

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

Title: No More War, Make a Green World
Artist: Mohammed Younus
Venue: Gallery Dhridap, House 36, Road 5, Block G, Banani
Time: October 14-24 from 10am to 8pm

Title: Appointment 2004

Artists: Hamiduzzaman Khan, Abdus Shakur, Ranjil Das, Ifatara Dewan, Ivy Zeman, Rashid Amin, Javed Jalil, Anukul Chandra Majumdar
Venue: Shilpangan, Road 5, House 25, Dhamondi
Time: October 16-25, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 9pm

Title: Italian Art Books and Handicrafts Show



Organiser: The Italian Embassy
Venue: The Italian Ambassador's residence, House NW 7, Road 54, Gulshan 2
Time: October 29-30, from 10am to 2pm

Title: Saree Exhibition

Designer: Nahida Sharmin
Venue: Chitraneer, Gallery Chitrak, Road 4, House 21, Dhamondi
Time: October 19-25, from 10am to 8pm

Title: Even the Walls Have Ears
Artist: Tayeba Begum Lipi
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhamondi
Time: October 21-31, from 5pm to 8pm

Title: Islamic Calligraphy & Italian Reproduction Art
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road 36, House 16, Gulshan
Time: October 29-November 20, from 12pm to 4pm, 7pm to 9pm

Title: Power

Artist: Khalid Mahmood Mithu
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, Road 4, House 21, Dhamondi
Time: October 22-31, from 10am to 8pm

Applique

Title: Shohol
Artist: Saheli
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhamondi
Time: October 17-24 from 11:30am to 8:30pm

Film Show

Title: Rituparno Ghosh Retrospective
Organiser: Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS)
Time: October 23, 2004
Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendro

Schedule:

10:00 am: Shuvoh Mohurat
12:30 pm: Chokher Bali
03:00 pm: Utsab

Weaving a dream

First ever Bangladeshi film by children nominated for International EMMY Awards



AFSAR AHMED

THE golden fairy with the globe in her hands' can be ours! No, it's not a dream but the initiation of a dream-come-true, as a Bangladeshi TV production, *Amrao Pari*, has been nominated in the children and young people category for the most prestigious International Emmy Awards 2004. Made by children on the occasion of the International Children's Day of Broadcasting (ICDB), the 25-minute long *Amrao Pari* (We Can Be) was aired on ATN Bangla on December 12, 2003.

To celebrate this occasion, a press conference was held recently at the auditorium of Dhaka Reporters' Unity. ATN Bangla Chairman Mahfuzur Rahman, Chief Adviser Saiful Bari, Vice President Nawajesh Ali Khan, the thinktank behind the documentary Rowshan Ara Nipa and UNICEF Bangladesh spokesperson

Rezwanul Alam attended the conference. The documentary was screened after the conference.

ICDB celebrates the second Sunday of every December with the slogan 'Tune in to Kids'. In a joint initiative, UNICEF and International Council of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and Broadcasters around the world air quality TV programmes for and about children.

Last year the team members of *Amra Korbo Joy*, a programme by children aired on ATN Bangla, made the documentary *Amrao Pari* depicting the theme 'We can be the Heroes'.

Amrao Pari is a brave story of Abul Khair, a 9-year-old whiz kid, who saved thousands' lives from a possible train accident in 1996 applying his own intelligence. While roaming about the rail tracks, the boy suddenly discovered that the lines were dislocated at a place. And to his utter horror he



Recreating the moment: young Khair waves the red signal to stop theateful train

found that a train was visible at distance. Khair heard that a 'red signal' stops trains. So, he collected a red piece of cloth, tied it on top of a stick, and started waving it to attract the attention of the drivers on the train. Fortunately, they saw the boy and stopped the train. Thus, a large number of train passengers were saved on that day.

Interestingly, everything related to the making of the documentary was perfectly done by the children: Robiul Islam Raju and Khairul Amin Nahin on camera, Riaz Kaiser on video editing, and Fatima Akther and Dipankar Shekhar as the anchors.

Apart from *Amrao Pari*, the other three nominees are *The Ideal World in Children's Eyes* from China, *Every Child has the Right to Education* from Laos, and *International Children's Day of Broadcasting* Special from Kenya.

The winners of the ICDB award will be announced at the 32nd International Emmy Awards Gala that will take place in New York on November 22.

when we got Khair, we found him working with a welding machine which is a very risky job for any children', said Nipa, the director of the documentary, at the press conference.

Apparently the boy's conscience made him do this. After that incident he was promised many rewards by different government and non-government organisations. But, as fate would have it, everyone has almost forgotten him. However, ATN Bangla has come forward and included Khair into the ATN family.

