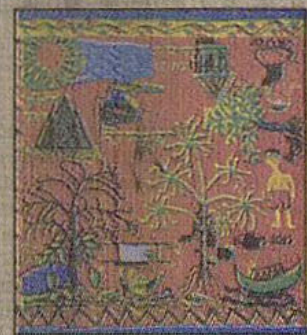


CULTURAL FEAST



Of symbols and moving messages

In conversation with film maker Anwar Jamal

FAYZA HAQ

Cultural Programme

Title: Shahoshor Pochish Bocchor... Organiser: Nijera Kori... Date: January 27-28 from 3 pm

Cultural Programme

Title: Mukhjudho O Nari... Organiser: Woman Studies Department... Date: January 13-31 at 4:30 pm

Theatre Festival

Venue: National Theatre Stage... Schedule: Binodini Dhaka Theatre February 1... Chhayanout Bogorik Feb 10

Table with columns: Play, Troupe, Date. Lists various theatrical performances like Binodini, Nityapurn, Chhayanout.

Kathak Dance

Troupe: Shobhana Narayan and her troupe... Organiser: High Commission on India... Date: January 31 at 7:00 pm

Film Screening

Organiser: Indian Cultural Centre... Schedule: January 25 Aandhi... Venue: Auditorium of the Indian Cultural Centre

Exhibition

Title: Antorbikshon... Artist: Swapan Chowdhury... Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts... Date: January 22- February 5

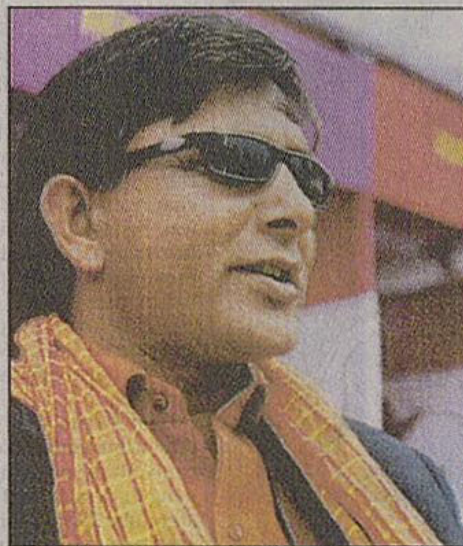
Photography Exhibition

Title: A look through the crow's eyes... Organiser: Bengal Foundation... Venue: Gallery of Ward's n Pages... Date: December 25, 2005- January 27, 2006

ANWAR Jamal a filmmaker and jury member from India, in his brief parley with The Daily Star at the Dhaka Club, said, "Coming from New Delhi, my entry Swaraj or The Little Republic, had been included in the last Dhaka International Film Festival. The film dealt with self-rule in India. The story line, he said, dealt with women of present India, who wanted self-rule through democracy. This was symbolised, he said, by four women who were in search of water.

"The element of water stands for the journey of the heroines who combine faith with unity," said Jamal. Swaraj, which dealt with a social issue, like his other films, won three awards in the Dhaka Film Festival (Best Film, Critic Award, and Best Director Award). This film has travelled to 39 film festivals besides this, to places like Sao Paulo, Rio, Bombay Calcutta, other major Commonwealth cities, Stockholm, Cairo, Venice and Cannes. Jamal has won six international awards, apart from India's Best Feature Film Award.

Dwelling on the Bangladesh entries in the Dhaka International Film Festival, Jamal said, "I'm exposed to films by Tareque Masud, Tanvir Mokammel and Saidul Anam Tutul. I've enjoyed Bangladeshi documentaries too. At times I've seen the films overseas, when they are entered in the international film competitions, and I've been on the board. I personally feel there has to



Anwar Jamal

be a movement for the kind of film that is needed here, to take up questions with the type of governments that we have in South East Asia. There is democracy, but the funds for cultural activities like filmmaking is very limited. Whether in Nepal, Sri Lanka or India, culture has not always been the priority issue. I feel that films should

not be a part of Information and Broadcasting or External Affairs ministries.

"The good alternative films can emerge in South East Asia, and the subcontinent, in particular, if there is sufficient government backing. The film industry is in the hands of a few people, who dictate the terms and conditions, as in India, he added. Bollywood cinema, he said, remained copies of Hollywood films or variations of it, while Dhollywood, in turn, copies Bollywood."

However, he said, this allegation does not apply to art films, as these films were about art, and art was all about truth. "The moving messages that are coming through the films may be limited but they are powerful," he said, "as in Tareque Masud's Matir Moina. Similarly, efforts by Tanvir Mokammel, and Morshedul Islam are also remarkable."

Asked to comment on European films, Jamal said, "When we talk of German literature, films and Expressionism, the concept has changed, as when we consider films like Downfall, an Oscar submission from Germany --which dealt with the conflicts between the Left and Right dealing with Hitler's last 30 days. People in Estonia who have survived World War II say that Hitler was better than Stalin, while I have to judge a film at an unbiased international level, and this is not easy. For me a film is not just about a particular place or people. It should cross all cultural barriers."

