

CULTURAL FEAST

Adivasi Cultural Festival

**Organiser:** Society for Environment and Human Development  
**Venue:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** March 17-19  
**Schedule**  
March 17-19  
2:00-8:00pm Display of photographs and Adivasi artifacts  
5:00pm Cultural programme (everyday)

Children's Drama Festival

**Organiser:** People's Theatre Association  
**Venue:** Shawkat Osman Memorial, National Public Library  
**Date:** March 11-24

Exhibitions

**16th National Art Exhibition**  
**Artists:** Eminent and promising artists of the country  
**Venue:** National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** March 12-April 11, from 1am to 7pm and 3pm to 8pm on weekends  
**Title:** The Walls of Dhaka  
**Artist:** Bruno Ruhf  
**Venue:** Alliance Fraincaise, 26, Mirpur Road Dhanmondi  
**Date:** March 18-31

**Title:** C for Courage  
**Organiser:** Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela  
**Venue:** Kachi Kanchar Bhaban, 37/A, Segunbagicha  
**Date:** March 18- April 01  
**Artist:** Aminul Islam  
**Venue:** Shilpagan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** March 18- April 10, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

Drama Festival

**Title:** Dhaka Padatik Silver Jubilee Drama Festival  
**Organiser:** Dhaka Padatik  
**Venue:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** March 13-20, at 5:30pm everyday  
**Schedule**  
**March 18** Dompoti (Protikriti Natyadal, Kolkata): at 4pm and 7pm  
**March 19** Dorponey Sharatshashi (Protikriti Natyadal, Kolkata)  
**March 20** Binodini (Dhaka Theatre)

Celebration of Independence Day

**Organiser:** The Liberation War Museum  
**Venue:** The Liberation War Museum, 5, Shegun Bagicha  
**Date:** March 22-28, at 5pm everyday  
**Schedule**  
**March 22-28**  
**Programme:** Book Fair themed on the Liberation War  
**Venue:** The Liberation War Museum, 5, Shegun Bagicha  
**Date:** March 22-28, from 10am to 8pm  
**March 22**  
Dr. Sanjida Khatun will speak on The Liberation War and the Cultural practice of Bangalee, followed by Tagore song by Rizwana Chowdhury Bonnyra.

Ikebana

**Title:** Grand Ikebana Contest  
**Organier:** Asia Bunka Kaikan Dosokai (ABKD)  
**Venue:** Spectra Convention Centre, House 19, Road 7, Gulshan 1  
**Date:** March 18, at 3:30pm

Film Festival

**Title:** Contemporary World Film Session  
**Organiser:** Dhaka Film Society  
**Venue:**  
**Date:** March 17-19  
**Schedule**  
March 18  
4:30pm Central Station  
7:00pm Chokher Bali  
March 19  
4:30pm Motor Cycle Diary  
7:00pm Amar Bhuban

In Conversation

"I sort of gambled with my life" --- Bulbul Ahmed

HARUN UR RASHID

BULBUL Ahmed is one of the few names equally popular with viewers of both small and silver screen. He has played lead roles in movies like *Devdas* and *Shimana Periya* during the golden era. Likewise, the history of our television plays would be incomplete without *Ei Shob Din Ratri* that featured Bulbul.

"While still a student of Higher Secondary in 1958, I performed for the first time in my college's annual play *Shesh Rokkha* of Rabindranath Tagore in Sylhet. That same year, our organisation held a show of Nihar Ranjan Gupta's *Ulka* at the British Council in Dhaka," he recalls.

Bulbul has impressive credentials. In 1960, he joined the group Drama Circle and performed in plays such as *Oedipus* and *The Arms and the Man*.

Bulbul joined the television in 1968. "My first TV play was *Purbabhash*, written by Abdullah Al Mamun and directed by Mustafa Monwar," reminisces Bulbul. However, he earned great popularity for his characterisation of the lead role in the play *Idiot*. In quick succession, he appeared in plays *Barof Gola Nodi*, *Arek Falgun*, *Shesh Bikeler Meye* and many others. Despite his immense popularity on the silver screen, Bulbul has never been aloof from television.

Bulbul Ahmed's first appearance in films was in 1973 when he played a supporting character in *Iye Korey Biye*. Soon he appeared in the central role in the film *Jibon Niye Jua*. "At that time I worked for a bank and was transferred outside Dhaka. But as I was deeply engrossed in my acting career, I didn't want to leave the city. So, I quit my job as a banker



Bulbul Ahmed with Jayasree Kabir in *Shimana Periya*

and turned a full-time actor from this film. I sort of gambled with my life in a sense," says Bulbul.

