

Two-day classical dance festival at Chhayanaut

ZAHANGIR ALOM

A two-day classical dance festival kicked off at Chhayanaut on November 9. Held at Chhayanaut's main auditorium, in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, the festival featured demonstrations of Indian classical dance forms -- Manipuri, Mohiniyattam, Bharatanatyam, Odissi and Kathak by both emerging and renowned dancers.

Nritya Pushpanjali (floral offerings) was the opening act that mingled Manipuri and Bharatanatyam styles. Several artistes, colourfully dressed, articulated their devotion to the Creator, gurus and the audience through the performance.

General secretary of Chhayanaut Khairul Anam Shakil delivered the welcome address. President of Chhayanaut, Deshikottom Dr. Sanjida Khatun was present at the inaugural ceremony.

The magnificence of Manipuri dance was revealed in all its glory. The form has its own specific aesthetics, values and conventions. The cult of Radha and Krishna, particularly the Raaslila, is central to its themes. Maharaja Bhagyachandra codified the style and choreographed three of the five types of Raaslila -- the Maha Raas, the Basanta Raas and the Kunja Raas. This genre of dance became better known outside the region through the efforts of Tagore. In 1919, Tagore was so impressed with the dance -- "Goshtha Lila" -- in Sylhet that he invited several gurus, including Budhimantra Singh, to Shantiniketan to teach the art form.

Artistes of Chhayanaut presented a group dance on the theme "Prabandhanartan", highlighting devotion and mystery through their delicate hand gestures. Samina Hossain Prema was the next to showcase "Krishna Balam Nritya-Goshthey Biday Jachon". The piece depicted the beautiful imagery of Krishna's acting out with his elder brother Balam through dance. Warda Rihab showcased "Balam Nartan" at the festival. The artiste seemed to enjoy every bit of the performance, swaying



the audience as well.

Noted dancer-choreographer Sharmila Bandyopadhyay performed "Cholketto", a sub-genre of Mohiniyattam at the event. The artiste generated a plethora of untainted sensuousness through the expression of her eyes and balanced use of mudra.

Several Chhayanaut artistes took the stage again to present Jatiswaram, a phase of Bharatanatyam. The artistes' movements of the chin and neck were beautiful. Salma Begum Munni performed "Oshatapadi" while Shukla Sarkar presented "Oshatobhujeshwari" at the festival.

Amit Chowdhury performed "Padam-Natnam Aadinar", a very delicate piece of Bharatanatyam. The artiste was superb in delivering even the minor mudra. Dancers of "Srishti Cultural Centre" and "Dhrupad Kala Kendra" presented "Tillana", a popular and

rhythmic piece of Bharatanatyam.

Pruma Abanti from Chittagong was vibrant in displaying Shringar Pallabi, a sub-genre of Odissi on the opening day. While presenting the piece, Pruma told myriads stories of romance through her eye movements. The influence of Jaideb's "Geetgovinda" is frequent in Odissi. Tribhanga (three twists) is the major gesture of the dance form.

Kathak was the last featured style of the evening. In its formative years, the dance form transitioned from temples to royal courts. The unparalleled popularity of Kathak occurred over time because of its incorporation with ghazal, thumri and dadra. Storytelling through dance is another feature of the genre. Two gharana (school) Lucknow and Jaipur are the hub of Kathak dance.

Tahnina Islam Jhumi performed to a tarana. Her expression of eyes and foot-



PHOTO: ATL AAKASH

The festival features demonstrations of five classical dance forms.

work were immaculate. Tarana performance by Masum Hussain followed.

Based on a Tagore poem "Shubhokhon", noted dancer-choreographer Munmun Ahmed first presented a Kathak composition. Later, the artiste performed another piece set on the record (rendered by Ustad Rashid Khan) in Raga "Kirwani". And last but not the least, Munmun Ahmed showcased various foot works, including rhythm of anklet, moving train, playing football based on Kathak compositions that wrapped up the first day's programme. The packed audience greeted the demonstration with rounds of applause.

Jayanta Roy with Sumona Biswas emceed the event making particular references to the performances. ATN Bangla was the media partner of the festival.

