

A modern celebration of indigenous culture

Dance performances by Bandarban hill people



Mru dancers perform Chhiachhat Ply



Marma dancers perform "plate dance"

Certificate giving programme by Kanthasheelan

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation 'Kanthasheelan' provided certificates to its students of 59th, 60th and 61st batch (primary) as well as 58th, 59th and 60th batch (applied) at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Public Library on July 26.

Language Movement veteran Mahbub Ul Alam Choudhury, noted Tagore exponent Dr. Sanjida Khatun, artist Qayum Chowdhury and Meer Barkat, president of Kanthasheelan, gave away the certificates among the students.

The programme began by remembering renowned cultural personality and activist Wahidul Haque, former principle of Kanthasheelan. Meer Barkat, in his speech reminisced Kanthasheelan's ties with noted personalities including Naren Biswas, Shamsur Rahaman and Wahidul Haque.

Claiming recitation as an "art", Dr. Sanjeda Khatun said, "Recitation is not just reading something out loud. It demands a keen knowledge of the language. One has to feel the profound splendour of the words."

"A poet can also learn from a rector and vice versa. Decades ago, in my time, we didn't experience such diverse application of recitation," said poet Mahbub Ul Alam Choudhury.

After giving away the certificates to the students, artist Qayum Chowdhury said that there is need of an educational institution to teach how words and sounds should be focused on in poetry recitation.

The programme ended with a chorus rendition of *Anyorakam Raja* by the students of Kanthasheelan. The presentation was directed by Md. Nasiruddin.



PHOTO: STAR

AHSAN HABIB

THE traditional dance performances by Bandarban hill people were held at the Russian Centre for Science and Culture on July 26. The programme brought to Dhaka some of the glimpses of diverse cultures that are represented by different indigenous communities of Bandarban.

Dance and music play a vital role in the religious, cultural and social life of the hill people. The stage performances of the dance and music created an opportunity for the

city dwellers to enjoy and learn about the cultural diversity and richness of the indigenous communities. Artistes from Mru, Bawm, Khyang and Tanchangya communities presented their traditional dances at the programme.

The event showcased the varied styles of traditional dances within the multicultural space of Bandarban. The programme began with a "candle dance", a ritualistic tradition of the Marmas seeking blessings. Tanchangya dancers performed "Jum" dance centring the agricultural practices in the commu-

nity. Bawm dancers performed *Shiakidong* (horn) dance. This is a ritualistic dance performed all through the night to drive away the evil spirits.

Marma dancers performed a "fan dance". It is performed during *Sangrai*, the Marma New Year. On the occasion, young men and women participate in a daylong water-game. The artistes also performed the dance that is a part of this water festival.

Tanchangya dancers depicted different activities of their social life in the *Jibondhara* dance.

Chhiachhat Ply or "cow killing dance" was performed by Mru dancers. In Marma communities "plate dance" has become very popular as part of their wedding traditions. Dancers balancing plates on thumbs mesmerised the audience. Popular Tripuri "bottle dance" was performed placing bottles on the head. The show ended with *Rogha Lang* (bamboo dance) by Bawm dancers. "Bamboo dance" is performed in honour of the deceased.

The dance performances were mingled with rendition of songs.

Popular Marma song of "full moon festival", a religious Bawm song, a patriotic Khyang song by indigenous artistes as well as Bangla songs performed by Saw Thue Prue delighted the audience.

Alliance Francaise de Dacca, Bandarban Hill District Council and Bandarban Tribal Cultural Centre jointly organised the programme and UNESCO supported it. The event was a part of a series of cultural programmes spanning over two months titled "Culture of the Bandarban Hill People."

OBE for Dr. June Rollinson

Felicitations programme by Omni

FAYZA HAQ

Omni Bookstore felicitated Dr. June Rollinson, director of British Council, at its Dhanmondi branch on July 26. The programme was held to celebrate the OBE (Order of British Empire) conferred to Dr. Rollinson. Professor Niaz Zaman, conducting the programme, said that the honour was not only for Dr. Rollinson but also for Bangladesh as she works here. Professor Zaman also said that she hoped Dr. Rollinson would one day be

awarded with the title of Dame. Professor Zaman said that Dr. Rollinson was closely associated with *Brine Pickles* and the *Bangladesh Quarterly*, which were both successes. Another of her cultural achievement is *The Silk Route*. "Due to her ever-friendly attitude," she said, "Dr. Rollinson was liked by many in Bangladesh."

Mohiuddin Ahmed of University Press Ltd (UPL) said that over the years Dr. Rollinson -- whose doctorate, incidentally, is in Science -- has proven herself to be a patron of

book readers in Bangladesh. UPL itself, he said, has received a lot of support from the British Council, during her tenure.

