

Vulgarity in our films should be stopped

ERSHAD KAMOL

FOR many years people have disparaged the current trend of mainstream cinema in our country. Some sensational titles of the mainstream movies, like *Ghariera*, *Danger Hero*, *Aajker Hitler*, *Imandar Rangbar*, *Mastaner Dapori*, *Premik Rangbar*, *Swami Chhinta*, *Shanto Keno Mastan*, *Premika Chhinta* and many more, clearly indicate that the country's film industry has lost its rich tradition. Vulgar banners and posters of these films posted on walls strike the pedestrians.

In a positive development, some acclaimed cinema directors and artists including Razzak, Chashi

Nazrul Islam and others have protested against this trend. Chashi Nazrul Islam says, 'In the earlier days, we could not even imagine that the cinema scenario would take this form. Vulgar has become a norm for a handful because of some directors for whom the whole industry is now suffering. Obscene films are being made which cannot be viewed with family members. I strongly believe that if the handful of directors, who are also the executive members of the current committee of Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association (BFPDA), are persuaded to create quality films rather than obscene films then the whole scenario will be changed.'

Ashrafuddin Ahmed Ujjal, how-

ever, views the current crisis from a different angle. As he says, 'We are very concerned about the crisis and are against vulgarity. I do not believe that the whole scenario will be changed by merely punishing 8 to 10 people. It is the problem of the whole industry. Cinema is a collective work of the directors, artists, technical crews and investors. So, we should jointly solve the problem. If someone is pointing a finger at only a few persons for the current crisis, I think he is doing that only for his personal interest.'

Ujjal adds, 'Above all, a strict rule should be introduced against video piracy and unauthorised screening of Bangla films by the cable operators. Secondly, the faulty Censorship

Act of 1963 should be amended to meet the present needs and that modified Censorship Act must be applied strictly. Moreover, we have to assess the current satellite TV programmes as it has a tremendous impact on our culture.'

For the future of our film industry there is an urgent need to stop vulgarity in mainstream Bangla films. People behind obscene movies can neither justify vulgarity nor can they claim that they make these films for the sake of business. Previous records show that vulgar movies were never box office hits in the country. However, movies are now afoot to curb vulgarity in films and to make decent and commercially viable films for the audience.

From Russia with love

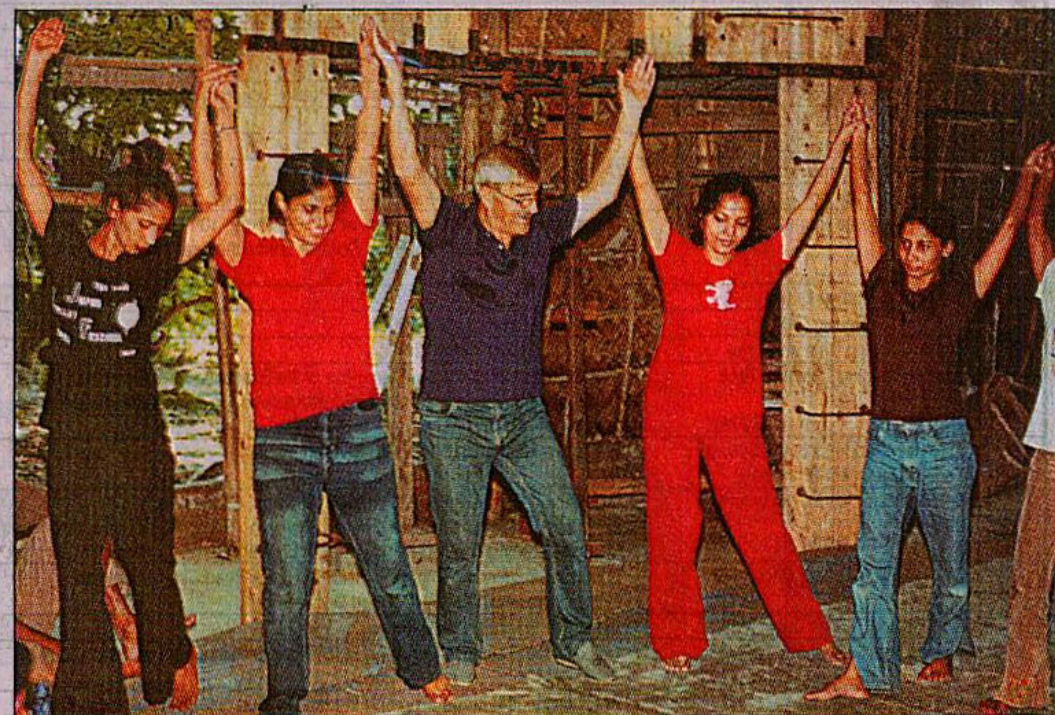
Majid Sekhaliyev, a choreographer after your own heart

