

Dance Festival by Shadhona and UNESCO

A captivating display of lyrical, graceful Manipuri dance



KARIM WAHEED

ON the second evening (March 29) of the Dance Festival organised by Shadhona 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.

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 enthusiast.

Tanum (known as *Taraana* in North Indian



PHOTO: ISHTIAQUE BIN QUASHEM

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 *Midanga*) and dancing.

Dashrup Dashavatar 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 Huq.

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 *mudra*, swirl 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.

Death: The ultimate truth

Painting exhibition at JU

EMRAN HOSSAIN, JU

Life experiences events or moments of uncertainty on its way to face the ultimate truth on earth -- 'death.' At times, especially after the age of 60, human existence shares its space with the fore-feeling of death while living in reminiscence.

Solitude rules thoughts of the individual who has already died emotionally and has surrendered to death awaiting physical conclusion of life.

All 22 paintings, displayed at the recent exhibition held at the proposed Zahir Raihan auditorium in Jahangirnagar University (JU) titled *Destination*, held distinctive messages corresponding to the feelings of cornered existence of life.

Along with expressionism, Nadir Shahriar, lecturer of Drawing and Paintings at Narayanganj Fine Arts Institute, incorporated symbolism through the use of colours and different objects to reach out to the secret feelings of diverse mindset of human beings.

To express the emotions of uncertainty, Nadir employed contemporary ideas, beliefs and tales concerning death in his paintings.

One of the remarkable paintings at the exhibition titled *Destination-10* played with colours and light, displaying symbolically the silent co-existence of life and death in the thoughts of an elderly man.

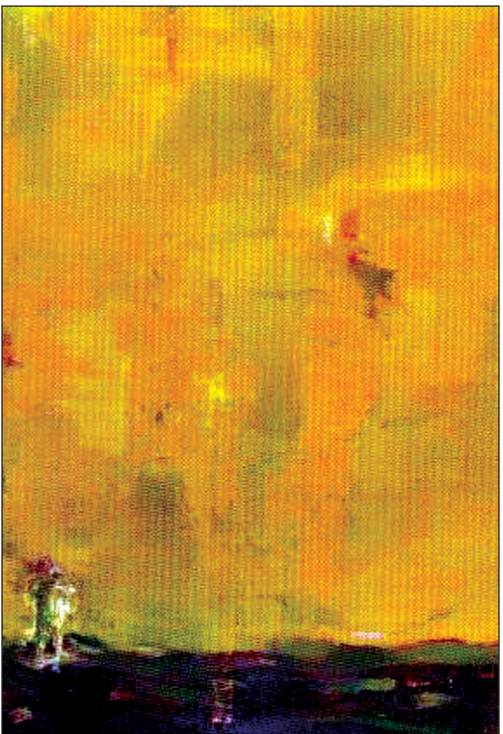
Use of colours like red, yellow, faded yellow, white and representation of figures through expressionism had included the flavour of intangible feelings that the painter had intended to communicate.

In *Destination-20* the edge of life was associated with a dried up leaf that exists only in its skeleton. Physical sufferings, isolation, afflicting memories and frustration of cornered state of existence were portrayed vividly in Nadir's realistic, semi-realistic and abstract works.

Sometimes lines of colours rose from beneath the canvas in full swing and faded at the top while in some cases the faded light of evening corresponded with the ultimate destination.

Beginning in 1996, Nadir had to work till 2006 on the theme to make it eligible for an exhibition.

Majority of the paintings were done in oil on canvas while the rest in Acrylic and mixed media. The first exhibition of *Destination* was held at Alliance Francaise in



Paintings by Nadir Shahriar at the exhibition

Dhaka in last February.

"If selling paintings were my sole intention, I would have chosen an attractive theme to portray. I intend to touch the feelings of individuals in remote parts of the country -- which the individuals generally or unknowingly think of as incommunicado -- through the message in my paintings," said the artist, who completed his

Masters in Drawing and Painting from Chittagong University.



