

# Gracing the stage with Odissi

Kiran Segal and her troupe perform at Osmani Memorial Hall



Odissi dance exponent Kiran Segal (L) and her troupe members perform at the programme



PHOTO: STAR

## MAHMUDA AFROZ

**O**DISSI (or Odissi) is the traditional style of dance that originated in the state of Orissa in Eastern India, where it was performed by the *mahari* (temple dancers). It is one of the oldest surviving forms of dance, dating back to 2200 B.C.E (evidence found in the caves of Khandagiri and Udayagiri in Orissa). Odissi is characterised by its curvaceous movements, sculpturesque poses full of languid grace and an imposing demeanour.

The High Commission of India and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations organised a series of dances by Kiran

Segal and her troupe. The troupe performed at the Engineers Institute in Chittagong on June 5 and at the Osmani Memorial Hall in Dhaka on June 8. Another performance will take place at B D Hall in Jessor today. Kiran Segal will also be conducting workshops for Odissi dance students during her trip.

On June 8 the Osmani Memorial Hall was decorated with bright and colourful 'Rangoli'. Kiran Segal started the evening with the *Mangalcharan* – a tribute to Mother Earth. In this dance the artiste offers flowers to the earth. She ends with the *Trikhondi pranam* – a prayer offered to Shiva.

The next performance is traditionally known as *Sthayee*. This showed the

dancer looking in the mirror decorating herself. Though a traditional piece, Kiran had given the dance her own interpretation.

The dance *Ashtopati* was based on a poem written in the 12th Century A.C.E. the composition talks about the rendezvous, love, separation and the reunion of Radha and Krishna. The dance portrays Radha finally meeting her beloved Krishna, but with telltale signs of his unfaithfulness to her.

In total seven dances were performed by Kiran and her troupe. Anuradha Verma, Arushi Sen and Shupriya Nayak were the other members of the troupe.

Kiran Segal is one of the most innovative

among Odissi dancers and choreographers in India today. She is the finest exponent of Guru Mayadhar Raut style of Odissi dance. Her dance is known for its precision, lyrical nature and the traditional nuances, which are fast becoming rare. For her dedication and contribution to Indian classical dance, she has been honoured with titles and awards including Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Padmashree, Neelamadhava award, the Kala Shreshtha Samman, the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini award, the Kalpana Chawla award for excellence and more.

# Melodies of past and present

## Musical evening by Dhaka Music Conservatory

### KARIM WAHEED

Dhaka Music Conservatory arranged a musical programme at National Museum auditorium on June 8. Highlight of the evening was *thumri*, *ghazals* and *aduhnik* Bangla songs rendered by Swani Zubayeer.

Dhaka Music Conservatory is a wing of Centre for Asian Art and Culture (CAAC). "When we formed the organisation six years ago, the emphasis was on western music – including piano, cello, violin and more," said Zahurul Islam, president of CAAC. He added, "Dhaka Music Conservatory intends to provide a platform for music enthusiasts with varied interests."

Veteran artiste Runa Laila, part of the audience, seemed to be an ardent fan of Zubayeer. The diva said, "I was watching this TV show recently and it featured a song by Zubayeer. I was so impressed that I called him up and admired his singing. I'm looking forward to a great show."

The first session of the

programme featured violin and guitar recitals by students of Dhaka Music Conservatory. A guitar solo by Muktadir Hossain received a warm response from the audience.

Zubayeer, who is currently the director of Dhaka Music Conservatory, started with humming a few lines of *Bondhu kon alo laglo chokhey*. The evening was a "jalsa" in all essence. In between songs the artiste shared his experiences and his attachments to each composition. Zubayeer rendered a *thumri* of the legendary Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan. The artiste had the opportunity to receive "taalim" in Indian classical music under the supervision of Ustad Mazhar Ali Khan and Ustad Jawad Ali Khan (grandsons of Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan) in Delhi.

A rendition of the Mirza Ghalib classic *Aahko chahiye* followed. The singer performed the *ghazal* in a style that was popular in the '30s. The verses were penned by Ghulam Ali Khan when he was still going by the name "Asad".

*Yeh dhua kahaanse uttha hain*, composed by Mir Taqi Mir and popularised by Mehdi Hasan, was next. The artiste also sang *Aye hussn beparwa tujhey and Ab tho aao sajna*.

