

RECOMMENDATIONS

In quest of little life

June 5-11 Masuma Pia, an amateur photographer holds her first solo, 'In quest of little life', at DRIK gallery in the city. A total of 47 works make up the exhibition that is open daily from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. The exhibition is dedicated to World Environment Day 2002.

Reconstruction of Reality

June 7-21 Kazi Sayed Ahmed holds a solo exhibition of his artworks titled 'Reconstruction of Reality' at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The show is open to all daily except Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Painting Exhibition

June 6-15 A painting exhibition by artist Esmekar Uddin Ahmed will start at the Gallery Chittrak (H-21, Road-4, Dhanmondi R/A) from June 6. Artist Imdad Husain will inaugurate the exhibition while singer Sudhin Das will be present as special guest. Artist Rafiqun Nabi will preside over the inaugural ceremony.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10:00a.m. till 8:00p.m.s

Seminar

June 13 The 21st seminar of the International Center for Study of Bengal Art will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Library Hall of the center in the city. Dr. S.S. Mustafizur Rahman, Associate Professor of the Dept. of Archeology of Jahangirnagar University will give and illustrated speech on 'Ancient glass beads of Wari-Bateswar: An archeological analysis'.

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Documentary

A diary on the Jamuna

Tanvir Mukammal's new documentary A Tale of the Jamuna River premiered at Kochikacha Bhaban

FAYZA HAQ

THE 60-minute documentary A Tale of the Jamuna River is a diary on the life style of the people on the river banks that litterateurs and even nursery rhymes have dealt with for ages. The only fly in the ointment has been the fact that even though Anwar Hossain did the main camera work, flying down from Paris, yet one longed for more picturesque scenes rather than the repeated pessimistic tale of erosion. Otherwise, the documentary is a well thought-out one and done with great sensitivity. The audience remained enthralled till the end. Sun bathing children, fishermen with their nets, weavers with their recounts of their past and comments about the future, beautiful women seen under hanging gourds with birds behind them, school-going children, young sellers of boiled eggs and farmers were all brought in with dexterity and careful thought.

Tanvir says, "This is a kind of documentary which could be seen as a 'journey film'. We began our journey by boat from the point that Jamuna has entered Bangladesh from Assam. We follow the river on the boat to near Rjbari where Jamuna meets with the River Padma. The idea was to focus on the River Jamuna and the life of the people on both sides of the river."

Asked when the idea first occurred to him to make such a documentary, Tanvir says, "The main source of the inspiration is Anjan Chowdhury, who is now a friend of mine, having been introduced to me by Matiur Rahman, Editor of 'Prothom Alo', Anjan loves rivers himself and I myself have a strong weakness for rivers so that our two emotions and feelings combined in the making of the film."

Dwelling on the film content, Tanvir says, "The film is about the Jamuna river, its history, the life of the people living beside it, thus it is the relationship between the river and the people who reside on the banks and near by. The different aspects that we focus on was whatever we came across ranging from infants and school children to wives with bleak futures because of the steady erosion, musicians, fishermen. A lot of space was given to fishing because the Jamuna pro-



It's afternoon on the Jamuna

vides food from its water to both the banks of the river. We also spent a lot of time on the 'chors'(shoals) near the shores. As the erosion led to the migration of people we devoted a lot of time to that. Jamuna is renowned for its 'chors'(shoals) and the people move from one 'chor'(shoal) to the next with their possessions. We dwell on the different occupations of the people here such as boat mending, weaving of beautiful cotton saris with patterns and embroidery and 'lungis' with checked or striped designs. The homes of the weavers stretch from Shahjampur to Sirajganj."

Asked as to who inspired him to make the film and who were his favourite film makers, Tanvir says, "This genre of film is something in which you can reach the truth by putting in a some characters and by brining in scenes. I like documentaries as I've been inspired by Robert Flaherty, Paul Rothaf (England) and Joris Jovens (Holland). It is based on a diary and delineates the experiences that we encountered and the reflections that came to the mind when we were very close to the river. The shooting unit lived in a country boat for 15 days. It was a little expensive as a lot of logistics were required like we took some aerial shots from a helicopter, the food and the guarding of our equip-

ment from the numerous local thugs cost quite a bit. We could not afford more than one camera. As Anjan Chowdhury is the producer, his organization bore the expenses. Anwar, flying down from Paris did a superb job, in my opinion. As he is my old friend and we've been working together for a long time his charges were minimal."

