

A festive air

Weeklong celebrations by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote ends



Hundreds of people through the open-air arena as artists perform at the programme

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong cultural event was organised by the Sammilito Sangskritik Jote to mark International Mother Language Day...

in black and white and various other colours, saluted the martyrs and rejoiced at the honour bestowed on the nation by UNESCO's recognition of Ekushey February as International Mother Language Day.

The programme kicked off with a choral rendering, followed by two solo performances by two talented singers. Next was the recitation of a poem Anar Okhoma.

beautiful dance sequences performed by young girls draped in colourful saris and adorned with flowers, which added a hint of spring. Other well received items were two plays presented by drama groups Tapur-Tapur and Natyafouj.

Turtle Neck: A mountain expedition

FAYZA HAQ

At the Bengal Gallery were photographs taken during 'A Climb for Peace' a two-nation joint mountaineering expedition. This expedition aimed at scaling the 6187 metre summit of Mt. Rubal Kang (Turtle Neck) situated in the Kulu Himalayas.

pine and fir, horses, tents, mountaineers were all brought into the focus of the camera so that the viewer felt that he too had participated in the climb, along with the 15 mountaineers from Bangladesh and India.

In the photographs came the endless sweeps of snow over the mountains, the sun shining on top of the mountains, with sometimes the silhouettes of the climbers with

their hats, goggles and back packs. The sleeping climbers, the mountaineers taking their meals, the group climbing up to their goal -- all these were captured in the photographs for all times.

Loading the packs, the two teams then went into 'load ferry'. Team A which contained the Bangladeshi team with less experience went ahead first with Bashanta Shingha Rai as the leader and Imran as the second in command, Reepon was left in the base camp in case of rescue.

All the climbers had some experience of trekking before. They joined with the India's 'Mountaineers' Association of Krishnanagar', and they found the participants there friendly and helpful. This expedition will be a breakthrough for other Bangladeshi teams to follow.

The Bangladeshi team included Muntasir Mamun Imran, Md. Sirajul Haq Sagor, ARK Reepon, and Saad Bin Hossain.



Endless sweeps of snow over the mountains captured through the lens

10th Int'l Short and Independent Film Festival ends

JAMIL MAHMUD

The award giving and closing ceremony of the 10th International Short and Independent Film Festival, Dhaka-08 was held at the Shawkat Osman auditorium on February 22.

A brief discussion session was held preceding the award giving ceremony. President of Bangladesh Short Film Forum N. Rashed Chowdhury gave the welcome speech, while Manzarehasin Murad, director of the festival gave the vote of thanks.

Since its inception in 1988, the festival turns into competitive format from this year. In the best Documentary Segment, filmmaker and Jury Board member Shaheen Dill-Riaz announced A Sunday in Pripayat as the Best Film.

ber and filmmaker Morshedul Islam announced Abel's Black Dog as the Best film.

Cinematographer and film activist Zahidur Rahim Anjan, one of the juries of Independent Shorts segment, announced Stay in Touch for the Tareque Shahriar Memorial Best Independent Shorts of the festival.

