

**Exhibition**

# Salma : A film sans characters

An impressive short film screened at the Goethe Institut

FAYZA HAQ

AKM Zakaria, who directed the short film "Salma", says, "I have been associated with the Bangladesh Short Film Forum for quite some time, and have been the general secretary there. In the process I learnt a lot, seeing and working with other film makers. I chose this film two years ago, as I found this story without the typical hero and heroine a challenge. Just as I show the parts of the empty house, so there was the description of the deserted house in the novel too. I have moved away from the original plot in the sense that along with the break up of the home there was the building of the nest by two sparrows. I deleted the second part as the novelist Hasnat Abdul Hye wanted to show the making of a home by the birds taking place at the same time as the breakup of a human home. I did not want to enter into any such parallel situation and make judgement. I wanted to show

a simple story of a broken family and no more."

"You can make out the implied story in the fragments of the letter such as sentences as 'took a long time to understand', 'not want, a matter of self respect...' 'not want to compromise', '...not me as a separate entity', '... negligence. You have many...' '... want attention. Not in the sense', 'I'm leaving. I don't know', '...lack of confidence. He who has', '...may not return'. But while Hye's story had a feminist approach, my film did not contain any such message. All I wanted to depict was the breakup of a human relationship. At the end of Hye's story one found Ibsen's famous 'Doll's House' on the wardrobe and I have purposely avoided this. I didn't want to suggest that the woman had been inspired by Nora. I wanted to focus on the fact that growing individualism is breaking up the institution of the family. I did not single this phenomenon as either positive or negative. I want to simply hold up a mirror and portray I don't want to convey a

message or pontificate. I have not anything of my own. Instead, I have left out some elements here and there such as the delineation of the sparrows and Ibsen's novel lying on the chest of drawers."

"Again you notice that there is no background music in my film. Often music tends to be a binding matter which tends to be happy in some occasions and sad in others so that it tends to regulate and bind the film. The sound of the clock, the telephone and the doorbell that are found in the film are there to lend atmosphere. I wanted to show that no one was responding to the doorbell or the phone call.

The reason why I have chosen a story without obvious characters is simply an attempt at experimentation. I wanted to see if such a film sans characters has a rapport or not."

Zakaria adds, "I did not, in particular discuss my film with Hasnat Abdul Hye though I did give him the script before to which he was criti-

cal. We see films as an art and not business. If the film sells, fine. But my main aim is not to make it a commercial success. I hope to make a film next year on social conditions like 'Salma' which has taken up all my savings. As I had no financial backer. Government could easily spare modest amount for art films which cost much less and mean so much more. The short film trend in Bangladesh dates back from the 80s. Overseas it is not difficult to get patrons for alternative films. Even in India the national TV sponsors short films as creative exercise. Internationally too there is scope for short films. To print my eight minute film I had to go to Madras. To subtitle it I'll again have to go to Bombay. Normally the Bangladesh government helps in case of making subtitles for foreign screening but this involves red tapeism which I don't have the time



A scene of the film in the making with its director AKM Zakaria

or energy to overcome."

AKM Zakaria, who has studied Political Science, has been working as a journalist since his student

days. Today he works in the editorial section of a national daily. He made a video film on Buriganga and another documentary titled "State and Democracy."



No characters to be found in the silent scenario



The abandoned house speaking of its inhabitants

**Festival**

## Yuri Gagarin Festival 2001

DU CORRESPONDENT

THE eight-day long 9th National Astronomical Training Workshop, titled "Yuri Gagarin Festival 2001", will begin at the Russian Cultural Centre on April 1, to mark the 40 years of human exploration on space.

Bangladesh Astronomical Association (BAA) has organised the event to popularise the astronomy and science in the country.

The course will be conducted according to the particular text and also includes space observation through telescope.

Dr. Jamal Nazrul Islam, Dr.



Mofizuddin Ahmed, Dr. Ali Asgar, Alif Hossain, Dr. AR Khan, Dr. Rezaur Rahman, Engineer Shukalyan Bachar and Sujun Kumer Dev will conduct the course.

Any person interested on astronomy could attend the programme and the registration fees have been fixed at Tk. 500. The participants will be awarded certificates, said a press release.

The interested persons have been asked to apply in the particular application form with a passport and a stamp size photo by march 31.

The application forms are available at the BAA office, 51 Science Laboratory Road, (3rd floor of Rinbow) and Boipatro, Aziz Co-operative Super Market, Shababagh in the city, the release added.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Shilu Abed Crafts Award 2001

Organised by Bangladesh National Crafts Committee 'Shilu Abed Crafts Award 2001' will be held at the Brac Centre auditorium on March 23 at 5:00p.m.

