

CULTURALFEAST

Homage to Tagore

Musical soiree by Chhayanat



Artists of Chhayanat perform at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

CHHAYANAT, one of our leading cultural organisations, celebrated the death anniversary of Tagore at Shawkat Osman Auditorium at Central Public Library on August 9. This time, the artists of Chhayanat performed rain songs.

Rabindranath is always an inspiration for every Bengali. We cannot think of any occasion without the songs of Tagore. Rain songs of Tagore catch both the melancholic and euphoric aspects of the season and its influence on the mind of the individual.

The programme began by a chorus rendering song titled Kon puratan praner tane, which was followed by a commentary by Sumona Biswas. The commentary continued throughout the programme between the songs, which set the mood of the programme.

Several popular Tagore songs like Aji jhoro jhro mukhoro badolo dine, Amar din furalo were presented. Some less frequently heard songs were also rendered by the artists. Noted Tagore singers Mita Haque and Ifat Ara Dewan along with promising artists such as A.T.M Jahangir,

Elora Ahmed Shukla, Kanchan Mustafa and Joel Tushar Biswas rendered songs at the programme. The song Bondhu roho roho by Elora Ahmed Shukla and Megher pore megh jomechhe by Ajjur Rahman Tuheen, were well appreciated.

Ifat Ara Dewan rendered a melancholy song titled Anek kotha bolechhilem. Shesh gaaneri resh niye jao rendered by Mita Haque was the last solo performance of the programme, which was followed by a chorus presentation by the young artists of Chhayanat. The national anthem ended the programme.

Theatre

"Nimojjon": A saga of genocides

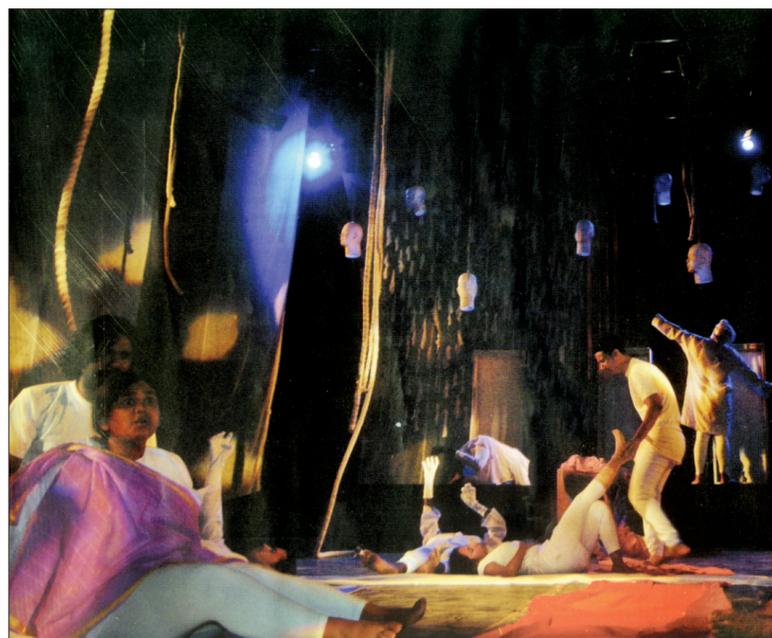
ERSHAD KAMOL

After travelling the globe a stranger comes to an imaginary place to see his dying friend, who is a professor of political science. The place is no different from the contemporary world, where humanism is divested by genocides - this is how Nimojjon begins.

Selim Al Deen's play Nimojjon does not follow any conventional structure; neither does it develop any particular storyline. Through narratives, the play presents chronological history of genocides that have taken place, questioning our rationality. According to Al Deen's play the history of 'civilisation' and 'genocides' are interwoven: History of genocides prevails in each civilisation. And the repetition of these brutal incidents has drowned human beings from the superior position. It is a paradox.

Nimojjon also stresses that unless the structure of a state is not designed for the welfare of humanism, genocides will never end. The play thrives in craftsmanship. Al Deen's power of narratives featuring theological, philosophical and historic incidents is worth mentioning. What is missing however, is a 'relief scene'. For two hours one has to watch stories of murder, rape and massacre held in different places throughout different civilisations including Mayan, Egyptian, Greek, Roman and contemporary ones.