Zubayeer performed familiar *aduhnik* songs including *Ami roye jabo shekhaney*, *Eto shedin tumi*, *Modhu lagan-o boye jaye*. After repeated requests from the audience, the singer started rendering his own compositions – *Jodi bolo*, *Aaj amar mon bhalo nei*, *Shurer jadukar*, *Neelakash kalo holey* and *Ajossro kobia* – from his last two albums *Nirjon Shakkhor* (2003) and *Ajossro kobia* (2006). A Nazrul Sangeet, *Jobey Tulshitolay*, certainly made the repertoire intriguing.

The evening wrapped up with renditions of *Chupke chupke*, a popular Ghulam Ali ghazal, and *Mujhey tum nazare*.

Radio Today was the media partner and Creatas was in charge of event management.

## Solo recital evening by Sangbrita

### CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Sangbrita arranged a solo recitation programme titled "Kobita Prohor" at Shawkat



poems and requests from the audience. Noted artist Mahidul Islam recited excerpts from works of eminent poets.

The reciter started with "Kandte Ashini Phanshir Dabi Niye Eshechhi" by Mahidul Islam Chowdhury and "Shadhinota, Ei Shobditi Kibhab-e Amader Holo", "Shei Kotha Bola Holo Na" by Nirmalendu Goon and Daud Haider respectively. He also recited Rabindranath Tagore's "Hotthat Dekha", Jibonananda Das' "Ami Jodi Hotam", Shahid Kadir's "Ke Jeno Bolchhe", Syed Shamsul Haque's "Nijeko Thik Tomar Jonno" and more.

The first session ended with recitation of excerpts from Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Abhibhoshon".

Second part of the evening featured renditions of poems requested by the audience, including Suni Gangapadhyaya's "Keu Kotha Rakheni", Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah's "Batash-e Lasher Gondho", Rafiq Azad's "Protikha", Syed Shamsul Haque's "Nuroldin-er Shara Jibon", Shamsur Rahman's "Tomake Paawar Jonno Hey Shadhinota" and more. Noted artiste Rabi Sankar莫ti was the anchor of this part. Prodip Kumar Sarkar and Uttam Chakrabarti played the background score in violin and flute respectively.

Taher Shipon's new 26-episode drama serial *Shesh Theke Shuru* will be aired on Fridays and Mondays on Channel-i at 10pm.

The story revolves around two business associates – Hridoy and Russel who live in Bangkok. The story takes a dramatic turn when Hridoy falls ill and his other friend

## New drama serial on Channel-i



Bijori and co-actor in the drama serial

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Galib rushes over with his fiancée Kasturi to his aid. From this point Hridoy and Kasturi develop soft corners for each other.

The serial is based on Rabeya Khatun's story, while the script is written by Satirtha Rahman.

Shahed, Bijori, Aruna Biswas, Dilara Zaman and Masum Ali Khan play lead roles in the serial.

### Al Pacino picks up lifetime award

US actor Al Pacino has received the American Film Institute's highest honour, its lifetime achievement award.

"It means so many things to be honoured like this," the Godfather star, 67, said at a gala reception in Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. "It feels great".

Later, he joked: "Seeing my life in the movies, I have one question, and that is: Why aren't I rehab?"

A host of Hollywood heavyweights, such as Oliver Stone and Andy Garcia paid tribute to Pacino at the reception.

"The depth of your artistry is only more overwhelmed by the generosity of your spirit and your warmth," said Garcia, who worked with Pacino on *The Godfather: Part III* and *Oceans 13*.

Kirk Douglas was one of the actors to pay tribute to the star.

"You're Van Gogh. You're Modigliani. That's who you are."

Stone, who wrote 1983's *Scarface*, lauded the actor's "wicked sense of humour".

Godfather movies, but he won the best actor Oscar for *Scent Of A Woman* in 1993.

In the same year, he was also nominated for best supporting actor for his role in *Glengarry Glen Ross*.

But before his film career took off in the 1970s, Pacino's first love was the theatre - which was where actor Kirk Douglas first laid eyes on him.

"Forty-five years ago I was in a theatre and I thought, 'Who is that guy?'" recalled the 91-year-old.

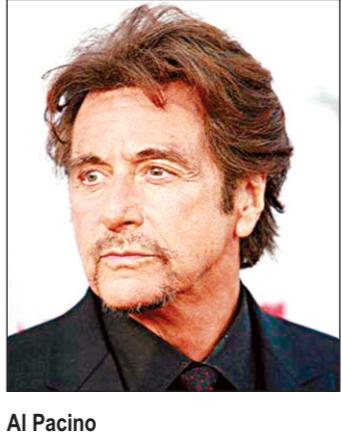
"I look at my little programme and it said Al Pacino."

"I said to him, 'You're going to be a star.' But I didn't expect 45 years later to be here."

