 4)
03:00 Pensacola
05:00 Ultimate Guinness
06:00 World Records
06:30 Rockface
07:30 Amazon
08:30 Numb3rs
09:30 Alias
10:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not!
11:30 Fear Factor
12:30 Guinness World Records: 50 Years, 50 Records
12:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not!
13:30 Wild Europe Special

09:30 Life On The Edge
10:30 African Adventures
11:00 Stuntaws
11:30 Danganer
12:30 Adventures With Geoff Mackley
01:00 Feast India
01:30 Finest Hotels In The World
02:30 Tiger Week
03:30 Detective Stories
04:30 Animal Camera
05:30 Zach's Ultimate Guide
06:30 Wild Europe Special
07:30 Building The Biggest
08:30 Stunt Junkies
09:30 Stuntaws
10:30 Tiger Week
11:30 Planet Earth
12:30 Meerkat Manor
13:30 Animal Camera
14:30 I Videogame
15:30 A Haunting

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
09:30 Taboo
10:30 Global Sky Shop
10:45 Bhagyashali Ratna
11:00 Telermal: Sauna Belt
11:30 Inside the Pentagon
12:30 Volcano
01:30 Great Indian Witch Hunt
02:30 Denali
03:30 Taboo
04:30 Jamaican Rumble
05:00 Nat Geo Genius
05:30 Big Bang
06:30 Fangs To Fortunes
07:30 Ultimate Enemies
08:30 MegaStructures
09:30 Frontline Of Construction

10:30 Taboo
11:30 Sharks: Deep Trouble
STAR SPORTS
08:30 Tna Impact
09:30 Scoop - Phl Special
10:30 Spanish Football League
12:30 Guinness Premiership 2006/07
02:30 Fa Cup 2006/07
04:30 Tna Xplosion
05:30 Hot Water 2006/07
06:30 Tna Xplosion
07:30 Nokia Football Crazy
08:30 Cricket Crazy
09:30 Sports Yatra With Harsha
10:00 Down Under - India's Tour Of Aus
10:30 Tna Xplosion
11:30 Ace

ESPN
09:00 X-Games
09:30 Slammed/Stomped
10:30 Ironman
11:00 Championship
12:30 Toyota Football Up Close
13:00 23rd Memorial Arthur Gander
14:30 English Premier Football League
15:30 Indian Premier Hockey League
16:30 Football Focus With John Dykes
17:30 Goals!
18:30 Nokia Football Crazy
19:00 Indian Premier Hockey League
20:30 Sportscenter India