

3rd National Dance Festival '07 begins

Twelve dancers honoured



Dancers perform on the first day of the festival

ERSHAD KAMOL

'MILECHHI milon-e-chhond-e anond-e' -- with this slogan the 3rd National Dance Festival '07, arranged by Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BNSS), began at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy on April 23.

The inaugural event was presided over by Rahiza Khanam Jhunu (president of BNSS). Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed inaugurated the programme. Shaju Ahmed, general secretary of the organisation, delivered the welcome speech.

Claiming the festival as a 'grand opening', Rahiza Khanam Jhunu said, "The festival has opened a door for us, dancers, to work together for the development of our potential. Hopefully this festival will encourage the young talents to move forward."

The speeches were followed by dance performances. Thirteen troupes presented classical dance forms such as Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Manipuri as well as

musical.

Noted educationist Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed said, "Dance is one of the ancient elements of civilisation. For many years we have been practicing dance. However, we are yet to develop a particular dance form of our own. The festival arranged by BNSS is an opportunity to judge the current standard of dance in Bangladesh. We hope through this process dance will get an institutional recognition in Bangladesh. To reach that goal, besides individual endeavours, government initiatives are also needed."

For their contribution to dance, twelve seasoned dancers were honoured at the programme with Bulbul Chowdhury Smriti Padak, Gauhar Jamil Smriti Padak '07 went to Nomita Kundu from Faridpur, Siraj Serniabat from Barisal, Mahfuzur Rahman from Dhaka and Khwaja Hossain Ahmed from

A Mannan Smriti Padak and Gauhar Jamil Smriti Padak. Recipients of this year's Bulbul Chowdhury Smriti Padak are Selina Haque, Sohel Rahman, Munmun Ahmed and Dr. Shoma Mumtaz (all dancers are from Dhaka).

Reshma Firoz from Chittagong, Ilias Haidar from Dhaka, Nilufar Begum from Mymensingh and Anita Sinha from Sylhet received this year's GA Mannan Smriti Padak. Gauhar Jamil Smriti Padak '07 went to Nomita Kundu from Faridpur, Siraj Serniabat from Barisal, Mahfuzur Rahman from Dhaka and Khwaja Hossain Ahmed from

Chittagong. Today, tomorrow and the day after, there will be two events simultaneously in two district towns. The other programmes will be held in the remaining days.

folk-based performances.

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Rahiza Khanam Jhunu (3-R, front), Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Shaju Ahmed seen with the award recipients

'Drockstars' is back

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

DRockstars, the musical talent hunt sponsored by djuice, is all set to start again. This year DRockstars is going to search for a band, with the vision to unite young talents.



(Front L-R) Hamin Ahmed, Rubaba Dowla Matin, Faridur Reza Shagor and Afzal Hasan Khan seen with artistes of BAMBA at the press conference

A press conference was held to discuss the launching of DRockstars-2, the second edition of the show, at Pan Pacific Hotel Sonargaon. Rubaba Dowla Matin, deputy director, Commercial Division of Grameenphone; Faridur Reza Shagor, managing director, Impress Telefilm Ltd; Hamin Ahmed, president, Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA) and Afzal Hasan Khan, senior marketing manager, Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications International AB were present at the press conference.

