

Theatre

# Gharami: The tale of downtrodden people



A scene from the play

ERSHAD KAMOL

THE heroic deeds of the downtrodden people in remote areas during the Liberation War have not been highlighted much while depicting the history of freedom struggle of Bangladesh in 1971.

Alok Basu's play, a Natyadhara production, features the bold resistance of the *Gharami* (a carpenter community who make house and boats in the greater Barisal region), against the Pakistani military regime during the Liberation War. As a subplot, *Gharami* features the misuse of religion for personal interest as well as the missionaries' endeavour to

convert the minorities to Christianity in the remote areas. The play is based on the dialect of Barisal.

As the director of the remade production of *Gharami*, Litu Sakhwat has unfolded the story with narratives. He has used rituals, folk games and sports in his directorial compositions. And with the synchronised body movement he has created different actions such as making of boats and journey by boats. However, a lacuna is that while Litu has created many 'visual actions' to make the play colourful, most are not relevant with the tempo of the play. The director would do well to go more for perfection rather than variety in

his directorial compositions.

Zunaid Eusuf's set and light design is simple but effective. Using rope and curtains, he has created a suggestive house at the middle of the backstage, while the remainder of the performing space remains empty. Litu Sakhwat's music composition for the play is effective.

Litu Sakhwat performed well as the protagonist. Farha Tabassum Shimu was also impressive. However, the other actors should put their hearts into their respective roles.

Natyadhara staged *Gharami* at the Experimental Theatre Stage on July 14.

## Rumana Omar

# Combining dance and statistics

KAVITA CHARANJI

In the course of her long dance career, the London-based Bharatnatyam dancer Rumana Omar has wowed many an audience. The UK media has heaped her with praise. In the words of *The Scotsman*, "Her moves are like padded, extended versions of the classical Bharatnatyam... full of visual ideas." Likewise, the *Dancing Times*, UK, states, "... the Bharatnatyam was fluently beautiful."

Rumana's talent was on display recently in Dhaka. On July 13, the dancer performed to a full hall at the Russian Cultural Centre. The evening began with Rumana's rendition of *Stuti* to the *Raga Nattai Shankarabharanam*. Then followed *Alarippu*, a pure dance item where the dancer explored single, double and treble rhythmic patterns.

The audience particularly appreciated Rumana's next dance piece *Varnam* (colours) to *Raga Purvi Kalyani*. This vital and challenging feature of a Bharatnatyam repertoire, juxtaposed the dramatic or thematic interpretation of the lyrics in the songs against percussive rhythmic sequences.

This item evocatively depicted the story of a *Nayika* (heroine) pining for Murugan (a god believed to be born out of a magical spark created by Shiva). The work symbolised *Bhakti* and the search for the divine. The piece contained nine sentiments—*Karuna* (compassion), *Shringar* (love), *Rudra* (anger), *Veera* (hero), *Bhaya* (fear), *Bibhatsa* (disgust), *Adbhuta* (wonder), *Bhayanak* (terror) and *Shanta* (peace).

Other dance pieces were *Ashtapadi*, *Tillana* and *Mangalam*. The first presented an extract from *Gita Govinda*, a lyrical poem in Sanskrit, composed by the 12th century poet Jayadeva. The work captures the forlorn Radha describing to her friend the delightful music emanating from Krishna's flute and his dance of love with other maidens in the dark forest of Vrindavana.

Later came *Tillana* ("a dance of joy" in Rumana's words). The piece, with intricate footwork and sculpturesque poses, was devoted to the Devi, Durga—known equally for her gracious and terrifying demeanour. Durga is portrayed as a beautiful warrior seated upon a tiger who fought and killed the powerful demon Mahisurasura.

Last came *Mangalam*, a traditional item of benediction.

The dancer was ably supported by musicians Prakash Yadagudde, Shivasakti Shivanesan, M

Balachander, Balu Raghuraman and ML Vasantakumari. One glaring glitch was with the acoustics. To Rumana's credit, she did not lose her composure and continued dancing with poise and flair. "It was heartening to see so many people turn up for the performance," she said.

The talented Rumana is also an associate professor at the Department of Statistics, University College London and director of the Medical Statistics Unit, University College Hospital. Now on the cards are dance performances in Bangalore and Mysore in September.



