Behind the revival of handloom saris

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

HE Eid Shopping spree is on! The brightly-lit shopping arcades now pulsate with life. Gausia Market, the Bashundhara city, Karnophuli Garden, Concord Tower, Rajlokkhi Complex, The Rifle Square, Navana Tower, Metro Shopping Mall, the Mauchak Market turninto shopper hives. Taking a look at Bailey Road, one

finds that during the past few years, it has developed into a popular shoppers stop' for deshi saris and other handloom products. Among the attractions is the shop of Munira Emdad, popularly known as the Didi moni of the Tangail sari market. She is one of the women pioneers of our country who has invested years into promoting the deshi sari industry.

With limited capital of US Dollars 1,000, Munira gathered some weavers and set up a single roomed outlet at Baily road in 1982. 'It was sometime after



Munira Emdad

An exquisite Chand-tara design in Kataan Sari

Munira, 'the weavers of Tangail

and Pabna designed and sold

attract the ladies with finer taste.

a handful of weavers and provide

them with new ideas and latest

yarns and materials for better

Munira extended her help to buy

liberation, I noticed,' went on Within the last 22 years, the one room store has grown into a multisaris at the market. These saris storied show room with 50 employwere coarse and inadequate in ees at four branches in Dhaka. A length. Naturally it failed to proud owner of Tangail Saree Kutir, she has become an icon in the field of local saris. She has 'It was a time when skilled artisans were thinking of shifting from been recreating original designs in cotton saris and other local materitheir age-old profession due to falling demand. I decided to gather als. More than 2,000 weavers and 500 women are directly working under her and engaged in hand embroidery, block prints and other associated work.

'A gorgeous silk Jamdani in sub-dued colour made specifically for a

bridal wear took six months to weave, said Munira. The entire sari is in diagonal floral designs with sachcha(pure) zari work of silver and gold thread. The sari costs about Taka 50,000 and is one of its kind. The order has to be placed well ahead for similar designs, she said.

'New dimensions have been recreated in embroidered Tangail silk sari with karchub work for the fashion frenzied. The Mirpur Katans, Benarasi, silks and pure cotton saris are also available in a wide range of colours and shades. The Muslin, the craft silk in tiedye, the chand-tara designs in kataan, bringbackthefeelingofthebygonedays.

team, including Dr Afsar Ahmed,

Dean of the Arts Faculty and Profes-

sor Rashid Haroon, Chairman of the

Back to the roots in vegetable dye sari

The 'Shwarnalata' design was collected from a sari about 150 years old' said

As Munira puts it, 'following one's dream with commitment reaps rich

With proper guidance, direction in motifs, latest trends in design and materials Tangail saris are now in full bloom in various shades and designs, capturing the hearts of the picky customers. Munira Emdad has gained wide recognition as a successful entrepreneur. Her contribution to our culture has been immense and no doubt a model for other entrepreneurs.



'A creative person has to be romantic' --- Mehreen

There is no stopping singer Mehreen from spreading her wings. Primarily known as a pop singer, she is also adept at other genres of music. After a successful tour of UK over a month ago, including a show at Ediburgh Mela, she has notched up several awards in the recent past: the Bangladesh Cultural Reporters' Award for best pop album (for Mone Pore Tomae) is one of them. Now she is busy coming up with new numbers for Eid, music videos and a solo programme for Channel i Our cultural correspondents. programme for Channel i. Our cultural correspondent spoke to her on a gamut of issues.

What keeps you going?

I believe in living in the present and making optimum use of it. My reasoning is that the present will take you to the future and it is the present which comes from the past. So live life happily in the present

What is your greatest achievement till now? So far I think the answer would be winning the trust of my audience. In my line, you have to prove yourself. People want entertainment. As an artiste I strive to give them healthy and positive recreation.

Only time will tell if I can prove myself.

What makes you tick?

I go for a friendly and positive environment.

