

WHAT'S ON

Dance Drama
 Title: Shakuntala by Bhabna
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
 Date: Sep 23
 Time: 6:30pm

Live Music
 Jatra Biroti Performances
 Venue: Jatra Banani, Kamal Ataturk Avenue
 Date: September 8-10
 Time: 7-11pm

Concert
 Title: Rock Nation: The Last One
 Venue: Gulnasha, ICCB
 Date: Sep 24
 Time: 1pm

Solo Exhibition
 Discordant
 Artist: Oppor Zaman
 Venue: Gallery Chitrak
 Date: Sept 9-15
 Time: 10am-8pm

Theatre
 Play: Poramati
 Troupe: Padatik Natya Sangsad
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
 Date: Sept 17
 Time: 7pm

BHUPEN HAZARIKA

An epitome of humanity and love

TWO-DAY CELEBRATION ENDS AT SHILPAKALA

ZAHANGIR ALOM

It was a vivacious gathering of artistes and discussants of Assam, India and Bangladesh at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) on September 7. They came together in a two-day programme to celebrate the 90th birth anniversary of timeless singer Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, an Indian lyricist, musician, singer, poet and filmmaker from Assam.

The songs of Dr. Hazarika evoke humanity, love, communal amity, empathy, universal justice, brotherhood and have been translated and sung in many languages. Widely known as *Sudhakantha*, the influence of the legendary singer reaches beyond borders and continues to inspire the forthcoming artistes and generations for centuries.

Asaduzzaman Noor, Cultural Affairs Minister, inaugurated the opening day's event as chief guest. In a moving speech, he reiterated to strengthen the cultural and fraternal ties between two countries. "This is a new beginning of cultural exchange between Assam and Bangladesh. I would like to emphasise on the close cultural affinity to emerge between the peoples of Bangladesh and all the states of India," said Asaduzzaman Noor.

Md. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, attended the event as special guest. He shared memories of listening to Bhupen Hazarika's songs in his teens. He



Dancers present a group performance at the event.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

assured the gathering of inaugurating a deputy high-commission in Guwahati soon, to boost bilateral relations between Assam and other Northeast Indian states.

Dr. Amarjyoti Choudhury, former Vice Chancellor of Guwahati University, Assam attended at the event as chief discussant. ASM Shamsul Arefin, coordinator, Friends of Bangladesh delivered welcome address. Anuradha Sharma Pujari, adviser, Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Trust, and Saumen

Bharatiya, the co-founder of Byatikram and general secretary of the Assam chapter of Friends of Bangladesh spoke at the event. Hasan Arif, general secretary of Sammito Sangskritik Jote, hosted the event. Liaquat Ali Lucky, DG of BSA, presided over the programme.

Liaquat Ali Lucky stole the show as an instant performer on the evening. He shared his memories with the legend. "I never think that Dr. Bhupen Hazarika is an artiste of

Assam or India. He is an artiste of Bangladesh and the rest of the world. I am deeply inspired by his songs." At the end of his speech, he soulfully rendered several songs -- "Ami Ek Jajabor", "Sharat Babu Khola Chithi Dilam", "Chokh Chol Chol Kore" and "We are in the same boat brother" by Bhupen Hazarika.

A cultural programme followed on the theme "Traas Bhuley Danobere Naash Kori Aaye". Noted Bangladeshi artistes -- Bulbul Islam and Khairul Anam Shakil performed songs "Bistirno Duparer" and "Ganga Amar Ma" respectively. Folk singer Dil Bahar Khan also rendered a song. Rupam Bhuiyan [of India] beautifully performed three songs including "Dil Hoom Hoom Kare" and "Sonar Boron Orey Pakhi Rey", a Gwalior folk song.

Artistes of Sursangam dance troupe from India wrapped up the opening day's performance with presenting Ganesh Vandana and an experimental piece "Somoyer Orogoti" in Kathak style.

Dr. Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the Prime Minister, attended the concluding day's (September 8) event as chief guest while folk music troupe Dohar (India) performed songs in the evening.

Friends of Bangladesh, Dhaka and BSA in association with Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Trust, Assam and Byatikram organised the programme. Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh sponsored the programme.

VIGNETTES OF EUROPE

Rondanini Pietà: MICHELANGELO'S FINAL MASTERPIECE



FAHMIM FERDOUS, back from Milan, Italy

As part of a short-term scholarship by Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen to the Deutsche Welle Akademie, I had the opportunity to spend two months in Germany, and I tried to make the most of my time by utilizing the weekends to see as much of Europe and its arts as possible. On one such trip to Milan, Italy, I stumbled upon, rather accidentally, on one of the final works of master sculptor Michelangelo, and it was an almost overwhelming experience.