Pacino has won numerous acting accolades during his career, which spans over 40 years.

He has been nominated for an Academy Award eight times and was also the recipient of the Golden Globes' prestigious Cecil B DeMille career achievement award in 2001.

Source: Internet



Al Pacino

who ever lived, according to me," said Pacino's sister, Roberta.

The actor is still best known for playing Michael Corleone in the

## TV GUIDE

**PICK OF THE DAY**

Discussion programme on *A Golden Age*  
On Channel-i at 6:00pm

Programme on Tahimma Anam's novel  
Host: Syed Manzoorul Islam

**Malcolm in the Middle**

On Star World at 8:00pm  
TV Series  
Cast: Frankie Muniz, Bryan Cranston

<b>BTV</b>	08:15 Prothom Prohor	08:40 Drama Serial: <i>Nir-e Taar Nil Dheu</i>	09:00 door	09:00 Cartoon	07:00 Casanova	10:30 Trains
	08:45 Bishwa Bichitra	09:20 Drama Serial: <i>Pichhutan</i>	09:30 Quiz Show	08:55 8 Mile	10:45 An American Haunting	11:30 Interpol Investigates
	11:15 Drama: <i>Tomar Kono Oshuk Nei</i>	12:00 GrameenPhone Lead News	11:00 Drama Serial: <i>Polatok</i>	12:10 Rapid Fire	12:00 Fire Fighters	
01:00 Maa O Shishur Kotha	12:30 Selected Programme	01:30 Selected	12:00 Amar Bangla Gaan	01:45 Bigger Than The Sky	01:30 Cake	
01:30 Mati O Manush	01:30 Shokaler Gaan	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:25 Nazrul Song	02:00 Drama	02:30 Scrubs	
02:15 Lok Lokoy	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Bangladesh	02:00 Talk Show: Law and Development	03:00 Desperate Housewives	03:30 Desperate Housewives	
02:40 Cartoon	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Bangladesh	04:00 Musical Programme: <i>Gaan Ebong Gaan</i>	03:30 Talk Show: Law and Development	04:30 Prison Break	
03:05 Educational Programme	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Manush	05:00 Cartoon	11:30 Heroes	12:30 Equator	
03:30 Shobor Jonno Cinema	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Tritomotra	05:30 Amar Bangla Gaan	12:30 On The Lot	01:30 Wildest Week	
04:00 Angona	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Tritomotra	06:00 Documentary Programme: <i>Je Dikey</i>	01:30 Third Watch	02:30 Zero Hour	
04:30 Krira Diganto	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Shangbadpote	07:15 Talk Show	03:30 Falcon Beach	03:30 Everest: Beyond the Limit	
05:05 Debate	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Citycell Taroka	09:15 Game Show: Campus Challenger	04:30 The Apprentice	04:30 Baby Story	
06:10 Swastho Kotha	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Kathan	09:45 Musical Programme: <i>Malcolm in the Middle</i>	04:30 Grey's Anatomy	12:00 Baby Whisperer	
06:40 Tagore Song	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Ebong Cinemar	11:30 Talk Show: <i>Malcolm in the Middle</i>	05:30 Hollywood Shootout	12:30 Equator	
07:00 Shamprotik Proshongo	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Gaan	09:00 Drama Serial: <i>Malcolm in the Middle</i>	06:00 Travel Asia	01:30 Wildest Week	
07:30 Ritter Taley Taley	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Shangbadpote	09:30 Cast: Frankie Muniz, Bryan Cranston	06:30 Koffee With Karan	02:30 Zero Hour	
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Bangladesh	10:00 Drama Serial: <i>Malcolm in the Middle</i>	07:30 The Simpsons	03:30 Everest: Beyond the Limit	
08:35 Drama Serial: Shukh Shur	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Shangbadpote	10:30 Wills India Fashion Week	08:00 Malcolm In The Middle	04:30 Wild Discovery	
09:00 Drama: Bathar Neel Podo	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Shangbadpote	11:00 Saigon	08:00 Malcolm In The Middle	05:30 How do they do it?	
10:30 Talk show	01:30 Shangbadpote	01:30 Shangbadpote	11:30 Casanova	08:00 Wills India Fashion Week	06:30 Equator	
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	04:50 Re Ga Ma	04:50 Re Ga Ma	12:00 Fire Fighters	08:30 Casanova	07:30 Wildest Week	
News (Bangla) at 7:00am. 2:00pm. 7:00pm. 11pm.	05:30 Muktijuddho Protidin	05:30 Muktijuddho Protidin	12:3			