A series of popular films followed in the years to come: *Shurjo Konnya*, *Shimana Periya*, *Rupali Shoitkotey*, *Bodhu Bidaay*, *Devdas*, *Bodnaam* and many others. Among these films *Devdas* earned him

immense recognition and he takes a lot of pride in this cinematic venture. "I believe that *Devdas* is one of the milestone films in our film industry," says Bulbul.

In his words, "Generally directors of remake films ask the cast to watch the previous versions of the film. However, our director Chashi

Nazrul Islam absolutely forbade me from seeing the previous versions of *Devdas*. His reasoning was that he wanted an original performance from me. And that worked tremendously. After finishing the film, I curiously watched the other versions to gauge how well my predecessors had done the role. What I found is that I didn't do it badly," says an elated Bulbul.

*Shimana Periya* is another critically acclaimed film. The film, directed by Alamgir Kabir, introduced the Bulbul-Jayasri duo that is regarded as one of the best couples on the silver screen. "With Jayasri Kabir I made two more films-- *Mohona* and *Rupali Shoitkotey*, also directed by Alamgir Kabir."

He has also directed four movies-- *Rajlakkhi Srikanta*, *Akorshan*, *Garom Haowa* and *Koto Je Apon*.

Meanwhile, he had played one of the lead characters in Humayun Ahmed's *Ei Shob Din Ratri*. The serial became popular not only at home but overseas too. "Recently, I went to Kolkata to shoot an ad-film. After one of our sessions, I was told that a *didi* is asking for me. I wondered who might that be. Finally, an elderly lady showed up and said, 'I recognised you as soon as I saw you; aren't you Shafiq?' I was overwhelmed," says Bulbul.

At present, Bulbul has his hands full with TV plays. "I don't think I will return to films full time," he says. "I am very selective when it comes to film roles now." The reasoning is obvious: "The environment of the film industry has deteriorated a lot and it's hard to work there with integrity," regrets Bulbul.

COURTESY: BANGLADESH CHALUCHITREER THASH

Theatre

Dhaka Drama Natyadal presents Nana Ranger Dinguli

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The title of the play *Nana Ranger Dinguli* clearly indicates that it deals with the emotion of a person who is unhappy presently but has a rich past.

The story revolves around an actor who suffers from internal and external conflict created by the flawed social milieu. Among the questions that arise are: How is an actor treated in the society? Is he simply treated as a means of entertainment? No body cares for his emotion and he doesn't get proper honour except a few claps during the performance.

*Nana Ranger Dinguli* is an adaptation from Russian drama legend Anton Chekhov's play *The Swan Song*. Chekhov was tempted to write this one act play at a transitional time when age was catching up with him.

During the adaptation of the play, Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay has portrayed the crisis facing many an aged actor who past his prime is confronted with questions such as whether it is the end of the road for him and what he has achieved.

Is *Nana Ranger Dinguli* a pessimistic play? Not at all. At the end the protagonist says "I am still surviving. Actors never retire."

Going back in time to the glorious past of the artiste, in *Nana Ranger Dinguli* Ajitesh has shown some glimpses of his remarkable performance in the role of Oedipus in the play *Oedipus* by Sophocles, Raja in the play *Raktokarobi* by Rabindranath Tagore and others.

Director Mujibur



A scene from *Nana Ranger Dinguli*

The Sardar with a Sufi soul-- Rabbi

KARIM WAHEED

When you hear his name, it sounds like one of those Punjabi DJs trying to make it big with some stereotypical *bhangra* song but if you follow the satellite music channels, chances are you probably have seen him. Rabbi Shergill - a sardar, dressed in traditional Sikh attire with a guitar, singing a Sufi song. The video is striking because of the contrasting images you see. The fresh earthiness and 'straight from the heart' message of the song exalted by Rabbi's vocal skills take you to another realm, a realm of tranquility.

This song is *Bulla Ki Jana Main Kaun*, the highlight of his self-titled album *Rabbi*, was originally written by Sufi Saint Baba Bulla Shah. For those hardcore Rabbi fans, on the lookout for Bulla trivia, Baba Bulla Shah was born as Abdullah Shah in 1680 in a village in Bahawalpur called Uch Gilania, a part of Pakistan.

Baba Bulla Shah's verses are said to have influenced such eminent names as Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Abida Parveen and Junoon.

The translated version of the lyrics provided with the album is enough to stir your mind.

The rest of the songs in the album blend well, making it a "must have". But there is no denying the fact that *Bulla Ki Jana...* is a class apart.

