

Making waves at Korean cultural festival

In Conversation with Indra Mohan Rajbongshi

ERSHAD KAMOL

NOTED folk singer Indra Mohan Rajbongshi represented Bangladesh in the 'World Masters' Festival in Arts and Culture 2007, which is also known as 'The Cultural Olympics' of the traditional artists from around the world. The first ever of its kind, the festival was held at the 'aT Center' in Seoul, South Korea. The theme of the festival was 'Cultural Unity in Diversity', in which 36 World Masters from four continents -- Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa -- participated. Artists from 51 countries participated in the programme highlighting their unique cultures and heritage.

The festival marked an epoch for the global development in arts and culture. This unique initiative enabled to form a network of global maestros in arts, and flung the gate wide open to exchange ideas and views among nations and artists of the world.

The festival continued from October 1 to 5, which was hosted by The Association of World Masters for the Exchange of Arts and Culture/ Korea Master Culture and Arts Exchange Association and supervised by The Organising Committee for The



Indra Mohan Rajbongshi (R) receiving his 'Certificate of World Master' from Kim Sung Oak, chairperson of The Association of World Masters for the Exchange of Arts and Culture

World Masters' Festival in Arts and Culture 2007.

An enthusiastic Rajbongshi informed, 'It's a great honour for me to be considered amongst the 36 world masters. According to the organisers a 'world master' is an acclaimed artist who has inherited and developed the traditional culture of his/her heritage, and who is acknowledged and revered in his country as an outstanding figure in the field. World masters were awarded with the 'Certificate of World Master'; guests from embassies and other dignitaries attended the festival and congratulated the masters in the opening ceremony.'

On the selection process, Rajbongshi said that the organisers invited the embassies operating in South Korea to recommend the names from their respective countries. Through ministry of cultural affairs, the embassies suggested the names of artists to be honoured as a world master. 'The criteria of the selection process were that the nominated person must be renowned for his contribution to a traditional art form and at the same time a teacher of that art form at a well recognised institute. As the Vice Principal of Government Music College as

well as a regular folk singer, I was nominated from Bangladesh,' said the artist.

October 3 was the 'Asian Day' at the festival in which artists from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam performed. Alphabetically Indra Mohan Rajbongshi representing Bangladesh was the first world master to perform on the day. Rajbongshi rendered four songs: *Majhi baiya jao re, Shadher lau, Ei je duniya kishero lagiya* and *If you get time visit Bangladesh*, a folk tune written by him.

On the response from the audience, Rajbongshi said, 'Prior to visiting South Korea, I made the track of the songs using indigenous instruments including *ektara, dotara, mandira, dhol* and *banshi*. The appeal of Bangladeshi folk melodies seemed to awe the Korean audience.'

On his future plan regarding folk music, Indra Mohan Rajbongshi informed, 'For the last few years I have been planning a month-long festival that will feature songs of 1000 bards. I've already collected songs of 721 bards. I'm working on others now. Hopefully between 2010 and 2012, I will be able to hold the festival in Dhaka.'

"Balughori" goes to South Asian Film Festival



A scene from the film

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Balughori, a feature film, directed and produced by young filmmaker Razibul Hossain, will be screened at the Second South Asian Film Festival '07, says a press release. The festival, organised by South Asian Foundation, will be held in Delhi, India, from October 24 to 30. Eight South Asian countries including Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan and Afghanistan, will participate in the festival. Director

of the film, Razibul Hossain and actor Qayes Chowdhury, will attend the festival. They will meet renowned filmmakers, actors and film critics of the neighbouring countries.

The plot of the film follows Kulel Ahmed, a veteran professor who faces imminent death. Things occur the way they should. But how do they affect him -- Ahmed argues with himself. The meaning of life and the apparent absurdity confront each other in his psyche. This inner conflict is at times unfamiliar and sur-

real. However, this 'conflict' is all too known to the human civilisation.