### 8 Young Artists

A group art exhibition by 8 young artists started at the Ariel Center on March 16. Artist Aminul Islam inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest.

The exhibition will continue everyday from 2p.m. 8p.m. till March 22.

### Print Exhibition of India

Bangladesh Shipakala Academy in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has organised a ten-day long exhibition titled 'Contemporary Print Exhibition of India' today at 5p.m. at the Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Cultural Affairs will be present as chief guest and inaugurate the exhibition.

The exhibition will remain open daily from 11a.m. to 7p.m. (Friday 3p.m. to 7p.m.) till March 31 (closed on March 22, 26 and 29).

### 43rd Grand Group Art Exhibition

The month-long 43rd Grand Group Art Exhibition by reputed Bangladeshi and foreign artists was inaugurated on March 10 at Saju Art Gallery (DCC North Super Market, 2nd Circle, Gulshan). A total of 220 artworks by 139 artists are being displayed at the exhibition.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10.00a.m. to 8.30p.m. (Friday closed) till April 9.

### Photography Show

Glimpses of New York, the 11th solo Photography show by M.A. Taher opens on March 16 at Bangladesh Photographic Society Gallery, 63/2 Laboratory Road. Prof. Kabir Chowdhury is to inaugurate the show which will remain open to public till March 30 from 12:30 noon to 8:00 p.m. everyday.

# TV GUIDE

**PICK OF THE DAY**



**Reality Bites on HBO at 10:00p.m.** An irreverent comedy about hard facts of life and love in the 90's. This movie showcases the life of Leaina Pierce (Ryder) a fresh graduate and aspiring filmmaker torn between her friend Dyer (Hawke) and a charming video executive (Stiller). Starring: Winona Ryder, Ethan Hawke, Janeane Garofalo and Ben Stiller.

Saans 5:30 Hit Ya Fit

**STAR GOLD**

8:30 Bollywood News 9:00 Baba Taranath (Biswajit, Sandhya Roy) 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 An Evening in Paris (Shammi Kapoor, Sharmila Tagore) 3:30 Bollywood News 4:00 Kartavya (Dharmendra, Rekha) 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Mangal Masti- Lahu Ke Do Rang (Vinod Khanna, Shabana Azmi) 10:30 Bollywood News 11:00 Dilruba (Dev Anand, Rehana) 12:30 Dilruba



The Pretender on Star World at 11:00p.m.

Comedy: The Air Up There 11:15 Comedy: Operation Splitville 12:45 Action: Recoll 2:30 Comedy: Man of the House 4:15 Drama: Bonnie And Clyde: True Story 6:00 Thriller: Hunt For The Unicorn Killer 1

**STAR WORLD**

6:00 Murder Call 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 9:30 Dharma & Greg 10:00 Chicago Hope 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Everybody Loves Raymond 12:30 Frasier 1:00 Grace Under Fire 1:30 The Bold & the Beautiful

**STAR PLUS**

6:00 Tu Tu Main Main 6:30 Star Geetmala 7:30 Cine Jharokha 8:00 Hit Ya Fit 8:30 Good Morning India 9:30 Star Morning Show: Anjaam Khuda Jaane (Naseer, Anita Raj, Danny) 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 TSN 1:30 Small Wonder 2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 3:00 Shagun 3:30 Shanti 4:00 Siski 4:30 Cine Jharokha 5:00 Hit Ya Fit 5:30 I Love My India 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Fox Kids Daily 7:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 8:00 Tu Tu Main Main 8:30 Kalash 9:00 Kora Kagaz 9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Shagun 12:30 Telebrands 1:00 Hit Ya Fit 1:30 Star Movie Show: Anjaam Khuda Jaane (Naseer, Anita Raj, Danny) 4:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 5:00

**ZEE ENGLISH**

6:30 Capitol 7:00 Kennedy 8:00 Late Show With David Letterman 9:00 La Femme Nikita 10:00 Music Zone 10:30 Heartbreak High 11:30 The Sopranos 12:00 All My Children 1:30 Capitol 2:00 Three's Company 2:30 Friends 3:00 For Your Love 3:30 Kennedy 4:30 Here's Lucy 5:00 Three's Company 5:30 All My Children 6:30 Heartbreak High 8:30 Friends 9:00 Dave's World 9:30 Late Show With David Letterman 10:30 For Your Love 11:00 Veronica's Closet 11:30 Homicide Life on the

**HBO**

7:00 Body Snatchers 9:00 Lethal Weapon 11:15 The Fugitive 1:45 Killers in the

House 3:30 With Honors 6:45 White Palace 7:45 Point of No Return 10:00 Reality Bites 12:00 The Accidental Tourist 2:30 Lethal Weapon 4:45 Point of No Return