The lyrics for the songs, except *Bulla Ki Jana...*, *Ishthihar* and *Heer*, have been written by Rabbi himself.

Varis Shah has penned the epic love story of Heer, her lover Ranjha and their doomed love, sometime in the 18th century. *Ishthihar* means advertisement. Written by Shiv Kumar Batalvi, it is a song about someone looking for love. *Totia Manmotia* is the re-interpreted version of a Punjabi bedtime fable about two parrots.

Travels to such places as Kashmir, Punjab, Bombay and Delhi and some anecdotes form the theme for *Jugni*.

Rabbi's 'love affair' with his guitar is evident throughout the album. *Gill te guitar* narrates the escapades with his chums. It was those friends who introduced Rabbi to Bruce Springsteen, U2 and to his fascination for the guitar. The compositions of *Tere Bin*, *Aji Nachna* and *Ek Geet Hijar Da* too succeed in maintaining the mood

created by *Bulla Ki Jana...*

Rabbi Shergill's talent has won him recognition. He was approached by several filmmakers, such as Shashank Ghose for his *Waisa Bhi Hota Hai Part II* but Rabbi was not ready to part with his composition of *Bulla Ki Jana...* and he even refused Pooja Bhatt's offer to work for *Paap*. The album - *Rabbi*, released by Phat Phish Records, has perhaps justified his decision to make a mark on his own.

Here is a translated excerpt from the song *Bulla Ki Jana...*



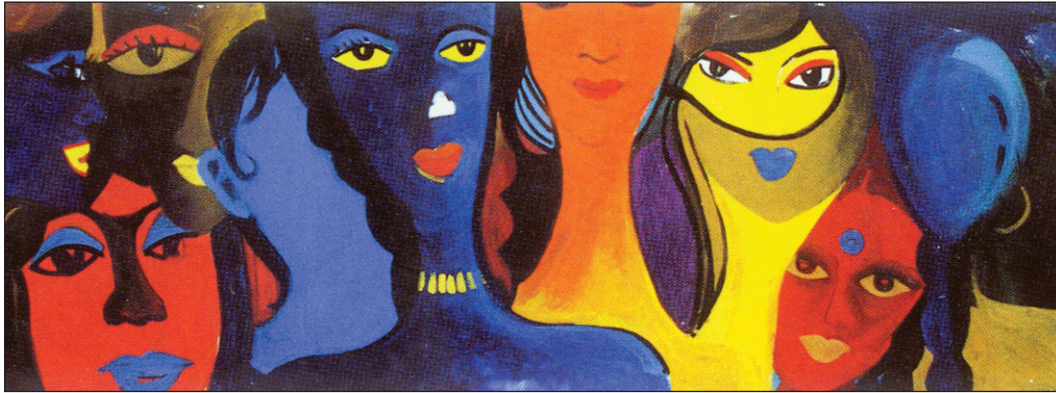
Nor did I create the difference of Faith  
Nor did I create Adam-Eve  
Nor did I name myself  
Beginning or end I know just the self  
Do not recognise "the other one"  
There's none wiser than I  
Who is this Bulla Shah  
Bulla, I know not who I am

Andaleeb's combos of paint and pixel

FAYZA HAQ

Nazia Andaleeb Prema, who has been working in abstract expressionism, has worked on simple forms, using colours, lines and shapes in her recent exhibit at Alliance Francaise. "This time, I haven't played with textures, I wanted to simplify my technique and forms," Andadeeb said. "As I'm a computer designer, I wanted to bring in the impact of the computer in my work. The lines and colours of a computer has a different characteristic from one found in paint and canvas and I wanted to portray that along with oil on canvas creations. Some of my works are completely oil on canvas. In others I've done oil on canvas, scanned it and presented my prints. I want to display the possibilities of computer technology."

The subjects are expression of the artist's emotions and everyday experiences. "The pixels of the computer want to attack the normal flow of our lives. The photographs of the oils have been scanned and imposed circles and lines on them. Thus the opaque and rigid tendency of the pixel has been



Staring-Women-1

combined with the oil form and then scanned. Thus I've transformed my emotions into the media, and carried out an experimentation," Andaleeb explained. In the digital strokes there is more flexibility, Adaleeb believes. The sweeps and strokes can be more ambitious, she feels.

Considering her conventional oil creations, in *Red*, Andaleeb had used variations of red, maintaining the same surface. Splashes of black, yellow and orange were also found on the canvases. Another canvas also presented solid

images with the form of the crescent moon dominating the composition. On that canvases we found muted hues like brown and blue. In all her creations she has used squares, half circles, circle and such known geometrical images. An integral part of the beauty of Andaleeb's creations had been simplicity, and this time she wanted to make her work even less complicated.