FAYZA HAQ

RUSSIAN choreographer Majid Sekhaliyev is here once again, holding workshops with Bangladeshi dancers and theatre participants. He stresses on the rhythm of dance, and moves away from the static to the fluid gestures and moves.

To his credit, Sekhaliyev has a 20 year-career as a dancer and numerous years as a choreographer. He has retired as a folk dancer, though he had to study other dance steps too. 'Our steps, accompanying music and clothes are totally different from modern dances such as that of *samba* and *mamba*,' says Sekhaliyev. 'I went into folk dance as I felt that it best reflected the roots of my origin, at Makhajava, in the mountain region of Dagistan, a Russian republic. There is glamour and richness in the folk genre too,' he adds. Now in his early 50s, he is still as agile as a gazelle, graceful as a butterfly, and throws himself into strenuous nonstop practice, day after day, being spurred on by his desire to teach, now that he has bowed off from performing on stage.

Like many male dancers in Russia, he did not get the approval of his cultured but conservative family who wanted him to follow a more conventional career. 'However, I remained determined, and when I won popular acclaim, my family too accepted my role as a dancer. I had my ups and downs in my career,' Sekhaliyev reminisces. However, the chart of his accomplishment saw an upward rather than a descending trend when he

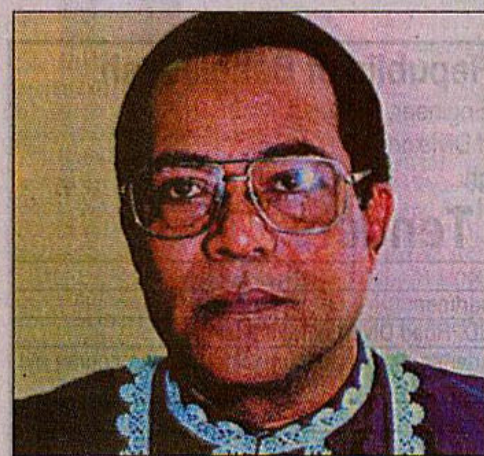


A jubilant Majid Sekhaliyev (3rd from left) teaching the basics of dance

turned to choreography. He had found his creative outlet. He is homesick for his family at times, but frequent phone calls and trips back and forth for the last five years have kept up his spirits and allowed him to speed ahead into something that is after his own heart. 'When I study the Bangladeshi dance steps and teach the basics of dance movements to the young local dancers, I feel young and jubilant,' he says.

He has performed in all the important European cities such as London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, Madrid and Lisbon. He has been to South America, India, China, Japan and various other places around the world, carrying his message of gaiety and harmony - in dance steps, swirls, sashes and buoyant hand movements. With a smiling face and twinkling eyes, he conveyed the element of gaiety in folk dances.

Asked to comment on the life-style in Dhaka, Sekhaliyev says that he finds the kebabs and curries very delicious though hot. He expresses his delight in the array of colourful saris in the markets and other gatherings. His choice of Bangladeshi music includes *Rabindra Sangeet* and *Nazrul Sangeet*, but he naturally prefers folk songs such as *Bhatiyali*, *Jari* and *Sharee* songs.



Rajib passes away

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Wasimul Bari Rajib, a prominent name in film and managing director of the Film Development Corporation (FDC), passed away on November 14, after suffering from intestinal cancer.

Born on January 1, 1952, Rajib first appeared on the silver screen in the film *Rakhe Allah Mare Ke* in 1979. In his long acting career, Rajib earned mass popularity, performing in more than 400 films. He also performed on TV and stage plays.