Rumana Omar's evocative stance

# In remembrance of film director Dilip Biswas

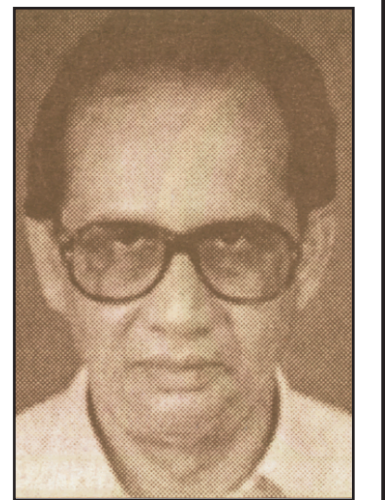
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Award winning film director and producer Dilip Biswas is no longer in our midst. Biswas passed away at Bumrungrad hospital in Bangkok on July 12. He was suffering from prostate cancer. He was 60 at the time of his demise.

Biswas worked in different fields of cinema: As playback singer, actor, director and producer. He entered into the film arena as a playback singer in Zahir Raihan's film *Behula*.

He earned fame as a singer in *Anowara*, *Momer Alo*, *Dui Bhai*, *Alomati*, *Sontan*, *Chena Achen*. He emerged as actor in *Habur Biye*. Later, he stepped into direction as an assistant director through *Agun Niye Khela*. His first directorial venture, *Samadhi* was an immense success. Other well known films are *Dabi*, *Bandhu*, *Asami*, *Anurodh*, *Jinjir*, *Anarkali*, *Angshidar*, *Apaman*, *Ashwikar*, *Apeksha*, and *Ajante*.

Biswas bagged National Awards thrice as best director. He also produced popular films such as *Akritagga*, *Shasurbari Zindabad* and others.



Dilip Biswas

## Book launch

# 'Rough Edges' with its delicate imagery

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

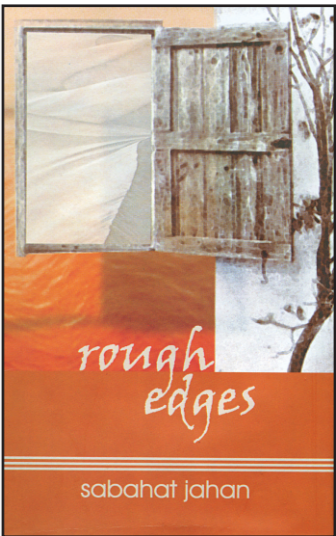
Sabahat Jahan, whose book of poems, *Rough Edges* was launched at Etcetera, Dhanmondi on July 13, said, "I've been writing for a long time but this is my first published work. The subjects of most of my poems are love, and the imperfections of love and human relationships." There are 85 poems in the book. Sabahat admires Neruda and there are influences of his work in her poetry. Apart from that she is also into South Asian literature. Sabahat studied in the US for seven years and is now back in Dhaka, teaching being her profession.

Dr Niaz Zaman, the publisher of Writers. Inc, talking about *Rough Edges* and its author said, "The book is about love, a theme for most young people. Her use of words, images, and her preoccupation with the many moods of love, togetherness and loss of independence, prove the book to be a good start for a young writer."

Professor Kabir Chowdhury, the chief guest said, "The poems deal with different facets of human relationships -- both sadness and joy. The most attractive part of the poems is the images, which are like finished cameos, that the writer conjures." Sabahat, Professor Chowdhury said, touches on both the anguish and the pleasures of human existence.

Yasmeen Murshed, chairperson

of Etcetera Bangladesh, said that her organisation was pleased to support literary commodities such as *Rough Edges*. Murshed said that she knew the author when she



Cover jacket of the book

was a school student and got to know Sabahat better when she read the book. She said that the author speaks of emotions dear to the reader's heart.

Noted cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar said that the book is bound to be appreciated as there is a limitation of good contemporary English poetry by Bangladeshi writers. He praised the author for the sensitivity and maturity of her work.

# Grand finale of ATN Taroka Tarokader Taroka



Award winners Queen Rahman and Mohammad Rezwatul Huque

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

ATN Bangla steps into its 10th year. To mark this milestone, a live cultural show was held at Bangladesh-China

Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC) on July 14. On the occasion, the top 20 finalists of *ATN Taroka* won awards.

The talent hunt show *ATN Taroka Tarokader Taroka* picked as winners

Mohammad Rezwatul Huque (music from Rangpur and Queen Rahman (acting) from Bogra district. The two winners were announced at the very end of the show. The winners walked away with their laurels—a flat, a car, Taka 2Lakh and loads of gifts each.