CULTURAL FEAST

Photography Exhibition

Title: Amar Dekha 71
Photographer: Abdul Hamid Raihan
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
Date: Mach 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 Zoom, Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: March 23-April 5
Time: 9am-12pm & 5pm-9pm

Rabindra Sangeet Festival

Organiser: Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Shamillon Parishad
Venue: Chayanaut Sangskriti Bhobon, House 72, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
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, Dhanmondi on March 29. Titled *Bajao baddi bajao dhol unyaon-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 Lalon songs -- *Shatylo bolo shupothay cholo* and *Ghor bedhechhey bhalo ghorami*.

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. *Krishti bhaira shobar 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

Banglavisión celebrates its first anniversary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV channel Banglavisión will air an array of special programmes for three days starting from March 31 to mark their first anniversary.

March 31

At 2:30pm telefilm *Tulite Aka Swapno*, will be aired. The play features Reaz, Srabonti and others.

A special programme on noted author Humayun Ahmed, *Dui Humayun*, will be aired at 6:30pm.

At 8:05pm telefilm, *Dholer Badyo* will be aired. Directed by Salauddin Lavlu. The cast includes A T M Shamsuzzaman, Fazlur Rahman Babu and others.

April 1

At 2:30pm telefilm, *Bodh* will be aired. At 8:05 *Pishach*, a single episode TV play directed by Humayun Ahmed will be telecast. The play features Ahmed Rubel, Shumuna Soma and others in lead

roles.

April 2

At 8:05pm *Juarir Bou*, a single episode TV play will be aired. Directed by Giasuddin Selim, the play features Shimul, Richi and

Tania in lead roles.

At 9:00pm *Chadmari*, a production of Banglavisión will be aired. The cast includes Abul Hayat, A T M Shamsuzzaman, Litu Anam and others.



Fazlur Rahman Babu (L) and co-actor in the play Dholer Badyo

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, 12:15 am.

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

09:05 Shomapti
11:15 Musical Programme
11:40 Shukhi Poribar
12:05 Drama Serial: Shubarnolota
12:30 Ma O Shishur Kotha
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:05 Nabo Anondoy Jago
06:10 Ocean Girl
06:40 Cricket Cricket
07:15 ICC World Cup 2007: Australia Vs Bangladesh

ATN BANGLA

10:30 AKTEL Onnyodishti
11:05 Shopner Muthophone
12:15 Musical programme
01:30 Nari
04:20 Shesh Okhor
05:00 Gram Gonjir Khobor
05:30 Talkshow
06:20 Special Programme on Eid-E-Miladunnabi
08:00 Special Programme on Eid-E-Miladunnabi

CHANNEL I

08:30 Shokaler Gaan
09:30 Shangbadpote Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Trionmatra
11:05 Na Bola Kotha
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbadpote Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Shathrang
04:05 Criticalk Bishwa Cup Special
04:50 Shothiyer Shondhaney
05:30 Muktiujho Protidin
06:00 Aktel Bishwa Cup Dramaka
06:20 Drama Serial: Shath

07:50 Goenda
Drama Serial: Bhober Haat
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi
12:00 GrameenPhone Aker Shanbad Potro

ETV

12:30 Adventure Bangladesh
01:00 Nazrul Song
01:30 Komlar Boshobash
04:00 Drama Serial: Protidin Ekti Golep
05:00 Drama: Ek Mukho Shomoy
06:00 Shofol Jara Kemon Tara
07:30 Mohuya Molar Desh
08:30 Prio Gaan
09:30 Drama Serial: Dinanter Bonantey

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi Cartoon
10:00 Bagan Bilash
12:05 Telefilm: Apumota
02:00 Olpo Sholpo Golpo
03:30 Drama: Khoshru + Moyna
05:15 Fusion for Baul
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News
07:45 Muktir Judho
08:15 Shurela Lagan
Drama Serial: Shumney Boshobash
09:00 Shondhi Khoney
09:30 Expression

BANGLAVISION

10:10 Talkshow: Televisioner Kachhey Amra Ki Chai



02:40 Telefilm: Tulite Aka Swapno
04:00 Amader Ranna Ghar
05:15 Diner Sheshey
06:30 Dui Humayun
08:05 Telefilm: Dholer Badyo