Although I welcome praise, I really appreciate the constructive criticism of all my fans and friends who have shaped me as a singer. The criticism could relate to my style, looks, hair, walk or even my pronuncia-

Areyou a romantic or a realist? Iwould say both. A creative person has to be romantic and live life imaginatively. Take the examples of the



romantic era of the early 19th century. In the course of native flights of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats and Byron. But despite being imaginative geniuses, they were firmly rooted on the ground. To me imagination is timeless and the romanticism of the past exists now and forever. Imagination can take you anywhere. More people should read Shakespeare, Tagore and Bankim, whose works have a universal appeal.

But I also am a realist in the sense that I abide by the rules of the world--educationally, socially and financially. Bridging the gap between realism and romanticism should be the keyword for human beings.

What makes you happy or angry?

I feel happy if I can create good music. Alternatively, when I am not productive I get agitated. For instance, today is not such a great day as I haven't been able to practice music. My 'riaz' usually ranges from 15 minutes to two hours.

What is your source of inspiration?

My biggest inspiration is my family-my parents and husband Intekhab. My husband has no background of music but appreciates all that I do. I get both positive feedback and criticism from him. He can be ruthless in his criticism--whether it is about the lyrics, tunes or the choice of songs. I appreciate his honesty.

Where do you see yourself 10 years from now? I will soon be thirty plus. Either I will be a good housewife and a mother of two or an exponent of North Indian classical music. I want to be known as a good musician and have my own recording studio.

'Meemangchina' to be performed in Kolkata

ERSHAD KAMOL

Come December, the Department of Drama and Dramatics of Jahangimagar University (JU) will go to Kolkata for a drama festival. The occasion, a part of the academic

Surrect, a theatrical group of Kolkata. Last year, the Department of Theatre and Music of Dhaka University took part in the academic theatre festival. In the second ses-

December 17, the Department of Drama and Dramatics of JU will stage a neo-ethnic play Meemangchina on December 18 at Nazrul Stage, Kolkata. A 20-member

Department of Drama and Dramatics, will participate in the festival. Professor Haroon said, 'The Garo word Meemangchina means a colourful cloth, used during the funeral of the aristocratic Garos. Dr. Afsar Ahmed's neo-ethnic play Meemangchina, based on a Garo tribe, centres on the sufferings of a university student Hrishika after her return to her own ethnic community. The play depicts the conflict between her modern belief and tradition. Hrishika wants to say

> funeral. Haroon further said, 'In fact, it is not our new production. Last year, Dr. Afsar Ahmed did the direction of the play. It is a remake based on Dr Afsar's idea. The performers are all from JU. Besides taking part in the festival, we have plans to stage a few shows at Rahindrahharati also Moreover, we will regularly stage Meemangchina at the Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Acad-

certain things to her beloved, beside

the river Someswari. But, during the

romantic sequences, the river sym-

bolises the colourful cloth Meemangchina, used during the

Tonatuni's new albums on Eid

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular audio visual production house Tonatuni has some new music albums to offer this Eid-ul-Fitr. Chokh Jurey Borsha is a mixed album containing 12 songs by popular Bangladeshi and Indian artistes like Abida Sultana, Haimanti Shukla and Arundhati Hom. The melodious songs include Tumi bijono ratey, Je kotha boltey giye, Jiboner totey tumi, Ektu ektu megh, Majhirey majhirey and Chokh jurey borsha. The lyricist and music directors are Ashraf Hossain and Aloknath Dey, Asad





The second album is a duet by Mohiuzzaman Moyna and Runa containing Rabindra Sangeet such as Aji Bangladesher hridoy hotey, Pranganey mor, Ektuku chhoya lagey, amra dujaney, Tumi shondyaro meghomala and Aj shobar rongey rongey. The music director of this album is popular musician Sujeo Shyam. The albums are available in all music shops in the form of audiocassettes

Anyway Miami Vice

Friends

Baywatch

The Simpsons

Just Shoot Me

Law & Order: Svu

Star Asia Travel

\$100 Taxi Ride

Game For It

Croc Chronicles

Wildlife Diary Built For The Kill

Be The Creature

\$100 Taxi Ride

Game For It

Croc-Chronicles

Be The Creature

National Geographic

Different Ball Game S2

Different Ball Game S2

\$100 Taxi Ride

Game For It

Riddles Of The Dead

National Geographic

National Geographic

Home Improvement

6:30

8:30

9:30 10:30

11:28

11:30

8:30

9:30

11:00

3:30

5:00 5:30

6:30 7:00 7:30

NATIONAL

GEOGRAPHIC

Moore's 9/11 headed for internet

BBC ONLINE

टेंगनाएनि

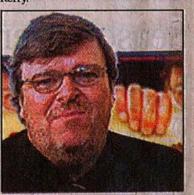
निर्यप्तम

Michael Moore's film Fahrenheit 9/11 is to be made available to watch online on the eve of the presidential

The pay-per-view showing of Moore's anti-Bush documentary will cost viewers \$9.95 (£5.40) to watch.