**ZEE MGM**

8:30 Original Sound Track 9:00 Cheech & Chong's 11:00 Hollywood Remembers 11:30 Struck By Lightning 2:00 American Ninja 4:40 Total Recall 4:30 Dead Man Walking 6:30 Hollywood Remembers 7:00 After Midnight 9:00 Hollywood Remembers 9:30 Rain Man 11:30 The Couch Trip 1:30 Shadow 1:00 Grace Under Fire 1:30 The Bold & the Beautiful

**ZEE MUSIC**

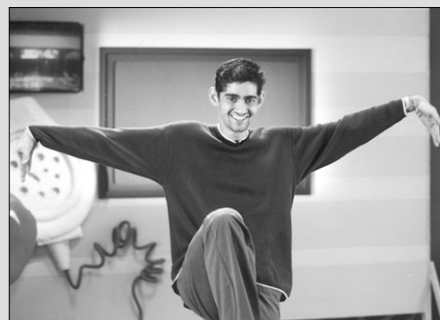
6:00 Zee Music Plus 7:00 Aalap 7:30 Tararun 8:30 Hit Pe Hit 10:30 Hit Mix 11:00 Cool-Age 11:30 Zee Music Box 12:00 Zee Music Plus 1:00 Hit Pe Hit 2:00 Jharokha 2:35 Artist Of The Fortnight 3:05 Tararun 4:00 Hit Pe Hit 5:00 Zee Music Box 5:30 Hit Mix 6:00 Compact Disc 6:30 Zee Music Plus 7:30 Hit Pe Hit 8:30 Just Jammin 9:00 Dil Se 9:30 Zee Music Box 10:00 Sizzlers 10:30 Jharokha 11:05 Fillers 1:00 Phoren Maal 12:35 Shabab 1:35 Zee Music Box 1:30 Jharokha 2:00 Hit Pe Hit 3:00 Artist Of The Fortnight 3:30 Tararun 4:30 Phoren Maal 5:30

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7:00 Body Snatchers 9:00 Lethal Weapon 11:15 The Fugitive 1:45 Killers in the



Hotline on Channel [V] at 4:30p.m.

Streets 12:30 Friends 1:00 Late Show With David Letterman 2:00 All My Children 2:30 Music Zone 4:00 Heartbreak High 5:00 Original Sound Track 5:30 Music Zone

**ZEE MUSIC**

6:00 Zee Music Plus 7:00 Aalap 7:30 Tararun 8:30 Hit Pe Hit 10:30 Hit Mix 11:00 Cool-Age 11:30 Zee Music Box 12:00 Zee Music Plus 1:00 Hit Pe Hit 2:00 Jharokha 2:35 Artist Of The Fortnight 3:05 Tararun 4:00 Hit Pe Hit 5:00 Zee Music Box 5:30 Hit Mix 6:00 Compact Disc 6:30 Zee Music Plus 7:30 Hit Pe Hit 8:30 Just Jammin 9:00 Dil Se 9:30 Zee Music Box 10:00 Sizzlers 10:30 Jharokha 11:05 Fillers 1:00 Phoren Maal 12:35 Shabab 1:35 Zee Music Box 1:30 Jharokha 2:00 Hit Pe Hit 3:00 Artist Of The Fortnight 3:30 Tararun 4:30 Phoren Maal 5:30



JAG on Star World at 10:00p.m.

**ALPHA TV**

6:30 Iska Bonaer Bibi 7:00 Monihaar 7:30 News Bulletin 8:00 Aalap 9:00 Film 4:00 Ek Akasher Niche 4:30 Nanyantara 5:00 Ingeet 5:30 Football 6:00 Moni Niye



Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi on Star Plus at 11:00p.m.

11:00 Ki Darun Drishya 11:30 Ghrasajja 12:00 Bahari Aahaar 12:30 Gandharb 1:00 Ingeet 1:30 Ek Akasher Niche 2:00 Nanyantara 2:30

**BTV**

3:00 Opening Announcement 3:30 Live telecast of the Final match of the Prime Minister Gold Cup - 2001 hockey tournament from Maulana Bhashani National Stadium 4:00 Khabar 4:50 Pustitithiya 5:10 Lal



New drama serial: He Bandhu Biday (Episode-1) on Ekushey television at 8:00p.m.