In 2003, the group of *Amra Korbo Joy*, comprised of a group of teenage boys and girls, planned to do a documentary on Abul Khair. The team went to Chandpur to find the boy. 'After a prolonged search

The Amra Korbo Joy team interviews Khair, middle

Shabana Azmi

Stellar roles in Hollywood and Bollywood

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Veteran actress-activist Shabana Azmi is on a roll. She is just back from shooting in an American film dealing with a subject close to her heart. Secondly, her classical songs in a forthcoming Indian feature film in English have been appreciated by experts in the field, Anup Jaitla and Alka Yagnik.

Azmi, one of the finest actresses produced by the parallel cinema, has acted in films directed by Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen, Shyam Benegal and Govind Nihalani. She now awaits the commercial release of Hollywood movie *Waterborne* as well as Indian project *Morning Raga*, which also stars newcomer Perizad Zorabian who shot to fame with *Joggers' Park*, featuring versatile Victor Banerjee.

In *Waterborne* Azmi plays the role of a Sikh woman who runs a big convenience store in Los Angeles. When a water crisis breaks out, she finds an opportunity to make a fast buck by overpricing the bottled drinking water. Her son resents this move.

When a terrorist attack occurs in the US and hate-crime breaks out, the Sikh woman is injured, prompting her son to take revenge on her American girl friend, which is resisted by the



racism and hate-crime of all kinds are bad.

What Azmi likes about Rekhi's film is that, unlike many Hollywood films, made by directors of Indian origin dealing with the identity crisis of the Diaspora in the US, *Waterborne* looks at a problem facing the mainstream American society.

Back home, Azmi cannot wait for the audience response to *Morning Raga*, directed by well-known playwright Mahesh Dattani. Not that the actress is singing for the first time in a film she has done it in two earlier movies, *Saaz* and *Tehzeeb*.

But singing in *Morning Raga* was special for her as she underwent training in Carnatic music for a month to essay the role.

Morning Raga is the story of classical singer Swarnalata who gives up singing for 20 years after being petrified by the death of her son in an accident. When lively Pinkie (played by Perizad Zorabian) and her fiancé Abhinay (played by Prakash Rao) come in touch with her, Swarnalata agrees to teach Carnatic music to Pinkie but refuses to perform in public function.

Azmi is happy that scripts of films are still being written with lead roles for actresses of her age.

Directed by debutante Ben Rekhi, an American of Indian origin, the film ends on a positive note sending out the message that

mother.

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A rare passion for Nazrul and Rabindranath

HARUN UR RASHID

PRACTISING Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Sangeet simultaneously is a rarity among artistes. Badrunnesa Dalia's specialty as a singer is that she has wrought this feat. Although she prefers her Nazrul Sangeet identity, she professes an equal passion for Rabindra Sangeet.

Dalia was born in a culturally weathered family: her father was not a recognised singer but he could sing well enough to inspire interest for the art in his daughter. Dalia's elder brother is the famous cartoonist Asiful Huda; her younger brother Suman Rahat is also a singer. Dalia took lessons in classical music from Ustad Mofizul Islam and Abinash Goswami. Later, she learnt Nazrul Sangeet from renowned Sudhin Das and Sohrab Hossain.

How did she come to identify herself as a Nazrul Sangeet artiste? Apparently Sohrab Hossain played an important role in this. 'Once in the music class, my teacher Sohrab Hossain put me through a test in Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Sangeet. I sang songs from both the genres. After the test he told me to choose Nazrul Sangeet,' says Dalia.

However, she is comfortable with both genres. As a child artiste she won the national award twice in Nazrul Sangeet in 1983 and Rabindra Sangeet in 1984. 'Rabindra Sangeet is based on *mir* demanding more concentration on pronunciation whereas Nazrul Sangeet demands perfection of the tune. And I believe I am honest in maintaining both,' says Dalia.

But doesn't it create problems

while performing Nazrul and Rabindra songs successively? 'After a session of one kind of songs, I have to take a short break for concentrating on the next kind. It hasn't given me much trouble so far. Actually, I have become used to it since my childhood.'

It is unfortunate that an artiste of Dalia's talent has not yet brought out any albums. Explaining the



Dalia rendering songs at a programme

reasoning behind this, she says her husband's government job necessitated field postings at different places. 'Staying out of Dhaka, one cannot have any achievement in this regard,' says Dalia. 'Now that I am back, I am working on my debut album,' she adds.

However, Dalia's first album will

houses.' But Dalia is determined that her next albums will be for the lovers of Nazrul and Rabindra songs.

Dalia is an enlisted artiste of Bangladesh Television since 1988 and the Betar since 1996. She also performs at programmes organised by Bangla Academy, Shilpakala Academy, Nazrul Institute and Nazrul Academy.

