

BANDARBAN'S BOMANG

Tangtha--children of the hills

AFSAR AHMED

TANGTHA--this is what the people of hill-tracts call themselves. It means 'children of the hills'. In general, however, these people are known as an indigenous hunting tribe called Bomang or Bom.

A documentary film on the ethnic group, titled *Bandarban's Bomang*, was screened at Spectra Convention Centre recently. The 25-minute long docu-

mentary has been filmed and directed by A Masud Chowdhury and edited by Moinul Hossain Mukul.

Bandarban's Bomang depicts the ethnic Bom's heritage and culture and their history of survival. The word Bom came from 'Bomao' meaning 'united nation'. If we take a look into the Bom history we can see that two different groups named *Pangtha* and *Sunthola* formed today's Bom tribe.

History has it that the ancestors of

Bom came from China's Chingling Mountains and then settled into the Arakan province of present Myanmar. They came to the northeastern part of Bangladesh about 165 years back and at present around 10,000 Boms are living in the Bharatmoor Para of Bandarban district.

Bom has its own distinguish features. Medium height, yellowish skin, flat nose and oriental eyes--all these features prove that the Bom people bear the Mongolian blood. Theirs is the hunting tribe with rituals relating mostly to hunting. They are praised as heroes when they hunt tigers or mountain buffaloes. Even the traditional *Shing Nritya* or 'horn dance' is celebrated with the horns of the hunted animals.

The documentary started featuring the Bom youth named Santhuyang Sailuk Bom on a hunting spree where he uses the traditional flute called *Tepothor* for mimicking the sounds of the animals or birds to trap them. Another youth Laithiyang Bom shows the traditional trap made of bamboo twigs, string and a wild red fruit for the bait to hunt wild fowls. Bamboo or *Mautak* is the most important material for the Bom's, from which artistic baskets and baby cots are made.

Another interesting emblematic feature is the using of *Komor Tant*--a



A Bom woman weaving blanket on the komor tant

special kind of handloom which has a belt to tie around the hip of the weaver. The Bom blankets, produced with these handlooms, are made from old wool that make it warmer. Their clothes are also different from other tribes. The women wear *nufen* and the males wear *rinta*.

The main source of income of the Bom is marketing of pineapple, wild banana, papaya and other crops, which are chiefly produced on the steps of hills by a process called *Jhum* cultivation.

Earlier, the Bom were the worshippers of nature but now most of them have embraced Christianity. But it had little effect on their life style. The modern trends have however not harmed their own traditional values. The word Bom means unity and there is little doubt that almost 80% literate Boms give prime importance to their own tradition.

An insight into the life of Nazrul

Taher Shipon directs TV play *Chokher Joler Priya*

ERSHAD KAMOL

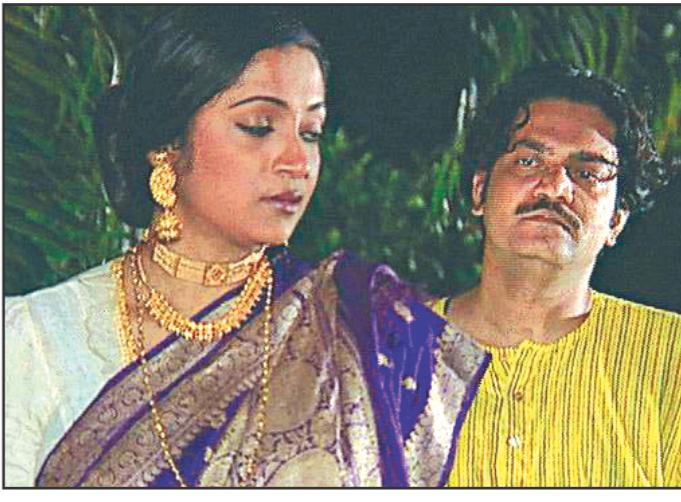
Taher Shipon is one of those TV-play directors who are doing some noteworthy works under the package programme for the TV channels.

Channel-i will air his *Chokher Joler Priya* on the death anniversary of our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at 7:50 p.m. on August 27.

Portraying a true story of the poet's life, the play is based on reminiscences of Nurjahan Begum, the daughter of *Swagat* editor Nasiruddin. All the characters in the play like Nazrul, Fajilatunnesa, Nasiruddin, Nurjahan and others are historical characters. Scriptwriter Gitali Hasan has pointed out only the episode of Nazrul's unrealised affairs with Fajilatunnesa. In the play Subarno Kazi plays the role of Nazrul. Pijush Bandyopadhyah and Tania Ahmed perform as Nasiruddin and Fajilatunnesa.