The spectacular 14th Kalakar Awards Ceremony (KAC), was held on January 22 at Calcutta Science City Auditorium.

Bangladeshi film Shashi, based on Rabindranath Tagore's novel and directed by Chashi Nazrul Islam has received the prestigious award from KAC, says a press release. The feature film, a production of Impress Telefilms, has already stirred the imagination of movie lovers across Bangladesh. Celebrities from Indian cinema and television attended the event. Parineeta and Nishijapan, have been nominated in the best film category while Rani Mukherji and Konkana Sen Sharma have been nominated for Black and

Page 3 respectively.



Page 3 respectively.



Channel-i is set to air Bangladesh Amar Bangladesh, a quiz show featuring different topics. People from different corners of the country are eligible to participate in the programme. Farhadur Reza is the director as well as host of Bangladesh Amar Bangladesh.



Mega serial titled Shukher Lagia, will be aired tonight at 8:30 pm on ATN Bangla. Written by Nasir Ahmed and directed by Kamal Khan the play features Moushumi, Azizul Hakim, Shams Sumon, Apon Hasan and others.



"Sometimes I am over suspicious" -- Dr Enamul Haque

Dr Enamul Haque is a noted theatre activist in the country. He is an actor-director-playwright. He has won appreciation for his performance in stage plays such as Acholoytan, Bishorjan, Dewan Gazir Kissa, Baki Itihash, Nurul Diner Sharajibon, Janotar Rangshala, Shoroma and others. Plays directed by him include Chirokumar Shobha, Kholosh, Janotar Rangshala and Amra Kabore Jabo Na. He is also a noted TV actor. His performance in the TV plays such as Shuktara, Ayomoy and others won plaudits from the viewers. Founder member of popular theatre troupe Nagorik Natyasampradaya, Haque formed another troupe -- Nagorik Natyangan -- in 1996. Currently he is the president of the theatre group. The Daily Star recently had a chitchat with Haque.

A moment that you detest... During the show of Nurul Diner Sharajibon at a prestigious club, the audience was not sufficiently attentive to our show despite the histrionic skills of Ataur Rahman. I questioned Ataur as to why we should perform for an inattentive audience. Any compliments you will always cherish? I still remember the moment when veteran Indian dramatist Monoj Mitra appreciated my stage performance. That was such a glorious moment in my life that I became speechless. Who are the people who mean the most to you? Shumbhu Mitra and Ajitesh Mukhopadhyay who have devoted their entire life to theatre in India, which was not possible for many of us in the country. What keeps you going? I love people. And I like to mix with them, regardless of their social status. This trait keeps me going and helps surmount the numerous obstacles of life in the metro. What words do you frequently use? Teaching is my profession; as a result I have to say "This is the fact, understand?" frequently to my students. Sometimes I repeat it with other people. What are your little known traits? Frankly speaking, sometimes I am over suspicious, which, I believe, is my shortcoming. I always try to overcome it but still haven't been able to...

Films

An end to a stalemate

Pakistan has lifted a 40-year-old ban on Indian films after the Government permitted the public screening of Sohni Mahiwal, a classic 1984 Bollywood movie based on a popular Punjabi love legend. The move is seen as a significant step in the warming of relations between the countries after decades of hostility. It also opens up a lucrative new market to Bollywood which, in terms of overall viewers and numbers of features produced, is already the world's biggest film industry.

As well as Sohni Mahiwal, a joint Indian and Russian production, Pakistani authorities have also allowed the screening of Mughal-e-Azam, another Bollywood super-movie of the 1970s. The development came after the censor board deleted the words "Indian artists" and "Indian director" from the guidelines, which had prevented release of Indian films. The decision could pave the way for joint film productions and greater cultural cooperation between the nations. Although public screenings were forbidden, millions of Pakistani already watched the latest Indian movies aired by cable networks sometimes on the same day



Madhubala in Mughal-e-Azam

that they were released in India. Indian film songs have been very popular in Pakistan. The peace process, which started around two years ago, has seen a gradual thaw in relations, the lifting of travel restrictions and continuing talks over the disputed border in Kashmir. It had already opened opportunities for Pakistani actors to work in Indian films. Some half a dozen Pakistani actors have appeared in Bollywood films since. Meera, a top Pakistani actress, recently provoked controversy in Pakistan after she appeared in a kissing scene in an Indian film. Despite the decision to lift the ban, many observers believe that the Pakistani authorities would maintain some restrictions on what films could be allowed in.

TV GUIDE

Table with columns: Channel, Time, Program Name. Lists various TV programs across different channels like Channel-1, ATN Bangla, ntv, etc.

Table with columns: Channel, Time, Program Name. Continues the list of TV programs for various channels.

PICK OF THE DAY section featuring 'Amader Anando Bari' and 'S.W.A.T.' with cast details and promotional images.

Table with columns: Channel, Time, Program Name. Lists programs for National Geographic, Discovery, Animal Planet, Star World, and ESPN.