

From Tatarstan with fraternal lessons

Shahriar Kabir presents video and lecture on his experience in the land of the Tatars

HARUN UR RASHID

NO religion under the sun preaches fundamentalism and communalism. And few nations do refrain from using religion in politics, let alone practise inter-faith communal harmony, like Tatarstan. Shahriar Kabir returned home from his weeklong visit to the Republic of Tatarstan with this conviction deeply rooted in his conscience and experience. A documentary video titled *Tatarstan: An Oasis in the Desert of Wahabism* and a paper prepared by the eminent journalist are proofs to it.

The video was shown to a house-full audience at the Russian Cultural Centre on July 01. Presided over by Professor Kabir Choudhury, the event was attended by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Bangladesh, Oleg S. Malgouyev.

Shahriar's video on Tatarstan let the audience learn a lot of aspects of the national life of the country about which little was known previously. The visit being organised and funded by the Embassy of the Russian Federation, Shahriar's aim was to observe the inter-faith relationship among different religious and ethnic groups living in the Russian State.

Shahriar went to Tatarstan on May 26 as a representative of South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism, a forum of which Shahriar is the Secretary General. One of the 21 Russian Federation States,



The beautiful architecture of the city of Kazan in Tatarstan

Tatarstan's two principal nations, the Tatar and the Russian, follow two major religions—Islam and Orthodox Christianity. Virtually an individual country, it has its own constitution, national anthem and flag, and an independent government, except for a few matters related to economy, defence and foreign policy.

There are seven principal ethnic groups who follow Islam and five others who follow Christianity. Despite this coexistence of two religious peoples who are almost equally powerful, Tatarstan is a unique example of fraternal harmony among numerous religious and ethnic sects living together for ages. Not only the gov-

ernment, the people of Tatarstan have never entertained any kind of fundamentalism and communalism. Especially, the Wahabism, flourished in the 18th century in Saudi Arabia, which aims at establishing militia conservatism in the society, faced a spontaneous reject from the people of Tatarstan about 150 years ago. The Islamic priests at that time developed a new philosophy named Zaidism that encouraged new relevant interpretations of the Holy Qur'an and the Hadiths.

Tatarstan is perhaps the only Muslim-inhabited country that has a mosque and a church situated side by side initiating a rare

flavour of inter-religion fraternity among their followers for hundreds of years. The biggest mosque in the country, the Kul Sharif was, however, demolished by Tsar Ivan the Terrible while the Orthodox Church was destroyed during the communist era. After communism was replaced, the present president of the country, Mintimer Shaimiev, permitted the erection of the mosque and the church again.

Archbishop Anastasi and Imam Mansoor Zaleedinev of the Tatar capital Kazan are two close friends who often discuss matters of mutual interest. 'Even the President sits with us for discussions on various national issues,' says the Archbishop to Shahriar. The first three donors to the building of the Raifa Virgin Monastery in Kazan—the President, the Prime Minister and the Mayor of Kazan—are all Muslims.

A land of educated people, Tatarstan achieved the hundred per cent rate of literacy even before the Russian Revolution in 1917. The name of Rabindranath Tagore is quite well known to the Tatar. 15 books of the Nobel Laureate have been translated in the Tatar language.

Shahriar's video cannot be called a good artwork, yet it must remain a good documentary piece on the land of the Tatars. A pamphlet was published on this occasion that contains Shahriar's articles published in installments in the *Danik Janakantha*. The booklet will also serve as an important source of information about this country of respectful people.

Ntv anniversary special programmes: A feast for viewers

NOVERA DEEPTA

NTV, the fourth private satellite TV channel of the country, is set to celebrate its first founding anniversary on July 3. The television authority has arranged a two-day programme on July 3 and 4 to observe the special day. Besides the television shows, there will be several live performances on stage at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre on July 15 and July 22.

Television shows
Ntv Express: To get the opinion of the audience on ntv, a producer of

actors, news casters and all other crew members of the television channel. The programme has been produced by Alamgir Hossain and will be aired on July 3 at 3.45 pm and July 4 at 11.00 am.

Bhalobasho Mor Gaan: Popular singers like Nashid Kamal, Ferdous Ara and Alam Ara Minu will render popular songs previously performed by veteran singer Ferdousi Rahman. Compered by the singer herself, the programme will be telecast on July 3 at 5.20 pm and on July 4 at 12.00 pm.