Director Nasiruddin Yousuff has followed Meyerhold's 'Biomechanics' technique: An approach to actor training and to theatre developed by Russian actor, director and teacher, Vsevolod Meyerhold, which



Actors of Dhaka Theatre perform in the play

teaches acting through physical works. Through actors' body movements different sequences have been created on the stage. Yousuff has aptly handled the narratives. Art director Dhali Al Mamun's digital installations and Nasirul Haque Khokon's appropriate light design are also supportive of the directorial compositions. Shimul

Yousuff's music direction is also relevant with the sequences.

Except A.K.M Sirajul Islam in the role of the ailing professor, none of the actors were impressive. The body movements of the young actors were quite alright, however, in most of the cases they failed to convey the required emotions. More efforts should be made in develop-

ing voice modulation skills.

Nimojjon was staged on August 9 at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the flood-affected people.

In Memoriam

Tagore's 66th death anniversary observed

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To commemorate the 66th death anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore cultural organisation Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) organised a cultural programme at the BAFA Auditorium. This was held at Waizeghat, yesterday. Every year BAFA organises cultural programmes to mark the day.

Chief guest of the event was veteran Tagore singer Ajit Roy. Nasir Ahmed, Joint Secretary, BAFA gave the welcome speech. Rahiza Khanam Jhunu, principal BAFA, presided over the session. Amanullah Chowdhury, Secretary, BAFA and Kajol Mukharji, teacher, BAFA, also spoke at the event.

The programme began with a discussion on Tagore and featured dances and songs. Students from all the four branches of BAFA - Waizeghat, Dhandmondi, Motijheel and Mirpur - performed at the programme. Dances were performed by the young students including the one set to Amra shobai raja. This was followed by the performance of the students of the Mirpur branch of BAFA. They started their performance with a



group rendition of Shokatore oi kadichhey shokoley.

A total of 18 familiar Tagore songs were performed including solo renditions by Kajol Mukharji, Sarwar Hossain Babu, Mahfuza Hasna Mala, Khandokar Kairuzzaman and Rokhsana Dolly.

Book launch

"Sultans and Mosques": Living history between pages

FAYZA HAQ

The launching of Dr. Perween Hasan's book "Sultans and Mosques": The Early Muslim Architecture of Bangladesh, took place at Omni Book Store's Dhanmandi branch recently.

Speaking at the function Dr. Hasan said that the mosques, which were built during the Sultani period in Bengal, reflect the culture of the time. When the pictures had been taken for the book seven/eight years back, Dr. Hasan said, they were more beautiful than now. "At present there are orphanages, schools and other constructions built around them, while structures like the Shait Gambuj Mosque are quite dilapidated," Dr. Hasan said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Dr. Hasan added, "I did my thesis in 1984. I used the information but began writing a totally different book after about four years. A professional US publisher suggested that the book's information had to be reorganised. IB Tauris is my original publisher and Omni is now negotiating to publish the book more economically in Bangladesh."

Dr. Manzoorul Islam said, "This is a fairly comprehensive account of the existing mosques from the independent Sultanate of Bengal, which dates from the 14th century to the end of the 16th century. Dr. Hasan has surveyed 55 mosques with floor plans of 17 mosques, which were previously unpublished. She has approached her study from three angles.

"It is first of all a historic document. She has provided a comprehensive history of the region chronologically from the Turkish invasion of



Dr. Perween Hasan at the book launching ceremony

Bengal to the pre-Mughal time. Secondly, it is an architectural investigation. She has tried to understand the architectural uniqueness of the

mosque and she has suggested that the mosques are remarkable because they try to assimilate some of the architectural cultural patterns of existing structures, most notably the structure of the huts (the chala structures) and the lattice, woven bamboo frames which allow the air to flow in, and enclosed courtyard like structures within the main structure. The third angle is cultural. She has tried to understand the continuity of the architecture: She has not tried to separate the Sultanate architecture from the previous Buddhist one, and the Hindu architecture that followed later," Dr. Islam added.

