

audio cassette

Sultana's Solo Sojourn

Tumi Amar Buker Bhetor, a collection of 12 modern songs

By Muneera Parbeen

THE lady has a voice to win you over. In sentimentals, soft numbers, fast ones or even the more mainstream "cinema-like" numbers, her voice is still something to content with.

Sultana Chowdhury has been singing for quite a couple of years, and her biggest attraction is her beautiful, silken voice, that always leaves an impact behind. Her new album *Tumi Amar Buker Bhetor*, is a collection of modern songs, some of which has already been aired on BTV.

Phul Phutechey Monay, the first song on Side A is a fast, swinging number that immediately reminds you of a picture of girls dancing and running around trees — the reason for this picture coming up to your mind is that, its *filmi* music just leads you so! However, the song is not half that bad, it actually can even be considered tolerable, courtesy to its fast beat and catchy rhythm.

The real masterpiece of the collection is however the 2nd song on this side, *Amar Ek Jonomey Hoy Ni*. *Bhalobasha* is a slow number, based on a folk tune, that is bound to move you for its beautiful words and touchingly sad tune. The lyrics of this song is penned by Liaquat Ali Biswas and he deserves due credit for his job. This song is bound to become one of the hot favourites of this season, if not for longer.



Other numbers to look out for are *Karo chokh je etoy shundor* and *premer pratham chithi* (lyrics by Brishti) both stand out for their rhythmic tunes and music. However, it is the more common and rather superfluous words of the two that drag it down. The other song penned by Bristi in this collection *Ami ek dushomoy* also stands out as a different composition and its lyrics are far more tolerable than the former two.

There are some more numbers in the cassette, which are not worth any one's time unfortunately, but may nevertheless prove popular, because poor lyrics or not — these type of songs do cater to the taste of a certain section of cassette-buyers in the country.

Sultana Chowdhury's collection can thus be termed a quite successful output in terms of its content. She has a sensuous voice which could contribute more to our music industry if used properly. Cheap lyrics and ordinary tunes for the sake of temporary popularity is not what we would want to see such talent being wasted on. If Sultana is a little more careful with her selection of work, she should be able to carve out a good niche for herself in the Bengali modern music.

Azad Mintu has done a commendable job with his composition of all the numbers in this collection. *Tumi Amar Buker Bhetor* has been brought out by Soundtek.

drama

Pointing at the Superstitions of the Society

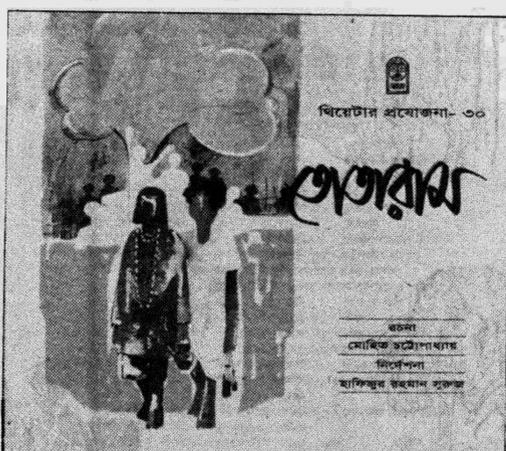
Theater's 30th production *Tota Ram* staged

By Nafid Imran Ahmed

RAINy day and holiday seldom come together. Yesterday was a perfect day for theatergoers. But the Guide House Auditorium was not house-full. Theater's latest production *Tota Ram* was on stage. Written by Mohit Chatterjee and directed by Hafizur Rahman Sujon the drama was a humorous presentation of a society plucked by superstitions.

Tota Ram is a simple story of acquisitiveness. The main character Tota Ram played by Foyez Ali Babu is an honest middle aged man who lives a simple life along with his wife and brother-in-law. His honesty and simplexes gave him a moronic look in the society. Tota Ram is quite content with his life but his greedy wife Mayuri and clever brother-in-law Bhoju always dream of becoming rich. The brother and sister always tease Tota Ram and try to figure out different ways of getting rich.

In one of the sequences Bhoju invites a saint Bakshi Babu, who can tell peoples future and can also make them rich. Seeing Tota Ram's wife he says that someday she'll become a Queen. While talking to Tota Ram the saint mesmerizes him and tells him that he could be rich by only listening to his wife and obey whatever she wants him to do. The saint then whispered something in Mayuri's ears and left. After this she disposes of



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all their belongings and spends the money for buying clothes for Tota Ram. The idea was to make him a fake foreteller. Tota Ram does not agree to become a 'Gonok Baba' at first but his wife threatened him saying that she would kill herself if he does not agree. So having no other option he agrees and Tota Ram becomes 'Dhoka Ram'.

Tota Ram chooses a spot near a market place and starts his fraudulent career there. At first the village people do not pay any attention to him and even tease him by calling him an impostor. But he does not lose hope and cleverly learns to make the villagers believe him by hypnotism and lake spells. In another sequence, the

king's jeweler came to Tota Ram and tells him that he has lost a precious diamond while he was working on the king's crown. He went to many renowned foretellers but nothing worked. So he now offers Tota Ram two hundred gold coins for finding the diamond and proves himself genuine, or else he will have him killed. Tota Ram falls in deep trouble. But co-incidentally Jeweler's wife came to him, begging and crying she tells him that she has stole the diamond and now as she is feeling guilty for it wants to give it back. Relieved Tota Ram told her to put the diamond in a pickle jar. Tota Ram not only got the reward money but also became a prominent fake foreteller. He became rich but sick of the fraud life. In the end Tota Ram goes back to his original life leaving his phony career behind.

Among the other character players of *Tota Ram*, Mijanur Rahman Khokon, Tarun Kumar Basu, Sharmin Sultana, Nasreen Sultana, Parimol Chandra Shaha and Bimol Banarjee was noted.

Greediness can make a man do anything, it also makes his life miserable and slowly destroys him. But realizing this fact can make him come back from that evil world and live a normal happy life. Our society is full of *Tota Rams*. They are not only fraud but also gives innocent people hope for impossible. For the better world we should help the *Tota Rams* to realize this and live a factual life not a fake one.

TV Guide

Saturday 10th July
(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

BBC

6:00 BBC World News 6:05 USA Direct 6:30 World Living: The Big Trip #4/16 7:00 Carribbean 7:00 BBC News Headlines 7:30 Asia Today 8:00 BBC News 8:30 World Focus: USA Direct/Asia Today 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC News 10:30 World Focus: Panorama 11:00 World News 11:30 Europe Direct 12:00 World News 12:30 World Living: Face To Face India Talk (Presenter: Karan Thapar) 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent 3:00 World News Headlines 3:05 World Weekend: Girl Friday 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Holiday Guide 5:00 BBC News 5:30 This Week 6:00 World Headlines 6:05 World Focus: Horizon: Mars 7:00 BBC World News 7:30 Wild World: Jancis Robinson's Wine Course 8:00 BBC World News Headlines 8:05 World Weekend: Watergate #1/5 - Break In 9:05 World Weekend: Girl Friday 10:00 World News 10:30 World News 11:00 World News 11:30 World News 12:00 World News 12:30 World News 13:00 World News 13:30 World News 14:00 World News 14:30 World 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