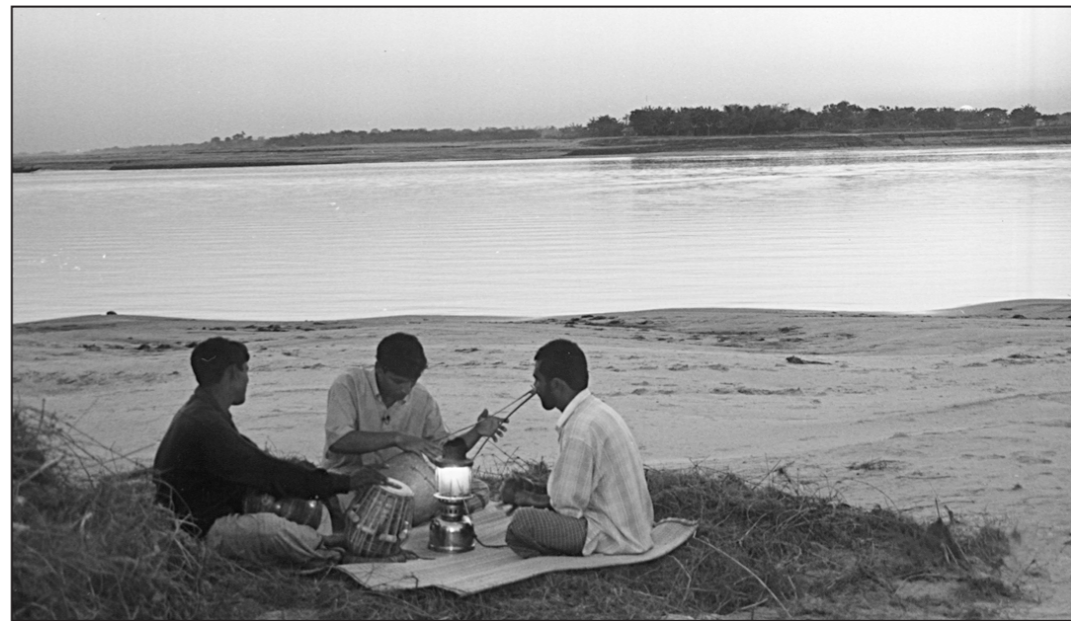
Dwelling on if there was anything symbolic in his choosing of his subject, Tanvir says, "The Jamuna is a fascinating river. It has many mythical and literary allusions to it as in Rabindranath Tagore's 'Chinno Patra', the stories of Radha Krishna although that Jamuna is not this Jamuna and the myth was based in Uttar Pradesh in India but somehow the name tags on. This Jamuna is a new one created from the waters of the Brahmaputra. In the 18th century there was an earth-quake and Jamuna, which was a small canal, ultimately became a mighty river. This fascinated me and also the millions of people living beside it. From the distance that we covered in the film the population would have included more than ten million.

"There is a sort of a school which is on a remote 'chor'(shoal). The school children walk four to five kilometers to it. In the rainy season the students have water almost up

to their neck. There are benches but they had no blackboard until we raised a fund ourselves from our own unit members' pockets and gave the subscription to obtain it. The teachers' writings were done on the windowpane. There is no hospital, police station and life there is still primitive. There is no infrastructure of civilized life. If they have any medical problems they have to go to the nearest township which is either 20 or 50 kilometers. In the north there is Chilmari (Gaibandha) and in the south there is Enayampur and Sirajganj. These towns have some modern facilities."

Touching on the subject of funds for the film, Tanvir says, "It cost roughly a million takas and we still have to have the English dubbing with voiceover with Shameem Ahmad, Nafees Imtiazuddin (both of BTV) and Dahlia Ahmed. The Bangla voice that you heard in the premiere version was that of Debashish Bose. We are not making subtitles as that is sometimes disturbing for the average viewers."

"We did everything here and did not have to send our film to be washed abroad. We used a Betacam video otherwise it would have been astronomically expensive to make the film. This a film like the ones you see in 'Discovery' or 'National Geographic' which I personally love to



The river Jamuna has always been a great source of inspiration to musicians and poets of this part of the world. A still from the documentary

watch. Again 'National Geographic' is my favourite magazine and the TV channels and the magazine have inspired me to some extent. I was fascinated by the Jamuna from the days when I was involved in the left-wing political organisation in the mid 80s, when I was then the organizer of landless farmers. At that time I had travelled a lot on both the banks of the Jamuna. From that time I was concerned with the socio-economic and political conditions of the poor. The poverty after the aftermath of the erosion touched me deeply and turned to refugees and consequently we focused many footings on that issue."