Chokher Joler Priya is my 17th direction in single-episode plays. Besides, I am one of the directors of the drama serial *Sporsher Baire*, which is being aired on ntv, says Shipon.

To recall his directing career Shipon says, 'Basically I am an editor.

Tania Ahmed and Subarna Kazi in the drama *Chokher Joler Priya*

I have completed a short course on editing. Earlier, I learn editing the camera from Salauddin Lavlu. I think, editing is a part of directing. That is why I had confidence that I would be able to emerge as a successful director. Tomalika Karmakar gave me the break by producing *Harmonica* for BTV. After that I did not have to look back. Later, Arunabho Anjan helped

me a lot with my career in directing.'

'Due to negative tendencies of some of the producers as well as the private channels, the whole package drama industry is on the verge of collapse. In the long run new directors and technical crews are heading towards a crisis. The situation has to improve for the interest of the industry,' Shipon adds.



The traditional 'horn dance'

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition
Photography

Title: In My Dreams
Photographer: Tanvir
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15/A, Dhamondi
Time: August 20-26, from 3pm to 8pm

Stamps and Postcards

Organiser: Russian Centre of Science and culture
Venue: Library of Russian centre of Science and Culture

Time: August 23-31

Painting

Title: Kachhe Durey
Artist: Saeeda Kamal
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, House 21, Road 4, Dhamondi
Time: August 20-30, from 10 am to 8 pm

Artist: Manir Mrittik
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhamondi
Time: August 20-30



Nasreen Begum

the months from *Boishak to Srabon* move me most in my paintings. The fallen flowers and leaves on the roads are elements that inspire me. The starry and cloudy skies and the full moon also inspire me. Elements like rivers and mountains also stir me up,' Nasreen says.

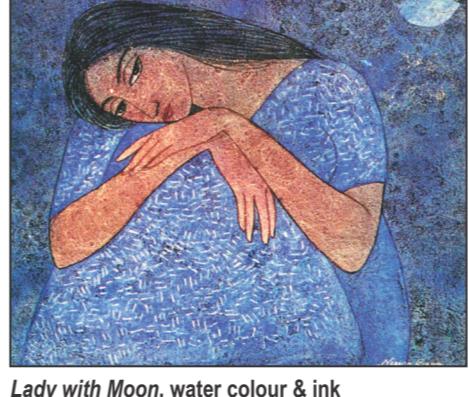
Asked what problems she faced as an artist if any, Nasreen says, 'Any creative person, whether he is a poet or a novelist, a sculptor, painter or singer, often faces problems and through them mellow into maturity. I believe that if I didn't have my problems



An Image of Sea Shores, water colour & ink

my creativity would not have reached the stage that it has. My work and my life are one thing-- I can't set them apart. We want to reach a goal where there is no conflict and our work depicts different stages in the journey of life. I want to express myself and not be in competition with others. It's only recently that I've got a flat to live in. Earlier I had just one room in which to live with my son and work. I myself am disciplined even though some people believe that artists cannot be disciplined. I enjoy having 'addas'. In particular I like having 'addas' with children, with whom I get along well. There was a time when I felt I might have to give up painting but then I realised that stopping work would be akin to dying.'

Dwelling on how she has kept to realism while others have moved on to abstraction and modern forms of different sorts, Nasreen elaborates, 'Everyone has their own characteristic style. My personality is that of a neat, clean and disciplined individual.



Lady with Moon, water colour & ink

Combining dreams with desire

Nasreen talks about her artistic creation

FAYZA HAQ

NASREEN Begum, who has been drawing and painting since childhood, feels that she is still learning, even though she is now an Assistant Professor at the Fine Arts Department DU. For her painting is the beginning and end of existence. She was lucky she says, to have teachers like Mahmudul Haque, Shahid Kabir, Kazi Ghias and the late Mahbubul Amin. From them she learnt water colour wash techniques in particular. Among the well-known artists of the west she is moved by Goya, Boticelli, Van Gogh, Picasso and Salvador Dali. Boticelli's female figures, in particular, influenced Nasreen's women's portraits in her Oriental Art creations.