A rare treat for theatre aficionados "A Midsummer Night's Dream" staged



International students of Asian University for Women, Chittagong stage the play.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

The audience at the Rooftop Auditorium of Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chittagong were spellbound by an array of international students of the university performing William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

"Shakespeare's plays are very difficult to stage, even by experienced performers; yet, the students of AUW took on the challenge of bringing the play on stage.

Credit is due to the director of the play, Mukul Ahmed, who has long been in the UK, for generating the zeal among the participating students.

The students did not disappoint the audience and the prolonged applause from the audience at the conclusion of the play was proof enough of their appreciation.

The play revolves around the lives of two suitors, Lysander and Demetrius. A young lady Hermia loves Lysander, while her father Egeus wants her to marry Demetrius. Hermia's friend Helena on the other hand falls in love with Demetrius. Hermia and Lysander run away to escape the wrath of her father.

Helena and Demetrius follow the couple in order to foil their plan and in the fairy-enchanted woods, they all fall victim to the charm of the fairies' love potions.

Titania, the fairy queen, also succumbs to

the magic love juice put into her eyes by her fairy king, Oberon, following a love-wrangle between them. At the end, with the help of actors, Bottom, Puck and others who perform at King Theseus and Queen Hippolyta's wedding, the lovers are united and reconciled with each other.

Eighteen students from 13 countries performed in the play. The director said he needed three weeks to rehearse the play and get the theatrical production off the ground.

Five songs in five different languages, Bangla, English, Nepali, Sinhalese and Vietnam, were rendered in the play. All the female students enacted the roles of both male and female characters.

Yagel Azariya, a student of AUW, from Sri Lanka, who portrayed the role of Bottom, proved the star of the show. Thao Le from Vietnam, who enacted the role of Helena, also captivated the audience. Najma Islam of Bangladesh as Hermia received acclaim from the audience too.

The audience were also captivated by the flute playing of Christa Thorpe, who is the director of the Access Academy of AUW.

The simple but significant set design by Kevin Jenkins also brought the flavour of the Shakespearean age on the stage.

This was the second staging of the play, produced by Sara Amin and Sangita Ravamaihi, the two faculty members of AUW.

Radharaman Fest at Shilpakala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To promote the songs and legacy of rural bard Radharaman Dutta, a two-day festival was held at the open premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on November 9-10. Radharaman Sangskriti Charcha Kendra (RSCK) in association with Shilpakala Academy arranged the festival. Young and reputed singers from different parts of the country performed songs of the rural bard each day.

Veteran singer of the genre Chandrabati Roy Burman inaugurated the festival on November 9. Suranjit Sengupta (MP) was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony. Mahmud Seilm, president of RSCK and director of the Music and Dance department of Shilpakala Academy, presided over the inaugural ceremony.

Among others, Biswajit Roy, general secretary of the organisation and researcher Dr. Mahub Pial spoke at the programme.

"Radharaman's legacy has of late been disseminated in the way it should have been. But the genre has an appeal like other folk genres," said Biswajit Roy, who is also a well known singer of the genre.

At the event, singers performed both solo and choral songs, while a couple of dance troupes performed dances to songs of Radharaman. The first day's programme was divided into three phases. Artistes performed in the morning, at noon and in the evening.

The performers included Chandrabati Roy Burman, Tulika Ghosh Chowdhury, Krishna Chandra, Mohon Das, Khagendranath Sarkar, Shahin Aktar Papia, and Narayan Chandra Shil. Members of Antarjati Radharaman Parishad, Surma Parer Dhamail Dal and Nibedan presented group songs. Members of the dance troupe Natraj performed group dance.

Chandrabati's performance was a treat for the audience. The octogenarian singer from Sunamganj rendered songs that were appreciated greatly by the audience. Her renditions included "Aaj Keno Pran Kende Kende" and "Pran Kende Go Pran Shokhi". Being from Radharaman Dutta's native area, Chandrabati's pronunciation and intonation are a reminder of the legacy of the bard.

The other singers' renditions included "Shyam Kalia Shona Bondhure", "Rai Rupey Shyam Anga Dhaka", "Amare Ashibar Kotha Koiya" and "Naiyare Sujan Naiya".



Chandrabati Roy Burman sings at the programme.