Touching on the difficulties that they faced while making the documentary, Tanvir says, "There was no infrastructure such as there were many places where there was no electricity. We had problem with charging the batteries of the camera. There was no security as we could have been robbed at any time as the Jamuna thugs are absolutely ruthless. Some of us took turns in staying awake at night. There were 13 people as we needed two camera assistants with Anwar and a light assistant and four production boys who handled different aspects of our total work. The assistant director was Jaubul Anam Khan

and another assistant director was Sarwar Chowdhury.

"The camera assistants included Tanay Sarkar, Rezaul Haque Ripon, Tofael Ahmed. The Assistant editor was Arya Maitra. The production associates included Md. Wasim, Kalyan Patra, Aparna Das., Nibash Chisim and Chand Mia. There were a few boatmen too in our group. We had a cook and an assistant and we bought fish from the market for most of our meals. Once or twice we were lucky enough to have had chicken. As we are Bengalis we did not get fed up of the routine fish diet as we had a variety like 'pangash', 'boal', 'ru' and different types of small white fish, locally known as 'bach' and 'garya'.

"One interesting point that I want to stress on was we bought a goose which became a part of our unit. My young assistants were very fond of it. It became an integral part of our existence there but perhaps we had tied it too often so that it became weak and we had to butcher it so that it would not become a prey of other creatures."

Asked about his future plans for the documentary, Tanvir says, "I believe that it will definitely be sent to foreign documentary film festivals

and in Bangladesh it should be shown in private TV channels. There are no rules for documentaries in Bangladesh. As a genre it is neglected in our country although it is a powerful means of communication. Young film makers get the right training from documentaries. I do not prefer documentary to feature films as such. The aim is the truth which can be brought contriving a story, creating characters and situations. There are two ways of reaching the same goal."

Tanvir has made "Nadir Nam Modhimiti", "Chitnadir Parey", "Lal Shalu", "Hulia", "Ochin Pakhi", "Tale of a Lane" (on Shakhari Bazaar) and "Remembrance 1971." Tanvir makes films, collects money by sale of tickets and goes ahead to make more and as he is a bachelor he has little restraints to his creative work. Tanvir studied English Literature at DU and got involved in film club "Cenecentral" in the late 70s. He wrote books on films and organised seminars on films and today he is a film maker on his own right.

TV GUIDE

BTV

- 11:40am Desher Gaan
12:00pm Entertainment Programme
12:15 Biswacup Bhalobasha O' Amader Football
12:20 Live World Cup Football 2002, Denmark Vs France
2:10 News Headlines
2:45 World Cup Football 2002, Senegal Vs Uruguay
3:00 Khabar
4:00 News Headlines
5:00 Khabar
5:20 Live World Cup Football 2002, Cameroon Vs Germany
6:00 Khabar
7:00 News Headlines
7:30 Selected Programme
8:00 News in Bengali
8:30 World Cup Football 2002, Saudi Arabia Vs Ireland
9:00 News Headlines
10:00 News at Ten
10:25 World Cup Magic (Highlights)
11:30 Khabar / The News

EKUSHEY

- 12:00pm Ekushey Middy
12:30 Deshjure Chalchitro
1:00 Ekushey Headlines
1:05 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
1:30 Documentary programme: Japan video: Tropic
1:50 Classic Cartoons
2:10 Surer Prodeep
2:40 Driшти
3:00 Ekushey Headlines
3:05 Drama Serial Amader Kotha
4:00 Deho Tore
4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom
5:00 Circus Circus
5:50 Aker Potrikay
6:00 Ekushey Headlines
6:05 Classic Cartoons
6:30 Charidike
6:55 Ekushey Headlines
7:00 Kena Kata
7:30 Ekushey Shangbad
8:00 Ekushey News
8:05 Drama serial: Bholar Diary
8:30 Drama serial: Biskata
9:00 Natok: Mukhomukhi
10:00 News: Simulcast from BTV
10:30 When Century Was Young
11:00 Ekushey Late Night Shangbad
11:30 Ekushey Business
12:00 Ekushey Headlines