Balughori tries to explore that reality of individual existence. The insight into life is framed eloquently in the film.

Cinematography is also done by Razibul Hossain, while Habib Zakaria and Real Akonji have written the script and edited the film respectively. Apart from Qayes Chowdhury, Wahida Mallick Jolly, Farhana Mili, Rashid Harun, Monoj Kumar Pramanik and Runa Khan have acted in the film.

Syed Abdul Hadi in "Amar Ami" tonight



Syed Abdul Hadi (R) with the host of the show Aupi Karim

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Talk show *Amar Ami* will be aired on Banglavisión tonight at 8:55 pm. Hosted by Aupi Karim, tonight's *Amar Ami* features eminent singer Syed Abdul Hadi.

Syed Abdul Hadi needs no introduction to Bangladeshis. Playbacks and patriotic songs like *Akbar jodi keu bhalobasto*, *Jey matir bukey* and many more have earned him a special place in the heart of millions. Going over his early days in the TV show, the veteran singer says, 'The method of singing was much more complex in our time. Now it has become simpler.'

Meera Dev Burman passes away

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The world of music lost another great person when eminent singer and lyricist Meera Dev Burman, wife of legendary music director-singer Sachin Dev Burman, died in Mumbai on October 15 after prolonged illness. She was 84.

Meera Dev Burman had been seriously ill since the death of her husband and her condition deteriorated over the years due to advancing age and had to be frequently hospitalised, her daughter-in-law and noted playback singer Asha Bhonsle said.

Born in Comilla (Bangladesh) in March 1923, Meera Dev Burman, was in the news recently for languishing in an old-age home for paraplegics in Mumbai where she was shifted from Agartala seven months ago.

However, she was moved to her son R.D. Burman's house in Mumbai in September following medical reports about her condition in the old-age home.

After moving from Comilla, Meera settled in Kolkata. She was a student of Nobel Laureate econo-

mist Amartya Sen's mother Amita Sen who was trained in Rabindranath Tagore's Vishwa Bharati in Santiniketan.

S.D. Burman, born in Tripura's royal family, fell in love with Meera when they met at the All India Music Conference in Allahabad in 1937. She became a student of S.D. Burman and married him the same year.

After the marriage, S.D. Burman

set tune to a number of songs penned by Meera who was a singer in her own right.

After the death of her husband in 1975 and her son in 1994, life had become difficult for Meera.

Seeing her plight, Tripura government had recently facilitated her in Mumbai and gave her some financial assistance for her medical treatment.



Meera with S.D. Burman

Beads for the beautiful

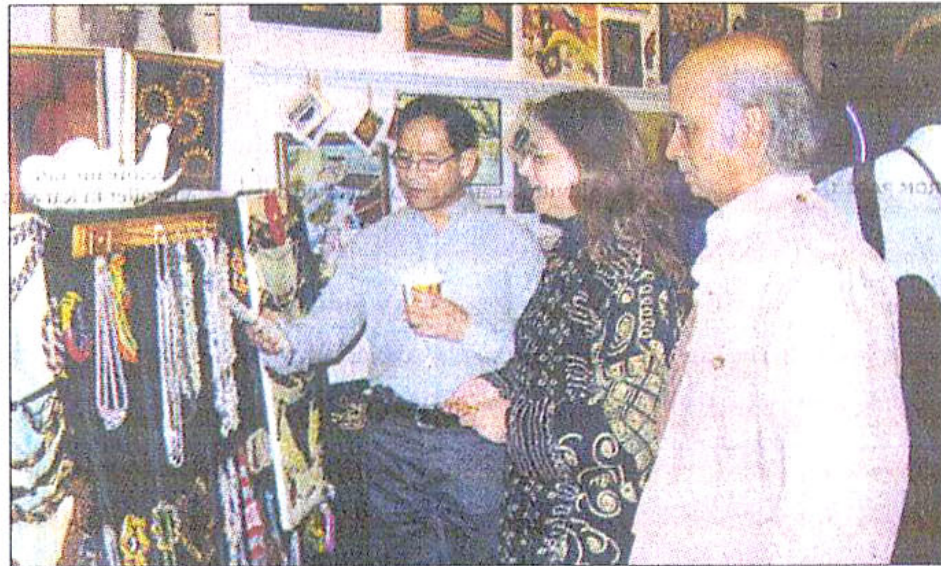
Nurun Nahar Papaa's exhibition in the US