The finale was the performances of ATN stars such as Rezwana, Shobuj, Subarna Sharker, Subarna Debnath Tumpa, Laila, Reni, Tandra, Mridula, Reni, Chumki, Mowly, Nahid and others. The show included a variety of songs and dances, ranging from the traditional folk to modern genres. But the interesting part of the show was the skit by ATN Taroka finalists (acting). The crowd cheered the performers.

In his speech Mahfuzur Rahman, chairman of ATN Bangla said, "In my view the show was a hit and viewers enjoyed it immensely. *ATN Taroka* will return in 2006 on a larger scale." The chief adviser of ATN Bangla, Saiful Bari also delivered an inspiring speech.

## Talent Hunt

# Audition round of 'Close Up 1' begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Chittagong

Sumi, a tribal girl from Khagrachhari, was ecstatic when judges granted her a coveted 'yes card' to compete in the selection round. Like her, 41 youngsters of Chittagong out of 821 got the coveted yes card on the first day of three-day audition round of *Gao Bangladesh Gao*, the countrywide talent scout for singers of *Close Up 1*

and NTV. The programme began in the port city on Friday last at Theatre Institute --much to the delight of the local artistes.

The programme, that gained huge popularity in its initial journey, began for the second time through the audition round of Chittagong Zone.

Approximately 1200 would-be singers were students while many came from different parts of greater Chittagong and registered on the

first day.

Ten judges, including composer Pranab Ghosh, Selim Ashraf, Jalal Ahmed, Basudev Ghosh, Monowar Hossain Tutul, Piaru Khan, Anisur Rahman Tanu, Sujeo Shayam, artist Partha Barua and Sumana Bardhan conducted the day-long audition divided into five panels.

The organisers expressed their aspiration to find newer talents again through the popular programme.

Eminent composer Sujeo Shyam told *The Daily Star* that while many of the contestants auditioned so far have a good vocal and music sense they fell short on regular practice.

"We have to judge the participants in seven categories: Vocal, music, rhythm, expression of emotion, pronunciation, performance and confidence to select real singers and talents," he added.

In the words of Partha Barua, a prominent singer, "The major lacuna in the performance of the local singers was their colloquial accent which they find difficult to overcome."



The contestants at the audition round

# TV GUIDE

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) at 11:30 pm.

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

**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm.  
News (English) at 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.  
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

**ntv**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.  
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

**BBC WORLD**  
Every hour on the hour

**BTV**  
09:05 Open University  
10:00 Satellite Broadcast  
12:15 *Shongbadpotrer Pata Thekey Shastho Tatho Khela Dhula*  
01:00 *Prottyashar Alo*  
02:15 *Protidin Computer*  
02:40 Educational Programme  
03:05 *Banshori*  
03:30 *Amader Ranna*  
04:00 Musical Programme  
04:30 *Angona*  
05:05 National TV Debate  
07:00 *Mati O Manush*  
07:30 Drama Serial: *Rangdhanu*  
08:35 *Protidin Bangladesh*  
08:40 Drama Serial: *Rangdhanu*  
09:25 Drama Serial: *Swapno Shonar Gaon*  
10:25 *Teknaf Theke Tetulia*

**CHANNEL i**  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 *Grameenphone*  
11:05 *Tele Prescription* (Live)  
11:30 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*  
12:30 *Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon*  
01:05 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*  
01:30 *Shangbadpotrey*

**Bangladesh**  
01:45 Public Reaction  
02:40 Selected plays of *Humayun Ahmed*  
04:05 *Bashundhora Amader Gaan*  
04:25 *Sa Re Ga Ma*  
05:30 *FACT Business Talk*  
06:00 Music Plus  
06:20 *Shamoiki*  
07:50 Hello Minister  
10:00 Drama Serial: *Bela Obelar Golpo*  
12:00 *Ajker Shangbadpotro*

**ATN BANGLA**  
10:30 *Anyodrishti*  
12:15 *Adibashi Jonopod Smritir Monikothay Shornali Shadakalo*  
01:30 Film: *Bangla*  
02:30 *Islami Sawal O Jobab* (Live)  
06:25 Three Stooges  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Khola Duar*  
08:30 Drama Serial: *The New Shobuj Opera*  
09:00 Drama Serial: *Nire Tar Neel Dheu*  
09:30 Drama Serial: *Olot Palot*  
10:40 Business This Week