Badal Diner Prothom Kadam Phul:

Faridee, Diti, Moutushi and others. The story is about the bread earners in two families who have their share of eccentricities. Shahed plans to make the two families spend the holidays in the same guesthouse: the aim is to make his father agree to his marriage with the daughter of the other family. Funny things happen along the way. The telefilm will be on air on July 4 at 8.15 pm.

Ranger Din: This special drama has been designed with the same actors of the popular drama serial of ntv *Ranger Manush*. Directed by Salahuddin Lavlu and written by Masum Reza, the drama will be seen on ntv screen on July 4 at 12.00 am. ATM, Shamsuzzaman, Salahuddin Lavlu, Jamia Ahmed, Wahida Malik Jolly, Bonya Mirza, Ahsanul Haque, Pran Roy and other regular cast of the drama serial play in this one-hour special drama.

Live Programmes: On July 15 ntv has arranged a live show at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre where Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be the chief guest. On July 22, cultural performances will be held at the same venue. Celebrated performers like Mumun Ahmed, Tamanna Rahman, Farida Parveen, Rathindranath Roy, Shakila Zafar, Tapan Chowdhury, Nobel, Tisha, Ferdous, Riaz, Purnima, Moushumi, Ferdous Wahid, Pulu Muntaz, Jewel Aich, Mou, Srabonti, Riya, Aque Karim and Farah Ruma will perform different pieces such as dance, folk songs, patriotic songs, modern songs, popular songs and magic.



Scenes from the telefilm Guest House (L) and drama Ranger Din

ntv, Tanvir Khan, roamed around the country and talked to the common people. *Ntv Express* will be telecast on July 3 at 10.05 am and July 4 at 12.05 pm.

Priyo Onushdhan: This programme brings together some of the select works that were appreciated in the recent past. A public opinion survey in nature, the programme has been produced by Mamunur Rashid and compered by Samia Rahman. It will be on air on July 3 at 12.05 pm and on July 4 at 3.45 pm.

Ntv Poribar: Participants in this show are the directors, producers,

Noted author-director Humayun Ahmed offers another telefilm, this time directed by Saiful Alam Turul. Riaz, Richi, Shawon, Masud Ali Khan, Faruk Rahman Babu and others play in this comic telefilm about a retired teacher who faces problems with his grandchildren. The telefilm will be telecast on July 3 at 8.15 pm.

Guest House: Written by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and directed by Abdullah Rana, this is another comic film. The actors of the telefilm are Aly Zaker, Asaduzzaman Noor, Subarna Mustafa, Humayun

JAMES DOUGLAS 'JIM' MORRISON (1943-1971) A life snipped short

This is the end, beautiful friend. It hurts to set you free. But you'll never follow me. The end of laughter and soft lies. The end of nights we tried to die. This is the...end.

Jim Morrison, The Doors

The late Jim Morrison, American rock singer and rock lyricist, has become a legend for music lovers all across the world. With his band, The Doors, he is an icon for the 70s generation and has a lasting appeal. The lyrics Morrison wrote for the group captured public attention with issues such as the drug culture, the anti-war movement and avant-garde art. Further, Morrison wished to be accepted as a serious artist, and he published such collections of poetry as *An American Prayer* (1970) and *The Lords and The New Creatures* (1971).

Jim Morrison was born in Melbourne, Florida. With his fellow students from the University of California, Ray Manzarek and John Densmore and Robbie Kriger, he formed a group which was in 1965 christened The Doors. Their first album, *The Doors* (1967), mixed performances from Bertolt Brecht/Kurt Weill's *Alabama Song (Whisky Bar)* to Willie Dixon's *Back Door Man*. The lyrics Morrison wrote in 1965 dominated the first two Doors albums. The first single chart success came in July 1967 with *Light My Fire*.

Morrison's drinking, exhibitionistic performances, and drug-taking badly affected his singing and musical output. Everything changed after a disaster in a Miami concert in 1969, where he was accused of exposing himself on stage. Morrison put his leather pants in the closet. See me change, he sang. He started to devote more time with projects outside the band. In April 1970, *Morrison Hotel* hit the lists in the US and England. It was hailed as a major comeback. The Doors played their last concert with Morrison in New Orleans. It was a



disaster - Morrison smashed the microphone into the stage, threw the stand into the crowd and slumped down.

American Prayer was privately printed in 1970, but not made widely available until 1978. On July 3, 1971 Morrison was found dead in his bathtub.

