

Dance Festival by Shadrona and UNESCO

A captivating display of lyrical, graceful Manipuri dance

Bipin Singh is acknowledged as one of the first Manipuri Gurus to bring this ritualistic dance form to the urban stage. Students of Chhayanat follow his style.

At Chhayanat, under the guidance of Manipuri dance exponent Sreemati Shantibala Sinha, the dance form found a foothold in Dhaka in the early 1980s. After over two decades, Chhayanat can now boast of a fine group of dancers. 'Chitrangada', Chhayanat's department of dance, is now headed by Sharmila Bandyopadhyay. The seasoned dancer trained under Sreemati Shantibala Sinha, Guru Bipin Singh and his wife Sreemati Kalavati Devi.

The evening started with *Basant Prabandh*. *Prabandh* in Manipuri means musical composition. Accompanied by dance, the composition is a celebration of nature's abundance in spring. Performed by Sonia Rashid, Samina Hossain Prema, Sudeshna Swayamprabha and Warda Rihab, the composition narrated sequences, including the eternal union of Radha-Krishna, that are familiar to a Manipuri dance enthusiasts.

Tanum (known as *Taraana* in North Indian



Dancers of Chhayanat perform at the festival

classical dance) performed by Warda Rihab, was a demonstration of the different *taal* (rhythm) in Manipuri dance.

Pung Cholom was performed by Nilmoni Singh. The energetic performance showcased the artiste's ability to concentrate on both *pung* (or *Mridanga*) and dancing.

Dashrup Dashavatara enacted the ten incarnations of Vishnu -- Matsya, Kurma, Varaha, Narasimha, Vamana, Parshurama, Rama, Krishna, Buddha and Kalki. According to Hindu mythology, whenever the world needs a saviour, Vishnu takes up a certain form and descends among the humans to confront evil. The composition was performed by Warda Rihab, Afsana Islam, Fahmida Siddiqua, Sudeshna Swayamprabha and Sanjana Hug.

The last performance of the evening was *Matrika*. Based on compositions by Tagore, Sree Aravinda and Bankim Chandra, the performance addressed a mother's ability to love like no one else can, her willingness to

forgive and passion that enables her to go to any length to protect her child.

All compositions (except for the last one choreographed by Bimbavati Devi) were choreographed by Sreemati Kalavati Devi. Under Tarit Bhattacharya's music direction, Kalavati Devi and Shuma Rani Roy did the vocals. Premjit Singh and Tomba Singh were on *pung*. Bhashwar Bandyopadhyay in charge of lights did a commendable job.

One emerging dancer to watch out for is Sudeshna Swayamprabha. Her passion for the art form was apparent through every *murda*, twirl and facial expression. At times during the performance, the young dancer was like a flash of lightning on stage.

The festival ended last night with the staging of Kazi Nazrul Islam's *Badolo Borishoney* by Nrityanchal.

PHOTO: ISHTIAQUE BIN QASHEM



KARIM WAHEED

On the second evening (March 29) of the Dance Festival organised by Shadrona and UNESCO, Chhayanat -- one of the leading cultural organisations in the country -- staged Manipuri dance performances.

Titled *Manipuri Nartan Malika*, the recital was held at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Manipuri, one of the six classical South Asian dance forms (others being Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Kuchipudi and Odissi), is indigenous to Manipur (the north-eastern Indian state) and Sylhet (in Bangladesh). Manipuri dance was originally performed in temples and its objective is to provide a spiritual experience.

Recognised as one of the most elegant and graceful dance forms, Manipuri highlights rounded movements and avoids jolts, sharp edges or straight lines. It is this trait that gives Manipuri dance its lyrical and soft appearance.

Manipuri dance is known for its soft and

CULTURAL FEAST

Photography Exhibition

Title: Amar Dekha '71
Photographer: Abdul Hamid Raihan
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dharmondi

Date: March 25-April 3
Time: 3:00pm-8pm

Exhibition

Title: Made in Germany: Architecture + Religion
Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Venue: Auditorium of Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Date: April 2-12
Time: Sunday-Thursday 10am-8pm

Art Exhibition

Artist: Biplob Kor
Title: Binary Opposition
Organiser: Alliance Francaise de Dacca
Venue: Gallery Zorn, Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road, Dharmondi
Date: March 23-April 5
Time: 9am-12pm & 5pm-9pm

Rabindra Sangeet Festival

Organiser: Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shammoni Parishad
Venue: Chayanaut Sangskriti Bhobon, House 72, Road 15A, Dharmondi
Date: March 30-April 1

Folk songs at Rabindra Sarobor

MAINUL HASSAN

Mass-line Media Centre (MMC), an NGO, in association with the Theatre and Music Department, Dhaka University, organised a programme featuring folk music at Rabindra Sarobor, Dharmondi on March 29. Titled *Bajao baddi bajao dhol unaoya-er talbol*, the programme was held with the support of the Royal Danish Embassy.