AXN

- 6:30 Movie: Stranger Than Fiction
8:30 Rollerjam
9:30 CSI
10:30 Xena
11:30 The Amazing Race
12:30 No Boundaries
1:30 CSI
2:30 Movie: Stranger Than Fiction
4:30 High Action Adrenalin
5:30 No Boundaries
6:30 Rollerjam
7:30 The Amazing Race
8:30 The Agency
9:30 Ripley's Believe It Or Not!
10:30 The Classic On the War Path...Movie: D-Day The Sixth
1:30 The Amazing Race
2:30 Xena Blind Faith
BBC WORLD
6:00 BBC News
6:30 World Business Report
7:00 BBC News
7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
8:00 BBC News
8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
9:00 BBC News
9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report
10:00 BBC News
10:30 World Business Report
12:00 pm BBC News
12:30 World Business Report/Sport Today
1:00 BBC News
1:30 Click Online
2:00 BBC News
2:30 Hardtalk
3:00 BBC News
3:30 Earth Report

- 4:00 BBC News
4:30 Asia Today/World Business Report
5:00 BBC News
5:30 Hardtalk
HBO
6:30am In the doghouse
8:15 Nighthawks
10:15 The Huntress
12:00 Satan's School for Girls
1:45 Nell Simon's the Odd Couple II
3:45 Eraser
6:00 Runaway Train
8:15 Chameleon
10:00 Beverly Hills Cop II
12:00 Shot Through The Heart
2:00 Nighthawks
4:15 Eraser
STAR MOVIES
6:00am Comedy: Casper Meets Wendy
7:45 Drama: Dead Poet's Society
10:00 Men in White
11:30 Thriller: Silver Bullet
1:15 Comedy: Diamonds
2:45 Comedy: Chasers
4:30 Drama: The Hurricane
7:00 Drama: Bringing Out The Dead
9:00 Comedy: Casper Meets Wendy
10:30 Thriller: The Coroner
12:00 Comedy: Chasers
STAR GOLD
7:00am Aal Ke Aurat (Dimple Kapadia, Jeetendra)
10:30 Bollywood News
11:00 Geet Bahar
11:30 Do Aankhen Barah Haath (V Shantaram, sandhya)
3:00pm Bollywood News
3:30 Ek Doctor Ki Maut (Pankaj Kapur, Shabana Azmi)

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

STAR MOVIES: 7:00 p.m. Bringing Out the Dead. 48 hours in the life of a burnt-out paramedic... STAR WORLD: 6:00 & 9:30 p.m. JAG. JAG (military-speak for Judge Advocate General) is an adventure drama... AXN: 10:30 p.m. The Longest Day. England in June 1944. Unseasonal storms. Allied troops are massed ready for the invasion of France...

- 7:00 Geet Bahar
7:30 Mangal Masti : Dushman (Mithun, Mandakini)
11:00 Bollywood News
11:30 Naya Din Nai Raat (Sanjeev Kumar, Jaya Bhaduri)
STAR WORLD
7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 MacGyver
9:00 King of Queens
9:30 Dharma & Greg
10:00 Boston Public
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
12:00pm Everybody Loves Raymond
12:30 Frasier
1:00 Caroline In The City
1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
2:00 Hollywood Squares
2:30 Family Ties
3:00 Baywatch
4:00 The Simpsons
4:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
5:00 Star News Asia
5:30 Friends
6:00 JAG
6:55 Starnews Asia
7:00 The Pretender
8:00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit
9:00 Friends
9:30 Jag
10:30 The Pretender
11:30 Law & Order
STAR PLUS
6:30 Geetmala-UK
7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:00 Aatma
9:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
9:30 Fox Kids-Daily
10:10 Hit Geet
10:25 Kya Film Kya Geet
11:00 Maal Hai To Taal Hai
11:30 Meri Saheli
12:00pm Shanti
12:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet
1:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz
1:25 Film Toppers
1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
2:00 Bhabhi
2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi

PICK OF THE DAY

BEVERLY HILLS COP II. On HBO at 10:00p.m. A series of strange robberies brings Axel Foley back to Beverly Hills to help his two fellow cops solve the case. All the familiar faces of the first film are back.

