

CULTURAL FEAST

Retrospective

Title: Tanvirer Dol, retrospective on Tanvir Mokammel
Organiser: Alliance Francaise
Schedule
January 14
06:00 pm Inauguration of photography exhibition of Pierre Clauquin on making of Lalshalu, Oyeo Jamuna and Lalon.



Children's Art

Competition
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, National Museum and Bengal Foundation
Occasion: 90th birth anniversary of Shilpakarya Zainul Abedin

Exhibition
Title: Book and album exhibition
Occasion: 210th birth anniversary of Russian painter Valentine A Serov

Exhibition
Title: Terra-cotta Ornaments & Pottery
Artist: Shohidul Hasan

Exhibition
Title: Russian Crystal Mela
Venue: Exhibition Hall, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi

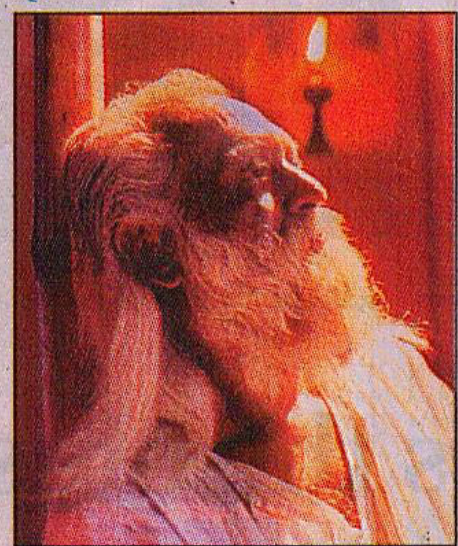
Play
Title: Sangbad Cartoon
Group: Chekhov Theatre
Venue: Auditorium, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi

Tanvir Mokammel
A journey back in time

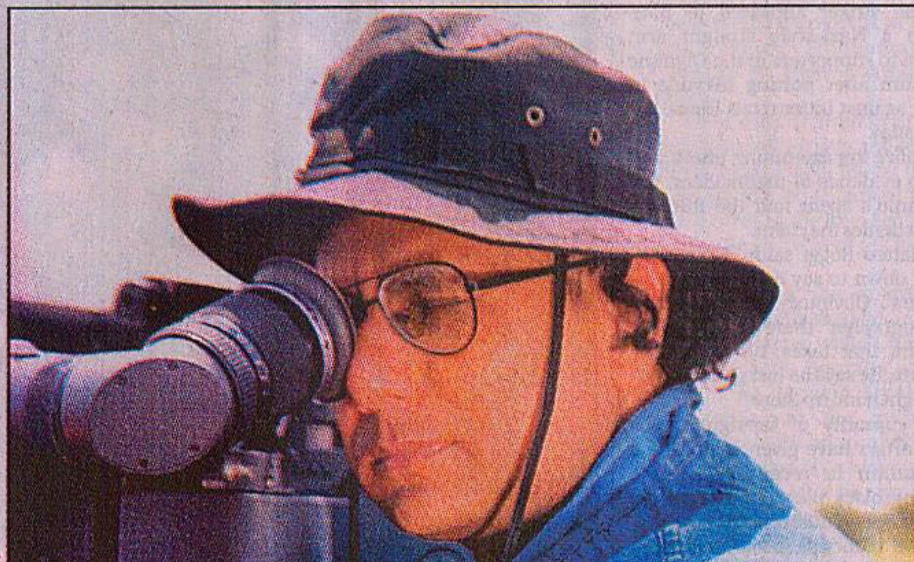
FAYZA HAQ

Tanvir Mokammel, an acclaimed film director with many awards to his credit, and whose film retrospective will run at Alliance Francaise from January 14th, speaks about how he got into films. He says, "From my childhood films always fascinated me. My father had a definite role in it. He himself was an avid viewer of films from the western countries and I was his companion. The decisive influence was, I guess, from my university days when my friends and I formed a film club and began to watch films and write about cinema seriously. Then at one stage I thought it might be more interesting to make a film by myself rather than only talk and write about cinema. Hence, I made my first short film on a poem by Nirmalendu Goon titled 'Hooliya'."

Tanvir's films are influenced by the great names of the Western world. Nearer home, it is Tanvir's dream to have Ritwik Ghatak's passion and Satyajit Ray's perfectionism. Tanvir had two opportunities to study filmmaking formally. But by the time he was awarded the Pune scholarship, he had become a political activist and couldn't make it. When he got a scholarship to go to Europe he was making films himself and didn't feel the urge to go.