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

"Beauty and the Beads", exhibition by Bangladeshi artist Nurun Nahar Papaa, was recently held at USA. This was at the 'Out of the Blue' Gallery in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

This was Papaa's second bead jewellery exhibition; the first being a weeklong exhibition at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka, in February, this year.

The exhibition drew large crowds who greatly admired the pristine designs of the jewellery on



Visitors at the exhibition in the US (top), bead jewellery by Papaa (left)

display. These contained Sub-continental motifs and also combined European gypsy designs with West African ones. There is thus a fusion of far-flung designs of the east and west in her work. Her bead jewellery has won wide acclaim both nationally and internationally.

Jewellery has been Papaa's passion since childhood, when her father gave her some Sindh beaded necklace. She has done many courses on beads, such as 'African Zulu' and 'Native American' specialities. She has studied with Martha Forsythe and Eve Peterson. She teams with scores of workers who help her with her beadwork since 2005.

A painter and mural designer, Papaa has a number of solos and joint exhibitions to her credit in Bangladesh and overseas. Her paintings are included in the permanent collections at the Bangladesh National Museum and Bangladesh Parliament.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Hridoye Mati O Manush

On Channel 1 at 9:35pm
Agricultural Programme
Host: Shykh Seraj



16 Blocks

On Star Movies at 7:00pm
Genre: Action
Cast: Bruce Willis, Jenna Stern

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 (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 8:00 a.m., 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 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.

BTV
08:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi
11:15 Dasher Gaan Nabo Diganta
11:30 Shukhi Poribar
12:10 Musical Programme: Agun Jhora
01:10 Tele-film: Bhalotheko Bhalobasha
03:00 Bangla Feature Film: Hridoy Rajey Tumi
06:10 Late Night News (Bangla and English)
07:15 Jhonker
08:30 Drama: Okul Purer Bokul
10:30 Drama: Leel Balish

ATN BANGLA
10:30 Akter Onyodrishti
11:05 Shakti Din
12:15 Bangla Feature Film: Shobar Jonno
03:45 Shesh Okhikhor
05:00 Gram Gonyr Khabor
05:30 Children's Programme: The New Sobay Opera
08:40 Mega Serial: Chor Kulhari
09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey
11:30 Drama Serial: Doll's House
12:00 Gramenphone Lead News
CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shongbadporey

Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Gramenphone Trivia
11:05 Na Bolo Kotha
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathon
01:05 Tax Helpline
01:15 Ebong Cinema Gaan
01:30 Shongbadporey Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Shikhiya Shujog Na Odhikar
03:05 Special Programme
04:05 Educational Programme
04:50 Sholyer Shondhaney
05:30 Mukhtijuddho Probidin
06:00 Shoppil Agami
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Moh Chhutey Jay
11:30 Drama Serial: Astey
12:00 Gramenphone
12:00 Akter Shongbadporey

Rtv
09:05 Wrestling
09:30 Children's Programme
10:30 Protidin
11:30 Gopstap
12:15 R Music
01:00 Drama Serial: Ebong Rahashyer Golpo

ETV
08:00 Ekusher Shakal
08:30 Mukhto Khabor
01:30 Drishti
02:00 Bangla Feature Film
05:30 Ek Shoptaher Bishwa
05:45 Ekusher Shondha

01:30 Ei Din
02:30 Bangla Feature Film
06:00 Protidin
06:35 Tarzan
08:00 Tele-film: Jibon
11:00 Look at Me
11:30 News Watch
12:00 Rtv Exclusive

