

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Traveling over the Horizon
Artist: Kazi Rakib
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, R 16, S 4, Uttara
Date: April 18-May 2
Time: 11am-8pm

Kazi RAKIB

Traveling over the Horizon
Selected water color paintings
1978-2008

Photography Exhibition

Title: Partnership in Practice
Venue: Dink Gallery, House 58, Road 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: May 01-10
Time: 3pm-8pm



Art Exhibition

Title: Return to the roots
Artists: 7 Bengali artists from India
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 27/5/F, R 27 (Old), Dhanmondi
Date: April 25-May 9
Time: 12pm-8pm



Terracotta Exhibition

Title: Burnt Clay
Exhibition '08
Artist: Tayabuzzaman Topu
Venue: Shilpa Chorchha Studio, H 2, R 7, Block C, Section 6, Mirpur
Date: April 21-30
Time: 10am-8pm



International Dance Day celebration '08

Highlighting dancers from all corners of the country



(Clockwise from top) A creative composition by dancers from Sylhet, Lathi Khela by Kishoregonj Dance Troupe, artistes of Chittagong Nriyashilpi Sangstha perform at the programme

JAMIL MAHMUD

As part of this year's three-day long International Dance Day celebration, on the second day (April 28) the organisers -- Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and

Bangladesh Nriyashilpi Sangstha (BNS) -- arranged several programmes at different venues in Dhaka.

In the evening, a dance performance -- featuring thirteen troupes from different parts of Bangladesh -- was held at the National Theatre

Stage, BSA. It was a great opportunity for dance artistes from different parts of Bangladesh to showcase their traditional dance forms and celebrate International Dance Day in harmony.

A discussion was held prior to the dance performances. Noted

dancer Golam Mustafa Khan gave the welcome speech. Speaking at the programme, Manipuri dance exponent Anil Kishan Singha said, "As a gesture of joy, not only human beings but other creatures too, dance." Singha was a special guest at the programme. Theatre per-

sonality Nasiruddin Yousuff and Rafiqul Islam, chairman, Jibon Bima Corporation were other special guests.

Dr. Enamul Haque, former secretary, Ministry for Culture Affairs was the chief guest.

Veteran dancer Rahiza Khanam Jhunu presided over the discussion. She said, "Preserving and developing our dance forms will be a lot easier if we (dancers) get a chance to work together with other sectors of culture."

The evening started with a Manipuri dance by artistes of Manipuri Academy of Fine Arts. The dance form is widely practiced in the Sylhet region in Bangladesh and Manipur in India. The artistes performed the *Mridanga* dance at the programme.

Performances by the members of Shilpakala Academy, Rajbari and Nriyashilpi Sangstha, Bogra followed.

The highlight of the programme was the indigenous dance forms. Several indigenous troupes showcased their traditional art forms at the programme. The Marma and Tripura artistes of Khagrachhari Cultural Institute performed "bottle dance" and "pori dance" respectively.

Artistes of Upajatiyo Cultural Institute, Rajshahi and Cox's Bazar Sangskritik Kendra performed a Santal dance on the theme of "welcoming the bride" and the "Rakhaing Rain Dance" respectively. Members of Chittagong Nriyashilpi Sangstha and Rajshahi Nriyashilpi Sangstha performed classical dance at the programme.

Dancers from Sylhet, Manikganj, Kishoregonj and Rangpur also performed the programme.

"Lathi Kheia" by Kishoregonj Dance Troupe was quite enjoyable and unique.

The evening ended with a Rakhaing dance.

Dance for the masses



Marma artistes from Khagrachhari Cultural Institute perform "pori dance" at TSC

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To generate interest on dance amongst the masses, dancers from all over the country performed at TSC, University of Dhaka and Rabindra Sarobar on April 28. The event was a part of ongoing International Dance Day celebration programme.

Seasoned dancers Rahiza Khanam Jhunu and M. Golam Mostafa Khan inaugurated the dance programmes at TSC and Rabindra Sarobar respectively.

Alongside from Dhaka based troupes, artistes from Mymensingh, Narayanganj, Rajbari, Khagrachhari and other districts participated at the programme held at TSC.

Ekushey Padak winner dancer Rahiza Khanam Jhunu said, "The whole nation is in a festive mood. Dancers from all over the country are enthusiastically participating at the programmes. Many troupes from outside the capital bearing their own expenditures have come here to perform for the masses. In fact, the arrangement will boost the dancers, especially from outside Dhaka who remain out of focus."

Dancer Kabirul Islam Ratan hopes to perform dance at open stages regularly for the mass. He said, "Already we are holding a dance programme at the TSC auditorium on the 16th of each month. Now, like the foreign countries we will organise regular programme at open stage for the masses. I believe TSC would be a good venue. There

is lack of source for entertainment for the university students."

Dancer Manzurul Islam Khan and his troupe from Mymensingh participated at open stage TSC. He said, "It's encouraging for us. We are here participating at different venues at the three-day programme arranged to celebrate the International Dance Day."

Twelve troupes from Dhaka and other districts presented dance recitals at Rabindra Sarobar. Four ethnic minority troupes also performed at the programme.

Dancer Shaju Ahmed, who delivered the welcome speech, informed that a remarkable number audience was present. They enjoyed the programme and showed interest for regular arrangement of such events.