Figurative creations had been included in the exhibition. In one of her canvases we see a couple, with the female face seen from the side and the male face approached from the front. The

artist had moved on to gender issues in *Staring women*. There isn't much to learn from the eyes of our women, Andaleeb felt, which all bear a shroud of hypocrisy. "Society does not normally appreciate intelligence in our women. If women have intelligence they tend to hide it and give the appearance of being dressed up dolls," is Andaleeb's conclusion.

Andaleeb has taken part in a dozen artists' camps. She has had seven solo exhibitions and has participated in 30 group shows.

Oil on canvas

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTV

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) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00 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, 11pm.  
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm  
Telecast of BTV 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, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.  
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.  
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

BTV

08:15 Smritimoi Archives  
08:40 Asia This Week  
09:05 Drama Serial: Shobai Miley  
09:30 Amra Natun Amra Kuri  
10:45 Hello Apnakey Bolchhi  
11:45 Alor Dishari  
12:15 Spiritual Songs  
12:30 Satellite programmes  
03:15 Shangbadpotrer Pata Thekey  
03:25 Bangla Feature Film  
06:00 Desh Janogad  
06:35 Programme From Chittagong Centre  
07:00 News Headlines and Weather forecast  
07:05 Lok Lokaloye  
07:30 Special Programme on Abul Mansur  
08:25 Protidin Bangladesh  
08:30 Swadhinota Mohan Swadhinota  
08:35 Dekha Adekha  
09:00 Smritimoy Dinguli  
10:25 Teknat Thekey Tetulia  
10:30 Lal Golap  
12:05 Satellite programmes

CHANNEL-i

09:45 Tritiyo Matra  
10:30 Grameen Phone Tele Shomoy  
12:00 Kora Aalap  
12:30 Islamic Programme  
01:00 Banglar Gaan  
01:30 Public Reaction  
02:30 Tritiyo Matrai Apni  
04:15 Dekhar Gaan Shonar Gaan  
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma  
05:15 Janopader Khabor  
05:30 Shamoyiki  
06:00 Music Plus  
06:30 Kothay Kothay  
07:50 Drama of the Week: Stirlinga  
09:35 Drama Serial: 69

10:00

Close Up Juice Box  
**ATN BANGLA**  
10:25 Annodrishtee  
11:05 Frida's Islamic Programme  
Binodon Jummabar  
05:10 Shesh Akkhar  
06:20 Aamra Korbo Joy  
Drama Serial: Obhigbat  
08:30 Drama Serial: Khowab  
09:00 Drama Serial: Lal Neel Beguni  
09:30 Drama Serial: Ek Janomey  
10:35 Cine Aha

ntv

08:30 Aajker Shakal  
Drama Serial: Kachher Manush  
09:05 Documentary  
Programme  
09:30 Siddique Kabir's Recipe  
10:05 Apnar Jigyasha  
Trans World Sports  
11:05 Smritir Janaloy  
Drama: Bodh Millennium  
03:50 Ithasher Ei Diney  
05:15 Tiffiner Phakey  
05:20 Shubho Shondhya  
06:20 Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri  
08:30 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush  
08:50 Pepsi Music Express  
09:40 Drama: Anyonayik Dindarpan  
11:25

HBO

8:15 The Naked Gun 2 1/2: The Smell of Fear  
10:00 Rush Hour  
12:00 Welcome to Collinwood  
1:45 Single White Female  
4:00 Goodfellas

