



Ethnic diversity council and theatre festival begins



(L-R) Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Kumudini Hajong and Mamunur Rashid at the inaugural session



A wedding scene from the play Kania

ERSHAD KAMOL

Santal artistes in their distinctive attire along with their Bengali counterparts of theatre troupe Aranyak Natya Dal displayed a traditional Santali dance at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on April 2. The aim of the show was to highlight the solidarity of the pluralistic society in Bangladesh. The dance performance was followed by the inauguration of the five-day ethnic diversity council and theatre

festival titled *Hor* means man in Santali language. The festival was inaugurated by renowned Hajong leader Kumudini Hajong, who had made remarkable contribution to the historic 'Tonko Rebellion' by the community to secure their rights in 1940s against the British Raj. The event was presided over by theatre personality Mamunur Rashid, the convener of the council. Eminent educationist Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury was the chief guest. Chakma Circle Chief of Chittagong Hill Tracks - Raja Debashish Roy and noted littera-

teur Selina Hossain were the special guests at the programme. Sanjib Drong, member secretary of the council, delivered the welcome speech. Other speakers of the programme were Professor Mesbah Kamal, Khasi Minister of Jafong - Nirola Tangsang, Professor Dr H K S Arefin, President of Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute - Ramendu Majumder, President of Shammilito Sankritik Jote - Nasiruddin Yousuff and Chairman of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation - M Hamid.

Discussants at the programme said that besides Bengalis, who are the majority, over 45 ethnic groups live in Bangladesh. However, the Constitution of Bangladesh do not recognise them as ethnic groups having distinctive cultural heritage. They are deprived of fundamental rights. Even in the recent census these communities have been recorded as 'tribal people', though they have their distinctive culture. They are always misrepresented in the primary school textbooks, and the government has not declared that books should be printed in the

languages of these ethnic communities. All these source from the hegemony tendency of Bengali majority group. And the discussants - representatives of the Bengali majority - apologised to the representatives of the minority groups for the ongoing social, political and cultural oppression.

Chief guest Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said, "Diverse cultural heritage of Bangladesh cannot be ensured unless discrimination can be controlled."

Kumudini Hajong said, "We hope to live together in harmony."

Mamunur Rashid said, "A platform should be created to incorporate all the cultural traditions of the Bengali majority as well as all minority groups in Bangladesh. But, we should be careful, so that the traditional art forms of these people are not lost in midst of mainstream Bengali culture. And I believe that this council is just a beginning towards the target."

Later, one-minute silence was observed to pay tribute to Chalesh Richi, a Mandi leader who recently died in custody.

The final event of the day was staging of a play titled *Kania* by Sadri Theatre. Written by Brindabon Das, *Kania* is a melodrama, which features the struggle of a woman - Phulomala - and her in laws. Nimai Tikri has translated the play to Sadri, a common language used by 27 ethnic minority groups living in the northern part of Bangladesh such as Onrao, Malo and Malpahari.

The play is directed by Mamunur Rashid.

Cultural team from Bangladesh to visit Canada



Shibli Mohammad and Shamim Ara Nipa in a graceful stance

A six member cultural team comprising Sabina Yasmin, Subir Nandi, Shamim Ara Nipa, Shibli Mohammad, Chandan Dutta and Monwar Hossain Tutul will per-

form in Alberta Bangla Sammelon to be held on 6th and 7th April in Calgary, says a press release. The team will also perform in some other places including

Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. Haimonti Sukla, Sraboni Sen, Arati Mukharjee and Indranil from India are also expected to take part in the conference.



Ganney Shurey Tarunney, a TV show featuring upcoming bands will be aired today at 1:30pm on ATN Bangla. Hosted by Anuja Chondon, the programme offers an insight into rock groups and is aired every Wednesday

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre Festival

Organiser: Ethnic-Diversity Council & First Advisors Theatre Festival 2007 Celebration Committee
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Play: Sri Krishna Kirtan
Troupe: Manipuri Theatre
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 4
Time: 7:00pm
Play: Hokkani Dhorpana
Troupe: Jum Aesthetic Council, Rangamati
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 4
Time: after the staging of Sri Krishna Kirtan by Manipuri Theatre
Play: Mangula
Troupe: Palakar
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 5
Time: 7:00pm
Play: Rarang
Troupe: Aranyak Natyadol
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: April 6
Time: 7:00pm
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

Kindling interest in South Asian music in UK

In conversation with Iftikhar Ahmed

FAYZA HAQ

Iftikhar Ahmed, a Bangladeshi musician living in UK, recently launched his music album. During a visit in Dhaka, the artiste spoke to *The Daily Star*.

