

CULTURAL FEAST

Photography Exhibition



Title: A look through the crow's eyes
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: Gallery of Ward's n Pages, Café Insomnia, 125, Gulshan-2: The Fine Arts Institute, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh National Museum and Bengal Foundation
Date: December 25, 2005- January 27, 2006



Title: Photographs of Zainul Abedin
Organiser: Zainul Gallery
Date: December 29, 2005- January 18, 2006
Time: 12-06pm

Bappi Lahiri makes a comeback as a singer

Music director duo Vishal-Shekhar has managed to rope in Bappi Lahiri to sing for their next release *Taxi Number Nau Do Gyarah*. What is special about this association is that this is the first time Bappi Lahiri has sung for another music director. Talking about the experience, Lahiri stated that it was very good and the peppy track is the kind he likes. Although he admits that he did feel a little uncomfortable singing in the beginning since he has never sung for another composer. Vishal-Shekhar asked him to make changes in the track wherever necessary.

Nana Patekar and John Abraham who star in the movie have recorded some dialogues that will be used in the song rendered by Lahiri. Directed by Milan Luthria *Taxi Number Nau Do Gyarah*, will release in the first quarter of 2006.

Source: Internet

The apogee and perigee of our films

In conversation with Morshedul Islam

FAYZA HAQ

ASSESSING our films, Morshedul Islam of *Chakafame*, said, "The beginning of our films, half a century back, was very good, when *Mukh O Mukhosh* was made by Abdul Jabbar Khan. This was because a number of creative people were involved in our filmmaking. Following this, we got some remarkable films like *Shurjo Snan* directed by Salahuddin, *Aasiya* by Fateh Lohani, *Nodi O Nari* by Sadeq Khan and *Kokhono Asheni plus Kancher Deyal* by Zahir Raihan. Later on, however, our films turned towards the commercial angle.

"The films which I've just mentioned were commercially successful and they competed well with the Urdu and Hindi films, that came to our country from the rest of the Subcontinent. After 1971, our films tended to move to a different direction and lose their rich quality; cheap elements crept in. Also, creative people were reluctant to get involved in film making at that time. This decline was evident in the 80s. The present film scenario is a consequence of that. But, at the same time, there has always been the urge to make good films. Some remarkable films had been made after 1971, and *Shurjo Dighol Bari*, by Mohiuddin Shaker and Sheikh Niamet Ali is among few such films. Some more quality films that followed, are the ones by Alamgir Kabir viz. *Shimana Periy*, *Shurjo Kony* and *Dhirey Bohey Meghna*, and *Megher Onek Rong* directed by Harunur Rashid. These were made in



Morshedul Islam the late 70s."

Islam said, "The endeavors for good filmmaking did not receive adequate patronage, specially from the government sector". He said that since films comprise of a huge industry, a consistent financial backing is required. For instance, after World War II followed by the Russian Revolution, Soviet films were nationalised. "Decisive steps were taken to have a separate budget for film making. Lenin believed that

films were vital for the cultural development of the nation," Islam said. Bangladesh, in comparison, has received limited aid from the government in this respect, he said. The good films, he pointed out, have been made mostly on private levels.

However, Islam said, the move towards good filmmaking -- which began in Bangladesh after the mid eighties -- led to the emergence of some good films in our time. He said, "Every year, we've made four to five films which have won accolades for Bangladesh on international levels. Thus, I feel that our standards are not abysmal. Despite odds, our filmmakers have made considerable progress."

Touching the subject of obscene films, Islam said, "The cause of their existence is that the filmmakers of these disreputable productions have no art orientation or correct film sense." Therefore, he said, they go in for cheap sensationalism. "Even a successful commercial film requires a tremendous amount of creativity. However, our art films have some impact on the commercial films. By commercial films, I mean those films that simply entertain and have no vital message or carry no indelible mark on the mind."

In conclusion, asked to comment on *Matir Moina*, Islam said, "It has definitely very good direction and production by Tareq and Catherine Masood. It's one of the best of our recent films. *Mukhtir Gaan* by Tareq is also a powerful and important film which delivers a memorable message to viewers."

