

A touch of Assam in Delhi



Assamese performers present a traditional dance

KAJITA CHARANJ

The evocatively titled 'Festival of Arts from the Banks of the Brahmaputra' was recently held in Delhi. On stage were a repertoire of Bihu songs of Boro, Mising and other communities; folk songs of Goalpara, Kamrup and Sivasagar; Dotara Gaan and Kushan Gaan of Goalpara; Bihu pepa recital with Dhol and Taal; Dhol Badan and modern songs of Assam in Hindi and Assamese, among others.

The second and concluding day saw singer Madhumita Acharya Biswas render the songs of legendary composer and singer Bhupen Hazarika in Hindi and Bengali. The curtains went down on Usha Parinaya (from Bhagvata Puran), a dance drama in Sattriya style.

The traditional and folk items

were conceived and choreographed by Guru Jatin Goswami and produced by his dance school Sattriya Dance Academy, in Guwahati.

Explaining his motivation in choreographing the Sattriya dance drama, the recent Padma Sri award winner said, "Delhi is a cosmopolitan city where all the classical dances are performed, with the exception of Sattriya. Thus while we see the other seven - Bharatanatyam, Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Kathak and Manipuri/Sattriya are not so well known. My message to Delhiites is to support the rich cultural heritage of Assam."

Meanwhile, the Durgapur (West Bengal)-based Madhumita Acharya explained her fascination for Bhupen Hazarika's works by describing him as a multi-faceted personality. "He has a melodious and flawless

voice. As a composer he is very innovative and creative. In the garb of a lyricist he has written about universal brotherhood and humanism in all his works."

Among the Hazarika works which he rendered in Bengali were 'Amik jajabar, Hey dola, Manush manusher janya and Ganga amara. The Hindi numbers were Bite na bite na, Dil hum hum kare, Jhuti muti mitava (from the film Rudali), O hamara hans gayle (Gajgami) and Heyram Heyram (Daman).

"Living legend" Guru Jatin's dance drama too attracted attention. The curtains went up with Raja Ban, his daughter Usha and her best friend Chitralakha (an amazing painter) worshipping Lord Shiva. Through many twists and turns Usha gets the man of her dreams, Anirudh, the grandson of Lord Krishna.

The little known Sattriya dance has been a living tradition since its creation by Srimanta Sankardeva (a poet and religious leader) in the 15th century in Assam. Sankardeva united the various sects of Assam through his teachings and established a universal social brotherhood of neo-Vaishnavism through collective prayer that included music, dance and drama based on the life of Lord Krishna. "The monks performed these dance dramas as an offering to the Lord," says Goswami. The octogenarian is the first and only person to form a mobile cultural group of the Sattriya dance performance.

Hopefully this superb show will acquaint the audience with the so far low profile Assam culture and build bridges with their talented countrymen.

Discussion and cultural programme by Bengali International

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

The Rangpur branch of Bengali International (BI) observed the International Mother Language Day recently at the Rangpur Town Hall.

To mark the day the socio-cultural organisation held a discussion on the 'Role of Bengali language in upholding the national culture'. A cultural programme was also a part of the event.

The discussion was presided over by Samuil Bashir, The Principal of Rangpur Medical College, Professor Azizul Islam was the chief guest at the programme while former Principal of Rangpur Carmichael College, Professor Mozammel Hoque was the special guest. Among others, Professor Abdul Rouf of RMC, Professor Shah Alam of Carmichael College; Dr. Mofijul Islam Mantu and Sayed Mamunur Rahman also attended the discussion.

Professor Azizul Islam said,



Children sing at the programme

"Language flows continuously through a process. With the advancement of time it develops but we must not overlook the great writers and poets of the past. As they are an inseparable part of our

literary heritage, they must be studied thoroughly."

Professor Shah Alam said, "We need to learn English or other languages as necessity but we have to uphold the spirit of Bangla for

which many Language Movement activists were martyred in 1952."

About 50 children of Anushilan Sangeet Bidyalaya rendered songs and members of Swar O Shoily recited poems on the stage.

Poetry festival in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The fourth poetry festival organised by Satkhira Kabita Parishad, an organisation of local poets, was held recently at the Shahid Abdur Razzak Park Auditorium with much enthusiasm.

Poet Sajjad Kadir inaugurated the festival by placing a wreath at the grave of Shaheed Abdur Razzak.

Later on a seminar on 'Deshpremer Pakkhe Kabita' (Poetry for patriotism) was held at the same venue with Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar in the chair. Dolly Sultana, Masuda Mobarak, Manmoy Manir and Aminur Rashid spoke at the seminar.