Dr. Islam concluded, "The end result is that you have a fascinating book which is like living history, which reaches across to you through barriers of time and space. What I found interesting was the account of not just the mosques themselves but the significance of the role they played in the lives of the people. Her approach is both historical and cultural."

Luva Naheed Chowdhury, architect and Director of Bengal Foundation, said, "Dr. Perween Hasan has helped her students feel the pulse of the life through the edifices of the time. She stressed on the curved cornice which is brought into the architecture of the Sultanate period."

Ashabur Rahman, archaeology enthusiast said, "The conquest of Bengal by the Muslims of Turkish and Afghan origin created a new stream of culture and in this book we find buildings of the Sultani period."

Dr. Niaz Zaman was the mc at the event, which had slides to complete it.

Small Screen

"Late Latif" on Rtv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Rtv will air a single episode play Late Latif tonight on Rtv at 8:00 pm. Written and directed by Masud Sezan, the play revolves around Zahid and his girlfriend, Dina. During their three years' relationship, Dina is always annoyed at Zahid's lack of punctuality. He is

always late. And when in spite of Dina's repeated reminder he misses the appointment with his future father-in-law, Dina decides to break up. At Dina's mother's insistence, Zahid finds new hope and promises not to be late again.

Tisha, Raunak Hasan, Elora Gauhar and Rifat Chowdhury play the lead roles in the play.



A scene from the play

ON AIR

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

BTV

- 08:45 Esho Gaan Shikhi
11:15 Documentary Programme: Nobo Digonto
11:40 Shukhi Poribar
12:05 Prothom Antora
12:30 Ma O Shishur Kotha
01:00 Quiz Show
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:05 Debate Programme
06:25 Ocean Girl
07:05 Amader Muktijudho
07:30 Baul Mon
08:35 Amar Bangladesh
09:00 Drama: Ondhokar Jatra

ATN BANGLA

- 10:30 Talk show: Aktel Onnodrishti
11:05 Shath Din
12:15 Bangla Feature Film
03:45 Musical Programme
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobor
05:10 Special Programme
06:20 Gondhoraj Samsung Cine Aha
08:00 Mega Serial: The New Sobuj Opera
08:40 Mega Serial: Laal Neel Beguni
09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey
11:30 Musical Programme
12:00 Grameenphone Lead News
Channel i
09:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 GrameenPhone

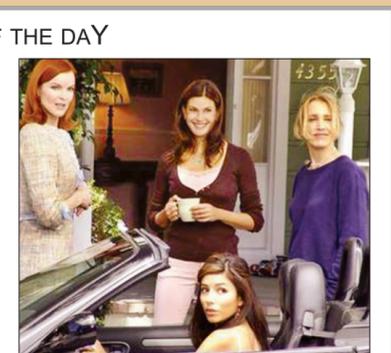
- 11:05 Tritomatra
Na Bola Kotha
Mukto Bazaar
11:30 Orthonti
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh
02:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Special Programme
03:05 Dhaka Guide
03:30 Amontron
04:05 Educational Programme
04:50 Shotyer Shondhaney
05:30 Muktijudho Protidin
06:00 Shopnil Agami Quiz
07:50 Mega Serial: Bhuber Haat
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Mon Chhutey Jay
11:30 Drama Serial: Astey Astey
12:00 GrameenPhone Aiker Shanbad Patro

ntv

- 08:30 Aiker Shokal Shonkhobash
08:55 Apon Aloye
10:05 AKTEL Hip Hip Hurrah
12:10 Talk show: Ei Shomoy
01:05 Japan Video Topic
02:30 Shonkhobash
03:15 Closeup 1 Tomader
04:25 Nupur
04:50 Alok Paat



Bhuber Haat On Channel-i at 7:50pm Mega Serial Cast: Humayun Faridee, Wahida Mallick Jolly



Desperate Housewives On Star World at 8:30pm TV Series Cast: Teri Hatcher, Eva Longoria