Moutushi Khandaker

A bright spark in the dance firmament

KAVITA CHARANJI

Can a therapy for an illness become an all time passion? That's the story of talented Kathak dancer Moutushi Khandaker who as a toddler of three years was prescribed physical exercise such as aerobics, swimming or dancing to cure her rheumatoid fever. Opting for dancing combined with physical exercise, she quickly mastered some basic steps from her teacher in Chittagong, the late Runu Bishwas. Five years later, she had managed to defeat the ailment.

Today, she trains under Shibli Mohammad and has delved deep into the subject of dance. "What began as a form of treatment flowered into an



Moutushi Khandaker

abiding interest and love for classical dance. My knowledge of Kathak and the basics of other classical dances is my greatest achievement," asserts Moutushi.

Who has inspired her along the way? Moutushi gives pride of place to her guru Shibli, but there are others such as Malavika Mitra and Pandit Birju Maharaj. A great memory is a compliment from the latter when he came to Dhaka, in 1998. Though at the time she was not a full-fledged Kathak dancer, her footwork impressed him so greatly that he commented to Shibli that the sound of her feet was delightful and -- with proper practice -- she had the makings of a good dancer. Likewise, she receives encouragement from Shibli, who firmly believes in her high dance calibre and potential to be a remembered name in the dance firmament.

However, Moushumi cannot divorce herself from some of the common concerns of dancers in Bangladesh. As she asserts, this performing art gets low coverage in the electronic media. Likewise, while the glamour of TV serials and the ramps lures away talent, Hindi films continue to influence dance in Bangladesh. Education, or rather the lack of it, is another hindrance. "When I perform a Kathak dance on stage, I have to give a demonstration about each element of my dance; I should explain the meaning of *tarana*, *thumri* and so on. If I don't know, how can I get other people to understand?" questions Moutushi.

While the technical side of dance is important to Moutushi, so is the necessity to communicate effectively with the audience. "Dance, in my view is the most primitive form of speech. When people didn't know how to speak or have the words to make a sentence, they moved their hands, eyes and changed their facial expressions. We can see dance everywhere today -- in the movement of a leaf, the movement of a baby's hand and the expression in a baby's eyes," she says evocatively.

Moutushi has many plans in the offing. In the first week of February, she will perform in a charity show for the blind. In the programme, being organised by the NGO Drishti, she will do Guru Vandana and possibly close the Kathak evening with a *jugalbandi* along with her teacher Shibli. Midway, she plans to demonstrate some technical aspects of Kathak, such as *thumri* and *tarana*.

In the long term she aspires to teach in a university. A graduate from North South University in English linguistics and English TESOL (for teachers of English as a second language), she wants to do her Master's in English TESOL from the UK. In the long term, she also has the ambition to do her Ph.D. in dance -- maybe in the Delhi Kathak Kendra or Bharatiya Kala Kendra. Explaining her interest in research, she says, "I want to prove that classical dance is richer than commercial dance. Every dancer must have a grounding in classical dance because it is the basis of our dance."

Given her dedication and commitment to her art she might just prove a bright spark in the dance firmament.

Eid special

Tai Dohey Pran to be aired on Channel-i



Asaduzzaman Noor and Sara Zaker in the play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As part of the Eid special programmes Channel-i will air *Tai Dohey Pran* on January 16 at 7:50 pm.

Written by Bipasha Hayat and directed by Arif Khan, the play follows Nitu, who has just parted ways with her husband and moves to Dhaka from London with her

daughter, Elizabeth. Neither Elizabeth nor Nitu's mother wants her to go through the divorce. Nitu cannot make up her mind and at this point she comes across Shafiq, her love interest before she got married.

Shafiq is still single and this sparks new interest in Nitu. But will her daughter and mother accept

her decisions? Noted actors Asaduzzaman Noor and Sara Zaker have played the lead roles in the play. Incidentally, this is their first play together in the last eight years. Dilara Zaman, Flora Sarkar and Arupa have played the other characters. Humayun Faridde will be seen in a special role in the play.

Nagorik Natayangan Ensemble celebrates 11th anniversary

The 11th founding anniversary of theatre troupe, Nagorik Natayangan Ensemble was observed recently at Mahila Samity Auditorium, according to a press release. Renowned playwright, actor and director, Professor Moinazzuddin Ahmed was the chief guest at the occasion. Eminent theatre personalities Ataur Rahman, Nasuddin Yusufi, Keramat Mawla, M Hamid, SM Mohsin, Gulam Quddus, Liaquat Ali Lucky, Rokeya Rafique Baby and others were also present at the event.