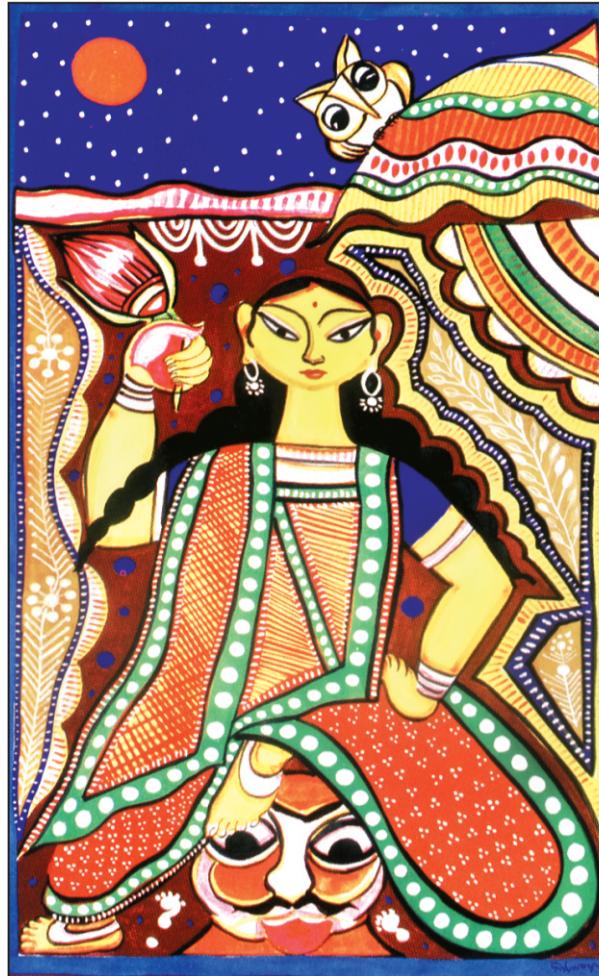
DRockstars-2 will have a greater platform and will go to all six divisions in the country for auditions shortly. BAMBA will play a major role in this quest, by helping in organising the talent hunt and judging the contestants. Channel i and Radio Foorti will be media partners of DRockstars-2, with Sony Ericsson joining as co-partner of the programme.

Entries for the competition will start from today. Interested bands have to call 121 from their Grameenphone or djuice numbers to register.

The first youth lifestyle brand of the country, djuice, has always acknowledged and appreciated various ingenious activities of the young generation. DRockstars is an outcome of this effort. The first season of DRockstars was aired last year. Young singers from all over the country participated in the programme and 10 'Rockstars' were chosen from thousands of entries based on solo performances. Recently an album featuring the Top 10 DRockstars from last year was released.

Delving deep into folk art

Nikhil's solo exhibition with traditional motifs



Artworks by Nikhil Chandra Das

FAYZA HAQ

Artist Nisar Hussain, speaking on Nikhil Chandra Das' ongoing solo exhibition at Gallery Chitrak, said, "Folk art is where Nikhil gets his inspiration. Villagers in Bangladesh have had a tradition of drawing and painting for centuries, as in the case of alpana. They believed that if they wanted something and painted it, prayed over it, they would ultimately get it in real life. In Hindu culture, there's the tradition of religious art, specially the potters, who make idols of the local deities. Those who work with shola, use a sponge-like material that floats on water, to make decoration pieces like topor (coronets) for weddings. Acharij make paintings of Mahabharata and Gazi."

"There is a relationship in the use of colours and lines such as the making of goddess Manosha with numerous snake heads surrounding her. Lines

with clay and shola. After completing our courses of studies in fine arts, we often move away from this tradition, hoping to emulate the west. Quamrul Hassan adapted from our folk art and combined it with contemporary trends. Nikhil does not depart from folk art or bring variations in it. His teacher Abdus Shakoor Shah advised him to work with traditional art.

Nikhil has brought in the shapes and compositions of scroll painting and pottery art, putting them on a two dimensional surface. He has been able to assemble them with sophistication. More than telling a story, the artist has concentrated on the art itself. Sometimes he has portrayed parts of the forms of deities and combined them in a harmony with other local images. He has kept to the original use of colours instead of blending them into hues of his own."

Nikhil takes his inspiration

from Poto Chitra, Lokkhi Shora and other indigenous art. Coming from Narail, he has had plenty of exposure to traditional arts and crafts. He makes paints from flowers, trees and roots, mixed with oxide colours. He also uses dust of seashells and tamarind juice. He uses them instead of commercially made paints.

When Nikhil presents the goddess Lokkhi, he brings in images of village women too. Along with them he includes representation of cows, threshing machine, ladder, owl (believed to be the mount of the goddess) for good luck, banana trees, hand fans etc. "I have taken the objects from folk art and presented them in my own way," Nikhil said.