'More than my teachers and artists of the past it is the nature around that inspires me and eggs me on to work incessantly, filling my drawers with sheets of water colours. I take in the sky, wind, sunrise, moon beams, flowers, leaves, tendrils and pollen dust. The change of seasons, specially before the rain, when the leaves are shed, also influences me. The months from *Boishak to Srabon* move me most in my paintings. The fallen flowers and leaves on the roads are elements that inspire me. The starry and cloudy skies and the full moon also inspire me. Elements like rivers and mountains also stir me up,' Nasreen says.

Asked what problems she faced as an artist if any, Nasreen says, 'Any creative person, whether he is a poet or a novelist, a sculptor, painter or singer, often faces problems and through them mellow into maturity. I believe that if I didn't have my problems

I love sunlit days full of colours and gaiety. There are so many elements of nature I will not have finished capturing them all in a single span of life. That is why my work is clear and sharp but not necessarily realistic or flat.'

Talking about whether she enjoys painting for herself or teaching art, Nasreen says that she enjoys both. 'I try to be sincere, honest and dedicated in everything that I do. I'm not quite satisfied with the teaching aspect of my life of late. As for the amount of time that I spend on painting, I try to paint as much as I can. The rest of the time I give to reading and teaching. I like reading essays on various subjects, specially creative ones.'

Asked if an artist's life is easier today or when she first started out as an artist, Nasreen says,

'To survive in Bangladesh as an artist is still difficult. As for Oriental Art, in which I concentrate, I feel that there will be appreciation for it as long as the artist is sincere. Art is like a flowing river that changes with time. And time will bring the genuine appreciation for good work.'

Nasreen has five awards to her credit and has had five solo exhibitions. She has taken part in over 50 national and international group exhibitions.



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Page gets spot on London's Walk of Fame

AP, London

Jimmy Page hasn't yet made it up the stairway to heaven, but he's the first to reach the new British Walk of Fame. The former Led Zeppelin guitarist cast his hand prints in cement Monday, as the first music legend to feature on London's reply to the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

'It's a real privilege and a great honour to be the first. I'm really chuffed,' said Page, 60. 'A Walk of Fame is a fantastic idea and it's high time we had one in London.'

The site of the British version, which will feature popular music giants, is taking shape outside the new Virgin Music superstore on Piccadilly Circus, London's landmark crossroads. Page predicted it would soon become crowded with handprints. 'If you started putting in all the people I think are deserving, you could cover the whole of London,' he said.

Led Zeppelin--which included singer Robert Plant, bassist John Paul Jones and drummer John Bonham, who died in 1980--was one of the top rock bands in history and produced nine chart-topping albums from 1969 to 1979. Its most famous song was the epic *Stairway to Heaven*, which was never released as a single but became one of the most requested radio songs of all



Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page putting his hands in cement on the first slab on the new Walk of Fame outside Virgin Megastore

Led Zeppelin was back on top of the US rock chart last year with a greatest hits album, *How the West Was Won*.

Page frequently is rated as one of the greatest rock guitarists in history. In 2002, a readers' survey of *Total Guitar* magazine rated him No. 2 to the late Jimi Hendrix.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

CHANNEL-i

09:45 *Tritiyo Matra*

10:45 *Sports Matra*

11:30 *Clos Up Juke Box*

12:00 *Chithi Pelam*

12:30 *Aaj Dupurey and CityCell Tarka kathron*

01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*

01:30 *Public Reaction*

01:45 *Bangla Film*

04:00 *Boi Ebong Boi*

05:00 *Sa Re Ga Ma*

05:35 *Jonopoder Khobor*

05:45 *Gauner Opare*

06:10 *Music Plus*

06:45 *Gillette World Sports*

07:55 *RC Travel On*

08:25 *Drama Serial: Kichhu Megh Kichhu Roddur*

09:35 *Drama Serial: Din Choley Jay*

10:00 *Drama Serial: Gunai Bibi*

11:25 *Dindarpan*

12:00 *Tara Bangla*

10:30 *Talk Show: Anodrofisti*

11:15 *Shabdar Serial: Betu Niranjan*

11:50 *Shobor Jonnya*

12:30 *Bangla Feature Film: Manush*

03:45 *Uro Cola Saat Rang*

04:20 *Shapla Shaluk*

05:10 *Motamot*

05:45 *Islamlee Sawal O Jawab*

08:00 *Gondhor Samsung*

08:30 *Drama Serial: Khobab*

09:00 *Drama Serial: Shu Patro Shorhondra*

09:30 *Drama Serial: New Files*

10:30 *Face to Face Live*

08:00 *Aajker Shakal*

STAR BANGLA

2:00 *Taka Na Sona*

2:30 *Tarpor Chand Uthlo*