Morrison was buried at Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris, which houses the remains of many famous artists, statesmen and legendary figures such as Edith Piaf and Oscar Wilde.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

Dhaka Drama Festival 2004

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation
(June 17-July 23)

REVIEW

Kanjush A comedy of morals

Loko Natya Dal added one more show to their record-time staged drama in Bangladesh, *Kanjush* on the first evening of July at the Experimental Theatre Stage. *Kanjush* belongs to the genre—Comedy of Morals, which is designed to ridicule and correct the vices like hypocrisy, pride, avarice, social pretensions, simony and nepotism. *Kanjush* is a translated play of Moliere who is the supreme playwright in this genre.

Usually, Moliere's plays are full of farce and satire. His drama *The Miser* attacks the hypocrisy, greediness, dishonesty and opportunistic tendency of the elite class of the society through the story of a miser.

Tariq Anam Khan's adaptation of Moliere's *The Miser* presents the protagonist as a *Dhakaia* (an inhabitant of the Old Dhaka city) rich old man named Haider Ali.

Like other popular comedies, the story of the play is not much attractive one: the story of miser Haider Ali brings out some hidden negative tendencies of the elite people in a comic way. To make the play enjoyable, Tariq Anam has used the typical *Dhakaia* dialect (a mixture of Bangla and Urdu). He has also used slangs. With the aid such comical language, he has punched satire of some contemporary socio-political issues.

A director has to maintain certain pace and techniques for this type of European comedies. Liaquat Ali Lucky as the director of the play could efficiently maintain the technique, although it lacked the required pace at the end of the play.

Lucky's set design is suggestive: the exterior design of



the house of Haider is appropriate for the theme of play. Light design is simple with the use of two follow-lights or general light most of the time.

Yasmin Ali's using of popular Urdu songs as the background music of the play is enjoyable.

Swadesh Ranjan as Haider Ali, Kamrun Nur Chowdhury as Lal Mia, Sajedul Alam Dalim as Kala Mia and Zinat Jahan Anita as Golapjan performed well. However, the rest of the cast could not maintain the same standard.

BGTF will arrange three more festivals

--Aktaruzzaman

Aktaruzzaman, Programme Secretary of BGTF, is the chief of Samay Shankskritik Goshthi. He is also the Member Secretary of the convening committee of Dhaka Drama Festival 2004.

Aktar said, 'We invited all theatrical groups of Dhaka to stage their best productions in the festival. The groups showed good response to the federation, although they did not submit all the required materials in time. As a result we are facing some problems.'

'Communication is a problem



for the Experimental Theatre Stage as the venue for drama. But I think its facilities will attract the groups to come here frequently and then, I believe, the communication will be easier as long as it becomes a popular venue,' Aktar added.

Aktar informed that in August BGTF will arrange another festival at Chunkha in Naranganj featuring some selected theatrical groups of Dhaka division. 'After that we will arrange two more festivals in Sylhet and Chittagong introducing local groups.'

ERSHAD KAMOL

Schedules (July 03-July 08)

July 03 Play: Court Martial Playwright and Director: SM Solaiman Group: Theatre Art Natyadal	July 06 Play: Aamar Shantan Aamar Aanchal Playwright: Abdullah Al Mamun Director: Ravshan Ara Hossain Group: Nagarik Natyangan Emsemble
July 04 Play: Babar Biye Playwright: Munir Hossain Director: Mahbubur Rahman Group: Padadhwani Theatre	July 07 Play: Teerthankar Playwright: Samina Lutfia Nitra Director: Faiz Zahir Group: Shubachan Natya Shangshad
July 05 Play: Buddha Playwright: Abdul Halim Aziz Director: Jahangir Kabir Bakul Group: Drishtipat Natyadal	July 8 Play: Madhobi Playwright: Visham Sahni Director: Ramendu Majumdar Group: Theatre (Baily Road)

Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Academy; Time: 7 pm
 Tickets are available at Sagar Publishers, Baily Road and at the venue before shows.
 Prices: Tk. 30, Tk. 50 and Tk. 100.
 Schedules, provided by BGTF, are subject to change without any prior notice.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Dui Talak
 On Channel i at 7:50 pm
 Drama Serial
 Zahid Hasan, Bonya Mirza, Naresh Bhuiyan



Home Alone 2: Lost in New York
 On Star Movies at 7:00 pm
 Genre: Family / Comedy
 Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern

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
 Breakfast News 7:15 am, 9:00 am.
 News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.
 Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
 News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
 Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
ntv
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 5:00 pm, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
 News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 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
 07:30 Bangladesh Hridoy Hoto
 09:00 Satellite programmes
 12:15 Shongbad Potrer Pata Thekey
 12:30 Health Bulletin
 01:05 Drama of the Week
 02:05 Online
 02:30 Priyo Manush
 03:05 Nibedan
 03:30 Shukhi ponbar
 04:05 Moner Katha
 04:30 Prokriti o jiban
 05:05 Nobo Anondoy Jago
 06:10 Wrestling
 07:05 Loulik Bangla
 07:30 Musical programme: Gaana gaane
 08:30 Drama: Swapno
 09:00 Drama
 10:30 Anondo Jhama
 11:00 Shuro Lalari
CHANNEL-i
 09:45 Triloya Matra
 10:45 Na Bola Kotba
 11:30 Chitli Palam
 12:00 Talk Show: Euro Round Up 04
 12:30 Ay Durey (Live)
 01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
 01:30 Sangbadpatrey
 Bangladesh O public reaction
 02:00 Bangla Film: Dushlo
 Chhele Mishi Meys
 (Shakil Khan, Shabnur)
 04:00 Banglar gaan
 04:30 Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan
 05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma
 05:45 Sharif Melamine
 Sangeetmala

06:10 Music Plus
 06:45 Drama Serial: Jahu Dewan
 07:50 Drama Serial: Dui Talak
 08:25 Hello Bangladesh
 09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
 Drama Serial: Moho
ntv
 08:00 Aajker Shakal
 08:30 Gombhira
 09:00 Shapla kuri
 09:30 Band music
 10:05 ntv express
 10:30 Dhakar Cinema
 11:00 Shondhi
 12:05 Priyo anusthan
 01:30 Dance programme
 02:30 Ridoye boshonto
 03:05 Apnar jiggesha
 03:40 ntv ponbar
 05:20 Bhalobasha mor gaan
 06:20 Shukho Shondhya
 06:55 ntv ek bochor
 08:15 Tele-film: Badal diner prothom kadam phul
 11:25 Dindarpan
ATN BANGLA
 10:30 Anondoritee
 11:05 Children's programme
 11:30 Musical Programme
 Paagla ghonta
 03:45 Uro Cola Saat Rang
 04:20 Cholo Gan Gai
 05:10 Shurer Madhuri
 06:20 Tom and Jerry
 08:00 Drama Serial: Golabhari station
 08:30 Drama Serial: Bapkhari
 09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni
 09:30 Drama Serial: Baba

TARA BANGLA

7:00 Nazrul Geeti
 7:30 Morning Jalsaghar
 8:00 Traditional Music
 9:30 Safar Rpt.
 10:00 Gaan Sudhur Cinemar
 10:30 Amar BD/SP Prog. International
 11:00 Swapner Deshe
 11:30 Antakshari
 12:00 Test Drive
 12:30 Sri Ramkrishna
 1:00 Filmi Furti
 2:00 Taka Na Sona
 2:30 Bengali Feature Film
 3:00 Bastab
 6:30 Taka Na Sona
 7:00 Sree Ramkrishna

HBO

10:30 Special interview with Harry K. Thomas
 12:20 Bangla Film: Katha daw
 7:00 Tara Sundari
 8:00 Telefilm
 9:30 E To Nol Sudhur Gaan
 10:30 Post Mortem
 11:00 Fully Fatalfai Fantasy
 10:00 Cheaters
 12:15 Mackenna's Gold
 2:45 Finding Forester
 5:30 What Girls Learn
 7:45 Big Fat Liar
 9:30 The Bourne
 12:00 Urban Legends: Final Cut
 2:00 Curse of the Forty Niner
 8:15 Bridget Jones's Diary
 10:00 Down Periscope
 11:40 Air Strike
 1:15 Conan The Destroyer
 3:00 Shallow Hal

STAR PLUS

07:30 Aatma
 08:30 Chupa Rustam
 09:30 Fox Kids
 10:30 The Best Of Gunkul
 11:30 Sankshipt Ramayan
 1:00 Star Bestsellers
 2:30 Mirch Masala
 3:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
 3:30 Khilona
 7:00 Yatra
 7:30 Khichdi
 8:00 Pardey Ke Peechey
 8:30 Bhoot
 11:00 Chalti Ka Naam
 Antakshari