The speakers said that through-



Poet Sajjad Kadir speaks at the programme

out, history poetry has motivated people to fight for freedom and

when our nation is concerned the art form inspired the language

Movement activists and the masses in 1952. Poetry stirs the conscience of man, they said.

Professor Abdul Hamid presented the main essay on 'Adhunik Kabita' at the programme while poet Sajjad Kadir, Professor Kazi Waliullah, Professor Abdul Mannan, Professor Gazi Azizur Rahman, poet Shuvra Ahmed and others took part in a discussion. The 'Kabita Parishad Award' for 2008 was conferred to Professor Kazi Waliullah and Sheikh Ashrafal Haque, who is also the Satkhira Paurasava chairman, for their contribution to poetry.

The chief guest handed the crests and cheques to the recipients. Over one hundred poets participated in the programme.

On Air

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

<p>04:20 <i>Cholochitr Golpo</i> 05:10 Special Programme on March: Shahid Nari 05:35 Travel Show: Obiram Bangladesh 06:20 Talk Show: Kotha Mala 08:00 Drama Serial: Mouchakey Dil 08:45 Drama Serial: Kushum Kushum Bhalobasha 11:30 Rang Manchoyo Taal 12:00 Grameenphone Lead News</p> <p>CHANNEL-1 09:30 Shangbadporey Bangladesh 09:45 Public Reaction 09:50 Grameenphone Tritio Matra 11:05 Cricket On Line 11:30 Amar Chhobi 12:30 Citycell Tarokakathan 01:05 Ebong Cinemas Gaan 01:30 Sa Re Ga Ma 02:30 Ekalturer Dinguli 03:05 i-Sports 04:05 Educational Programme: BSB Cambrian Medha Bikash 05:30 Mukhdudho Amar Ohonkaar 06:00 Tarzan 06:20 Drama Serial: Ochena Adhar 06:45 Business Show 07:50 Musical Programme: Amar Priyo Gaan 09:35 Drama Serial: Neel Tepantorey 10:00 Drama: Dhaka 71 11:30 Mega Serial: 69</p> <p>ETV 08:00 Ekusher Shokal 12:00 Ekusher Dupur 12:30 Ekusher Business: Special Focus 01:30 Ekusher Business: Shophal Jara 03:30 Shornali Shada Kalo 04:00 Cartoon 04:30 Drama Serial: Hiltu 05:45 Ekusher Shondhya 06:15 Quiz Show: SMS Mania 06:30 Chhondey Shure Desh Jurey 07:45 Suroi Haal 08:15 Drama Serial: Hiltu 09:30 Drama Serial: Tomtom</p>	<p>12:15 Ekusher Raat</p> <p>RTV 08:20 Gaanchil Ei Chil 09:00 RTV Exclusive 09:05 Heart Beat 09:35 Documentary Programme: Prachir Ghera Chin 10:00 Drama Serial: Poroshpor 11:00 Taroka Alap 11:30 Drama Serial: Aguntak 12:15 Look at Me 12:35 Apon Shimanay 01:30 Dailwood Beats 02:30 Bangla Feature Film 06:00 Prodidin 06:35 Apon Shimanay 08:00 Drama Serial: Aguntak 08:35 R Ranna 09:20 Drama Serial: Anon 11:00 Prio Mukh 11:30 News Watch</p> <p>ntv 08:30 Ajker Shokaal 08:55 Drama Serial: Shanlokutir 09:30 Rupali Pordaar Golpo 10:05 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan 10:30 Music Express 11:00 Alochor 12:10 Ei Shomoy 01:05 Japan Video Topic 02:30 Drama Serial: Shanto Kutir 03:15 Crime Watch 03:50 Drama Serial: Nabita Chorit Gallery 04:25 Apnar Jigyasha 05:30 Shubho Shondhya 06:20 Nityo Lohor 08:15 To-Let 09:45 Drama Serial: Neer 11:30 Ei Shomoy</p>	<p>CHANNEL 1 08:40 Shubprabhat Bangladesh 10:30 Bangla Feature Film 02:00 Shampromik 03:30 Drama Serial: Daanguli 04:00 Nongor 05:15 Ei Amar Desh 06:45 Roko Gham Polaka 07:00 Rang Berong 08:15 Drama Serial: Daanguli</p> <p>11:35 Apnar Agami 02:00 Daily Soap: Mohanagar 02:40 Drama Serial: Tarik Ali Hadari 03:05 Musical Programme 04:20 Shamol Bangla 05:30 Drama Serial: Shohorer Shesh Bari 06:05 Citycell Din-er Sheshey 06:20 Ebong Classer Bairey 06:50 Pran-er Gaan 08:25 Drama Serial: Mohanagar 09:05 Vocab</p> <p>06:00 Raja Ki Aayegi Baramat 06:30 Bidaai 06:55 Bolly V 07:00 Ghnasti 07:25 Bolly V 07:30 Sangam 08:30 Raja Ki Aayegi Baramat 09:00 Kis Desh Me Hai Meraa Dil 09:30 Bidaai 10:00 Kasturi 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi</p> <p>06:30 India's Hidden Plague 07:30 Built for the Kill 08:30 What Would Happen If 09:00 I Didn't Know That 09:30 Naked Science 10:30 Is It Real? 11:30 What Would Happen If 12:00 I Didn't Know That 12:30 Is It Real?</p> <p>HISTORY 09:30 Telemail - Home Jogger 10:30 Work Clothes 11:30 Telemail 12:15 Eye Max 12:30 Spartacus 01:30 Northanger Abbey 03:30 Al Qaeda 04:30 Fast Food Tech 05:30 Ferrari 06:30 Spartacus 07:30 FBI's Ten Most Wanted 08:30 Battle of Berlin 09:30 Battle 10:30 Modern Marvels 11:30 Inner Planets 12:30 On the Frontlines</p> <p>AXN 10:30 Pirate Master 12:00 Num3rs (Season 2) 01:00 Video Zonkers 02:00 The Amazing Race Asia (Season 2) 03:00 CSI: NY (Season 3) 04:00 Num3rs (Season 2) 05:30 Video Zonkers 06:30 Andromeda (Season 5) 07:30 House (Season 2) 08:30 Num3rs (Season 2) 09:30 Mondo Magic</p> <p>Singapore 10:00 E Buzz 10:30 Kill Bill Vol. 2</p> <p>DISCOVERY CHANNEL 08:30 In Search Of The Giant Anacondas 09:30 Discovery Atlas: Australia Revealed 11:30 Futureweapons: Smart Weapons 12:30 Amazing Baby Videos: Episode 22 01:00 Finest Hotels In The World: Week End In Old Cataract (Aswan, Egypt) 01:30 Hunters: Savage Pack, The Dinosaur Planet, Alpha's Eggs 02:30 In Search Of The Giant Anacondas 03:30 African Adventures: Uganda 04:00 Kumma Bushmen! Uganda Gonila Walzing 04:30 Zach's Ultimate Guide: Octopus 05:30 In Search Of The Giant Anacondas 06:30 Man Made Marvels: Petrosas 07:30 Towers 08:30 Man Vs. Wild: Sierra Nevada 09:30 Hunters: Crawling Kingdom, The Ino Alaska With Jeff Corwin: Bear Country 10:30 Deadliest Catch 2: On The Edge 11:30 Futureweapons (Season 2): Close Quarter Combat 12:30 Extreme Engineering 4: Biggest Casino</p>
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Tomtom
 On ETV at 9:30 pm
 Drama Serial
 Cast: Litu Anam, Lara Lotus