He received awards at the national level for

supporting as well as villainous roles in Bangla movies. He received six national awards as the Best Villain-character and four national awards as the Best Supporting-character in ten movies including *Danga*, *Khokon Shona*, *Sepal*, *Bhat De* and others. However, he won the heart of his fans for his bold appearance on-screen as an anti-hero. He was also the producer of seven movies. Of the 11 films released this Eid, Rajib has performed in five movies. With his death the Bangladeshi film industry has lost a talent.

The Culture Desk of *The Daily Star* pays tribute to the eminent film personality.

ALL TIME GREATS

Lata Mangeshkar: The nightingale at 75

'Have you ever seen a waterfall retrace its path?...I have seen it...rather heard it in didi's voice. The tinkling notes of her tann tangle forth like a waterfall plunging down a cliff and then go back exactly the same way,' says Lata's sister, singer Asha Bhonsle.

'She practiced, worshipped and worked hard and achieved success. And she practices till this day,' Music composer Naushad.

'With Lata's entry into music, and the kind of prowess she had, music directors were so attracted to her singing that other artists were eclipsed by her. She became a favourite with almost all the music directors.' -Singer Manna Dey.

Lata Mangeshkar's associates and fans alike never cease to marvel at her prodigious talent. She has effortlessly lent her voice to numerous female characters in Indian films, ranging from Madhubala, Meena Kumari, Waheeda Rehman to Hema Malini, Madhuri Dixit and Kajol. Her range of singing is simply amazing. Her repertoire includes thumris, khayals, ghazals and qawwalis.

She has moved both the masses and establishment alike. To mention an example, her patriotic song *Ai mere watan ke logon, zara aankh me bhar lo paan. Jo shahid hui hain unki yaad karo qurbani*. (Oh my countrymen, let your eyes well up with tears. Remember the sacrifice of the martyrs). This poignant song, to which she lent her voice,



reportedly reduced the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to tears at the time of the Indo-China war in 1962.

Likewise Javed Akhtar, film writer and lyricist, was effusive in his praise of Lata. In an article on Lata for the Indian magazine, *The Week*, he is reported to have said, 'The earth hath but one sun, one moon and one Lata.'

Lata is best remembered for all time classics such as *Jab pyar kiya to darna kya* (from the film *Mughal-e-Azam*), *Mausam hai*

aashiquana (*Pakeezah*), *Yeh zindagi usi ki hai* (*Anarkali*) and *Sawan ka mahina paawan kare shor* (*Milan*).

Among this melodious singer's new ventures is lending her voice to Yash Chopra's latest ode to romance, *Veer- Zaara*. The song was aired on FM radio in Mumbai when the music world celebrated her 75th birthday on September 28.

Along with the bouquets, Lata has also received her share of brickbats. There is a section of opinion in the media which paints her as a manipulative person who did not let other talented singers come up. However, her supporters have a ready rejoinder to this criticism. One internet article says, 'It is not known how much truth there is in such allegations, but it is beyond dispute that Lata is a legend in her lifetime and unquestionably the best singer India has produced. Her contribution to making music popular throughout India and the world is incalculable and she has reigned supreme all through the last six decades.'

Age sits lightly on Lata today. Her voice retains its youthful resonance and commands attention. Lata has an answer. As she says, 'It's you people who keep saying that I am 75 years old. I consider myself young and youthful.'

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

CINEMA

Oliver Twist: Polanski's latest screen venture

Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski is wrapping up his adaptation of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, and the filmmaker known for grim and challenging fare says this is his most interesting movie yet.

Speaking on the film set in a muddy field on the edge of Prague's Barrandov studio on Monday, Polanski insisted the classic 19th century tale about a London orphan was still relevant to children today.

It is here that the narrow cobbled streets of 1850s London have been painstakingly recreated, 75 buildings in all from the redbrick shops and factories with smoking chimneys to the docklands area complete with a canal.

'In all my experiences it was one of the most interesting, if not the most interesting, films to do,' the director of films such as *Rosemary's Baby*, *Chinatown*, *Tess* and most recently *The Pianist*, told journalists.

'I wanted to make a chil-

dren's film and had always loved the story of *Oliver Twist*. The last version, a musical which I love, was made in 1968, which is more than a generation ago and that's why I decided to film a new version,' he said.