BTV	12:30	Total Sports
11:05	Mati O Manush	Maasranga Television
12:35	Shukhi Paribar	10:02
09:15	Drama Serial: Rajkonna Lilaboti	Bangla Feature Film
10:25	Digital Bangladesh	06:30
ATN BANGLA	08:30	Binodon Sharadin
11:20	Business and Finance	Drama Serial: Khonikaloy
06:15	Shustha Thakun	09:00
08:40	Drama Serial: Shongshar Shukher Hoy Bedonar Guney	Tea-quiz
11:30	Drama Serial: Boiri Batash	CHANNEL 9
09:00		Bangla Feature Film
08:40		Drama Serial: Nagarik
09:25		Kobir Lorai
11:15		Bits Unlimited
CHANNEL i	CHANNEL 24	
02:45	Gorey Ghorey Gaaner Utshab	01:05
06:20	Rupantar	Musical Lounge
09:35	Kingbadanti 2012	08:10
11:30	Prokriti O Jibon	10:15
		Drama Serial: Jolchhobi
		Gtv

RADIO		
abc Radio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express
09:30	Edik Odik	12:30
05:30	Kacha Lanka	04:00
06:30	Mitha Kara	Dhaka Calling
07:20	GP Lounch	09:00
07:45	Megh Barata	Full Volume
09:30	Love Hour	11:00
11:10	Hindi Hits	Back to Back music
RADIO FOORTI	06:00	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
07:30	Hello Dhaka	08:00
		Green FM
		08:00
		Good Morning Dhaka
		12:00
		Today's Adda
		04:00
		U Turn

Swajan
On ntv
at 09:00pm
Single Episode
TV Play
Cast: Shojol, Sarika

The Hangover Part II
On HBO
at 09:30pm
Genre: Comedy
Cast: Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis

Nirbikar Manush
On ATN BANGLA
at 08:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Anisur Rahman Milon, Nafiza

ntv	11:30	Bangla Feature Film
08:45	Bangla Feature Film	09:00
04:10	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	Harmony
09:00	Drama: Shajan Music Jam	09:35
11:30		Drama Serial: Jonani
Boishakhi TV	Fox Movies	
04:00	Shorashori Doctor	03:40
08:35	Fashion Haat	I Am Number Four
09:20	Drama Serial: Ognipoth	05:30
11:00	Reporters Dairy	Drive Angry
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	08:50
06:05	Ebong Class-er Bairey	Homeland
08:15	Drama Serial: Ladies First	09:50
11:25	Business Vision	X-Men: First Class
Rtv	HBO	
12:35	Bangla Feature Film	03:25
06:00	Matrito Onany, Ashun Eke Nirapad Kori Dhrupodi Kahini Shimana Perley	05:10
09:50		06:54
12:05		03:25
Desh TV	BANGLAVISION	05:10
03:02	Gaan R Gaan	06:54
06:30	Sanskritir Sharadesh	09:30
09:45	Tribute to Legend	The Matrix Revolutions
		09:30
		The Hangover Part II
		Star World
		01:00
		The Front Row with Anupama Chopra
		01:30
		Junior Master Chef Australia
		09:30
		Revenge
		10:30
		Alcatraz
		National Geographic Channel
		02:30
		Monkey Thieves
		03:30
		Stuntmen of Bollywood

DRAMA SERIAL		
ATN BANGLA	09:30pm	Tattu Ghora
09:20pm	DB	Boishakhi TV
10:55pm	Scandal	08:00pm
CHANNEL i		Boro Barir Chhoto Bou
07:50pm	Noorjahan	BANGLAVISION
ntv		09:05pm
08:15pm	Oghoton Ghoton Potiyoshi	Long March
ETV		Rtv
		09:05pm
		Oloshpur
		Desh TV
		07:45pm
		Saatkahan

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

TALK SHOW		
ATN BANGLA	12:00am	Zero Hour
01:00am	Onno Drishti	Rtv
CHANNEL i	11:20pm	Our Democracy
12:30pm	Taroka Kothon	Desh TV
ntv	11:45pm	Shoja Katha
12:00am	Ei Shomoy	Maasranga Television
ETV	12:02am	Shamprotik
10:10pm	Media Gossip	CHANNEL 24
Boishakhi TV	12:05am	Modhyraater Muktabak