STAR WORLD

07:30 Wild Card
 08:30 Charmed
 09:30 Journeys In Asian Cuisine
 10:00 Top Drive Getaway
 10:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
 12:30 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal
 1:00 Travel Asia
 1:30 The Kids From Room 402
 2:00 Roborach
 2:30 Monster Farm
 3:00 X Men
 3:30 The Kumars At No. 42
 4:00 Cops
 4:30 Secrets Of Psychics Revealed
 5:30 Britannia India's Child Genius

6:30 The X Files
 7:30 Xena: Warrior Princess
 8:30 Tru Wrestling
 9:30 Thunderdome
 10:30 Enterpriser
 11:30 Baywatch Hawaii
STAR GOLD
 09:00 Maya
 09:30 Dilale
 1:00 Fiza
 5:00 Himalayputra
 8:30 Maximum Risk - Hindi Dubbed
 Saajan Chale Sasural
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
 07:30 Built For Destruction
 08:30 Frontlines Of Construction
 09:30 Who's Aping Who
 10:30 Wildlife Detectives
 11:00 Hayden Turner's Wildlife Chail
 11:30 Earth Report
 12:00 Geowatch Asia
 12:30 Lost Treasure Of Tibet
 1:30 Rwanda's Forgotten Tribe
 2:30 Cheating Death
 3:30 Wildlife Detectives
 4:00 Hayden Turner's Wildlife Chail
 4:30 National Geographic Special
 5:30 On Assignment
 6:00 Tomorrow's World
 6:30 Dogs With Jobs
 7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife
 7:30 Earth Report
 8:00 Geowatch Asia
 8:30 The Sinking Of The Belgrano
 10:30 Don't Say Goodbye
 11:30 Hot Science

STAR SPORTS
 07:30 Extreme Programming Sports Mania (T)
 08:30 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Day #11 Highlights (R)
 09:30 Nba Inside Stuff (T)
 10:00 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Men's Singles Semifinals (R)
 2:00 World Of Rugby (T)
 2:30 Football Asia (T)
 3:00 Return To Athens (R)
 3:30 Nba Inside Stuff (R)
 4:00 Gillette World Sport 2004 (T)
 4:30 Sanzar Home Tests Rugby Union International 2004 Australia Vs Pacific Islanders (L)
 6:30 Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships Ladies Sgl Final Mens & Mixed Dbl Final (L)
 12:00 Return To Athens (R)
ESPN
 08:00 Sportscenter Weekend Review (T)
 08:30 Sri Lanka Tour Of Australia 3 Test Series 1st Test Day 3 2nd & 3rd Session (L)
 1:00 ESPN School Quiz 2004 National Finals #1(R)
 1:30 ESPN School Quiz 2004 National Finals #2(R)
 2:00 ESPN School Quiz 2004 National Finals #3(R)
 2:30 Tri-Series In England The Natwest Series England Vs West Indies 5th Odi Highlights(R)
 3:43 Tri-Series In England The Natwest Series New Zealand Vs West

Indies 6th Odi 1st Session (L)
 4:55 Formula One Qualifying Magny Course France Mobil 1 French Grand Prix Qualifying (L)
 7:00 Tri-Series In England The Natwest Series New Zealand Vs West Indies 6th Odi 1st Session (A)
 7:45 Tri-Series In England The Natwest Series New Zealand Vs West Indies 6th Odi 2nd Session (L)
 11:30 European Championship Highlights Uefa Euro 2004 Week 3 Highlights(S)
TEN SPORTS
 08:00 Velocity
 09:00 Trans World Sports
 10:01 ATP Tennis
 10:30 Gillette World Sport
 11:00 Inside Grand Prix France (Magny-Cours)
 11:30 Winning Post
 12:00 ICC Cricket World Trans World Sports
 12:30 ATP Tennis
 1:30 ICC Cricket World Legends: Murali
 3:30 Manuli Suzuki Auto Cross
 4:00 Trans World Sports
 5:00 ICC Cricket World Sport
 5:28 Heat
 6:28 Road to Athens : Ep 1
 7:00 Bob Woolmer
 7:30 Trans World Sports
 8:29 Winning Post
 9:00 Rabobank Hockey: 3rd Place
 11:00 Heat
 12:02 Legends: Murali