- 9:30 Nick on Zee
10:30 Hum Paanch
11:00 Hudd Kar Di
12:00 Saanjhi
12:30 Kitne Kool Hain Hum
1:00 Tu Kahe Agar
1:30 Kohi Apna Sa
2:00 Choti Maa...Ek Anokha Bandhan
2:30 Gharana
3:00 Deewana
6:00 Nickeldeon On Zee
6:30 Nickeldeon
8:00 Yeh Hai Mumbai Meri Jaan....
8:30 Kitne Kool Hain Hum
9:00 Justjoo
9:30 Nilaam Ghar Bid Bid Boom
10:00 Kohi Apna Sa
10:30 Choti Maa... Ek Anokha Bandhan
11:00 Tu Kahe Agar
11:30 Gharana
12:00 Yeh Dil Kya Kare
ZEE MUSIC
7:30 Sizzlers
8:00 Zee Music Box
8:30 Dil Se
9:00 Sizzlers
9:30 Hit Pe Hit
10:30 Hit Mix
11:00 Taaza Maal
12:00 Compact Disc
12:30 Hit Pe Hit
1:30 Zee Music Box
2:00 Jharokha
2:30 Tara Rum Pum
3:30 Hit Mix
4:00 Hit Pe Hit
5:00 Compact Disc
5:30 Hit Mix
6:00 Zee Music Plus
7:00 Just Jammin
7:30 Hit Pe Hit
8:30 Music.Com
9:30 Sizzlers
10:00 Dil Se
10:30 Jharokha
11:00 Zee Music Box
11:30 Phoren Maal
ALPHA TV BANGLA
7:00 Shayola
7:30 Aalaap Bengali Spl
8:00 Purobi Bangla
8:30 Gaan Unltd.
9:10 Bharat Bhraman
9:30 Bishesh Sangbad Data
10:00 Saregama
11:00 Saffalya
11:30 Gaan Unltd.
12:30 Bhalo Bhasha
12:30 Chena Mukher Shari
1:00 Nayantara
1:30 Ek Akasher Niche
2:00 Pratibimba
2:30 Shreoshi
5:00 Gaan Unltd.
5:30 Football
6:00 News in Bengali
6:30 Saffalya
7:00 Shayola
7:30 Bishesh Sangbad Data
8:00 Patibimba
8:30 Ek Akasher Niche
9:10 Chena Mukh Shari
9:25 Kono Ek Din
10:30 Purobi Bangla
11:00 News in Bengali
12:00 Shayola
CNBC
6:30 Asia Squawk Box
7:30 India Business Hour
9:00 US Business Centre Bazaar
12:00 Your Stocks
1:30 Business Lunch
2:00 Dalal Street
2:30 US Squawk Box
3:00 India Market Wrap
4:00 Closing Bell
4:30 Business Now
5:00 Asian Wall Street Journal
6:00 Digital Revolution Business Now
7:00 Bazaar Aaj
7:30 Business Now
8:00 US Squawk Box
9:00 Markets Today
9:30 India Business Hour
10:30 Business at 10
11:00 Digital Revolution
11:30 India Business Hour
CHANNEL [V]
8:00 [V] Back To Back
8:30 [V] Jumpstart
9:00 [V] Hit Machine
9:30 [V] Back To Back
10:30 [V] Hit Machine
11:00 [V] Back To Back
11:30 [V] Hit Machine
12:00pm [V] Zabardast Hits
12:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox
1:00 [V] FDFS
1:30 [V] Hit Machine
2:00 [V] Zabardast Hits
2:30 [V] Colossal Chaos Countdown
3:00 [V]Zabardast Hits
3:30 [V] Back To Back
4:00 [V] Hit Machine
4:30 [V] Hotline
5:30 Very [V]
6:30 Ctrl [V]
7:00 [V] Back to Back
7:30 [V] Hit Machine
8:00 [V] Zabardast Hits
8:30 What Women Want
9:00 [V] Zabardast Hits
9:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox
10:00 [V] FDFS
10:30 [V] Hit Machine
11:00 Late Night [V]
11:30 [V] Rewind
12:00am [V] Back To Back
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
6:30 Wild
7:30am Nat Geo Max
8:30 Endangered
9:00 Human Edge
9:30 On the Edge
10:30 Scientific American Frontiers
11:30 People & Places
12:30pm Endangered
1:00 Human Edge
1:30 On the Edge
2:30 Wild
3:00 Wild
3:30 Nat Geo Max
4:30 Sci-files
5:30 People & Places
6:30 Endangered
7:00 Hman Edge
7:30 On the Edge
8:00 Wild
9:30 Nat Geo Max
10:30 Adventure One
11:30 Sci-Files
12:00 People & Places