The event included performances by 64 folk artistes -- selected by MMC under their 'Rural advocacy programme through grassroots participation' programme. MMC made the selections through their rural advocacy centres; from every zila they selected one artiste. According to the organisers, these artistes will be working in their native areas, motivating people through generating social awareness.

A two-day workshop aiming at improving performing skills of these artistes was held on March 27 and 28. Theatre and Music Department, Dhaka University provided technical

assistance and support.

"We are very happy to provide the necessary assistance. The artistes working at the rural levels, will be generating social awareness, addressing issues such as importance of education, demerits of early marriage and dowry and ensuring basic rights of women," said Dr Israfil Shaheen, Chairman, Theatre and Music Department, Dhaka University."

The programme opened with two Laloni songs -- *Shatyo bolo shupothay cholom* and *Ghor bedhechhey bhalo gharami*.

Throughout the evening the programme featured 20 songs related to social issues. Starting with *Jari korlam suru* -- a song on the importance of preserving the environment. It was followed by *Amra desher charon kobi*, which highlighted rights of children. *Krishi bhairab shobor khobor jani* addressed the plight of farmers in our country.

The programme advanced well into the night with all 64 artistes performing songs.



Folk artistes perform at the programme

TV GUIDE

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

BTV

09:05 *Shomapti*
11:15 Musical Programme
11:40 *Shukhi Porbar*
12:05 Drama Serial: *Shubarnolota*

12:30 *Ma O Shishur Kotha*
01:30 *Mati O Manush*
02:15 *Sisimpr*

02:40 *Bangla Feature Film*
05:05 *Nobo Anondoyer Jago*
06:10 *Ocean Girl*

06:40 *Cricket Cricket*
07:15 *ICC World Cup 2007: Australia Vs Bangladesh*

07:30 *AKTEL Onnyodrishti*
11:05 *Shopner Muthopone*
12:15 Musical programme

01:30 *Nari*
04:20 *Shesh Okhro*
05:00 *Gram Gonjer Khobor*

05:30 *Taghobol*
06:20 Special Programme on *Eid-E-Miladunni*

08:00 Special Programme on *Eid-E-Miladunni*

09:30 *Shuprohat*
10:00 *Bangladesh Chok Mele Dekhi*

10:30 *Bagan Bilash*
12:05 *Telefilm: Apurnota*

02:00 *Olpo Sholpo Golpo*
03:30 *Drama Serial: Khoshu + Moyna*

05:15 *Fusion for Baul*
06:00 *Saaj Bela*

06:30 *Top News*
06:45 *Muktir Judho*

07:00 *Bangladesh Gram Shabda Lagan*

08:15 *Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash*

04:30 *Independent Day*

05:15 *Enough*

09:00 *Relic, The*

04:05 *Shothyer Shondhane*

04:50 *Muktijuddho Protidin*

06:00 *Aktele Bishwa Cup*

06:20 *Dhamaka*

06:40 *Drama Serial: Shath*

ATN BANGLA

10:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpotre*
12:15 *Bangladesh*

09:45 *Public Reaction*
09:50 *Tritiymatra*

11:05 *Na Bola Kotha*
12:30 *Citycell Tora Kathan*

01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 *Shangbadpotre*

04:20 *Public Reaction*
05:30 *Shangbadpotre*

01:45 *Shangbadpotre*

08:00 *Shangbadpotre*

09:30 *Shangbadpotre*

10:45 *American Soldiers*

10:10 *Talkshow: Televisioner Kachhey Amra Ki Choi*

CHANNEL 1

08:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpotre*

09:45 *Public Reaction*
09:50 *Tritiymatra*

11:05 *Na Bola Kotha*
12:30 *Citycell Tora Kathan*

01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 *Shangbadpotre*

04:20 *Public Reaction*
05:30 *Shangbadpotre*

01:45 *Shangbadpotre*

08:00 *Shangbadpotre*

09:30 *Shangbadpotre*

10:45 *American Soldiers*

10:10 *Talkshow: Televisioner Kachhey Amra Ki Choi*

CHANNEL 2

08:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpotre*

09:45 *Public Reaction*
09:50 *Tritiymatra*

11:05 *Na Bola Kotha*
12:30 *Citycell Tora Kathan*

01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 *Shangbadpotre*

04:20 *Public Reaction*
05:30 *Shangbadpotre*

01:45 *Shangbadpotre*

08:00 *Shangbadpotre*

09:30 *Shangbadpotre*

10:45 *American Soldiers*

10:10 *Talkshow: Televisioner Kachhey Amra Ki Choi*

STAR PLUS

08:30 *Telefilm: Tulite Aka Swapno*

09:00 *Hain*

09:30 *Bolly V - Star Plus*

10:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*

10:30 *Shararat*

11:00 *Akkad Bakkad*

11:30 *Bambey Bo*

12:00 *Chain Reaction*

12:30 *Final Cut*

01:00 *Open Water*

STAR MOVIES

08:15 *Nothing To Lose*

09:45 *Chain Reaction*

10:15 *Mukti Judho*

10:45 *Shunney Boshobash*

11:15 *Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash*

11:45 *Ice Princess*