Masud Hussain, programme manager of the British Council, pointed out that Dr. Rollinson has a lot of energy and is an inspiration to many.

Subir Chowdhury of the Bengal Foundation said that he has known Dr. Rollinson for four years and within that time she helped Bengal organise the Henry Moore exhibition. He said that with her guidance he hoped to arrange an exhibition on British sculpture next year. "She is keen on fine arts and other aspects of our local culture," Chowdhury said.

Dr. June Rollinson said that she was doubly honoured, first by being awarded the OBE and then by being felicitated at the function. She said that her award was for educational cooperation and that she was humbled by it. Dr. Rollinson added that her work is often frustrating but ultimately rewarding as she works with people of all ages. She spoke of the different awards given out by the Queen.

Arhamul Huq Chowdhury, a young artist with ten solo exhibitions to his credit, spoke at length about Dr. Rollinson's magnetic charm and helpful nature.

The programme ended with a musical performance.

Saving the vision of tomorrow

Fundraiser by Self Salvation Bangladesh



Sheikh Jasim sings at the programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Self Salvation Bangladesh (SSB), an NGO, organised a charity dinner with *ghazals* at the Spectra Convention Centre in Gulshan on July 26.

Proceeds from ticket sales will go towards funding the organisation's new programme "Save the Vision of Tomorrow".

Speaking on the programme, Fahmida Wadud, the project coor-

dinator and director of SSB, said, "Visual impairment among the children in our country is not an unfamiliar issue. However, what many don't realise is that children from urban, educated, affluent families are vulnerable to different kinds of visual impairments as are the ones from impoverished, uneducated, rural families; the kinds of ailments may vary."

"Under this project, we're going to hold awareness programmes at

20 English and Bangla medium schools in Dhaka city. Underprivileged children will receive free checkups and treatments. Bangladesh Eye Hospital has agreed to assist us in the programme."

SSB has organised awareness programmes before. "Pothik," a programme previously organised by SSB, focused on appropriate social behaviour and environment consciousness among school students.

A multimedia presentation conducted by Dr. Kazi Shabbir Anwar, paediatric ophthalmologist of Bangladesh Eye Hospital, addressed the various visual ailments among children including refractive errors, misalignments, cataracts and more.

Sarwar Morshed, secretary general of SSB, presided over the programme. Social activist Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury also attended the event.

A solo performance by noted *ghazal* artiste Sheikh Jasim followed. The artiste rendered covers of popular *ghazals* of Jagjit Singh, Ghulam Ali and others. The singer also performed *aduhnik* songs and original compositions.

The Daily Star and Ekushey Television were the media partners of the programme.

"Simpsons Movie" unites show's past, present

AP, Los Angeles

For a cartoon comedy dependent on how much ruination one homely yellow family can cause, there's an awful lot of drama behind *The Simpsons*.

Fans gripe that the animated show is nowhere near as funny as it was in the early glory years of the 1990s. Some predict the big-screen *The Simpsons Movie*, which opened on Friday, will be similarly disappointing. Others wonder why it took so long for the show to make the leap to theatres.

And distributor 20th Century Fox has stoked speculation about the quality of *The Simpsons Movie* by keeping it under tight wraps, declining to show it to critics until a few days before its release.

Without giving away details, here's the basic story: Homer dumps waste from his new pig into an already polluted lake, causing an environmental crisis that prompts President Schwarzenegger and his evil aide (Albert Brooks) to seal off the town.

Escaping enraged neighbours, the Simpsons begin a new life in Alaska, but they eventually realise they must stand by their hometown of Springfield, which faces an even greater threat.

Groening came up with the idea for his dysfunctional family, as he was about to meet with Fox executives to discuss a cartoon idea. Borrowing the names of his parents and sisters, Groening created the boorish, buffoonish but ever-lovable family that would become the Simpsons.

The show quickly became a cultural sensation, with omnipresent merchandising, voices by Hollywood A-list guest stars and critics that included President George H.W. Bush, who complained that America needed to be more like "The Waltons" and less like "The Simpsons."

That prompted an on-air reply by the show's creators, with Bart asserting his family was like "The Waltons," both clans praying for an end to the Depression.



ON AIR

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, 12:15am.

ATN BANGLA

News Headlines (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, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 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 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.

News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

Rtv

News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am

ntv

News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV

News (Bangla) 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

Channel i

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR MOVIES

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR PLUS

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR CHANNEL

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR WORLD

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR CHANNEL

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR PLUS

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR CHANNEL

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR CHANNEL

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR CHANNEL

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 12:30pm

STAR CHANNEL

News (Bangla) 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 6:30pm,