

Independence Day celebrations around the city



Artistes perform at Shilpakala Academy

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

THE nation celebrated the Independence Day with much verve – paying homage to the martyrs whose sacrifices made the emergence of Independent Bangladesh possible.

To mark the 37th Independence Day, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) organised a discussion and cultural programme. Chief guest was Professor Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque. Among the discussants were promi-

nent freedom fighters Kazi Kamaluddin Ahmed (Bir Bikrom) and Ali Ahmed Ziauddin. The discussion was presided over by Ashrafur Mosaddek, secretary of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The cultural programme featured solo and group songs, recitations and dance performances. The opening song was a chorus, *Swadhin swadhin dikey dikey*, followed by a *gano sangeet*, *Purbo digontey shurjo uthechhey*. Artistes of BSA and Nriyadhara performed dance. Tapan



A view of the art camp at Liberation War Museum

Mahmud, Kalyani Ghosh, Sujit Mustafa, Asgar Alim and others rendered songs.

Like every year, Sammilito Sangkritik Jote (SSJ), organised a three day-long programme to mark Independence Day at Central Shaheed Minar. The event started on March 24. Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khondokar (Deputy Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Joint Armed Forces in 1971) inaugurated the programmes.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, president of SSJ, presided over the inaugural

programme. Cultural personalities Asaduzzaman Nur, Mofidul Haq and others spoke on the occasion. The welcome speech was delivered by Golam Kuddus, general secretary, SSJ. Recitation by poet Nirmalendu Goon was a part of the event.

Programmes were also held at Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi. On March 26, performances included chorus songs by artistes of Wrishiz, Nibedon and Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad. Noted singer Fakir Alamgir and others also ren-

dered songs. Fakir Alamgir performed three songs – *Sokhinarey deshey rekhey Muktiyuddey jai*, *Ma-er ek dhar dudher daam* and *Manusher majhey boshobash kori*. Two street plays were staged by Theatre Arambagh and Theatre centre.

As part of the weeklong Independence Day celebration at Liberation War Museum, an art camp was held. Noted and upcoming artists of the country participated at the event.



National Theatre Festival '07 'Thikana': A tribute to heroes

Actors following the 'Staneslavoskian realistic acting' methodology, created a credible ambience of a Pakistani concentration camp in 1971, at the Experimental Theatre Stage on March 26.

There may be some flaws -- in script, directorial compositions and design -- in the production; however, performances of the artistes made up for those imperfections and then some. Through a perfect blend of gestures and voice modulation, actors incorporated the required emotions. With bold and energetic performances each and every actor of Aikik Theatre from Naranganj, demonstrated how an everyday individual could be motivated to become a 'hero' in dire straits.

Combat scenes have not been featured in Indian theatre maestro Utpal Dutta's only play on the Liberation War of Bangladesh titled *Thikana*. Featuring the psyche of the laymen in a concentration camp, heroism among the Bengalis during the war has been highlighted. However, the rank order of the army has not been properly maintained in the play.

Using sound effect, smoke and light effect director Asit Kumar created an apt ambience. Effective performances by the artistes are enough to create a sequence; flashback scenes used in the play came across as rather unnecessary. Moreover, too many changes concerning elements on the stage appeared as a hurdle for the artistes to perform spontaneously. Kamaluddin Kabir is the set designer and Pankaj Ninad and Atikul Islam Munna are the light designers of the play.

Sharmin Bazol Rakhi in the role of an elderly woman, Rashida Khatun, who owns a tea stall near railway station helping the freedom fighters, delivered a remarkable performance.

Shoeb Monir was equally impressive in the role of Jamini Sen, a jatra actor who takes responsibility of murdering of a Pakistani Lieutenant.

Yousuf Atiq Manik as Colonel Waliullah, Ahmedur



Actors of Aikik Theatre in *Thikana*

PHOTO: STAR

Rahman Tanu as Captain Golam Mohammad, SM Ripon as Shahabuddin Chowdhury performed boldly on the stage.

The show was held as part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

'Chilekothar Sepai' staged



PHOTO: STAR

A scene from *Chilekothar Sepai*

On the same evening Udichi staged *Chilekothar Sepai* at the National Theatre Stage. Ratan Siddiqui has

dramatised Aktaruzzaman Elias' popular novel with the same titled, which is set in the volatile political

situation of our country during 1969. Ratan has selected the urban part of the novel for adaptation.

Prior to the Liberation War, 1969 was the most eventful year in our political history. In those days, two movements – a six-point demand by Awami League and an 11-point demand by the students – simultaneously led people against the Pakistani oppressors.

Through Osman, the central character in the play *Chilekothar Sepai*, the students' movement is depicted as more compelling than the six-point demand. To Osman, all the speeches delivered by the political leaders are based on self-interest. Which is why, they have little impact on Osman. But, the death of Khijir, a proletarian patriot, forces Osman to revolt against the Pakistani regime.