Internet movie provider CinemaNow said the film will be available on their website on Monday evening. A satellite TV channel also plans to

show Fahrenheit 9/11 on Monday, along with a film criticising John Kerry.



TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for

A scene from the play Meemangchina

News Bulletin

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am.12:10 pm. 2:00 pm. 3:00 pm. 4:00 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)

CHANNEL-I News (Bangla) at 7:15 am. 9:00am. 7:15 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and

English) at 11:30 pm. ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 7:00 am.10:00am. 2:00 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 9:00 a.m.10:00 am, 11:00 am,1:00pm,3:00 pm. 4:00pm.6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am. 12:00 am. 6:15 pm. 9:30 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 am. 2:00 pm. 5:00 pm.7:30 pm.10:30 pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and

English) at 11:30 pm. TARA BANGLA NewsHeadines(Bangla) at 5:30 pm. 7:30

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm. 11:30 Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30

BBC WORLD Every hour on the hour

10:00 Drama Serial: Crorepati Bangladesher Hridoy ntv Aajker Shakal Adekha Bhuban Live telecast of the cricket match between 09:20 10:05

Bangladesh and New Mahe Ramadan Itihash Shangshkriti 05:30 Unnati Shondhya Maloti Programme From 06:35 Chittagong Centre

BTV

07:30

09:00

Quiz Quiz Gaan Shudhu Gaan 07:30 08:30 Drama Serial: Bikeley Bhorer Alo Drama Serial: 09:00

Mukhoshdhari

Jibon Bangladesh Moron Bangladesh

CHANNEL-i Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction Tritiyo Matra

10:45 Cricket Online 11:30 Chithi Pelam Sa Re Ga Ma Aaj Dupurey and

CityCell Taroka Kathon Ebong Cinemar Gaar Public Reaction 01:25 Bangla Feature Film 01:30 03:40 Banglar Gaan

Alokito Bangladesh 04:10 Ramadanul Mubarok 04:50 05:45 Manohar Iliar Music Plus Ananda Bichitra

Close Up Juke Box 07:50 08:25 Drama Serial: Danar Chil

Apnar Jigyasha 04:25 Hridoye Ramadan Islam Shikkhar Ashor 05:20 06:20 Shubho Shondhya Drama Serial: 08:10 Sporsher Baire 08:50 Drama Serial: 09:40 11:25 Dindarpan

Crime Watch

Natoker Gaan

Chhobir Gaan

Sunsilk Opshora

Purono Ekok Nalok

Adekha Bhuban

Tifiner Fanke

10:30

11:00

02:30

03:05

03:40

ATN BANGLA Anyadrishti

Drama Serial: Mohona **Business This Week** 12:30 Bangla Feature Film: Abodhan Uro Cola Saat Rang Islami Sawal O Jawab Mobarak Ho Mahe D6:20 Cute Avnar Shamne

Drama Serial: Chhotto 08:00 Drama Serial: Drama Serial 09:00 Ek Dui Teen

10:30 HBO 8:15 Earth vs the Spider 10:00 Andre 12:00 The Iron Giant 1:45 Trojan War

Blind Fury Blue Crush Beverly Hills Cop III Men in Black II 11:15 07: Carrion Death 12:00 Tales from the Crypt 08: The Reluctant The Life of David Gale The Iron Glant Beverly Hills Cop III

Shonali Danar Chil

On Channel i at 9:35pm

Shomu Chowdhury

STAR MOVIES Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story High Crimes Children Of The Com 11:30 It Runs In The Family

