

CULTURAL FEAS

Tête-à-tête

Richi on the semblance between reality and TV plays

MAHMUDA AFROZ

RICHI Solaiman embarked on her acting career in the much-acclaimed mini-series *Ili Amar Bon* in 1992. Over the years she has become a familiar face on TV and has won many accolades for her moving performances in several serials. Another identity of Richi that might be unfamiliar to the audience is that she is trained in *Kathak*.

Speaking on how she ended up being an actress Richi says "I used to dance in BTV programmes and was rehearsing for a show to be aired. Mustafizur Rahman saw me practice. I was seven at that time. He asked me if I'd like to act in his mini series *Ili Amar Bon*." While the play was a raging success, Richi did not continue with acting. She went back to her first love -- dancing.

Eventually however, Richi started getting more inclined towards acting and after her first adult role in Begum Mamtaz Hossain's *Bela Obela*, it became an addiction. Unlike many new actresses whose fame get to their heads, Richi had a balanced perspective. When her performances were appreciated, it inspired her to do better instead of just basking in the glory.

On responding to whether she wants to join the silver screen, Richi says, "That is an arena I guess I won't get a chance to explore. I am getting married soon and I won't be able to devote the time required to work in movies."

Elaborating on her marriage, Richi says, "We haven't fixed the



date yet, but it will be sometime this year. My fiancé has completed his Masters from New York and currently runs his own business. Marriage could mean cutting down on serials, it might mean I will leave acting all together and shift to the US with my husband. However, we still haven't decided on that."

Being a public personality is not all that simple, admits this BBA graduate. While there is generally the fun of fanfare and recognition there are restrictions as well. Reasons Richi, "When I go and hang out with my friends, I can't laugh out as loud as them or do simple things the way they can. I have an image to maintain and hence there is always a certain amount of self control."

This intelligent Aquarian has strong views about the Indian channels being aired in Bangladesh. Richi requests her fellow countrymen to pick Bangladeshi channels over the Indian ones. She also requests the government to reduce the number of Indian channels being aired in our country. "Indian serials are unrealistic and hardly have a message. Generally they are about rich people, glamour and glitz. It is a dream world, which is more of a farce. More than half of India's population still live in the villages just like ours. Is that ever portrayed in their soaps? While entertainment can be light hearted, it should not be totally delusional; some semblance of reality must be there," she concludes.

In conversation with Alfred Khokon Delving on the less featured subjects in documentaries

ERSHAD KAMOL

Alfred Khokon is a director working with offbeat programmes on TV. He caught public attention after making *Mukto Khobor*, a news-based programme on children. *Ke Taharey Chintey Parey*, a documentary of Fakir Lalon Shah, *Rabindranath Er Moner Manush* and several other programmes directed by Khokon have also won plaudits.

Our cultural heritage and children's issues are his favourite themes. In *Shishuder Shomoy*, which ntv is currently airing to observe the World Child Rights Week, Khokon focuses on several issues such as child labour and child abuse. To quote Khokon, "We are going through a transition; the younger generation is growing up in a mixed cultural environment. Through the medium of TV, I intend to give them a sense of our rich cultural heritage."

As a matter of fact over the last few years Alfred has made

programmes on our traditional music. Alfred has made two documentaries -- *Shurer Parampara* and *Bhab-baithaki*, set to air during Eid on ntv.

Shurer Parampara highlights the legacy of the Khan family of Brahmanbaria. The programme covers Safdar Ali Khan and his two sons -- Ustad Alauddin Khan, Ustad Ayat Ali Khan -- and the next generation who dedicated themselves to classical music and instruments. According to Khokon, "I've tried to feature some historic moments as well as the unfamiliar facts in the programme"

In *Bhab-baithaki* two singers will present issues related to men and women. Khokon says, "It's neither a *pala* nor a *kabir larai*, as the singers will not improvise anything in the show. They will perform some songs of Lalon, Hason Raja and other traditional songs, dealing with relationships."

Khokon is also working on a documentary titled *Kena Banshi*



Baye on banshi (flute) maker Hashu Fakir. Khokon says, "We see *banshi* everywhere. But, we don't feel the need to know the names of the *banshi* makers. In fact, Hara Miah and Hashu Fakir are the only two exponents of the traditional *banshi*. My documentary features the struggle of Hashu Fakir who lived for over a century. His *Banshi* is still exported to eight countries. Regardless he lived an unfortunate life."

Another of his documentary films is *Aakashbari*, based on urban children who miss the openness of nature. Khokon said, "It's a satire on the urban life where the children don't get to see the wide open spaces or come in contact with dirt and sand."

A documentary made by Khokon will be aired on the death anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah. The film highlights the oppression on the Fakirs by the Jorashako Zamindar family.

Why documentary films? Khokon's response: "My aim is to make feature films. And making documentaries help gain expertise in filmmaking, which I'll need when making feature films."