Speaking about what made him go into the world of music, he said, "For me life without music is meaningless. It helped me overcome my grief when I lost my mother, to cope with my divorce. I can celebrate life with music. It has helped me discover inner peace. In the past 12 years I have been committed to promote the rich cultural heritage of the Indian sub-continent in UK. I was privileged to organise Ravi Shankar's concert in 1999. It was a dream come true, it felt like I had conquered the Everest!"

Talking about his teachers and the people who had encouraged and inspired him, Iftikhar said that his mother was very supportive. As a teenager he learnt Nazrul Sangeet under Bedaruddin Ahmed. He also took lessons from vocalists Bashir Ahmed and M A Hamid in the early '70s.

After moving to UK in 1985 he set up the Academy of Performing



Iftikhar Ahmed

Arts to promote Indian classical music and dance as an integral part of contemporary British multi-cultural scene. Today the academy is known in places like Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata. Delving on financial support, he

said that they sometimes received grants from the Arts Council of England and that Kelvin Hopkins MP was their patron.

Iftikhar's album that has been launched titled *Tomakey Ekono Bhalobashi* is a collection of memo-

orable romantic songs from the '50s and '60s. It's about love, loss of love and the excitements and joys of falling in love. The artist said that he has tried to sing for lovers and for those who believe in romance.

Accompanying vocalist in the album is Sarmistha, an Odissi dancer. Sarmistha is from Kolkata while Iftikhar stays in England but the UK-based "33 Records" has made it possible for them to come together. "We artistes will always make the effort to collaborate when we share common interests and the commitment to achieve something," Iftikhar says.

Asked to talk about his particular preference in music, Iftikhar says that he is fascinated by songs of Hemanta Mukherji and classic Hindi songs from the '50s, '60s and '70s - a golden age when Indian music was ruled by brilliant composers like Madan Mohan, Shankar Jaikishan, Hemant Kumar (AKA Hemanta Mukherji) and S D Burman.

At present Iftikhar is fully involved with promoting Indian classical music and dance. He hopes to release two albums by the end of this year.

Mr Bean returns

It's a safe bet that kids will eat up this latest slice of slapstick, in which Mr Bean's struggle to take a relaxing French holiday is thwarted by a lost child, a hungry vending machine, an egomaniac film director (a campy Willem Dafoe) and the intricacies of Gallic public transport. However, parents who sat stony-faced through the original *Bean* are in for a surprise: from an adult perspective, Mr Bean's Holiday is not all that bad.

It's hard to explain the appeal of *Mr Bean*. At first glance, he seems to be moulded from the primordial clay of nightmares: a leering man-child with a body like a tangle of tweed-coated pipe cleaners and the gurning, window-licking countenance of a suburban sex offender. It's a testament to Rowan Atkinson's skill that, by the end of the film he seems almost cuddly.

Perhaps it is the influence of Simon McBurney (*Theatre de Complicite*) on the script, or the absence of Mel Smith as director. For whatever reason, the flatulent

humour of the first film has given way to pure physical comedy. There's nothing in his pratfalls to match the brilliance of, say, Harold Lloyd, but Atkinson is still an inspired physical comedian - as he demonstrates in a busking

sequence that moves seamlessly from Shaggy to high opera. A pity they didn't go with the original title, *French Bean*.

Source: Internet



A scene from the film

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 am, 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 *Golpo Theke Natok*
 11:40 Selected Programme
 12:05 *Maa O Shishur Kotha*
 12:30 *Swapno Shonar Gaon*
 01:00 *Geet Gunjon*
 01:30 *Shukhi Poribar*
 02:15 *Sisimpur*
 02:40 *Quiz Quiz*
 03:05 *Cartoon*
 03:30 *Cricket Shekha*
 04:00 *Computer*
 04:30 *Shopinil Agami*
 05:05 *Cookery Show*
 05:30 *Ritur Range Aka*
 06:10 *Saarc round up*
 06:40 *Cricket Cricket*
 07:15 *ICC World Cup 2007: England Vs Sri Lanka*

ATN Bangla

08:30 *Kath Koylar Chhobi*
 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 Children's Programme: Shapla Shaluk*
 04:20 *Cookery Show*
 05:00 *Gram Gonjer*

05:10 *Khobor Nijeko Jano Shapholyo Anor*
 05:45 *Islamic Programme*
 06:20 *Ghonta Dhoni*
 08:00 *Drama Serial: Nayan Tara*
 08:40 *Drama Serial: Bohemian*
 09:20 *Drama Serial*
CHANNEL-i
 09:30 *Shangbad Potrey Bangladesh*
 09:45 *Public Reaction*
 09:50 *Tritiyomatra*
 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 *CricTalk Bishwa Cup Special*
 04:50 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
 05:30 *Mukti Judho Protidin*
 06:00 *Music Club*
 06:20 *Drama Serial: Shompaddo Upopaddo*
 07:50 *Hello Minister*
 09:35 *Aloye Bhubon Bhora*
 10:00 *Drama Serial: Jog Beyog*
 12:00 *Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro*