BANGLAVISION
11:40 Media Bhobon
01:00 X-Crime
02:30 Yokab
02:40 Drama Serial: Kachhey Durey
03:15 Banglavisión Cafe
04:15 Citycell Din-er
04:30 Ebong Classer
04:30 Bairey

06:35 Musio Moment
08:25 Drama Serial: Sheesh Oshay
09:05 Amar Ami
09:45 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dampol
11:20 Raat Biratoy
12:00 Shongbad Probidin

STAR MOVIES
10:00 Garfield: A Tail Of Two Kittes
11:30 Rock, The Lord Of War
01:50 Mafia
05:20 Material Girls
07:00 16 Blocks

12:00 Bidaal
12:30 Bolly V - Star Plus
STAR WORLD
08:30 Brothers & Sisters
09:30 Nais
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 Malcolm In The Middle
01:00 Travel Asia
01:30 That '70s Show
02:00 According To Jim
02:30 The Jane Show
05:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak
03:30 Malcolm In The Middle
04:00 K G Presents: The Sketch Show
04:30 Yes Dear
05:00 Monk
06:00 The Office (Us)
06:30 Ghost Whisperer
07:30 Tna Xplosion
08:30 Kyle XY
09:30 Ugly Betty
10:30 The Black Donnellis
11:30 Secrets Of Street Magicians
12:30 Kyle XY

STAR PLUS
09:30 Krishna Kathayen
10:30 Star Voice Of India
01:30 Nach Baliye 3
05:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
06:00 Kasuri
06:30 Bidaal
08:30 Saibaba
09:30 Pritviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Aek Chabhi Hal Pados Mein
11:30 Nach Baliye 3

04:30 I Didn't Know That
05:00 Pinipin, Pugsly, Josh
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Lions
06:30 Florida Swamp Air
07:30 Norway
08:30 ShowReal Asia
09:30 Elephant Rage
10:30 Inside The Super Carrier
11:30 Inside 911
12:30 Yellowstone

HISTORY
09:00 Sauna Belt
09:15 Global Pendant
09:30 El CID
10:30 Guts & Bolts
11:00 Hover Tech
11:30 Yes Prime Minister S2
12:00 Victims Of Jealousy
12:30 Dreadnoughts and Crosses
01:30 Liberation of Paris
02:30 Cleopatra
03:30 Honda
04:30 Afghanistan
05:30 Hercules
06:30 Hostages
08:30 Jumbo Movie
10:30 Rembrandt
11:30 Pyotr Tchaikovsky
12:30 Hostages

NATIONAL
08:30 Four Billion Year War
09:30 Spain
10:30 From Creation To Abraham
11:30 Coat Of Mary Colors
12:30 Inside Shock And Awe

GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 Four Billion Year War
09:30 Spain
10:30 From Creation To Abraham
11:30 Coat Of Mary Colors
12:30 Inside Shock And Awe

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Discovery Theatre
10:30 Life on the Edge

Radio Foorti 88.0 FM

07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apni)
11:00am Amar 88.0 (Nusrat)
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)
07:00pm Fued Live (Fued)
11:30am Back to Back music

RADIO TODAY 89.6 FM

7:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob & Bristi)
8:45am Shokaler Khabor (Fatefat Adida (Nudrat & Rabbi))
1:45pm Dupur Khabor U-tum (Tanila)
6:45pm Shondher Khabor Take Tai Hok (Sayem)
9:45pm Raater Khabor Modhro Raater Khabor
11:45pm Today's Happy Moments
12:10am Raat Vor Gan (Nirob)

Passport to Space

12:30 Extreme Engineering
01:30 Wild South America
02:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows
04:30 Hunters
05:30 Space Week
06:30 Man Vs. Wild
07:30 Hunters
08:30 Discover India
09:30 Truth About Food
10:30 Everything You Need to Know About
11:30 Wild Africa