

First NRB Conference '07

Cultural programme highlighting patriotism and Liberation War



Bhaswar Banjee recites, Aditi Mohsin and expatriate artiste Dilara Afroz Khan sing at the programme

NADIA SARWAT

As a part of the ongoing First Non-Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) Conference 2007, a vibrant cultural programme was held at the Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton on December 27. Hundreds of expatriate Bangladeshi and local guests enjoyed the evening featuring performances by Bangladeshi artistes from home and abroad.

The theme "Patriotism and Liberation War" was highlighted through songs, recitations and dance performances at the event dedicated to Pandit Ravi Shankar and George Harrison, the two key figures behind the historic 'Concert for Bangla-

des' at the Madison Square Garden in New York in 1971.

Noted recitor Bhaswar Banjee opened the evening with the poem *Kamu Shidhu* by Debabrata Singh. Written in the dialect of Bankura district of West Bengal, the poem traces the brutal experiences of the Santals during the Santal Rebellion in 1855.

Patriotic songs performed by Aditi Mohsin of Chayanat followed. Aditi started with the celebrated Tagore song *O amar desher mati*. She also rendered *Sarthok Jonom amar, Jodi tor dak shuney* and DL Roy's *Ekbar gaal bhora ma dakey*.

Mahidul Islam recited the poem *Matribhumi Jonyo*, a chronicle of

an expatriate Bangladeshi who craves for his country. Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah's poem *Batashey Lasher Gondho* was recited next.

Noted folk artiste Bipul Bhattacharya rendered several songs aired from the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the Liberation War. *Ei na Bangladesher gaan, Teer hara et dheuer shagor, Aamar desh shob manusher and Bolo bhole bolo shobe* seemed to move the audience.

A video of a song dedicated to the NRBs was screened at the event. Mahmuduzzaman Babu, Dilara Afroz Khan and Dilara Pushpita have rendered the song.

One of the organisers, expatriate

artist Dilara Afroz Khan sang *Jodi hotam go ektaara and Shonen shonen Banglar kotha* in the programme.

Mahmuduzzaman Babu performed the Bangla version of American poet and singer Joan Baez's *Song of Bangladesh. Ami Bangla gaan gai followed. Bhor hoyni and Khule de ma shekoler bondhon* were the other renditions by the artiste.

The evening also included expatriate singer Tinni's performance and dance by members of the cultural organisation Spondon. Directed by Anik Basu, the dance performance wrapped up the cultural programme.

The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and TV channels ATN Bangla, Channel i are the media partners of the event.

Exhibition

Panning on women at work

FAYZA HAQ

THIRTEEN young photographers, three of them women, recently focused on *Changing images of women in Bangladesh* recently at Shilpangan. In the multicoloured photography exhibition, working women were depicted as diligent garment workers, contented females from a towel factory and liberated reporters. Beaming doctors and bicycle mechanics were seen too in the display. When most women in Bangladesh are still confined to their homes, the changing images are undoubtedly

welcomed.

Factory owners like Rabiba Khatun is seen supervising others in Gazipur. After collecting her savings, using long-term loans from NGOs, she is now a radiant entrepreneur. This picture is taken by Sikder Imran Ahammed. The focus of the group of photographs is in the dyeing and manufacture of both hand and factory looms.

Badrin Nahar Ruba depicts a woman hammering away on a piece of stone, in her colourful attire. Even though she is toiling, she is not to be pitied, going by her matching bangles, spirited bearing and contented countenance.

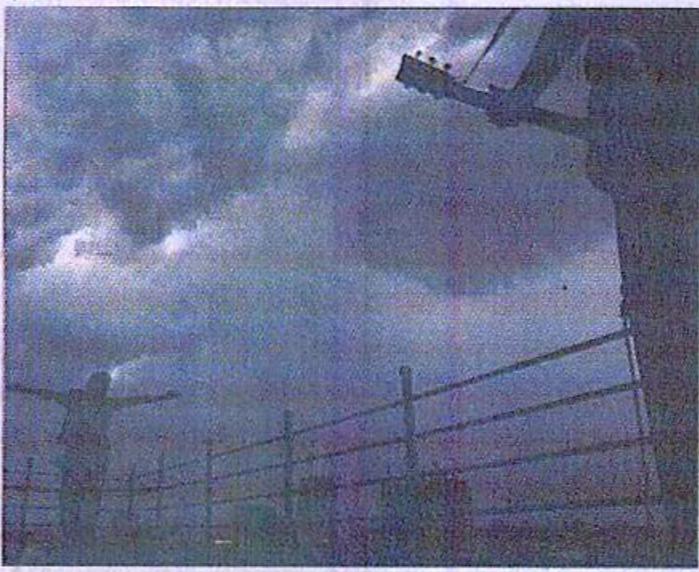


Photographs by Md. Muniruzzaman (above) and Rajibul Islam

In Rajibul Islam's work one finds garment workers chatting at home with their neatly piled clothes and happy faces -- lighting up with the presence of the photographer. Their bright clothes speak of their joie de vivre.