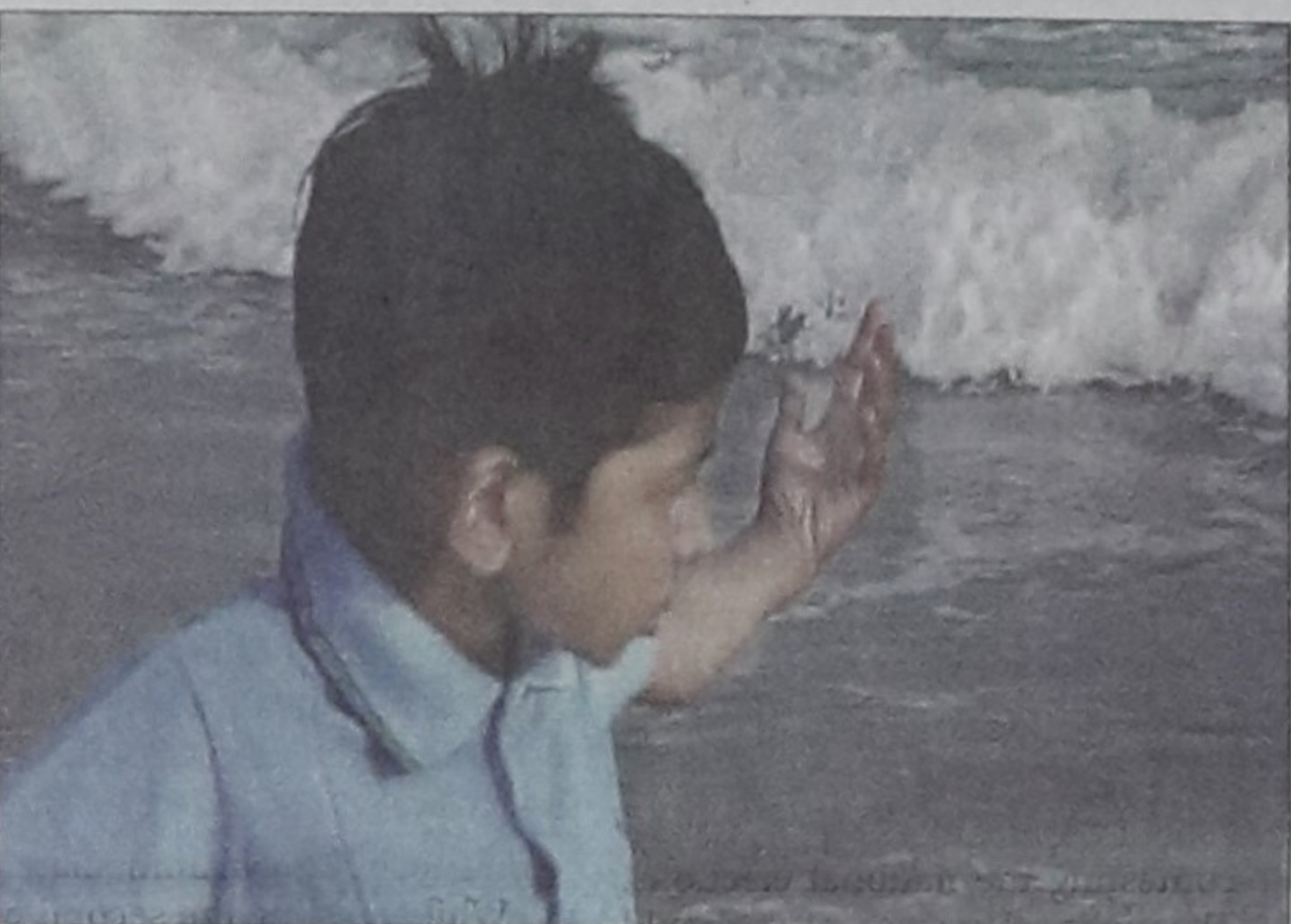
The organisers initiated Independent Shorts segment from this year to encourage young independent Bangladeshi filmmakers. Less than ten minutes length films made in any format was allowed for the segment.

Noted litterateur and Chairperson of the festival Hasnat Abdul Hye handed over the award to the recipients. Among award winning filmmakers only Saiful Islam was present at the programme.

Hasnat Abdul Hye also gave the closing speech, after which the award winning films were screened.

During the nine-day long festival, beginning from February 14, over 170 films from 36 countries were screened. Oxfam GB was the partial sponsor and ntv was the media partner of the festival.

"Sonata": A moving documentary on autism



A scene from the documentary

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

An unusually moving documentary Sonata-A story of autism was screened at the Dhaka Independent and Short Film Festival on February 21.

The storyline follows a Bangladeshi mother, Rola, who has an autistic child, Tamzid. It is his inability to formulate any speech for six months that gives the warning signal that something is seriously wrong with the child.