A producer of ntv, Alfred Khokon is also a poet.



Alfred Khokon (top), a scene from *Rabindranath Er Moner Manush*

Painting & Drawing Exhibition of Qamrul Hassan

Title: Qamrul Hassan in Line and Colour
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: September 20-October 4
Time: 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Jean-Claude Carrière Retrospective

Organisers: Zahir Raihan Film Society & The Alliance Française of Dhaka
October 3
5:00pm Danton
7:16pm Chinese Box
October 4
5:00pm The Horseman on the Roof
7:00pm The Ogre
October 5
6:00pm The Unbearable Lightness of Being
Venue: Alliance Française de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi

Mini Screen



Tonight's episode of *Joyitar Joyjatra* highlights women in journalism. Women from different professions talk about their jobs, workplaces, the problems they face and their achievements in the TV show. Tonight's guests are Tamanna Majumder, Shahriar Hossain Riya and Nafisa Dowla. *Joyitar Joyjatra* is hosted by Shomi Kaiser and directed by Rana Masud. The programme will be aired at 9:00 pm on ntv.



Aktel Song Factory, a musical programme directed by Manam Ahmed, features popular songs of bands performed by university students. The programme also works as a platform for senior and junior singers to exchange ideas. Among its other features, the programme focuses on the grammar of music. *Aktel Song Factory* will be aired tonight at 10:50 pm on Rtv.

Movie Watch

All hail "The Queen"

If you're expecting a soggy biopic about a monarch known for her rigid formality, snap out of it; *The Queen* is one of the best and liveliest movies of the year.

Set mostly during the week after the August 1997 death of Princess Diana, the film goes behind closed doors at Buckingham Palace. The script, by Peter Morgan, who used "inside sources," is a model of elegance and bracing wit. The gifted Stephen Frears directs with an eye for telling detail and an ear for the emotions roiling under polite royal speech. Michael Sheen plays Prime Minister Tony Blair; it's a sensational performance, alert and nuanced.

Sheen had to be that good to take on Helen Mirren, playing Queen Elizabeth II. After the PM's election, the queen brings him down a peg by reminding him that he is her tenth PM, Winston Churchill being the first. The tables turn when Blair mourns Diana on TV as "the people's princess." His speechwriter (Mark Bazeley) coined the phrase, but Blair rides it to popu-

lar glory while the queen freezes out her subjects by taking refuge at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. The queen mother (Sylvia Syms) is appalled at the publicity. Ditto Prince Philip, a dotty nut job as played by James Cromwell, who predicts a funeral attended by "soap stars and homosexuals." He gasps that "Elton John will be singing at Westminster." And so he does.

Frears uses footage of the funeral and the real Diana to comment on the action. But the real triumph of the film is the dignity it finally allows the queen. Bred to serve since girlhood, she has dedicated herself to a life Diana rejected. And yet as the queen walks past the mountain of flowers the people have left at the palace and reads the notes of love to Diana -- and the insults to Her Majesty -- Mirren lets the audience see the confusion and hurt in Elizabeth's eyes. It's Blair who has forced her back to London to mourn Diana publicly, much against her private nature. In a tart reference to Blair's current career reversals, the script has the queen tell him that "one day, quite suddenly, the same thing will happen to you." Palace politics

keep the film zipping along, but the crowning achievement is Mirren's. With subtle humor and innate class, she brings to light a

side of the queen long hidden from the world: her humanity.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



Helen Mirren as "The Queen"

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) 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) 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) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.
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

BTV
08:30 Open University
11:15 Shukhi Poribar
12:05 Songbadpotrer Pata Thake
12:30 Maa O Shishur Kotha
01:00 Shobar Jonyo Shikhyia
01:30 Mafi O Manush
02:15 Children's Programme
02:40 Cartoon
03:05 Cartoon
04:00 Haater Kachhey Computer
04:40 Mahe Ramjan
05:10 Pobitro Khatome Quran
06:40 Geet Bitan
07:30 Package Programme
08:45 Drama Serial: Pantho Nibash
09:25 Drama Serial: Polatoka Prem
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
09:50 Grameen Phone Trityomatra
11:05 Cricket Online (live)
11:30 Amar Chhobi
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemas Gaan
01:30 Shongbadpotre Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Humayun Ahmed's Selected Drama
03:15 Amader Gaan
03:35 Sa Re Ga Ma i Sports
04:05 Chhaya Jhankar
05:00 Romjanul Mubarak (live)