Directed by Kamaluddin Kabir, Faiz Zahir is the set and light designer of the play.

By Ershad Kamol

CULTURAL FEAST

Dance Festival

Organiser: UNESCO, Dhaka & Shadhona

Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

March 28 Tagore's 'Bhanushingher Padabali' by Bhabna

March 29 Classical Manipuri Dance by Chhayanaut

March 30 Nazrul's 'Badolo Borishone' by Nriyanchal

Time: 7pm

Exhibition and Workshop

Title: Soul Soil Symbols 1977-2007

Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dacca

Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca

Date: March 29-April 11

Art Exhibition

Artist: Wakilur Rahman

Title: Rearranged

Organiser: Shilpangan

Venue: Shilpangan Contemporary Art Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dhanmondi

Date: March 16-31

Time: 11am-1pm & 5pm-9pm

Painting Exhibition

Artist: Qayyum Chowdhury

Title: Recent Past

Organiser: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts

Date: March 9-31

Jazzifying Bangla classics

Performances by Zoe Rahman and Idris Rahman

MAINUL HASSAN

Jazz music aficionados received a rare treat – a combination of Bangla songs and jazz compositions – recently at the main auditorium, National Museum, courtesy of British council. The concert featured performances by British musicians Zoe Rahman and Idris Rahman.

Born to a Bangladeshi father and a British mother, Zoe and Idris are siblings. Zoe is a composer and pianist. She has been described in

The Observer as "one of the finest piano players in Europe." Born in Chichester, UK, Zoe studied music at Oxford University and Jazz at Berklee College of Music, Boston where she had received lessons from renowned pianist JoAnne Brackeen. While in US she formed her own trio featuring bassist Joshua Davis and drummer Bob Moses. In 1999 she won the Perrier Young Jazz Musician of the Year award. Her last album, *Melting Pot* has been short-listed for the 2006 Nationwide Mercury Prize

and has been voted 'Jazz Album of the Year' at the 2006 Parliamentary Jazz Awards.

Idris is a tenor-saxophonist, clarinettist and flutist and he also works with a band, Soothsayers.

Dhaka was the last stop of their ten-day South Asia tour organised by the British council. The duo first performed at Colombo, Sri Lanka performing an exciting melange of original and contemporary jazz compositions, instrumental arrangements of Bangla songs including their

interpretations of Tagore songs in early March. During the visit, they also conducted a workshop collaborating with Sri Lankan musicians, particularly percussionists, pianists and clarinettists. Next stop was Chennai, India and finally Dhaka.

The concert on March 25 opened with instrumental renditions of the Hemanta Mukhopadhyay classic *O Nodirey*. The evening featured 12 renditions -- 9 instrumentals by the brother-sister duo and two featuring vocals by Ornob. Familiar tunes of *Purono shei diner kotha*, *Muchhey jawa din guli*, *Tumi ele* and others were presented in a refreshing, new avatar. Delightful Portuguese notes added diversity.

Ornob rendered a Tagore song *Anondodhara bohichhey bhuboney* and the classic Abbasuddin *bhatiali*, *Amar haar kala koram rey*. Ornob on the traditional instrument *hari*, accompanied Zoe on piano during the performance of an original composition by the latter. The composition titled *The Calling* received a warm response from the audience. She also played a JoAnne Brackeen composition, *Curved Space*.

The concert wrapped up with a rendition of the hummable Happy Akhand song *Abar eloje shondhya*. The evening saw the brother and sister duo's endearing endeavours to approach their Bengali heritage through music.



(L-R) Zoe, Ornob and Idris at the concert

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 a.m., 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 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