Sonata follows Tamzid's progress through interviews, testimonies and re-enactments.

Although he has a long way to go, it was noticed that Tamzid has a passion for the piano and that's what the title of the film suggests.

The film has been made to show that autism is not a hopeless condition and that it can be treated with therapy. Since Rola left the country, the situation in Bangladesh regarding autism has improved considerably.

Sonata is directed by Sentu Roy. The film is co-produced and edited by Sagheer Faiz.

ITI Theatre Festival '08 Heino Byrgesen on the achievements of BCITI

ERSHAD KAMOL

President of the Danish ITI, Heino Byrgesen, is in Dhaka to participate at the ITI Theatre Festival. This is his fourth time in Dhaka.

Byrgesen, the former President of Nordic Theatre Union, completed his PhD in theatre and began his career as a theatre reviewer for the Danish National Radio (DNR).

Commenting on the activities of Bangladesh Centre of ITI, Byrgesen said, "This is one of the most active centres of ITI. We are absolutely impressed by its publications, which is an achievement of this centre."

Byrgesen informed that the theatre scenario in Denmark is different from here. Danish theatre activists are very professional. The Danish Government provides subsidy to all art forms including theatre.

Commenting on the current theatre activities in Denmark, Byrgesen said, "Plays featuring socio-political issues such as 'migration' and 'gender' are popular in Denmark. Young Danish playwrights are writing interesting poetic scripts on these issues as well.

and other master European dramatists are frequently staged. Musicals are also very popular in Denmark, as are radio plays."



Heino Byrgesen

The festival ends

The weeklong ITI Theatre Festival, jointly organised by Bangladesh Centre of ITI and Bangladesh Shilapakala Academy (BSA), featuring 22 plays at four venues ended yesterday.

Of the 22 plays, 20 theatre performances were staged by the leading troupes of the country. BSA staged its production Eksho Bosta Chaal. Department of Theatre and Music, University of Dhaka staged Urubhangam regularly at the

Natmandol during the festival. Out of the three departments of public universities that provide theatre education, Department of Theatre and Music of Dhaka University was only invited at the festival.

To participate at the festival, several foreign delegates came to Dhaka. The ITI delegates participated at the (two-day) 125th session of Worldwide Executive Council and international seminar titled Whither Theatre.

The seminars included four sessions -- "Is there a need for a National Theatre?"; "Voice of the Marginalised in Theatre"; "Theatre for Development: The Crisis Within" and "Current Trends in Theatre: Country Reports".

"Meet the director session" was introduced at this year's festival. Everyday the directors of the plays participated at the discussions on their plays staged the day before.

Art Workshop held at UGC

To mark the International Mother Language Day, the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) and the Bengal Foundation jointly organised a daylong workshop on art at the UGC Auditorium recently.

Of the 22 plays, 20 theatre performances were staged by the leading troupes of the country. BSA staged its production Eksho Bosta Chaal. Department of Theatre and Music, University of Dhaka staged Urubhangam regularly at the

ated at the workshop, producing 37 paintings that were presented to the UGC. This is the first initiative of this kind by UGC.

The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Murtaja Baseer, jointly coordinated by Professor Abdus Shakur Shah and Professor Hamiduzzaman Khan and presided over by Professor Nazrul Islam. Education and Commerce

Adviser, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, handed over certificates among the participants at the closing ceremony. In his speech, Dr Rahman urged the authorities of recently established universities to introduce subjects like fine arts, sculpture and liberal arts, and asked the UGC to organise workshops, seminars and symposiums on higher education, alongside art education.

Shurer Bhubonay Shurdhuni

Shurdhuni arranged a musical soiree of singers Nausher Uddin Kaderi and Monir Chowdhury at the Bengal Gallery, recently, says a press release. Mahfuzur Rahman, chairman and managing director of ATN was present as chief guest and Saifuddinoula, Chhayana's founder member and Shurdhuni's adviser as special guest.