But it was his wife, French actress Emmanuelle Seigner, who came up with the idea of remaking *Oliver Twist*.

'The hardest thing was condensing the book into a film -- it would have been impossible to film the whole book so we focused on the main plot and eliminated the sub plots. But we kept the essential story untouched,' he said.

Although the filmmaker declined to reveal the cost of the film, a French, English and Czech co-production, its budget is understood to have been around 45 million euros (\$58 million dollars).

Oliver Twist is due to be released in the latter half of 2005.

Amitabh to play Bollywood Godfather

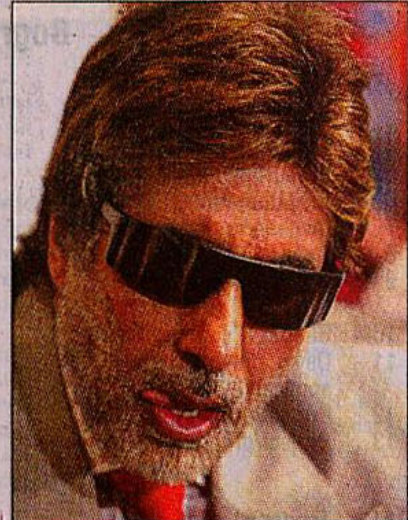
Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan has put on hold a much-vaunted project with his own son Abhishek in favour of a new film that insiders say will have shades of Hollywood's *The Godfather*.

A.B. Corp has started filming *Family* starring Bachchan, believed to be loosely based on Mario Puzo's masterpiece *The Godfather*.

Family, to be directed by Santoshi, tells the tale of conflict between two families of completely different backgrounds.

Bachchan inevitably plays the big gangster while Akshay Kumar is a cook. Kumar had earlier worked as a real-life cook in Bangkok before making it big as an action hero in Bollywood.

Bachchan brushed aside any connection between *The Fam-*



ily and *The Godfather*. 'It is not even remotely connected to *The Godfather*,' he said.

Family is tentatively scheduled for an August 2005 release.

SOURCE: AFP

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTB
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) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Teletext of BTB news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Teletext of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv
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, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Teletext of BTB news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN 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

CHANNEL-i

09:30 *Trinity Matra*
11:00 Cultural Reporter's Award

11:30 *Din Choley Jay*
12:00 Telefilm: *Selara*

12:00 *Ekhon Markete*
02:15 *Banglar Gan* (Eid special)

02:50 Telefilm: *Rochi Momo*
04:00 *Jonopader Khabor*

05:00 *Dhekhar Gan Shonar*
05:30 Musical Programme: *Gane Gane Rabi*

06:00 *Chowdhury*
06:30 *Gane Gane Taraka*

07:00 *Drama: Same Side*
07:50 *Drama: Pronoy*

09:40 *Ghailto Byaper*
10:30 *Child Programme (Pappet)*

11:10 *Cine Adda*
11:45 Musical Programme: *Amar Gan*

12:30 *Bangla Feature Film: Jonom Duki*

04:10 Telefilm: *Aponjon*
06:20 Musical Programme: *Din Jay Kotha Thake*

07:50 *Drama: Ronjin*
09:00 *Drama: Juyar*

10:30 *Drama: Nilimay*
11:30 *ntv*

08:00 *Ajker Shakal*
08:30 *Amra Ekhon Unish*

09:30 *Kuri (Eid special)*
09:30 *Palaganer Ashor*

10:05 Eid Express

11:30 *Ranger Gan*
12:05 *Kichu Katha Kichu*

01:30 *Unish Kuri Talent*
02:35 *Jatrapala*

05:20 *Eid Ananda*
06:20 *Shubhoshandha*

06:50 *Pop Music*
08:20 Telefilm: *Mamla Ek koli*

11:20 *Drama: Gantabyasthal*
HBO

8:30 *Deliver US From Eva*
10:45 *Earth Vs. The Spider*

12:30 *Superman II*
2:30 *A Knight's Tale*

5:15 *Mars Attacks*
8:00 *Solo*

10:00 *Vertical Limit*
12:30 *Night of the Living Dead*

STAR MOVIES
9:30 *Sonny*

11:15 *When A Man Loves A Woman*

1:30 *Child's Play*
3:00 *A Woman Hunted*

4:40 *Joy Luck Club*
7:00 *In-Laws*

8:35 *Bowfinger*
10:15 *Sonny*

12:00 *Cq*
STAR GOLD

9:45 *Charas*
1:30 *Do Aur Do Paanch*

4:45 *Muhammaharaja*
8:30 *Hogi Pyar Ki Jeet*

12:00 *Ankhon Mein Tum Ho*
STAR PLUS

11:30 *Maal Hai To Taal Hai*
12:00 *Kora Kagaz*

12:30 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
3:30 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*

11:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa

2:00 *Bandhan*
2:30 *Bhabhi*

2:30 *Kesar*
3:00 *Saarthi*

3:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi*
3:30 *Kabhi Bhui Thi*

4:00 *Kahin To Hoga*
4:30 *K Street Pali Hill*

5:00 *Maan*
5:30 *Maal Hai To Taal Hai*

6:00 *Fox Kids*
6:30 *Hogi Pyar Ki Jeet*

7:00 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa*
7:30 *Bandhan*

8:00 *Hello Dollie*
8:30 *Dekhke Magar Pyaar Se*

9:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
9:30 *Saara Akaash*

10:30 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki*
11:00 *Kyunki Saas Bhi*

11:30 *Kabhi Bhui Thi*
12:00 *K Street Pali Hill*

STAR WORLD
12:30 *Third Watch III*

1:30 *Magnum P.I.*
2:30 *Oprah Winfrey*

3:30 *Bold And Beautiful*
4:30 *Hollywood Squares*

5:30 *Whose Line Is It Anyway*
6:30 *The Simpsons*

7:00 *Home Improvement*
7:30 *Friends*

PICK OF THE DAY



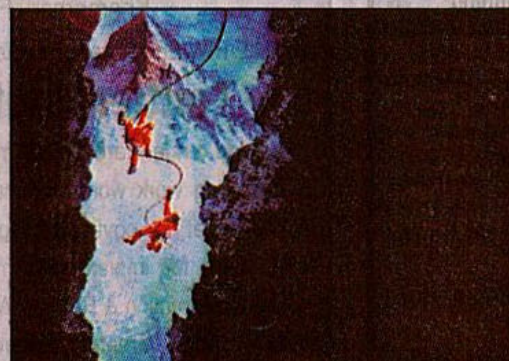
Nilimay Antomil

On ATN Bangla at 10:30pm

Genre: Drama

Playwright: Rowshon Ara Naznin, Director: SM Dulal

Cast: Azizul Hakim, Tazin Ahmed, Abul Kasem, Nasima Khan



Vertical Limit

On HBO at 9:30pm

Genre: Action

Cast: Chris O'Donnell, Robin Tunney, Bill Paxton

Director: Martin Campbell

Beach

11:30 *FBI Files, The Perfect Heist, The*

ANIMAL PLANET
12:00 *Supernatural Extrasensory perception*

12:30 *Breed All About It*
1:00 *Breed All About It*

1:30 *Emergency Vets: Battle Scars*
2:00 *Emergency Vets: Adipsy Doodle*

2:30 *Young and Wild Full Circle*
3:00 *Young and Wild First Breath*

3:30 *Growing Up Wild*
4:30 *The Planet's Funniest Animals*

6:00 *Barking Mad*
6:30 *Aussie Animal Rescue*

7:00 *Monkey Business*
7:30 *Predators Nowhere To Hide*

8:00 *Supernatural Extrasensory Perception*
8:30 *Young And Wild Breaking Through*

9:00 *Young And Wild Home Truths*
9:30 *Growing Up Wild Wolves*

10:30 *Around the World With Tipi and The Elephants*
11:00 *Secret World of Gardens*

11:30 *Wild Encounters How Animals Tell Time*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY

12:30 *Riddles Of The Dead*
1:30 *Monkey Business*

2:00 *Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures*
2:30 *\$100 Tax Ride*

3:00 *Game For It*
3:30 *Toads And Frogs: Their Love Life*

4:30 *Cheating Death*
5:30 *Monkey Business*

6:00 *Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures*
6:30 *\$100 Tax Ride*

7:00 *Game For It*
7:30 *Cheetahs: The Deadly Race*