05:47 Hamd o Naat
06:05 Monohor Itar
06:25 Sroshitar Shakhor
06:30 Miror
07:50 Rup Roshosyo
08:20 Drama Serial: Ferari
09:35 Drama Serial: Sutoy badha Prapajoti
12:00 Grammenphone Aiker Shongbadpotro
ATN BANGLA
10:30 Anyodrishti
11:05 Drama Serial: Olot Palot
12:15 Amar Computer
01:30 Nari
02:30 Eid Bazaar
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:45 Islamic Programme
04:15 Mobarak Ho Mahe Romjan
06:20 Aynar Shamney
07:50 Drama Serial: Jollad
08:20 Drama Serial: Ferari Siren
08:50 Drama: Arai Minute
10:40 Talk Show: Mukto Shonglap
ntv
08:35 Aajker Shokal
09:05 Drama Serial: Labonyaprobha
09:35 Music Express
11:00 Cine Gaan
11:30 Gambhira
12:02 Single Episode Drama
01:00 Muktantong
02:30 Ramizer Aina
03:15 Gallery
04:25 Hridoye Romjan
05:15 Din Darpan
05:20 Al Quran
05:45 Jibon Gorar Ashor
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Shishuder Shomoy

08:25 Drama Serial: Labonyaprobha
09:00 Talk Show: Joyitar Joyjatra
09:50 Drama Serial: Amader Anondo Bari
CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh
09:30 Bangla Feature Film
12:30 Talk Show: Mot Motantor
03:30 Drama Serial: Daar Kaak
04:00 Gaaner Khata
04:30 Bioscope
05:10 Rohmoter Mash Romjan
06:10 Saaj Bela
06:45 Jonotar Ishthihar
07:00 Romjaner Swad
08:15 Drama Serial: Daar Kaak
09:00 Rupantror Golpo
09:30 Amar Nayokera
11:00 Nongor
Rtv
09:10 Tagore Song
10:30 Purush
11:00 Drama Serial: Boro Didi
12:05 ICT Today and Tomorrow
02:30 Islamic Programme
03:30 Drama Serial: Aguntak
04:20 Cinema Ar Gaan
05:10 Aisharjomoy Mah

PICK OF THE DAY



Ferari
On Channel i at 8:20pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Dolly Zahur, Tauqir Ahmed, Tony Dayes



The Grudge
On Star Movies at 7:00pm
Genre: Horror/Thriller
Cast: Sarah Michelle Gellar, Jason Behr

01:00 Thodi Khushi Thode
09:30 Gham Drama
01:30 Kabhie To Nazar Milao
02:00 Risshton Ki Dor Drama
02:30 Aisa Des Hai Mera Drama
03:30 Matinee Movie - Saahab Movie
06:00 Contd. Movie
06:30 Music Beats Music
07:00 Music Mantra Music
07:30 Chart Busters Others
08:00 Thodi Khushi Thode
08:30 Kaisa Ye Pyar Hai Drama
09:00 Ek Ladki Anjaani Si Drama
09:30 Aisa Des Hai Mera Drama
10:00 Thodi Khushi Thode
10:30 Akela Thriller/Horror
11:00 Akela Thriller/Horror
11:30 Khauffnaak Thriller/Horror
12:00 Contd. Contd

09:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
09:30 Virasat
10:00 Karm Apna Apna
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahin To Hoga
12:00 K.Street Pali Hill
HBO
10:00 Homeland Security
12:00 50 First Dates
02:00 Perfect Strangers
03:45 Before Sunrise
05:45 Escape from Mars
07:30 13 Going on 30
09:30 Elephant
11:15 The Bride with White Hair
01:15 A Kiss Before Dying
03:15 Airplane II
STAR MOVIES
08:00 Black Cloud Jacket, The
09:45 Yes Dear
11:30 The Big Lebowski
01:30 Almost Famous
03:30 Wicker Park
05:30 Warmed
07:00 Grudge, The
08:35 White Noise
STAR WORLD
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 My Wife And Kids
11:00 Yes Dear
11:30 Wild Card
12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond
01:30 Becker
02:00 Knight Rider
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:30 General Hospital
05:30 Monk
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Cheers
09:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak

09:30 One Tree Hill
10:30 Ghost Whisperer
11:30 Seinfeld
12:00 Friends
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
09:30 Nat Geo Junior
10:00 Wildlife Diary
10:30 Wild
11:30 Air Crash Investigation
12:30 Different Ball Game
01:00 More Weddings & Funerals
01:30 Riddle Of The Dead
02:30 Be The Creature
03:30 Endangered Week
04:30 Big Bang - S 7
05:30 Nat Geo Junior
06:30 Endangered Week
07:30 Sea of Snakes
09:30 Nat Geo Encores
10:30 Wild! Life Adventure
11:30 Built for the Kill
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Hannibal
11:30 Extreme Machines
12:30 Atkins: Fat Or Fiction
01:30 25 Years Of Survival
02:30 Guilty Or Innocent
03:30 Mastodon In Your Backyard
04:30 Predator Bay
05:30 Junkyard Wars 10 Car Dozer
06:30 Deadliest Catch, Greenhorns
07:30 Spirit Of The Mountain
08:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids!, Boiling Point
09:30 Baby Story, A Baby Litterell
10:00 Runway Moms
10:30 Human Mind
11:30 America's Most Haunted Places