PICK OF THE DAY



**Liar Liar**  
On STAR Movies at 7:00pm  
Genre: Comedy/ Fantasy  
Cast: Jim Carrey, Maura Tierney, Justin Cooper



**Koffee With Karan**  
On Star World at 10:30pm  
Talk Show  
Today's Guests: Rahul Bose & Konkona Sen

7:00	Tremors 3: Back to Perfection	5:30	Vets On The Wild Side (I) Episode 12	11:00	And The Dead, The Fields of Armor Hyperwar	6:00	Diet Busters
9:00	HBO Sneak Peek: Men in Black II	6:00	The Planet's Funniest Animals	11:30	World's Best Kept Secrets of Military	6:30	Desmond Morris' The Human Sexes Gender Wars
9:30	The One	7:00	Barking Mad	12:30	Wild Discovery Ghost Bears Of The Rain Forest	7:30	Wild Discovery African Wild Dogs
11:15	Pet Sematary	7:30	Weird Nature Devious Defenses	1:30	Wildest Islands Of Australia	8:30	Wings When Pilots Eject
1:15	John Carpenter Presents Vampires: Los Muertos	8:00	Cats Pet Or Pest?	2:30	Story of Evolution	9:30	Extreme Engineering Transatlantic Tunnel
3:15	Most Wanted.	8:30	Pet Star	3:30	Human Odyssey, The Dragon Bones	10:30	Countdown Unsolved History-Season III Kal-007
5:15	Welcome to Collinwood	9:30	The Most Extreme Eaters	4:00	Fields of Armor Devil's Coaches, The	11:30	Master Of the Spirits
		10:30	Cats Aristocrats	4:30	World's Best Kept Secrets Of... Fbi, the Real Kids Real Adventures 3 Through The Ice	12:30	A Woman Hunted
		11:00	Wild Nature Marvelous Motion	5:30		1:15	Special Forces
		11:30	Wild Encounters				
		12:30	Pet Nation				
		2:30	Pet Star Episode 10				
		3:30	The Most Extreme				
		4:30	The Protector's Animal Precinct Episode 5				

ANIMAL PLANET

DISCOVERY

10:30 Fields of Armor Quick

5:30 Ally Mcbeal  
6:30 The Simpsons  
7:00 That 70s Show  
7:30 Friends  
8:00 Newsradio  
8:30 Tna Wrestling  
9:30 The Apprentice  
10:30 Koffee With Karan  
11:28 Star Asia Travel  
11:30 Newsradio  
12:00 Cover Story

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

1:00 Science Times  
2:00 Marine Machine  
3:00 National Geographic Special  
4:00 Dogs With Jobs S3  
4:30 Backyard Science  
4:45 Doc Eureka  
5:00 Serious: Desert  
5:30 No Explorer  
6:30 Seconds From Disaster  
7:30 Secret Life Of Stella The Stone Martin  
8:30 Paradise Drowned  
9:30 When Nature Strikes Back  
10:30 Interpol Investigates  
11:30 National Geographic's Taboo

STAR SPORTS

9:30 Asian Festival Of Speed  
Porsche Infineon  
Carrera Cup Asia Macau  
Macau Round 11(R)  
10:30 Golf Focus (R)  
10:30 Tennis Masters Series  
Pacific Life Open Indian Wells Indian Wells Ca Usa Quarterfinal #2(L)  
12:30 Fa Cup Fa Cup 2004/05 Round 6(T)  
2:30 Five / Six Nations  
Championships Rugby Hq Asia (R)  
3:00 Five / Six Nations  
Championships Royal

Bank Of Scotland Six Nations 2005 Scotland Vs Wales (R)  
5:00 Nba Basketball Miami Fl Usa Los Angeles Lakers Vs Miami Heat (R)  
7:30 English Premier League Preview (T)  
8:00 Sportsline (L)  
8:30 Fa Cup Classic Matches  
West Ham United Vs Tottenham Hotspur Fa Cup 00/01 Quarter Final(T)  
10:30 Sportsline (R)  
11:00 Nba Inside Stuff (T)  
11:30 Zimbabwe Tour Of South Africa 2nd Test Day Two(L)  
3:30 Tennis Masters Series  
Pacific Life Open Indian Wells Indian Wells Ca Usa Quarterfinal #2(S)  
5:00 Super 12 Rugby 2005  
Hamilton New Zealand Chiefs Vs Queensland Reds Round 4(S)  
7:00 Australia Tour Of New Zealand 2nd Test Day 1 Highlights(S)  
8:30 Sportscenter India (L)  
9:00 English Premier League Preview (T)  
9:30 Hitz (R)  
10:30 Icc Cricket World (T)  
11:30 Here We Go (S)  
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)  
12:00 Asian Tour: Tci Classic Day Two(R)

ESPN

10:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05  
Charlton Uk Charlton Athl Etic Vs Tottenham Hotspur (R)  
12:30 Motorsport Asia (R)  
1:00 Brazilian Goal (T)  
1:30 Asian Tour: Tci Classic Day Two(L)  
3:30 Tennis Masters Series  
Pacific Life Open Indian Wells Indian Wells Ca Usa Quarterfinal #2(S)  
5:00 Super 12 Rugby 2005  
Hamilton New Zealand Chiefs Vs Queensland Reds Round 4(S)  
7:00 Australia Tour Of New Zealand 2nd Test Day 1 Highlights(S)  
8:30 Sportscenter India (L)  
9:00 English Premier League Preview (T)  
9:30 Hitz (R)  
10:30 Icc Cricket World (T)  
11:30 Here We Go (S)  
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)  
12:00 Asian Tour: Tci Classic Day Two(R)