The guests and the general secretary of Nagorik Natayangan Ensemble, Jamaluddin Hussain, spoke at the programme.

Staging of *Mricchokotik*, a Sanskrit classic originally written by Shudrok, translated by Mohit Chattyapadhyay and directed by Jamaluddin Hussain, followed the discussions.



Actors in a scene from Mricchokotik

Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts together!



Julia Roberts and Tom Hanks are reportedly going to star in a film together.

According to *Variety* magazine, Roberts is toying with the idea of featuring in *Charlie Wilson's War*, a drama set to star Hanks. The project is a joint venture of Hanks' production house Playtone and Universal Pictures.

Mike Nichols is set to direct Aaron Sorkin's fact-based script. The film is based on the book by George Crile and tells the story of a rogue Texas congressman (Hanks) who leads the charge to provide covert funding to Afghan rebels fighting against the Soviet Union. Roberts will most likely play Joanne Herring, a Texas socialite.

Source: rediff.com

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Don't Mind
On ATN Bangla at 07:50 pm
Genre: Eid Special Drama
Cast: Subarna Mustafa, Joy, Sumaiya Shimu



Something's Gotta Give
On HBO at 9:30 pm
Genre: Comedy
Cast: Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton, Keanu Reeves

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL i

09:30 *Trityo Matra*
11:15 *Saa Ree Gaa Mae*
12:15 *Teletim: Binocular*
02:30 *Teletim: Ekti Laal Saari*
05:15 *Janapader Khabor*
05:30 *Bashundhara Amader Gaan*
06:00 *Music Plus*
07:50 *Drama: Kangkaboti*
09:35 *Drama: Bikel Belar Phool*

ntv
08:55 *Ulshabey Anandey*
09:30 *Tomader Palo*
Bangladesh
09:30 *Bangla Feature Film: Moner Majhey Tumi*
01:05 *Bhalobasho Mor Gaan*
02:35 *Teletim: Ruponti*
05:20 *Othoba Anupar Golpo*
06:20 *Eid Agrajo*
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:50 *Tune Music*
08:20 *Eid Special Drama: Ebong Atpar*
09:50 *Shur Chondey Anandey*

Rtv
06:30 *Deshor Gaan*
07:30 *Hridoye Shur Ashey*
07:45 *Shukhey Thakun Deho*
08:30 *Moner*
12:30 *Teletim: Gora Jamal*
03:30 *Mohua*
06:00 *Ajker Bangladesh*
06:30 *Rtv Exclusive*
07:45 *Musical Programme*
08:15 *Single Episode Drama: Flora, Phoolmoti Ebong Amra*
10:45 *Jekhaney Shimanto*

ATN BANGLA

08:30 *Eid Special Drama: Bhola*
10:30 *Aha Ki Anando*
11:10 *ATN Music*
11:45 *Special Dance*

HBO

11:00 *Vera Drake*
01:30 *Darkman II: The Return of Durant*
03:30 *The Door In The Floor*
05:45 *Saints and Soldiers*
07:30 *Mortal Combat*
Annihilation
Some Thing's Gotta Give
12:00 *Two Fists Against the Law*
01:45 *Fatal Attraction*
04:00 *Tears of Sun*

STAR MOVIES

08:50 *Commando*
10:20 *Born On The Fourth Of July*
12:40 *28 Days Later*
02:35 *Slammed*
04:15 *Rangers*
06:00 *Ladies In Lavender*
07:45 *Home For The Holidays*
09:30 *Far From Home: The Adventures Of Yellow Dog*
10:55 *The Village*
12:45 *Total Recall*

STAR PLUS

09:30 *Shararat - Thoda Jadu*
10:00 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet-20 M*
10:30 *Dharam Aur Hum*
11:25 *Film Topper*

Programme

12:30 *Bangla Feature Film: Dui Noyoner Alo*
04:20 *Teletim: Shuvo Shamachar*
06:25 *Ananda Gaan*
07:50 *Eid Special Drama: Don't Mind*
08:55 *Eid Special Drama: Shundor Shotto*
10:35 *Eid Special Drama: Burar Bhimroti*
12:15 *Eid Special Musical Programme*

