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The Bangla band Brishti” from Seattle performed in Houston on October 6.

By Sanchali Basu

HOUSTON: Better Bangla Radio and Ovarcome joined hands in organizing a night of fun filled entertainment at the Sugar Land auditorium on Sat., October 6. The event was held to promote the noble cause of raising awareness and raising money to aid the underprivileged women in the Indian subcontinent who have been affected by ovarian cancer.

The event was very well planned and organized with plenty of saree, jewelry stalls and food booths doing brisk business. The delectable fish chops, ghugni, samosas and chumchums prepared by the Bengali ladies were selling like hot cakes.

The evening’s entertainment program started with Kakoli and Rajeev Mukerji of Better Bangla appreciating the community for participating and aiding in a good cause. They went on to introduce the local talent Ruma Zaman who opened the show with a few Bengali modern songs in her melodious voice. The next performer was Deepayan Bhattacharya, who is quite a hit with the local Bengali crowd. With his good looks, great stage presence and impeccable voice, he kept the audience engaged with some popular Hindi film songs and a Bengali song *Shei rate raat chhilo*.

The soiree continued with Gopa Mallick of Better Bangla reading the congratulatory note by congress-man Pete Olson. She introduced Runsi Sen, the president of Ovarcome who was instrumental in getting the Bangla band “Brishti” from Seattle to perform in Houston.

It was indeed a treat listening to this young band of 9 members perform the rest of the evening. They started their show with a stotram and then a song about *Dosti* to form a bond between Houston and Seattle. The band-members, whose ages range from 19 to 40 have an intense passion for music and despite all being full time students, software professionals and software managers, the fact that they have managed to find the time to put together the only, one of a kind Bangla band in the USA, miles away from the homeland is definitely very commendable.

Their repertoire spanned the entire gamut of Bengali music starting from Rabindra Sangeet, to folk songs in classical style, old Hemant Kumar, Manna Dey popular hits, Laalan Fakir songs, to the very recent Bangla band songs. Their forte is in the Bangla band style genre which got popularized in the 80s with Anjan Dutta, Gautam Mukhopadhyay and Kabir Suman, and then by groups like Mohiner Ghoraguli, Bhoomi, Cactus, Fossil, etc. They sang a few of their songs including *Bela Bose*, *Bhebe Dekhechho Ki* and *Tomake chai*. They got the crowd on their feet and on to the dance floor with renditions of popular hit numbers like Sohaag Chand, Sadher Lau and Jibone ki.

The crowd was thoroughly enjoying the performance and did not want them to stop. They decided to conclude the evening’s show with the nostalgic *Miss you Kolkata*, but on the request of the audience, they ended the evening with the befitting *We shall overcome* and the crowd sang along.

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