BANGLAVISION
09:00 Drama: Rohim Badsha
09:30 Tagore Song
11:00 One Glamour

08:30 Shurer Bhuboney
09:00 Cookery Show: Amader Ranna Ghar
09:30 Drama Serial: Swapnochura
10:10 Cinabit
10:40 Amar Ami
11:05 Drama Serial: Byasto Doctor

09:25 Agamir Kontho
11:25 Cinebit Shadako
12:00 Shangbad Prodidin

STAR MOVIES
07:35 Innocent Voices
09:30 Daddy Day Care
11:15 Hammer And Heart
01:00 Terminator 2: Judgment Day
03:15 The Big White
05:10 Night At The Museum
07:00 Fast Food Nation
09:00 The Chronicles Of Namia
11:30 Breed, The
01:00 Haunted

STAR PLUS
10:30 Saibaba
11:30 Ghnasti
12:00 Raja Ki Aayegi Baramat
12:30 Bidaai
12:55 Bolly V
01:00 Kis Desh Me Hai Meraa Dil
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
02:00 Bhabhi
02:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
03:00 Ghnasti
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
04:00 Kayamath
04:30 Sangam
05:25 Bolly V
05:30 Kasturi

11:
30 Kayamath
12:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
12:30 Bolly V

STAR WORLD
08:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show
09:30 The O.C.
10:30 Last Comic Standing
11:30 According To Jim
12:00 The Simpsons
12:30 Seinfeld
01:00 Friends
01:30 Desire: Table For Three
02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
05:00 Enterprise
06:00 Malcolm In The Middle
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 My Wife And Kids
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 The O.C.
09:30 Heroes
10:30 Bionic Woman
11:30 Who Wants To Be A Superhero
12:30 Seinfeld

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 Big Bang
09:00 The Megler's Last Refuge

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
 On Star Movies at 9:00 pm
 Genre: Fantasy/ Adventure
 Cast: Skandar Keynes, Georgie Henley