

## cinema

## The Pathos and Poignancy of "Chitra Nadir Pare"



TANVIR Mokammel, the director and script-writer of "Chitra Nadir Pare" whose premiere will be held at the Alliance Francaise at 5 p.m. today, speaks about his joys, trials and travails in making this film, based on the Partition of Bengal in 47.

The film's English subtitle is 'Quiet Flows the River Chitra'. I always wanted to make a film with the backdrop of '47 because this has changed the

by Fayza Haq

destines of millions in the sub-continent. My previous film on '71 'Nadir Nam Modhumati' dealt with similar events of millions who experienced earth-shattering and devastating experiences. This type of major historical events have always fascinated me,' says Tanvir, talking to DS, asked to explain the selection of his

choice of cast includes Mumtazuddin Ahmed because I felt that he would fit very well into the character of an eccentric

lawyer, who refuses to leave East Bengal after the Partition, and who believed that the Partition was an unjust phenomenon and never managed to accept it. I selected Afzana Mim as his sensitive daughter, because I had tremendous confidence in her as an actress. Towkri Ahmed came as a natural choice as an idealistic young man who went into progressive politics. The same was the case with Rowshan Jamil, who came as a clear choice as the truly affectionate 'pishima' (aunt) of these children. Tanvir talks of his selection of his cast, who worked for him next to nothing, and were chosen for their performances on stage and not just BTV alone.'

As an artist, Tanvir is interested in the problems that he faced in making the film, Tanvir points out. 'We had literally no funds. We gathered the money by taking loans from friends and relatives. The government grant was reserved for other filmmakers. To get a producer was impossible for this genre of film. Alternate films in Bangladesh are hard to deliver.

The length of the film is 110 minutes, and it has been produced by Kino-Eye Films. It was printed in India by an old reputed company run by the Prasad family. Tanvir's other films include 'Hooley', 'Sriti Ekattor', 'Ekti Golir Atay Akhini', 'The Unknown Bard' (Achin Pakhi) and 'Swapnar School'.

The film begins with a winter afternoon of '47 with children playing beside the River Chitra. These children are of both Hindu and Muslim origins. As time passes, love relationship develops between members of different religions; a young widow 'Basanti' is raped during the Hindu-Muslim riots and commits suicide by throwing herself into the Chitra River. Next, the idealistic lawyer dies of a heart attack, and consequently 'Minoti' and 'Anuprava Devi' move on the border, and on to Calcutta seeking asylum.

All throughout, the Chitra River acts like some chorus of a Greek tragedy witness to human sufferings, as it often figures in the lives of the protagonists in the film.

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## festival

## Japanese Film Festival '99

IN remembrance of the World famous movie director Akira Kurosawa, the Japanese Film Festival '99 organized by The Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh started March 5th. The two day festival is held at the Multipurpose hall, Cultural section, Embassy of Japan, Dutabash road, Baridhara, Dhaka. Five renowned films, 'Doomed', 'Sanjuro', 'The Family Secret', 'Tombstone for fireflies', 'Tora-san' of the great director were exhibited in two days.

by Nafid Imran Ahmed

The festival started at 3:30 p.m. with 'Doomed' (B/W, 143min, 1952, subtitled in English) one of Akira Kurosawa's best directed films. The film is 1952's Japan. Its location is an unknown Japanese city. The story is about a chief of citizens service section municipal government officer Watanabe Kanji, who worked very sincerely for the Japan govern-

ment for 30(thirty) years. One day our hero of the story Watanabe comes to know from a doctors examination report that he is suffering from Gastric Cancer and is going to die. He took the day off and came home after hearing the shocking news, but tells no one about it not even his son and daughter-in-law. That night he overheard their conversation where they were planning to borrow his retirement and pension money and build a house of their own. In astonishment and rage he starts drinking and spending his money by gambling, strip shows and going to nightclubs. He spends half of his whole life saving this way. He got drunk and tried to forget the pain inside him but that didn't help. His family finds about this and thinks that he is having an relationship with a woman.

The film 'Doomed' shows a simple man desire for life and his sad story. His desideratum for life has been perfectly illustrated in the movie. In the movie he sings a song whose words say a lot about his innermost affection:

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Akira Kurosawa was a great film director who passed away last year. He was the first Japanese to win the International Film Festival Grand Prix. During his career he made a total of 30(thirty) movies and won Oscars for two of his films.

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