Raisul Islam Asad in a scene from Lalon



Tanvir in action behind the camera

Asked if he only gave direction or took camera shots as well, he says, that he shot only one film himself. This was a documentary on the lane of Shankharibazar of old Dhaka. Tale Of A Lane.

Talking about which film he enjoyed making the most and which posed most problems for him, Tanvir says that so far he has made four feature films and seven short films and documentaries. "It is difficult to pinpoint which one I liked most, as each one had some pleasant memories (some bad memories as well). But, I guess the film that I enjoyed making the most was Chitra Nodir Parey (Quiet flows the river Chitra), as the film was also a journey back to my childhood.

"On the opposite end, I faced the most acute problem with the film Nadir Naam Modhumati (The river named Madhumati). We were faced with financial constraints. We did not receive any help from the concerned services. Hence the battle scenes of the film were unprofessional."

Talking about the problems that he normally faces, Tanvir says that the paucity of funds is the major problem. The absence of proper technology in Bangladesh is also a big handicap, he comments. Likewise the Censor Board and its undemocratic and archaic rules are also a hindrance, he adds.

Dwelling on the themes of his films, Tanvir says that they differ from film to film. Tanvir observes, "The themes generally relate to our history or the secular and progressive aspirations of our people. But, I think, at the end, they are stories of human interest."

Dwelling on his selection of actors and actresses, Tanvir says, "I choose my actors and actresses from theatre groups." Asked to give his opinion of the standard of film-making in Bangladesh, Tanvir says, "Technologically, film-making in Bangladesh is lagging 30 years behind the global scenario. In the commercial film industry the picture is very dismal. The makers seem to have run out of ideas."

Giving his opinion on the leading filmmakers of Bangladesh, Tanvir talks about Tarek and Catherine Masud, Morshedul Islam and Shameem Akhter. "It is inspiring to see upcoming talents like Saiful Anam and Taurik Ahmed. Among the documentary film-makers Manzare Hassin Murad, Kauser Choudhury and Yasmin Kabir are also noteworthy," he adds.

Musings

In the countdown to Eid, our cultural correspondent spoke to talented pop singer Baby Nazneen. She has won a number of awards for her singing skills and is the recipient of the title Uttar Bang-er Kokil (The cuckoo of North Bengal) for her melodious voice. She will perform in a programme on BTV titled Ananda Mela on Eid day. Here's what she has to say about fashion this festive season:

How important is glamour for a singer?

Glamour should be the second priority for a vocalist. Talent and commitment to music come first. No doubt about that!

What is more important: beauty or brains?

Beauty without brains is like fire without warmth. One can become beautiful by simply applying intelligence. So obviously you need brains first.

How important is fashion?

Fashion is not really important for everybody. But it is important to be presentable. Everybody must remember that one should follow the fashion that suits one and what others appreciate.

Do you have any fashion icon?

Nobody specific. I was not aware of fashion in my early days. I used to be a tomboy in my school days and often dream of going back to the earlier days. I like the traditional attire, like sari and shalwar-kameez, and also western outfits like jeans and T-shirts.

Will you follow any specific fashion this Eid?

Not really. I think fashion should help the person look elegant and impressive. Even if we don't want to, we should dress according to the cultural norms.



Eid special

Drama Putra-Shukh on ATN Bangla



Bonny Mirza and Joy appear in the drama

ATN Bangla will telecast a special drama Putra-Shukh. Based on a story by Brindaban Das, the adaptation and direction is steered by Sayeed Kajol. The drama is produced by Proshika Human Development Centre and features Joyanto Chattopadhyay, Shirin Bakul, Joy, Bonny Mirza, Chanchal Chowdhury, Nazneen Hasan Chumki, Ripa and Oishi. This is a story of a poor rural family, Sunai Mallik has two sons and a daughter-in-law. His younger son is a music enthusiast with little ability to sing. The elder one is fond of sports. The family members lived happily, until everything changes when the youngest brother gets married. The two daughter-in-laws fight constantly and the total environment is vitiated.

TRIBUTE

Actor Amrish Puri passes away

Amrish Puri, the "Mogambo" of Indian cinema, passed away in Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai yesterday morning following a brain hemorrhage. He was 72. He is survived by wife, a son and a daughter.

Puri suffered a blood clot in the brain and slipped into coma, family sources said. He was also being treated for malaria, they added. The actor had undergone a surgery last week.

Amrish Puri, the epitome of villainy in the Indian cinema was the younger brother of character actor Madan Puri. He had initially screen tested for a hero's role in 1954. But he was rejected as the producer thought he had a "crude and harsh face". Amrish then turned to theatre and also lent his voice to several advertisement jingles.

When he was almost 40, director Sukhdev signed him for Reshma Aur Shera. But, when producer Sunil Dutt took over as the director of the film, Amrish receded into the background.