In his 55 paintings, Nikhil often brings in the snake goddess Manosha with numerous snake heads surrounding her. Lines,

zigzags, dots and circles decorate the images of the goddess and snakes. The deity is depicted with plaits, earrings and large eyes. In another painting there is an owl and painted footprints, along with items taken from an everyday farmer's life. This is along with the lines and circles that decorate Lokkhi who is seen in a bright sari and resembles a traditional clay doll. The colours are undiluted ones.

Nikhil has two awards from the Institute of Fine Arts, DU, to his credit. It was Ramendu Majumdar and Muniruzzaman of Chitrak who arranged the exhibition.

The exhibition is on till April 30.



TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



ICC World Cup 2007

Second Semi Final
On BTV at 7:15pm
Australia Vs South Africa
Live from Beausejour
Stadium, St Lucia

BANGLAVISION
N
08:35 Shubho Shokal
09:05 Amader Ranna Ghar
09:30 Bangla Feature Film
10:00 Cinebit Shadakalo

STAR PLUS
04:00 Rupantor Golpo
04:30 Gaaner Kotha Kothar
05:40 Diner Sheshay
06:15 Bishwa Cup Protidin
06:45 Drama Serial: Dokhinyoy
07:00 Baker Pathay
07:45 Media Bhutan
09:30 Drama Serial: Rupantor
09:30 Show Case
11:00 Fusion Bits

STAR MOVIES
10:15 Lord Of War
01:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
01:30 Aladdin
01:45 Crash
03:30 First Daughter
05:15 Jumanji
07:00 Edison
08:45 Independence Day
11:15 Thunderball
01:45 Conan
02:40 Thumbsucker
03:15 The Ticket

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STAR WORLD

10:30 Prison Break
11:30 Falcon Beach
12:30 The O.C.
01:30 Coffee 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

10:30 SI Factor (Season 3)
12:00 Maximum Exposure (Season 2)
01:00 Guinness World Records: Primetime (Season III)
02:00 Sports Disasters 4
03:00 House (Season 1)
04:00 Maximum Exposure (Season 2)
06:30 The Shield (Season 4)
07:30 PSI Factor (Season 3)
08:30 Maximum Exposure (Season 2)
09:30 Ultimate Guinness World Records
10:30 Fear Factor (Season 6)
11:30 Supernatural (Season 1)
12:30 Unwind

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

10:30 Sauna Belt
11:15 Global Sky Shop
12:30 Naked Science
01:30 Is It Real?
02:00 Sports Disasters 4
03:00 House (Season 1)
04:00 Maximum Exposure (Season 2)
06:30 The Shield (Season 4)
07:30 PSI Factor (Season 3)
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STAR SPORTS

08:30 Tna Archive (Wrestling)
09:30 Guinness 9 Ball Tour
2007, Jakarta
04:30 Beastmaster (Season 1)
05:30 PSI Factor (Season 3)
06:30 Amazon

DISCOVERY

02:00 Paraya Dhan

CHANNEL

02:30 Spanish Football League (Soccer)
04:30 Tna Impact (Wrestling)
05:30 Max Power 2007 (Auto Racing)
06:30 Tna Impact (Wrestling)
07:30 Gillette World Sport 2007 (Inter)

08:00 India's Best With Sunil Gavaskar
08:30 Vb Series (Cricket)
10:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss (The)
10:30 Tna Impact (Wrestling)
11:30 The Ubs Golf Club (Golf)

12:00 Asian Tour Weekly 2007 (Golf)

ESPN

08:00 Debutants (Cricket)
08:30 Asian X Games 2005 Presented By

09:00 Taking Guard - West Indies Speci

09:30 Bmw Asian Open (Golf)
10:30 Nba Playoffs 2006/07 (Basketball)

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08:00 Debutants (Cricket)
08:30 Asian X Games 2005 Presented By

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07:30 League Highlight
08:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)

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