- 06:45 Shangkriti Ei Shoptah Shantoktir
08:15 Drama Serial: Bono Phooler Ghran Ei Shomoy
11:35 Wrestling
09:05 Children's Programme
09:30 Just Band
10:00 Protidin
11:00 Musical Programme
12:35 Gap Shop
01:30 Ei Din
02:30 Bangla Feature Film
03:00 Protidin
06:35 Cartoon

- 08:00 Single Episode Drama: Late Latif
11:00 Look at Me
Channel 1
10:30 Bagan Bilash
11:00 Drama
12:05 Tele Film
02:00 Olpo Sholpo Golpo
03:30 Jotinmoy Prithibi
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:45 Iltishasher Path Dhorey
07:00 Amar Nayokera
08:15 Olpo Sholpo Golpo
09:00 Shomoyer Swad
09:30 Shondhikhoney
10:50 Rupantror Golpo
11:30 Bagan Bilash
ETV
08:00 Ekusher Shokal
01:30 Drishti
02:00 Bangla Feature Film
05:30 Ei Shoptaher Bishwa
06:15 Ekusher Shondha
07:30 Shoptah Ghurey Desh Jurey
08:00 Drama Serial: Biraler Oporadh
09:30 Ekusher Shomoy
11:45 Reporters File
BANGLAVISION
10:10 Apnar Ki Kichhu Bolar Achhey
11:10 Shomoy Ashomoy

- 09:45 Coyote Ugly
11:30 Star Wars: Ep. Iii - Revenge Of The Sith
02:00 On The Lot
03:00 Full Monty, The
04:40 The Chronicles Of Namria
07:00 Big Daddy
08:35 Hot Shots!
10:15 Hot Shots 2
11:45 The Chronicles Of Namria
STAR PLUS
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Ducktales
11:00 Goof Troop
11:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
11:30 Sonpari
12:00 Karishma Ka Karishma
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
01:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
01:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
01:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
01:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:00 Kasturi
04:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
04:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
04:30 Biwi No 1
07:30 Karishma Ka Karishma
08:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay Lucky
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Star Voice Of India
11:00 Kasturi
12:30 Bolly V - Star Plus

- 01:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
01:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
01:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:00 Kasturi
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10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Star Voice Of India
11:00 Kasturi
12:30 Bolly V - Star Plus
STAR WORLD
09:30 The Apprentice
10:30 The Bold And

- 12:30 Beautiful
The Simpsons
01:00 Travel Asia
01:30 That '70s Show
02:00 According To Jim
02:30 The Jane Show
03:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak
03:30 Malcolm In The Middle
04:00 My Name Is Earl
04:30 Yes Dear
05:00 Psych
06:00 30 Rock
06:30 The O.C.
07:30 Tna Xplosion
08:30 Desperate Housewives
09:30 Ugly Betty
10:30 Day Break
11:30 Psych
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Discovery Spotlight
11:30 Mythbusters
12:30 Extreme Engineering
01:30 Predator on the Move
02:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows
04:30 Life in The Undergrowth
05:30 Mythbusters
06:30 Deadliest Catch
07:30 Life in the Undergrowth
08:30 Discover India
09:30 Zoom In Asia
10:30 How do They Do It?
11:00 Million 2 One
11:30 Hunters
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
09:30 Jean-Michel Cousteau
10:30 Everyday Things

- 12:30 Lost Cities
01:30 Hunt For Ark Of Covenant
02:30 Peewee, Zeke, Ozzy
03:00 Mona and Colobus Monkeys
03:30 The Big Breeze
04:30 I Didn't Know That
05:00 Cooper, Wasabe, Frito
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Humpback Whales
06:30 Seconds From Disaster
07:30 Underwater Treasures #1
08:30 Temple Of The Tigers
09:30 Latika Tiger Princess
10:30 Tank
11:30 Inside Maxium Security
12:30 Palau
THE HISTORY CHANNEL
09:00 Sauna Belt
09:15 Global Pendant
09:30 Ayatollah Khomeini
10:30 Hover Tech
11:00 The Middle Class Rip-Off
11:45 Equal Opportunities
12:30 St. Peter

FM radio

- Radio Foorti
07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)
11:00am Amar 98.4 (Nusrat)
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)
07:00pm Fuad Live (Fuad)
11:30am Back to Back music