STAR WORLD

11:30 *Jai Ganga Maiya*
12:30 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet-20 M*
12:55 *Taaza Hits*
01:00 *Star Bestsellers*
02:00 *Taaza Hits*
02:05 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet-20 M*
03:00 *Kora Kagaz*
04:00 *Kora Kagaz*
04:30 *Kora Kagaz*
05:00 *Hit Film: Hit Sangeet-20 M*
05:25 *Taaza Hits*
5:30 *Sashhhh...Koi Hai...*
6:30 *House Of Mouse*
7:00 *Hercules*
7:25 *Film Topper*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

08:00 *Telebrands*
08:30 *Explorations*
09:00 *Human Edge*
09:30 *Dogs With Jobs*
10:00 *Dogs With Jobs*
10:30 *Backyard Science*

ANIMAL PLANET

08:30 *Animal Planet At the*
09:00 *Monkey Business*
09:30 *Keepers of the Forest*
10:00 *Meerkat Manor*
10:30 *One Planet*
11:30 *One Planet*
12:30 *Fun Zone*
01:00 *Fun Zone*
01:30 *Honda Presents: Animal Planet*
02:30 *Animal Planet at the movies*
03:00 *Monkey Business*
03:30 *Keepers of the Forest*
04:00 *Meerkat Manor*
04:30 *Animal Planet Showcase*
05:30 *Animal Planet Showcase*
06:30 *Indian Safari*
07:30 *Attenborough Presents*
08:30 *The Horsemen*
09:00 *RSPCA: Have You Got What It Takes*
09:30 *Wild Encounters*
10:30 *One Planet*
11:30 *One Planet*

DISCOVERY

08:30 *Wild Discovery*
09:30 *Discovery Spotlight*
11:30 *Digital Cool*
12:30 *True horror*
01:30 *Wild West Week*
02:30 *I Survived*
03:30 *Life on the Edge*
04:30 *Wild West Week*
05:30 *Discovery India People*
06:30 *Extreme Machines*
07:30 *Wild West Week*
08:30 *Discover India*
10:30 *Discovery Wings*
11:30 *Lifestyle Showcase*

STAR SPORTS

09:00 *English Premier League Preview (T)*
09:30 *Hopman Cup Hyundai*
10:30 *Hopman Cup XVII Perth*
10:30 *Australia Final (T)*
12:30 *Dakar Rally 2006*

EUROMILHOES DAKAR

Day 15 Highlights (S)
A1 Grand Prix Qualifying
Indonesia Indonesia (L)
Football Asia (T)
Cricket Classics Close Encounters (R)
Gillette World Sports Special
Locker Room (R)
Dakar Rally 15 Highlights (R)
Asian Tour Magazine Show Asian Tour Weekly 2006 (T)
Epl Saturday Premier-ship Saturday (L)
English Premier Football League 2005/06 Manchester England Aston Villa Vs West Ham United (S)
Epl Saturday Premier-ship Saturday (L)
English Premier Football League 2005/06 Blackburn Rovers Vs Bolton Wanderers (L)
Epl Saturday Premier-ship Saturday (L)
English Premier Football League 2005/06 Manchester England Aston Villa Vs West Ham United (S)
Epl Saturday Premier-ship Saturday (L)
English Premier Football League 2005/06 Manchester England Aston Villa Vs West Ham United (S)

ESPN

Nba Basketball Miami Heat Vs Seattle SuperSonics (L)
Cricket Classics Great Indian Partnerships (R)
Here We Go (R)
Super Centuries (R)
Cricket Classics Dravid: The Wall
Indian Premier Hockey League Phil First
Sportscenter Week In Review
Cricket Classics Indian

TEN SPORTS

08:00 *Garner TV*
09:00 *WWE: Velocity*
09:45 *Winning Post*
10:45 *Pakistan v India 06 (3 test, 5 ODIs) : Straight Drive*
12:45 *Pakistan v India 1st Test, Day 2 (1st Session)*
01:25 *Pakistan v India 06 (3 test, 5 ODIs) : Straight Drive*
03:45 *Pakistan v India 1st Test, Day 2 (2nd Session)*
05:45 *Pakistan v India 1st Test, Day 2 (3rd Session)*
07:30 *Pakistan v India 06 (3 test, 5 ODIs) : Straight Drive*
08:30 *WWE: Experience*
11:00 *Pakistan v India 1st Test, Day 2 (H/L)*
12:00 *WWE: Experience*
12:00 *Trans World Sports*