After failing to secure tickets to see Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" which is housed in the city (tickets for which sell out online weeks in advance) due to a poorly-planned trip, I decided to walk around at the Sforza Castle courtyard, where gorgeous sculptures were a common sight. It was there that I came across a sign that said the Rondanini Pietà by Michelangelo Buonarroti, one of the greatest sculptors of all time, was kept. It took me a while to find the entrance to the exhibit. At the gate, however, the usher asked me to come back in about half an hour. Since there was not much of a crowd inside, I asked why, and he explained that for the last hour of the exhibit (4-5pm), entry was free, so I shouldn't be buying the tickets.

Pietà, a prominent subject of Christian art, is the depiction of Virgin Mary cradling the dead body of Jesus Christ. It has been undertaken by many artists, but none as famous as Michelangelo himself. His main work on the theme, at the St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, is one of the most remarkable works of sculpture of all time. But the Rondanini Pietà is distinctive from it, in a few ways. Michelangelo created the one at the St Peter's Basilica when he was 25, with a well-defined, healthy-looking body of Jesus on the knees of a youthful Mother Mary. The Rondanini Pietà, which was found unfinished in his studio at the time

of his death in 1954, shows two rather elongated bodies almost fused together, with Mother Mary mourning over the body of Jesus. He is said to have worked on it for nearly a decade, into his eighties, and his changing idea of beauty, spirituality and growing sense of mortality is ever-evident in the work.

The sculpture is rather aptly placed in the former hospital section of the castle's courtyard of arms, a place that has seen suffering and prayers. From a rear angle, it almost looks like Jesus is holding up the body of Mary, rather than the opposite. It is said that Michelangelo intentionally carved it that way as a representation of how Jesus' spirit was comforting Mary for her loss. After his death, the sculpture disappeared and only resurfaced in 1807 in the palazzo of the marchesi Rondinini, hence the name. After several change of hands, it was purchased by the city of Milan in 1952 by a public-raised fund, and went up on display at the Sforza Castle in 1956.

The power of art lies in being in its presence. Reading books and scholarly pieces and watching photos and videos can only give you information about any work of art, but the feeling of awe and marvel can only be felt while standing in front of it. And it was a moment of revelation to be in presence of the final piece of work by one of the greatest artists who ever lived.

All hail Khulna Khonjonis! Coach Sabbir and team members reflect on MPL win



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khulna Khonjonis emerged victorious in the first musical 'tournament' talent show, the 7Up Musical Premiere League, on Tuesday. Popular singer Sabbir led the team of Rakhi, Bonny, Bipul and Shujon to defeat the Dhaka Dholoks (coached by Nishita) and be crowned champions, after intense six-team head-to-head battles throughout the show that aired on Channel i.

On a reality show that has garnered such positive response due to its innovative elements, challenges were met by the team leaders and participants. "This was the first time a reality show with such a concept was launched, and our contestants were also

inexperienced. It took some time to coach them during practices and ready them for performances, but they were very talented and gave their best efforts. Between the first episode and the last, they grew and improved immensely. The most challenging, as well as entertaining undertaking for us was the Medley Round where we had to fuse three or four songs within one composition. This was the first time such a feat has been attempted in Bangladesh, and our participants faced a lot of pressure during this round. But they came through beautifully in the end," said Sabbir.

However, the big win has brought insight and valuable experience among the team members. "I feel ecstatic to have won with

my team members," shared Bipul. "Initially, getting used to teamwork was quite difficult as there were massive responsibilities resting on each person. To have a successful performance we had to individually do our best, as well as harmonise with others."

For future participants, each member as well as the coach stressed upon the importance of musical training. "Learning music and performing are quite different. In order to be successful, one must have the passion for music, and be trained under a good teacher," said Sujon.

The grand finale was graced by the presence of renowned singers, cricketers and media personnel and other members of the audience.

New Sia video pays tribute to Orlando victims



Late Monday, Sia and Kendrick Lamar released new track "The Greatest" and an accompanying video starring Sia favourite Maddie Ziegler -- though this time, she's not alone. The video -- which opens to a black screen with the hashtag #WeAreYourChildren typed in white font -- sees Ziegler accompanied by a large number of dancers (49 in total), which is said to represent the 49 lives

lost in the shooting at Orlando nightclub Pulse.

Matt Moseley, one of the dancers in the video, posted a screengrab to Instagram with the caption "49 beautiful lives lost. This is for you."

Others have since taken to Twitter, using the hashtag to aggregate thoughts on the video and its emotional context.



The video concludes with the young dancers moving and shaking in what vaguely represents a nightclub setting, before all falling to the ground, which in turn exposes the bullet-pierced wall behind them. No one from Sia's team has yet confirmed or revealed the meaning behind the video.

Source: Billboard