ETV

12:30 *Adventure Bangladesh*
 01:00 *Nazrul Song*
 01:30 *Desh Jonker*

PICK OF THE DAY

ICC World Cup 2007
 On BTV at 7:15pm
 England Vs Sri Lanka
 Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua

02:00 *Shophol Jara Kemon Jara*
 02:30 *Drishhti*
 03:00 *Bolte Chai*
 03:30 *Shurma Parer Gaan*
 04:00 *Drama Serial: Dinarer Bonantorey*
 05:00 *Drama: Udeshyo Hin*
 06:00 *Jana Ajana*
 07:30 *Bauliana*
 08:00 *Drama Serial: Doloner Jobanbondi*
 08:30 *Cookery Show*
 09:15 *Pop Show*
 10:00 *Drama: Waiting Room*

BANGLAVISION
 08:35 *Shubho Shokal*
 09:05 *Raat Biraatey*
 09:30 *Bangla Feature Film*
 02:40 *Drama: Chandimari*
 04:20 *Ebong Classer Bairey*
 05:00 *Cinebit Shadakalo*
 05:40 *Diner Sheshey*
 06:15 *Nana Ranger Din Guli*
 06:45 *Bishwa Cup Protidin*
 08:15 *Drama Serial: Dokhinayon*
 08:55 *Media Bhuban*
 09:30 *Drama Serial:*

12:00 *Paraya Dhan*
STAR MOVIES
 08:30 *Englishman Who Went Up A Hill...*
 10:10 *Home Alone 2: Lost In New York*
 12:10 *Shall We Dance*
 02:00 *Raw Deal*
 03:45 *Sleepover*
 05:20 *Final Cut*
 07:00 *Fast And The Furious, The*
 08:50 *Nothing To Lose*
 10:30 *Method*
 12:00 *Vizontele*
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 Sr 8*
 08:00 *Seinfeld*
 08:30 *American Idol*
 09:30 *Heroes*
 10:30 *Grey's Anatomy*
 11:30 *Fashion House*

AXN
 09:30 *Beastmaster*
 10:30 *SI Factor*
 01:00 *Guinness World Records: Primetime*
 02:00 *Sports Disasters 4*

03:00 *House*
 04:00 *Maximum Exposure*
 05:30 *Andromeda*
 06:30 *The 4400*
 07:30 *PSI Factor*
 08:30 *Maximum Exposure*
 10:00 *Ultimate Guinness World Records*
 10:30 *Fear Factor*
 11:30 *Supernatural*
 01:00 *Ultimate Guinness World Records*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 09:30 *Shark Invasion*
 11:00 *Telemali: Sauna Belt*
 11:15 *Global Sky Shop*
 11:30 *Surviving Nature's Fury*
 12:30 *SleepWalking Murders*
 01:30 *Interpol Investigates*
 02:30 *Earth Pulse*
 03:00 *Marine Iguanas' Lifestyle*
 03:30 *Shark Invasion*
 04:30 *Mad Labs*
 05:00 *Copperhead Cannibals*
 05:30 *Backyard Science*
 06:30 *Gators High and Dry*
 07:30 *Shark Invasion*
 08:30 *The Ultimate Crocodile*
 08:30 *Bacterial Serial Killer*
 09:30 *Kick Fighters*
 10:30 *Hunter Hunted*
 11:30 *Dolphin Attack*

05:30 *Max Power 2007*
 06:30 *Tna Impact*
 07:30 *Gillette World Sport 2007 (Inter*
 08:00 *India'S Best With Sunil Gavaskar*
 08:30 *Chappell-Hadlee Trophy*
 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 *Asian X Games Vi*
 09:30 *2006/07 Spanish League Highlight*
 10:30 *2006 Marshall's Us Figure Skatin*
 12:00 *Remember The Titans*
 12:30 *English Premier Football League*
 02:30 *Cricket Gold*
 05:00 *Planet Speed 2006/2007*
 05:30 *Toyota Football Up Close*
 06:00 *TAKING GUARD - WEST INDIES Special*
 06:30 *Asian X Games 2005 Presented By*
 07:30 *2006/07 Spanish League Highlight*
 09:30 *Remember The Titans*
 10:00 *Great Finishes*
 10:30 *Sportscenter India*
 11:30 *Sportscenter Asia*
 12:00 *Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07*