**ntv**  
08:35 *Ajker Shokal*  
09:05 Drama Serial: *Romizer Aaina Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri*  
10:05 Animal Kingdom

**PICK OF THE DAY**

**Bibarno Bhalobasha**  
On ntv at 09:50pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Richi, Mim, KS Firoz

**Two Weeks Notice**  
On HBO at 08:30pm  
Genre: Romance  
Cast: Sandra Bullock, Hugh Grant, Alicia Witt

**CHANNEL 1**  
08:40 *Shuprobhat Bangladesh*  
09:30 *Chokh Mele Dekhi*  
10:00 Cartoon  
10:30 Bangla Film  
02:00 *Bishwa Jurey Shat Din*  
03:15 *Kachher Manush*  
03:45 *Cholochitre ntv*  
04:25 *Apon Aloy*  
05:10 *Din Darpan/ Itihasher Ei Diney*  
05:20 *Apanar Jigyasha*  
06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*  
06:50 *Agroz*

**BANGLAVISION**  
08:35 *Shubho Shokal*  
09:05 Cartoon  
09:30 Drama Serial: *Krishnopokkho*  
10:00 Bangla Feature Film  
02:30 *Sheidin Chaitro Mash*  
03:00 *Amar Ami*  
03:30 Drama Serial: *Tobuo*

**HBO**  
10:15 Batteries Not Included  
12:30 The Challenge (2003)

02:30 Top Gun  
04:45 A Night at the Roxbury  
06:30 Delusion  
08:30 Two Weeks Notice  
10:30 Carnivale 15: Ingram, Tax  
11:45 Death Becomes Her  
1:45 Love and A Bullet

**STAR MOVIES**  
08:30 Terminal, The Casper  
11:00 Casper  
01:05 Love Actually  
03:35 Evolution  
05:40 Liar, Liar  
07:30 Hard Easy, The  
09:30 Terminal Velocity  
11:35 Stage Beauty

**STAR WORLD**  
09:30 Hogan's Heroes  
10:00 Get Smart  
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
12:30 Desperate Housewives  
01:30 Lost: The Journey  
02:30 One Tree Hill  
03:30 The Apprentice  
04:30 Boston Legal  
05:30 Hollywood Shootouts  
06:00 Travel Asia  
06:30 Baywatch Hawaii  
07:30 The Simpsons  
08:00 Wonderfalls  
09:00 Oprah Winfrey Show  
10:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal  
10:30 Desperate Housewives

11:30 The Greater Good  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
08:00 WWWS  
08:30 The Living Edens  
09:30 Untamed  
10:30 Dogs With Jobs  
11:30 Nat Geo Junior  
12:30 Expeditions to the Edge  
01:30 Explorations  
02:30 Nat Geo Wild  
03:30 The Living Edens  
04:30 Nat Geo Reveals  
06:30 Chimp Diaries  
07:00 Wild Orphans  
07:30 Cheetahs: The Deadly Race  
08:30 The Other Final  
09:30 Africa  
10:30 Edge Of The Universe

**ESPN**  
09:00 Cheerleading  
09:30 Espn Original Entertainment  
10:00 Tour De France  
10:30 Asian X-Games Qualifiers  
11:00 Icc Cricket World  
11:30 Pakistan Tour Of England  
01:00 Cricket Classics  
01:30 Espn Original Entertainment  
02:00 Tour De France  
02:30 Pakistan Tour Of England  
03:58 Pakistan Tour Of

06:00 England  
06:30 Cricket Classics  
06:30 Pakistan Tour Of England  
11:00 Sportscenter  
11:05 National Spelling Bee  
**STAR SPORTS**  
09:30 The Golf Club  
10:00 Tna Xplosion  
11:00 Cricket Gold  
01:00 Icc Cricket World  
01:30 Formula One Qualifying  
02:30 Hitz  
02:57 Fim World Motorcycle Championship  
05:00 Race Day  
06:00 Formula One  
07:30 Chequered Flag  
08:00 Fim World Motorcycle Championship  
10:30 Cricket Classics  
11:30 Horseshow Jumping

**TEN SPORTS**  
08:00 Winning Post  
09:00 WWE: Experience  
12:30 Tour De France: Stage 13  
01:45 Trans World Sports  
02:45 WWE:Heat  
07:30 Moto Gp: Motorrard Grand Prix Deutschland  
11:00 Tour De France: Stage 14 (SDD)  
01:00 Champions Trophy Highlights 1st v. 2nd (SDD)