The current trend of Manipuri dance in Bangladesh

In conversation with Anil Kishan Shingha



ERSHAD KAMOL

Sylhet based seasoned Manipuri dancer, director and researcher Anil Kishan Shingha had arrived in Dhaka to participate at the International Dance Day celebration programme. Shingha is one of the pioneering dancers who popularised the ritual based Manipuri dance as an art form in Bangladesh. He has been experimenting on the traditional Manipuri dance form since 1960s.

According to Shingha, the Manipuri community perform rituals through dance and music. Usually, the polished form of the traditional Manipuri dance, which is based on *Lai Haraba* (meaning "the joy of God" in Manipuri). The traditional Manipuri dance is performed at the temples.

On the nature of his experiments, Shingha said, "I basically modify the *talas* and stances of the traditional dance to make the form suitable for the amusement of the urban audience. The traditional dance forms are performed nightlong, which will not attract the urban audience. Based on the traditional form, I create recitals with fast rhythm and brief performance. I sometimes suggest Bengali choreographers to work on Manipuri dance."

The President of Bangladesh Nriyashilpi Sangstha (BNS) of Sylhet Division, Anil Kishan Shingha and his troupe have performed at many programmes all over Bangladesh. At the International Dance Day celebration, dancers of BNS, Sylhet division have presented a Manipuri recital under his direction.

Anil Kishan Shingha said, "We, who live outside the capital, remain unknown. But, many seasoned artists at the district level are doing remarkable works."

Workshop on "Mohiniyattam" at Rajshahi University

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Music and Drama Department, Rajshahi University in association with assistant Indian High Commission of Rajshahi, organised a daylong workshop on the *Mohiniyattam* dance of South India at the RU Deans' Complex auditorium.

Mohiniyattam exponent Pallavi Krishnan (from India) conducted the workshop. RU students participated at the workshop.

Professor Altaf Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of RU was present as the chief guest at the workshop

while assistant Indian High Commissioner Tarun Kanti Chakrabarti attended as special guest.

Professor Krishnapada Mondol, chairperson of the department, presided over the workshop attended by several otherteachers.

Around 70 students of RU Music and Drama department participated at the workshop.

Pallavi Krishnan also performed a solo dance at the Rajshahi Medical College auditorium yesterday.

The event was organised by the assistant Indian High Commissioner.

"Close Up 1" auditions in Barisal and Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENTS, Barisal and Khulna

The regional audition round of the talent hunt *Close Up 1: Tomakei Khujchhey Bangladesh* was held at the Barisal Club Auditorium recently.

Around 2,000 participants from the Barisal region auditioned. Seventeen of them received the much-coveted "Yes Card" to participate at the final audition round scheduled to be held in Dhaka on May 4.

Judges Anup Bhattacharya, Shujee Shyam, Anisur Rahman Tanu, Monwar Hossain Tutul, Muhammad Jalal Ahmed, Muhammad Shahnewaz, Selim Ashraf, Sujit Mustafa, Anup Barua

and Mesbah evaluated the performances of the competitors.

Meanwhile the two-day long audition for aspiring singers from the Khulna region was held at the Tiger Garden Hotel in Khulna city. Nineteen out of 1,496 participants received "Yes Cards" on the opening day, while 15 out of 1,200 got "Yes Cards" on the concluding day of the audition.

Over 80,000 young singers have registered for the nationwide auditions so far. The talent hunt is sponsored by Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. Creative agency ADCOM, media partners ntv, Radio Today and activation agency Market Access Providers Ltd are assisting the total programme.

Dancers bring out a procession

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A colourful procession, carrying banners and portraits of legendary dancers, was brought out from Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) yesterday morning. Over 300 dancers from Dhaka and other districts participated at the procession, which travelled Shegun Bagicha area.

The arrangement of the procession by the dancers was a part of three-day International Dance Day celebration programme jointly organised by BSA and Bangladesh Nriyashilpi Sangstha (BNS).

Cultural personality Kamal Lohani inaugurated the procession. Dancer Sultana Haider was the coordinator of the arrangement.



Dancers bring out a procession from the Shilpakala Academy premises

"Dancers have a bright future" - Kochi Rahman

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Kaththak dancer, director and choreographer Kochi Rahman teaches at institutes such as Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts, Shanto Mariam University of Creative Technology and his own organisation Aakrity -- a dance institute and troupe. Rahman is also active at the grassroots. Under the aegis of BSA, he has traversed many districts of the country to teach and popularise *Kaththak*.

Kochi Rahman began his dance career in 1986 under Shibli Mohammad and Shamim Ara Nipa. Subsequently, in 1992 he got a scholarship and complete a diploma and post diploma on *Kaththak* under the maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj at the Delhi Kaththak Kendra.

At the ongoing International Dance Day celebration, Kochi Rahman was a member of the competition sub-committee. As a member of the committee Rahman watched performances of promising dancers from all over the country.

Rahman said, "I have noticed a huge response from the dancers at the district level, which is a positive sign. Many of these young talents have potential."

"Each day a remarkable number of young audience coming at different venues at the three-day festival. So, it can be said that dance is getting popularity gradually. I believe the dancers have a bright future," he said.



Kochi Rahman