Md. Muniruzzaman who depicted the presence of construction workers at various angles, drew attention to their hard work as well as their sense of satisfaction. Confident and wreathed with smiles they bring in the sunshine into the lens focus of women at work.

The focus on the contentment and harmony of progressive Bangladeshi women is indeed laudable.



CULTURAL FEAST

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Bengal Shilpalya
Venue: Bengal Shilpalya, H 275/F, R 27 (odd), Dharmundi
Date: December 30 and January 2
Time: 7 pm

Group Art Exhibition

Title: Paint of Rejuvenation
Organiser: Space Visual Art
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalya, H 275/F, Road 27 (odd), Dharmundi
Date: December 26-31
Time: 12pm-8pm

Art Exhibition

Title: RETROSPECT
Artists: Shabu Hoque and Adil Hoque
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dharmundi
Date: December 26-31
Time: 5pm-8pm

Sculpture Exhibition

Title: Ecology of Mind-2
Sculptor: Alak Roy
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalya, H 275/F, Road 27 (odd), Dharmundi and British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka University
Date: January 6-19
Time: 12pm-8pm

Art competition for children at Khagrachhari



PHOTO: STAR

Children participate at the art competition

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari,

Speakers at a meeting said Meena is the symbol of a dream -- the dream for ensuring and fighting for rights, education, healthcare and a proper environment for children. Meena also speaks out against repression of children, child marriage and superstition in the society, they said in the course of discussion held at Khagrachhari Zilla Shishu Academy recently to mark Meena day.

Before the discussion, an art competition for children was held where around 200 students participated. A prize giving ceremony and cultural programme followed.

Chief executive of Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Syed M.A. Hashim was present as the chief

Channel click

TV play "Tumi Shei Ekjon" on ntv tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Actor Tony Dias' debut directorial venture *Tumi Shei Ekjon* will be aired tonight at 9:00 pm on ntv. Fashion designer Shahrul Shahid has penned the story.

The play follows a love triangle

involving Akash, Sumi and Ranu. Akash and Sumi are in love. Ranu leads a lonely life. Akash wants to be friends with Ranu, which apparently causes a strife between him and Sumi.

The cast includes Richi Solaiman, Nisho, Momo and Dolly Zahur.

Sippy tried his hand at selling carpets and construction business before stepping into the film industry in 1955 with the production of Hindi movie *Marine Drive* featuring Johnny Walker and Ajit which proved to be a hit. It was followed by *Adil-e-Jahangir* starring Meena Kumari and Pradeep Kumar.

Sippy's later productions included *Brahmachari* (1968), *Bandhan* (1969) *Sagar* (1985), *Pathar Ke Phool* (1991), *Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman* (1992), *Aatish* (1992), *Zamaana Deewana* (1995) and *Hamesha* (1997).

Sippy set up his own production house whose first tryst of major Bollywood stars came in the 1965 film *Mere Sanam* featuring Bishwajeet and Asha Parekh.

Sippy's son Ramesh directed *Andaz* and *Seeta Aur Geeta* in 1971 and '72 respectively. Then came *Sholay* that catapulted him to countrywide fame in 1975.

Sholay made at a cost of Rs three crore -- the highest at that time in Bollywood -- proved a stupendous hit and earned nearly ten times the expenditure, a record that was broken by *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* after decades.



A still from the play

Noted Indian film personality G P Sippy passes away

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Veteran Indian filmmaker G P Sippy, who became a household name for producing one of Bollywood's biggest-ever hits in 1975, *Sholay*, died at his home in Mumbai at the age of 93 after a prolonged illness on December 26.

In a career spanning over half a century, Sippy, born in an affluent family in Hyderabad city (now in the Sindh province of Pakistan), produced 17 films and directed six of them and his major box office successes include *Light House*, *Bhai Behn*, *Andaz* and *Seeta Aur Geeta*.

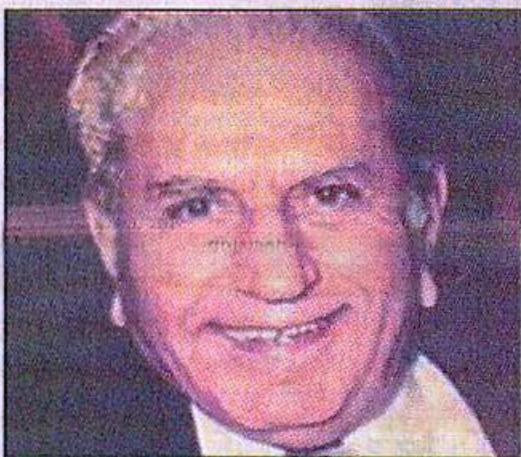
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G P Sippy

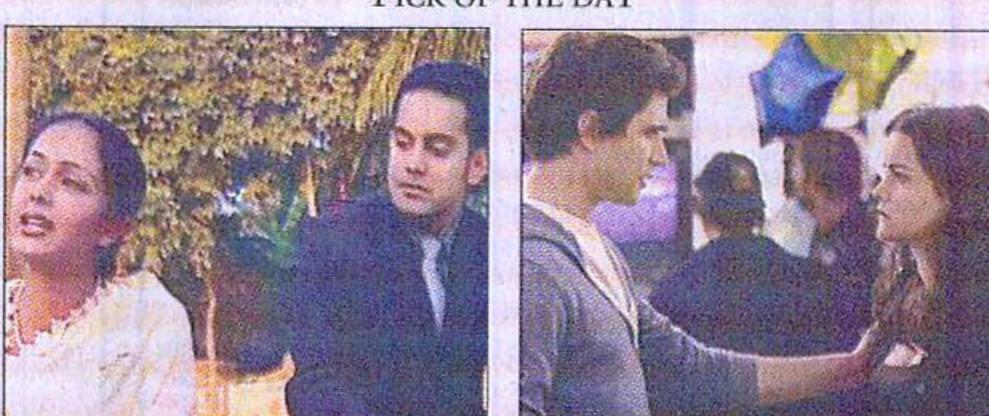
Featuring Bollywood superstars Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Sanjeev Kumar, Hema Malini and Jaya Bachchan, *Sholay* is a story about two small-time crooks played by Bachchan and Dharmendra who are recruited by a former police officer (Sanjeev Kumar) to fight a legendary bandit (immortalised by Amjad Khan).

G P Sippy had been the Chairman of the Film and TV Producers' Guild of India four times since 1970 and won a number of film awards.

Sippy displayed a lot of courage in making *Seeta Aur Geeta* with the central role going to the heroine (Hema Malini) reducing Dharmendra and Sanjeev Kumar to supporting roles at a time when Bollywood could hardly think of a film centring a female character.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Sister Maria
On Rtv at 08:00 pm
Single Episode TV play
Cast: Rokeya Prachi, Qayes Chowdhury

Kyle XY
On Star World at 08:30 pm
TV Series
Cast: Matt Dallas, Marguerite MacIntyre

08:45 Esho Gaan Shikhu	12:00 House Grameenphone Lead News	03:10 Sehara	08:30 Kyle XY
11:15 Desher Gaan	09:30 Shokha Poribar	05:15 Just My Luck	09:30 Miracle Quest
11:40 Shokha Poribar	09:30 Selected Programme	07:00 Van Wilder 2: The Rise Of Taj	10:30 The Black Donnellys
12:05 Shokha Poribar	09:30 Shangbadpotrey	08:35 The Perfect Catch	11:30 World's Most Shocking Moments
12:30 Ma Shishu Katha	09:45 Bangladesh Public Reaction	10:20 Into The Blue	12:30 Kyle XY
01:00 Mati O Manush	09:45 Grameenphone Tribonstra	12:10 Into The West	
02:15 Srimpur	09:50 Grameenphone Talk Show, Amader Asina		
02:40 Bangla Feature Film Nobo Anonday Jago	11:05 Talk Show, Amader Asina		
05:25 Selected Programme	12:30 Citycell Tarika		
07:05 Amader Mukhipujhro	12:30 Kathan		
07:20 Selected Programme	01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan		
08:35 Documentary Programme, Amader Mukhipujhro	01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma		
09:00 Drama	02:40 Movie: Rush Hour 2		
10:30 Musical Programme	03:05 Hindoyer Gaan		
11:00 Talk Show: Date Line Dhaka	04:05 Educational		
	04:45 Film: F.M. Method		
	04:50 Shoyer Shandhoney		
	06:00 Drama: Swapnil Agam		
	06:30 Debate Programme: Qifilo		
	07:50 Mega Serial: Ghar Kutum		
	08:20 Drama Serial: Akolai		
	09:35 Music Jam		
	10:00 Glamour World		
	10:30 Shokha El Din		
	11:30 Gopshop		
	12:15 Drama Serial: Bridhishom		
	01:00 Gaanchi El Din		
	02:30 Bangla Feature Film		
	03:00 Shokha Shomoy		
	03:30 Tarzan		
	04:00 Drama Serial: Tumi Shai El Jon		
	04:30 Fashion Show, Look At Me		
	11:30 News Watch		
	12:00 Rtv Exclusive		
	08:00 Ekusher Shokol		
	09:05 Drama Serial: Ebong Rohashyer Golpo		
	10:00 Children's Programme: Jingkey Phurer Deshey		
	11:00 Ekusher Shomoy		
	12:00 Rtv Exclusive		
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