High Crimes

Blue Crash On HBO at 5:15pm Genre: Drama/Romance Cast: Tony Dayes, Tania Ahmed, Sumaia Shimu, Rodriguez Bhabhi

12:45 Bloody Murder II STAR PLUS 2:30 8:00 Taaza Hits 3:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M Hello Dollie 8:05 Kahiin To Hoga 4:30 5:00 Taaza Hits Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M Fox Kids 5:25 5:30 10:10

Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M Simran Show Meri Saheli 6:00 6:30 11:25 7:25 7:30 Film Topper - 301 Maal Hai To Taal Hai 12:00 8:00 8:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M Taaza Hits Dekho Magar Pyaar Se Kasautii Zindagii Kay Kehta Hai Dil Kasautii Zindagii Kay

Cast: Kate Bosworth, Matthew Davis, Michelle Kumkum - Pyara Sa Kabhi Aaye Na Judai Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

K Street Pali Hill Zindagi Milke Bitayenge Film Topper - 301 Series Hit Filmein Hit Sangeel Taaza Hits Maal Hai To Taal Hai Fox Kids Film Topper - 301 Series Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan Film Topper - 301 Series Helio Dollie

Kahlin To Hoga 11:30 K.Street Pali Hill 12:00 STAR WORLD

Whose Line Is It 10:30 11:30 12:30 Boston Public Everybody Loves Raymond 1:00 2:28

2:30

4:30

Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi

The Drew Carey Show Oprah Winfrey Show

Hollywood Squares

Whose Line Is It

10:30 12:00 Star Asia Travel Oprah Winfrey Show Bold And Beautiful

National Geographic **Croc Chronicles** Wildlife Diary STAR SPORTS

Riddles Of The Dead New Zealand Tour Of Bangladesh Pan Pacific Sonargaon Test Series 2004 Chittagong, Bangladesh Bangladesh

Test, Day 5, High-

Sport 2004 (K)
Moto Gp Highlights
Motogp World
Championship 2004
Valencia, Spain
Highlights(T)
Sportsline (L) 7:00 8:30 Strongman Pro-gramming World Strongman Cup 2004 Moscow, Russia 9:00 Highlights(T) New Zealand Tour Of 9:30 Chittagong, Banglade Bangladesh Vs New Zealand 1st Odi, Strongman Pro gramming World Strongman Cup 2004 Moscow, Russia

League 2004/05 Moscow, Russia Cska

Moscow Vs Chelsea

lights(R) New Zealand Tour Of

Bangladesh Rc Cola

Chittagong, Banglade Bangladesh Vs New Zealand 1st Odi, 1st

Bangladesh Rc Cola Odi Series 2004

Chittagong, Bangladesh Bangladesh Vs New Zealand 1st Odi, 2nd Session(L)

Extreme Programming Wild Spirits 2004/05 (T)

The Golf Club The Golf

Gillette World Sports Special Gillette World Sport 2004 (R)

Club 2004 (R)

Odi Series 2004

Session(L)

9:20

1:30

5:30

6:00

Group Phase 1, Matchweek 4(L) ESPN

English Premier Footbal League 2004/05 Blackburn, England Blackburn Rovers Vs Liverpool (R) Melbourne Cup Melbourne Cup 2004 Victoria, Australia (L) 10:00 Ama Motocross 2004 Ama Motocross-125cc San Bernardino, Ca Usa

11:30 In The Driver's Seat Monster Truck Drags Indianapolis, In Usa (R Champions Tour Golf Sbc Championship San Antonio, Tx Usa Second Round(T) 1:30

Melbourne Cup Melbourne Cup 2004 Victoria, Australia (R) Asian X Games Vi Presented By Toyota Skateboard Vert P/L's And Final/R) 2:00 And Final(R)
Moto X Classix (R)
English Premier Football League 2004/05 Birmingham, England Birmingham City Vs Crystal Palace (R)

Highlights 2004/05 (R) Football Focus (L) Motorsport Asia (R) Samsung Crickel Show 8:00 8:30 9:00

English Premier Footbal League 2004/05 Manchester, England Manchester City Vs Norwich City (R) Melbourne Cup Melbourne Cup 2004 Victoria, Australia (R) Sportscenter India (R)