Some of the songs rendered by Nausher Uddin Kaderi were Aye moushumi mon shudhu rong bodlai, Tumi ferae diyechho bolay, Bar-e-bar-ke jeno dakey, Bon-e noi and more. Monir Chowdhury sang Aye nodi emon nodi, Amar ek deekay shudhu tumi, Amai akash bolo, and Tumi ekjoni shudhu bondhu.



Nausher Uddin Kaderi sings at the programme

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Nabila Chorit On ntv on 9:45 pm Drama Serial Cast: Dilara Zaman, Richi



Heroes On Star World at 10:30 pm TV Series Cast: Hayden Panettiere, Jack Coleman

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

News Bulletin

- BTB 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) at 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

- BTB 08:15 Shuprabhat 08:45 Bishwa Bichitra 11:15 Documentary Programme: Swadesh Desher Bhabna 11:40 Entertainment Show: Pralidhori 12:00 Selected Programme: Maa O Shishur Katha 01:00 Drama: Shilpo Prangan 02:15 Educational Programme: Cartoon 03:05 Amader Mon 04:05 Talk Show: Geeti Malayo 05:05 Debate 06:10 Swasho Katha 06:35 Laulik Bangla 06:50 Maiti O Manush 07:25 Talk Show: Shomoyer Shinglaap 08:30 Pralidhori Bangladesh 08:35 Drama Serial: Shohorer Sheshbari 09:00 Entertainment Show: Aaina 10:30 Musical Programme: Shurer Murchhona 11:00 Talk Show: Date Line Dhaka 03:30 ATN BANGLA 08:15 Akter Shanbadpotro 08:30 Drama Serial: Ochin Pakhi 09:15 Drama Serial: Amader Nurul Huda 10:30 Talk Show: Onyodishti 11:05 Drama: Shob Pakhia Ghorey Pherey

- 12:15 Char Deyal-er Kabyo 01:30 Khelar Jogot 02:30 Take Care 03:15 TRAB Award 2007 05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor 05:10 Kasal-er Jatrar Dhoni 05:45 The Sword of Tipu Sultan 06:20 Three Stooges 08:00 Drama Serial: Alaknagar 08:40 Drama Serial: Syed Barir Bou 09:20 Drama Serial: Prothom Shokal 11:30 Dally Soap: Doll's House 12:00 Gramphone Lead News CHANNEL 1 08:05 Tagore Song 08:30 Shokaler Gaan 09:30 Shagbadpotro Bangladesh 09:45 Public Reaction 09:50 Gramphone Triniatra 11:05 Apollo Tele Prescription 11:30 Hindoye Maiti O Manush 12:30 Citycall Taroka Katha 01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 02:35 Selected Programme 03:30 BBC Bangladesh Shinglaap 04:15 Hindoye Gaan 05:30 Ward Shorashori Boimela 06:00 Drama Serial: Alor Khonjey Koyona 06:30 South Asian 07:50 Mega Serial: Ghar Kutum

- 08:20 Drama Serial: Noukadubi 09:35 Mega Serial: 420 10:00 Drama Serial: Ochena Neel Koritho 11:30 Drama Serial: 69 12:00 Gramphone Akter Shagbadpotro ntv 08:30 Akter Shokal 08:55 Bangla Feature Film 12:10 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy 01:05 Japan Video Topic 02:30 Drama Serial: Swapnojaal 03:15 Drama: F M Shongbed 04:25 111 A Nelson Number

- 05:30 Apnar Juigyasha 06:20 Shubho Shondha 06:45 Shomporko 08:15 Drama Serial: Shankokutir 09:00 Crime Watch 09:45 Drama Serial: Nabila Chorit 11:35 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy CHANNEL 1 08:40 Shuprabhat Bangladesh 09:15 Selected Programme 10:30 Bangla Feature Film 02:00 Biswa Jurey Saat Din 03:30 Drama Serial: Ochena Apon