Shabujer Pala: Entertainment programme for children 5:30 Chande Anande: Dance programme (repeat) 6:00 Khabar 6:10 Shobar Jonnya Shiksha: Mass educational programme 6:35 Programme from Chittagong station 7:00 News Headlines 7:05 Sangeeta: Modern songs 7:30 Drama Series: Ocean Girl 8:00 News in Bengali 8:20 March-er Uttal Dinguli 8:30 Drama Series: Counter Strike 9:00 News Headlines 9:05 Drama Serial: Ora Kojona 9:30 Amar Joto Gaan: Musical programme 10:00 Abahoman Bangla 10:30 News in English 10:50 Sur Lahori: Classical music 11:30 Khabar / The News 11:45 Closing

**EKUSHEY TV**

12:00 Ekushey Headlines 12:05 Ajker Potrikay 12:15 Bangla Movie: Dhonoban 2:40 Drishti 3:00 Ekushey Headlines 3:05 Drama Serial: Chokh 3:30 Amader Kotha 4:00 Chitro Geeti 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Circus Circus 5:30 Drishti 5:50 Ajker Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey Headlines 6:05 Classic Cartoons 6:30

**Charidike**

7:00 Deho Tori 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Drama Serial: He Bondhu Biday 8:30 Kagor Phool 9:00 English Series: MacGyver 10:00 Khelay Khelay Chirontonee 10:30 News: Live Telecast from BTV 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News

6:30 Animal Survivors 7:00 In Care of Nature Series I & II 8:00 Without Warning I 8:30 Lonely Planet IV 9:30 Beyond 2000 10:00 The Quest 10:30 Go For It! 11:30 Intimate Escapes 12:00 Intimate Escapes 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives I 2:00 Medical Detectives I 2:30 Lifeline 3:30 Animal Survivors 4:00 In Care of Nature Series I & II 4:30 Outer Bounds I & II 5:00 Without Warning I 5:30 Lonely Planet IV 6:30 Let's Dance/There's No Food Like My Food 7:00 Real Kids, Real Adventures 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Hunters 9:30 Trauma IV

**CHANNEL-i**

6:15 Drama: Roktho Godhuli 7:30 Akattorer Dinguli 7:40 Spy Cam. 8:00 Din Protidin 8:25 Business File 9:00 Anondo Dhara 10:40 Muktiyudho Amar Ahongker 11:15 Drama: Roktho Godhuli 12:30 Akattorer Dinguli 12:40 Spy Cam. 1:15 Business File 2:00 Anondo Dhara 2:50 I Focus 3:00 Bangla Cinema 6:00 Reciting from Holy Quran 6:10 Suvo Sandha 6:40 Muktiyudho Amar Ahongker 7:15 Khathi Khathi 7:50 Akattorer Dinguli 8:00 Drama: Madho Ratter Sat Mile 9:15 Business Show 10:00 Drama: Jao Pakhi 10:50 I Focus 11:00 Bangla Cinema: Desh Premik



Abida Sultana and Rafiqul Alam in Khelay Khelay Chirontani on Ekushey television at 10:00p.m.

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**

6:30 Animal Survivors 7:00 In Care of Nature Series I & II 8:00 Without Warning I 8:30 Lonely Planet IV 9:30 Beyond 2000 10:00 The Quest 10:30 Go For It! 11:30 Intimate Escapes 12:00 Intimate Escapes 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives I 2:00 Medical Detectives I 2:30 Lifeline 3:30 Animal Survivors 4:00 In Care of Nature Series I & II 4:30 Outer Bounds I & II 5:00 Without Warning I 5:30 Lonely Planet IV 6:30 Let's Dance/There's No Food Like My Food 7:00 Real Kids, Real Adventures 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Hunters 9:30 Trauma IV



Law & Order: Special Victims Unit on Star World at 8:00p.m.

Life in the ER 10:30 On the Inside 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Hunters 2:30 Trauma IV Life in the ER 3:30 On the Inside 4:30 Discovery Profile

**Series 5:30 Lifeline**

**CNN**

4:00 CNN This Morning 4:30 Asia Business Morning 5:00 CNN This Morning 5:30 Asia Business Morning 6:00 CNN This Morning 6:15 Asia Business Morning 6:30 Asian Edition 7:00 CNN This Morning 7:30 Moneyline 8:00 Larry King Live 9:00 World News 9:30 World Sport 10:00 World News 10:30 Showbiz Today 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A (Replay) 12:00 World News 12:30 World Report 1:00 World News 1:30 World Sport 2:00 World News 2:30 Insight 3:00 Larry King Live (Replay) 4:00 World News 4:30 Biz Asia 5:00 Asia Tonight 5:30 World Sport 6:00 World News 6:15 Asian



Law & Order: Special Victims Unit on Star World at 8:00p.m.

6:00 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 Asia Tonight 8:30 World Sport 9:00 World News 9:30 CNN Indiadotcom 10:00 World News 10:30 Biz Asia 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A South Asia 12:00 World News 1:00 Style South Asia 1:30 World Business Today 2:00 World News 2:30 Q&A 3:00 World News Europe 3:30 CNN Newsroom

**BBC WORLD**

6:00 BBC News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today Inc. Asia Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia