

Pandit Birju Maharaj in Dhaka

Kathak workshop begins at Shilpakala Academy

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Once the legendary Kathak artiste and dance guru Pandit Birju Maharaj and his foremost disciple Shaswati Sen stepped into the rehearsal room of National Music and Dance of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), a number of artistes of Nrityanchal greeted the duo with a performance to the Tagore song “Tomar Ananda Oi Elo Dwarey”. They also showered the legendary dancer with flowers.

Pandit Birju Maharaj is now in Dhaka to conduct a five-day Kathak workshop at BSA. Bangladeshi dance troupe Nrityanchal, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), has arranged the workshop that is being held from June 21 to 25 at BSA. A press conference in this regard was held at BSA on June 20.

Pandit Birju Maharaj; Shaswati Sen; Director General of BSA, Liaquat Ali Lucky; coordinator of Nrityanchal, Muhammad Jahangir; and directors of the troupe, Shibli Mohammad and Shamim Ara Nipa spoke at the conference. Daughter of Pandit Birju Maharaj and a Kathak dancer, Mamta Maharaj; accompanying instrumentalists, Chandrachur Bhattacharya (sitar), Utpal Ghosal (tabla) and Umesh Mishra (sarangi) were present at the press conference as well.

Liaquat Ali Lucky presented



Young Bangladeshi dancers seek blessings from Pandit Birju Maharaj.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

bouquets to Pandit Birju Maharaj and his accompanying troupe members while Muhammad Jahangir adorned them with *uttario*.

Welcoming all, Shibli Mohammad said, “This is a memorable moment and an unforgettable day in the history of Nrityanchal.” Shamim Ara Nipa expressed her elation, saying, “Sky is the limit. The sky has descended on earth today.”

“I cannot express my joy today in words. I have heard many tales about the legendary Pandit Birju Maharaj, and I’m meeting him for the first time. I hope Bangladeshi artistes will

be enlightened through this workshop,” said Liaquat Ali Lucky.

Shaswati Sen who has been receiving tutelage on Kathak for the last 43 years under Pandit Birju Maharaj, first came to Bangladesh in 1997. She regards the aesthetics of dance as a visual poetry.

“The honour that I received today will remain ever fresh in my memory. This is my first time in Dhaka. I’m very happy to learn that my disciples are doing very well in Dhaka,” said Pandit Birju Maharaj.

Later, the Pandit elaborated on the nature of Kathak, and

its many aspects -- *laya, taal, chitradarshan, tehai, jyoti* and more. His sense of humour, wit and outstanding ability to connect and see everything through dance mesmerised all.

A number of Kathak artistes from across the country are taking part in the workshop. Upon conclusion of the workshop, participating artistes will present a Kathak piece, directed by Pandit Birju Maharaj, at the National Theatre Hall of BSA on June 25 at 7 pm. Pandit Birju Maharaj and Shaswati Sen will also perform in the second half of the

Memorial speech and cultural function

101st birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal

TAFSILUL AZIZ, Kishoreganj

On the occasion of the 101st birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad’s Kishoreganj district branch arranged a memorial speech and cultural programme at Mahila Parishad hall room in the town on Wednesday.

Sultana Razia, president of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Kishoreganj branch, presided over the programme. Advocate Bhupendra Bhowmik Dulan, president of district Puja Udjan Parishad; Advocate Maya Bhowmik, leader of Sonak; Mustafa Kamal, general secretary of Kishoreganj Zila Press Club; Advocate Gazi Enayetur Rahman; principal Gulshanara Begum and Mahila Parishad leader Chondra Sarker spoke at the programme.

On the occasion, Kishoreganj Mahila Parishad also organised a musical soiree and recital where child artistes Sujoy, Pali Debnath, Naima and others performed.

Solo performance by Samina Chowdhury today at IGCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solo music performance by noted Bangladeshi singer Samina Chowdhury will be held at 6:30 pm today at the auditorium of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Gulshan-1, Dhaka. IGCC, High Commission of India, Dhaka is organising the soiree.

Samina Chowdhury is expected to perform several songs of different genres including songs from films and TV plays; original numbers; ghazal; Rabindra Sangeet; patriotic songs and many more in an hour long musical soiree.

The artiste’s repertoire will include the numbers -- “Shomoy Jeno Katena”, “Ekbar Jodi Keu Bhalobashto”, “Kobita Porar Prohor Eshechhey”, “Amaye Deko Na”, “Amar Majhey Nei”, “Esho



Shyamol Shundor” (a Tagore song), “Yun Saja Chaand”, (a ghazal originally recorded by Asha Bhoshle), and “Bangladesh Tumi Amar Porichoy” (a patriotic song).

Born in Dinajpur, Bangladesh to Mahmud-un-Nabi, a renowned singer of this country, Samina Chowdhury commenced her professional music career in 1981 with the song “Jonmo Theke

Jolchi Ma Go”, featured in the film “Jonmo Theke Jolchi”. Subsequently, Samina had launched herself in a steadily progressive musical career graph to assume tremendous popularity through her renditions of Adhunik songs both in Bangladesh and abroad. She has released 12 music albums till date.

Samina Chowdhury is the proud recipient of the National Film Award for the Best Female Singer in 2006, and Best Female Singer Award from the BACHASAS Journalist Association in 1981.

The artiste has also directed several music programmes, social awareness documentaries and has been a judge on reality shows like “Close Up-1”, “Khudey Gaan Raaj” etc. She is the brand ambassador for Save the Children Bangladesh.

THEATRE

Dhaka Padatik stages “Paicho Chorer Kissa”

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Padatik staged its production “Paicho Chorer Kissa” at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on June 20. Mancha Katha Natyashangha staged “Bihanga Maharaj” at the Natmandal auditorium, Dhaka University on the same day.

Padatik’s “Paicho Chorer Kissa” is based on a folk tale from the greater Khulna region. Kazi Chapal has collected the stories, dramatised and directed the play.

The comedy zooms in on a shrewd person named Paicho. All the villagers know him as a thief, while Paicho just puzzles people through his mysterious activities.

To follow the essence of a folk tale, the play has been adapted into a pala form where a narra-



A scene from “Paicho Chorer Kissa”.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

tor, through song and dance, tells the story of Paicho. A group of people help the narrator,

from the backstage. Mythical elements such as story of a king and his daughter

has also been incorporated in the play. Kazi Shila played the narra-

11:05	Amader Rannaghar	HBO	
06:15	Gaan O Fun	11:10	Due Date
11:25	Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo (Live)	01:05	Mega Piranha
ntv		03:00	High Lane
12:10	Apon Aaloy	04:50	Poseidon
06:15	Shubhoshondhya	06:55	Valentine's Day
06:45	Roopmadhuri	09:30	Black Water
11:30	Live Musical	11:20	Fast Five
	Programme: Katha O Gaan-e Kichhukkhon	Star World	
Rtv		02:30	Castle
10:10	Doctor's Prescription (Live)	04:30	The Big Bang Theory
03:45	Natuner Jayogaan (Live)	08:00	How I Met Your Mother
05:30	Game Show: Ghar-e Bairey	09:00	The Front Row with Anupama Chopra
07:35	R Music	09:30	Master Chef Australia
Desh TV		10:30	White Collar
03:00	Live Musical	National Geographic Channel	
	Programme: Priyojon-er Gaan	06:30	Spectacular Hour
06:25	123 Sisimpur	07:30	Nat Geo Daredevils
08:15	Bindu Thekey Britto	09:30	Deadliest Predators
11:45	Call-er Gaan	10:30	Mega Factories
Boishakhi TV		11:30	Taboo
11:15	Children's Programme: Aalo Chhayar Khela	Discovery Channel	
		03:30	Future Weapons
		06:30	Swords: Life on the Line
		07:30	Man vs. Wild
		09:30	I Shouldn't Be Alive
		11:30	Desire and Pleasure

ATN BANGLA		ETV	
09:20pm	Red Dragon to Rajanigandha	09:30pm	Rongila
11:00pm	Scandal	BANGLAVISION	
ntv		08:15pm	Harkiptey
08:15pm	Roopkatha	09:45pm	Gulshan Avenue
09:45pm	Kobi	Rtv	
		08:15pm	Chorkabyo

BTB		Boishakhi TV	
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm.		News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm.	
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm.		News (English) at 9am, 6pm	
ATN BANGLA		BANGLAVISION	
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm.		News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.	
News (English) at 9am, 6pm.		News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm.	
CHANNEL i		Rtv	
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm.		News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.	
ntv		Desh TV	
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.		News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	
ETV		Maasranga Television	
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.		News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.	

ATN Bangla		12:00am		Zero Hour
12:30am	Lead News	BANGLAVISION		
CHANNEL i		09:05pm	Moner Kotha	
01:00am	Tritio	ntv		
	Matra	12:35pm	Hello Excellency	
Boishakhi TV		Rtv		
12:30pm	Hridoye Jummabar	10:40am	Tarokalap	
		Desh TV		