Rituparno Ghosh retrospective

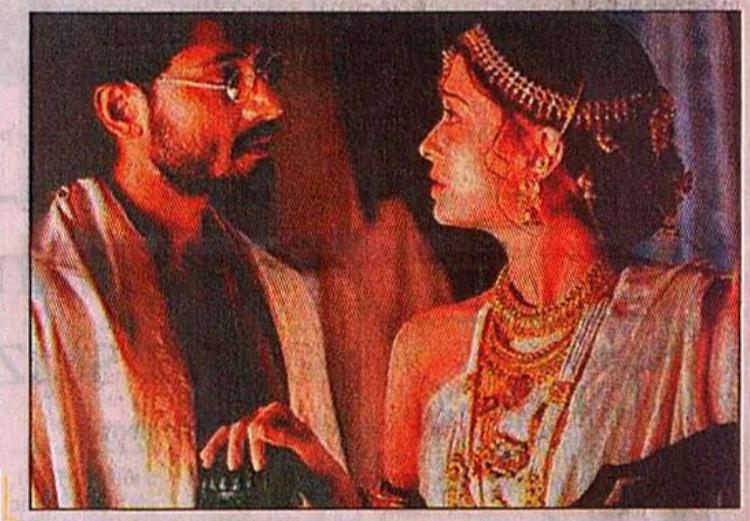
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFPS) screens *Chokher Bali*, *Shuvoh Mohurat* and *Utsab* today at Bishwa Sahitya Kendro.

Rituparno Ghosh came into filmmaking in 1992 with his experience in advertising. He has been the editor of the glossy Bangla film magazine *Anandalok* for quite some time. His first film *Hirer Angti* was made for children. His other films are: *Unisha* (1994), *Dahan* (1997), *Bariwali* (1999), *Asookh* (1999), *Utsab* (2000), *Titi* (2002), *Chokher Bali* (2003), *Shuvoh Mohurat* (2003) and *Raincoat* (2004).



Rituparno Ghosh



A scene from Chokher Bali

His films have won quite a few national awards, but internationally they were not well-received, though they were shown in many international film festivals. His films have a popular appeal, and usually are commercially successful.

Three of Rituparno Ghosh's recent films are being shown in this retrospective. The screening schedule is: *Shuvoh Mohurat* at 10:00am, *Chokher Bali* at 12:30pm, *Utsab* at 3:00pm and *Chokher Bali* at 6:30pm.

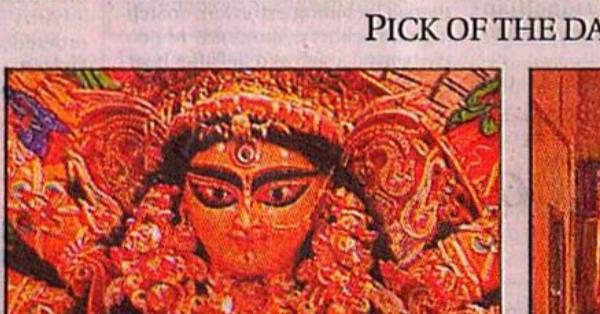
Chokher Bali is an adaptation of

Rabindranath Tagore's famous eponymous novel set in the British Bengal in the early 1900s which focuses on the British colonisation and the domestic situation of a Kolkata household. It is the psychological study of relationships between the sexes in a landed family, of shifting eternal triangles, complex motivations and a subtle play of emotions.

The film stars Aishwarya Rai in the pivotal role of Bimodini, a young widow, who changes everyone who comes into her contact.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Durga Durgatinashini
On ntv at 8:50pm
Special programme on Puja
Directed by Nripen Biswas



Con Air
On Star Movies at 7:35pm
Genre: Action / Thriller
Cast: Nicolas Cage, John Cusack, Monica Potter

3:30	Dexter's Laboratory	7:30	Octopus's Garden
4:00	Time Squad	8:00	La Mode City Guides A
4:30	X-Men	9:00	The Cyber Frontiers
5:00	Men in Black	9:30	Extreme Engineering
5:30	Archie's Weird	9:30	Bridging The Bering Strait
6:00	Mysteries	10:30	Reel Race Altered Statesmen Reagan Prosecutors
6:30	Teen Titans	11:30	National Geographic
7:00	Stuart Little	11:30	Planets
7:30	Tom and Jerry Show	11:30	Octopus's Garden
8:00	Zone Power Up	11:30	La Mode City Guides A
8:30	Men in Black	11:30	The Cyber Frontiers
9:00	Tom and Jerry Show	11:30	Extreme Engineering
9:30	Reel Race Altered Statesmen Reagan Prosecutors	11:30	Bridging The Bering Strait
10:00	The Popeye Show	11:30	Reel Race Altered Statesmen Reagan Prosecutors