- 04:00 Gaan-er Khanta 05:15 Shamprolik 06:00 Saajbela 07:00 Shondikhoney 08:15 Drama Serial: Ochena Apon 09:00 Shomoyer Aynay Rajniti 09:30 Cine Tunes 11:00 Gaaney Gaaney Bohudur 11:30 Nirbachito Khabor ETV 08:00 Ekush-er Shokal 12:30 Ekushy Business: Special Focus 01:30 Ekushy Business: Shophol Jara 03:30 Cine Heats

- 02:40 Mohanagar Drama Serial: Shomo Kudir 03:05 Nodi O Jilbon 04:20 Banijyemela Protidin 06:05 Din-er Sheshey 06:50 Sports Vision 08:25 Drama: Mohanagar 09:05 Apnar Agami 09:45 Drama Serial: Swapnochura 11:25 Drama Serial: Shohorer Shesh Bari 12:00 Shagbad Protidin STAR MOVIES 09:20 Vip Access 09:50 Robotech: The Shadow Chronicles 11:25 Night At The Museum 03:20 Raise Your Voice 05:10 Devil Wears Prada, The 07:00 Invincible 08:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Dead M From Dusk Till Dawn 01:00 Woods, The STAR PLUS 09:00 SHARARAT 09:30 Krishna Kathayen 10:30 Krishna...Aayo Natkhath Nandlal 12:30 BAL GANESH 07:30 Bhagam Bhag 08:30 Araham (Hindi) 08:30 SAIBABA 09:30 Pnthviraj Chauhan 10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby 10:30 Chak De Yaara 11:30 Python Attack 11:30 Living With Big Cats 12:30 Animals Behaving Badly

- 01:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 03:30 Desire: Table For Three 04:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show 05:30 Love You To Death 06:00 Travel Asia 06:30 Ugly Betty 07:30 For Better Or For Worse 08:30 Bionic Woman 09:30 Desperate Housewives 10:30 Hercules 11:30 J.A.G. 12:00pm Vanity Insanity NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 10:30 Palau 11:30 The Most Dangerous Drug 12:30 Inside Afghan Heroin 01:30 Head On! 02:30 Super Cat 03:30 Hunter Hunted 04:30 Nat Geo Junior 05:00 Chimp Diaries 05:30 Big Bang 06:00 Crittercam-WildTech Adv 06:30 Garbage Mountain 07:30 American Buffalo 08:30 Living With Big Cats 09:30 Animals Behaving Badly 10:30 Python Attack 11:30 Living With Big Cats 12:30 Animals Behaving Badly

- 02:30 Witches 03:30 Robots 04:30 Hippies 06:30 Jumbo Movie 10:30 60's Tech 12:30 Mala Hanu RADIO FOORTI 88.0 FM 7:00am Hello Dhaka 11:00am Amar 88 3:00pm Dhaka Calling 7:00pm Seven Eleven 12:00am Back to Back music RADIO TODAY 89.6 FM 07:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob) 07:45 am Today's Happy Moments 08:45am Shokaler Khabor 12:00pm Today's Adda (Nudral) 01:45pm Dupurer Khabor 04:00pm U-tum (Kbria & Tania) 06:45pm Shondher Khabor 08:00pm Tobe Tai Hok (Sayem) 09:45pm Raaler Khabor 11:45pm Moddho Raater Khabor 12:00am Today's Happy Moments 12:10am Raat Vor Gan (Nirob) 02:30 Witches 03:30 Robots 04:30 Hippies 06:30 Jumbo Movie 10:30 60's Tech 12:30 Mala Hanu ZEE STUDIO 09:50 Charlie Chaplin 11:00 Ultimate Film Fanatic 11:30 50 First Dates 01:50 13 Going On 30 04:30 The Piano Player 07:30 Charlie Chaplin 08:05 Hollywood's 10 Best - season 2 08:35 A Life Less Ordinary 11:00 Free Willy