After a forgettable debut, it was a long wait for Amrish, before being cast by art filmmaker Shyam Benegal in films like Nishaant, Manthan and Bhumika.

For his memorable performance in Ghatak he also received the Filmfare award for best supporting actor in 1997.

However, it was only after the commercial success of his portrayal of Duryodhana in Hum Paanch, a modern-day version of the Mahabharata, that he was recognised as an actor. He cruised ahead when Vidhaata and Hero became hits.

Soon Amrish Puri became synonymous with villainy. Hollywood director, Steven Spielberg was so impressed with him that he cast him as the main villain in his film Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom in 1984.

His venomous performance in Nagina was a landmark, but his career-defining role came as Mogambo in Mr India in 1987. The memorably vicious catchline, "Mogambo khush hua" became one of the most famous lines in the history of Hindi cinema. With Mogambo, Amrish

was instantly catapulted to success.

With occasional positive roles in films like Phool Aur Kaante (1991) and Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), he also played versatile roles in films like Ram Laxman, Saudagar, Karan Arjun and Koyla.

Mujhse Shaadi Karogi, also starring Akshay Kumar, Priyanka Chopra and Kareena Kapoor, was his latest release.



Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

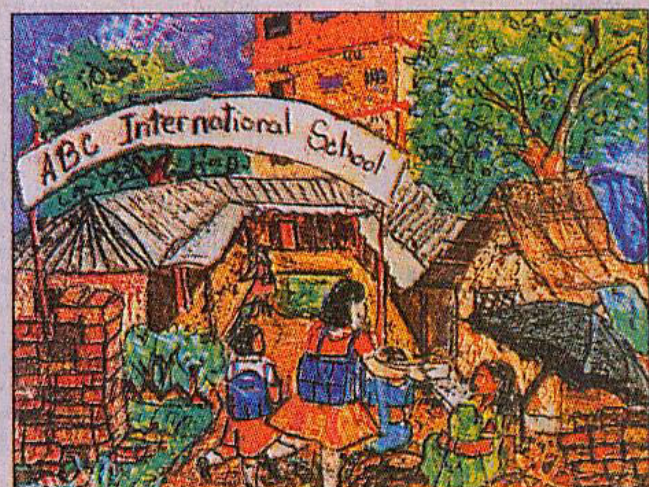
Bangladeshi children in Japanese art festival

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A special exhibition of artworks by 10 children selected for the Mitsubishi Impression Gallery Festival of Asian Children's Art 2004-2005 is being held at the gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. State Minister for cultural affairs Begum Selima Rahman inaugurated the exhibition yesterday.

About 2,500 sets of art paper were distributed among children across the country by Shilpakala Academy for this year's festival, informs Director of Fine Arts Department of Shilpakala Academy, ABM Salauddin. "We have received 8045 paintings from 1609 children. A panel of three judges selected works of 291 child artists," he adds.

Selected artworks of 10 children will be sent for the festival to be held in Japan in August this year. The exhibition runs till January 18.



An artwork by Ishika Chowdhury (10)

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

Fear

On Star Movies at 8:55pm
Genre: Drama/Thriller/Horror
Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Reese Witherspoon, William L. Petersen
Directed by James Foley
Nicole is a 16-year-old girl and, like most teenage girls, likes to have fun. When she and her best friend, Margo, go out to a party one night, Nicole meets the handsome and mysterious David, who she ends up getting together with. After a couple of weeks, Nicole realises that David is becoming really possessive and he gets very jealous when she talks to other guys and not telling him where she's going, etc. David even beats up one of Nicole's male friends because he's seen walking Nicole home. When Nicole ends up breaking up with David, he's obviously not happy about this and does everything to try and get her back...

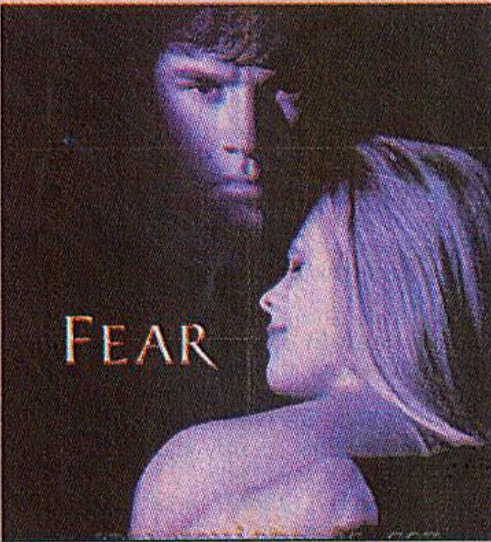


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