News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

BTV

11:15 Doctor Jokhon Durey

11:40 Selected Programme

12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha

12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon

01:00 Shukhi Poribar

01:30 Selected Programme

02:15 Sisimpur

02:40 Khelte Khelte Computer

03:05 Cartoon

03:30 Mati O Manush

04:00 Hijol Tomal

04:30 Shopnil Agami

05:30 Selected Programme

06:40 Cricket Cricket

07:15 ICC World Cup 2007: South Africa Vs Sri Lanka

ATN Bangla

08:30 Ashley Pasher Manush

09:20 ATN Commentary BOX

10:30 Talk show: Aktel Onyodristi

11:05 Talk show: Meet the press

12:15 Cinema Cinema

01:30 Gane Shure Taruney

02:30 Notun Chhobir Gaan

03:10 Drama Serial: Bhalobashar Rang

03:45 Children's Programme: Shapla Shaluk

04:20 Cookery Show

05:00 Gram Gonjer Khorbor

05:10 Nijeke Jano Shapholyo Ano

05:45 Islamic Programme

06:20 Char Deyaler Kabyo

08:00 Drama Serial: Nayan Tara

08:40 Drama Serial: Bohemian

09:20 Drama Serial: Ondhokarer Gaan

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Triloyamatra

11:05 Sports Time

12:30 Citycell Tarokathan

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Selected Drama

04:05 Critalk Bishwa Cup Special

04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:30 Mukti Judho Protidin

06:00 Music Club

06:20 Drama Serial: Shompaddo

07:50 Hello Minister

09:35 Aloye Bhubon Bhora

10:00 Drama Serial: Jog Beyog

12:00 Gramphone

Ajker Shangbadpotro

ntv

07:50 Ranger Manush

08:15 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe

08:50 Kichhu Kotha

09:40 Kichhu Gaan

09:40 Drama Serial: Neer

10:30 Shangshoy

PICK OF THE DAY

ICC World Cup 2007
On BTV at 7:15pm
South Africa Vs Sri Lanka
Providence Stadium, Guyana

12:10 Shurela Lagan

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh

09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi

10:00 Cartoon

10:30 Bangla Feature Film

02:00 Nongor

03:30 Drama Serial: Shomrajjo

04:00 Rupanteror Golpo

04:30 Fusion Bits

06:00 Saaj Bela

06:30 Top News

06:45 Mukti Judho

07:00 Baker Pathay

08:15 Drama Serial: Society

09:00 Drama Serial: Nokol

09:30 Poshakh

11:00 Show Case

BANGLAVISION

08:35 Shubho Shokal

09:05 Raat Biraaley

09:30 Bangla Feature Film

02:40 The Last Drop, The

08:45 Boogeyman

10:15 Snakeman

11:45 Warhead

STAR PLUS

09:00 Bolly V - Star Plus

09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus

09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

08:55 Media Bhuvan

09:30 Drama Serial: Rupantor

STAR MOVIES

09:00 Die Another Day

11:15 Crash

01:00 Absolute Zero

02:45 Hotel Rwanda

04:45 Knights Tale, A

07:00 Last Drop, The

08:45 Boogeyman

10:15 Snakeman

11:45 Warhead

STAR PLUS

09:00 Bolly V - Star Plus

09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus

09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends

07:00 Ducktales

07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

07:30 Priithviraj Chauhan

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

09:30 Pensacola

10:30 PSI Factor

11:30 Ultimate Guinness World Records

12:00 Maximum Exposure

01:00 Guinness World Records: Primetime House (Season 1)

04:00 Maximum Exposure

05:00 Ultimate Guinness World Records

05:30 World Records

06:30 The 4400

07:30 PSI Factor

08:30 Maximum Exposure

09:30 Ultimate Guinness World Records

10:30 Supernatural

12:30 Ultimate Guinness World Records

STAR WORLD

09:00 The Simpsons

09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show

10:30 Prison Break

11:30 Falcon Beach

12:30 The O.C.

01:30 Koffee With Karan

02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

04:00 General Hospital

05:00 Fashion House

06:00 Less Than Perfect

06:30 The Simpsons

07:00 Cheers

07:30 Friends

08:00 Seinfeld

08:30 American Idol

09:30 Heroes

10:30 Grey's Anatomy

11:00 Fashion House

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

09:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids

10:30 Baby Story

11:00 Baby Whisperer

11:30 Deadliest Catch

12:30 Body Basics

01:30 Snake Week

02:30 Detective Stories

03:30 Million 2 One

04:00 Everything You Need To Know

04:30 Wild Discovery

05:30 Mega Builders

06:30 Impact Stories Of Survival

07:30 Snake Week

08:30 I Should Be Alive

09:30 Drama On Discovery

10:30 Engineering The World's Rally

11:30 Deadliest Catch

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 Outbreak Investigation

10:30 Telemall

11:15 Global Sky Shop

11:30 Naked Science

12:30 Is It Real? Rising Sun

02:30 Sea Eagles Whirl

03:00 Hornets Vs Bees

03:30 Outbreak Investigation

04:30 Outback Invasion

05:00 Nat Geo Genius

05:30 Big Bang

06:00 From meerkats To Mambas

06:30 Outbreak Investigation

07:30 Forgotten Rhino

08:30 Hollywood Science

09:30 Samuuri Spiders

10:30 Outbreak Investigation

11:30 Hunter Hunted

STAR SPORTS

09:30 Cricket Crazy

10:30 Dunlop Phoenix Tournament

12:00 Engine Block

12:30 Sony Ericsson Open

04:30 Tna Impact

05:30 Max Power 2007

06:30 Tna Impact

07:30 Gillette World Sport 2007

08:00 India?S Best With Sunil Gavaskar

08:30 India Glorious

10:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss

10:30 Tna Impact

11:30 The Ubs Golf Club

12:00 Asian Tour Weekly 2007

ESPN

08:30 Taking Guard - West Indies Spec

09:00 Ibf World Grand Prix - Holland

10:30 The Natwest Series

12:00 Cricket Gold

14:00 Fina Mare Nostrum

17:00 Toyota Football Up Close