STAR MOVIES
08:15 Nothing To Lose
09:55 Chain Reaction
11:45 Final Cut
01:25 Open Water
02:45 Ice Princess
04:30 Independence Day
07:00 Enough
09:00 Relic, The
10:45 American Soldiers

STAR PLUS
08:30 Hum Saath Aath

09:00 Hain
Bolly V - Star Plus
09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
09:30 Saans
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Shararat
11:00 Akkad Bakkad
Bambey Bo
11:30 Sonpari
12:00 Golu Ke Goggles
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
01:00 Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi
01:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kalash
03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar

04:30 Kii
04:30 Kayamath
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:00 Ducktales
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
08:00 Kasauti Zindagi
08:30 Kay
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Aek Chabhi Hai
11:30 Padoss Mein
Thegreatindialaugh

06:30 The O.C.
7:30 Tna Xplosion
08:30 Desperate Housewives
09:30 Grey's Anatomy
10:30 Heroes
11:30 Fashion House

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 Triumph of Life
09:30 Wonders Of The Sea
10:30 Freemasons On Trial
12:30 Spunky Monkey
01:00 Tiger's Eye
01:30 Eternal Enemies
02:30 Monkey Business
03:00 Hayden Turner's Wildlife
03:30 Naked Science
04:30 Winds Of Victory
05:00 Zoro, Suzy Q, Sven
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Monk Seals
06:30 Mount St. Helens Eruption
07:30 Holy Cow
08:30 Bombay Calling
10:30 Arctic Kingdom
11:30 Lockdown

STAR WORLD
08:30 Prison Break
09:30 The Apprentice
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 The Kumars At No. 42
01:00 Travel Asia
01:30 My Wife And Kids
02:00 The King Of Queen
02:30 Crumbs
03:00 8 Simple Rules
03:30 Malcolm In The Middle
04:00 My Name Is Earl
04:30 Barbara Walters
05:00 Specials
06:00 Hope & Faith

06:30 Planet Earth
7:30 Wild Discovery
8:30 Drama on Discovery
9:30 Himalaya With Michael Palin
10:30 How Do They Do It?
11:30 Planet Earth

AXN
08:30 Numb3rs (Season 1)
09:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not! (Season 2)
10:30 Sony Style TV Magazine
11:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)
12:30 House (Season 1)
01:30 House (Season 1)
02:30 Numb3rs (Season 1)
03:30 Darkman
05:30 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)
06:30 Maximum Exposure (Season I)
07:30 Fear Factor (Season 6)
08:30 The Rundown
11:00 E Buzz
11:30 The Ultimate Fighter (Season 2)
01:00 E Buzz
01:30 Fear Factor (Season 6)
02:30 House (Season 1)
03:30 House (Season 1)
04:30 Numb3rs (Season 1)
05:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not! (Season 2)

STAR SPORTS
08:30 Against All Odds (Wrestling)
10:30 Tna Impact (Wrestling)
11:30 Full Toss? Haste
12:00 Full Toss? Haste
Rehna Boss (The Full Toss? Haste)
Rehna Boss (The

12:030 The Ubs Golf Club (Golf)
01:00 Motorola International Bintan (G
02:00 The Masters Official Films 2005
03:00 The Masters Official Films 2006
04:00 Sony Ericsson Open (Tennis)
05:30 Sony Ericsson Open (Tennis)
07:00 Gillette World Sport 2007 (Inter
07:30 Club Epl (Soccer/Futbol)
07:55 English Premier Football League
10:00 Club Epl (Soccer/Futbol)
10:20 English Premier Football League

ESPN
08:30 First Edition (Soccer/Futbol)
09:00 Taking Guard - West Indies Speci
09:30 Here We Go (Soccer/Futbol)
10:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (Spo
11:00 Sachin The Great (Cricket)
11:30 Hitz (Cricket)
12:00 Cricket Gold (Cricket)
03:00 First Edition (Soccer/Futbol)
03:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (Spo
04:00 Hitz (Cricket)
04:25 Taking Guard - West Indies Speci
04:55 Sportscenter Weekend (Sport News
05:00 Premiership Saturday (Soccer/Fut