

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Children's Competition

Categories: Poetry recitation and patriotic Nazrul songs  
Organiser: Nazrul Institute  
Venue: Nazrul Institute, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 21, at 4pm

## Television Play Premiere

Title: Baro Pobito Amar Shohor  
Director: Amitabha Reza  
Writer: Anisul Haque  
Venue: Liberation War Museum Auditorium  
Date: June 21, at 7pm

## Musical Soiree

Organiser: Dance and Music department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Artists: Prominent and promising Tagore and Nazrul singers  
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 21-24

## Classical Music

Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi  
Artists: Shama Ahmed, Fayzul Haque, Bijoy, Chowdhury Mostaq Hossain  
Venue: Biswa Shahitya Kendra  
Date: June 30, at 7pm

## Film Screening

Title: Germany in the Crosshairs  
Organiser: Goethe-Institut in cooperation with Zahir Raihan Film Society  
Venue: Goethe-Institut (German Cultural Centre), House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 13-21

June 21  
3:00pm: Thanner's New Job  
4:45pm: Manila  
6:30pm: Fatal Fairytale

Organiser: High Commission of India  
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre Auditorium, Road 96, House 25, Gulshan 2  
Time: June 06-27, at 6pm everyday

Schedule:  
June 24 Chokher Bali (Bangla)  
June 27 Black

## Exhibition

Title: Tapestry Exhibition  
Artist: Tajul Islam  
Venue: Shilpanagan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 18-29, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

Title: Miniature Art  
Artists: 105 artists  
Venue: Shilparag, House 15, Road 16, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 03-30, from 11:30am to 2pm and 4:30pm to 9pm

Title: Reality and Perception  
Artist: Moon  
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 18-22, from 3pm to 8pm

Costume Display  
Title: Summer Collection  
Venue: Ananya  
Date: June 01-30

## The untold tale of the Hill Tracts

Premiere of *Teardrops of Karnafuli*



The narrator of the documentary



The dancers of the Hill Tracts

**FAYZA HAQ**  
TANVIR Mokammel embarked into filmmaking during his university days. At that time he was a film society activist, and organised seminars and workshops on films. In the late '70s, he made a short film based on a poem, *Hulia*, written by Nirmolindu Guun. The film had the backdrop of Ayub Khan's military regime. Although the film had its technical flaws, it clicked and was a success. This gave Tanvir the courage to step into films in a big way and he made *Nadir Nam Modhumoti*, a length feature film which received national awards.

*Teardrops of Karnafuli* is a documentary film. Usually after a feature film, Tanvir goes in for a documentary. "When you make a documentary you are very much connected with the reality," Tanvir says. "I've made five documentaries before such as *Ochin Pakhi* about Lalun Fakir, *Tale o Lane* on Shakhar Bazar, *Oi Jamuna* and *Sriti Ekattur* which is about the murder of intellectuals by the collaborators during the Liberation War."

Talking about his latest film *Teardrops of*

*Karnafuli*, which premiered recently at the Goethe Institut, Tanvir says, "When I visited Chittagong with my parents in my childhood I found it one of the most beautiful places in Bangladesh. As I grew up I learned about the political turmoil and sufferings of the people. I remained disturbed about the happenings and felt that I should do something and bring the situation to the notice of the people in Bangladesh. However, it was not easy to go there to shoot a film documentary, specially before the CHT to settle and this tipped the demographic balance."

Tanvir wanted to make a film about the real problems of the people. He spoke to many Hill Tracts people, the leaders, representatives and the common dwellers. He kept all the 12 ethnic groups in mind i.e. Chakma, Marma, Chak, Tanjanya, Tripura, Bom, Pankhu, Mrung, Lushia, Kheyang, Mru and Khuma. Together they are known as *Jhumma*. Tanvir also spoke to the Bangalee settlers who had been living in the Hill Tracts. In that manner he tried to show both sides of the problem. He did not want to blame anyone but sought to find a solution instead. "Any kind of dislike or hatred comes from not knowing enough

about the other side. This is my attempt to show the problem from the perspective of the hill people," says Tanvir.

He points out that there are two main issues. When the Kaptai Lake was made the Hill Tracts people were never consulted even though it was their land. Their homes were flooded and about a lakh of people had to leave. There was no proper compensation. Secondly, Tanvir points out, half a million plain land people were brought here to the CHT to settle and this tipped the demographic balance.

Tanvir says furthermore that he did research on all available materials. He read books and documents and talked to different people. The narrative style comes in when an old Hill Tracts lady tells the story of her life. She recalls old incidents and characters. She also talks about life before the lake was created, the entry of Bangalee settlers and the current scenario. She talks about the everyday problems of a hill person. To understand the situation in depth, Tanvir also spoke to some social leaders.

*In TV plays, you often portray characters of shrews. Do you really relate to the characters?*

"Ironically Bulbul had been cast first as my husband and later as my son" -- Dilara



ILLUSTRATION: MUSTAFA ZAMAN

Anyone who grew up in the '80s, is familiar with the title *Eishob Din Ratri*. And one, who has seen the immensely popular TV play, cannot forget the short-tempered mother played by Dilara Zaman. Her performance as the cruel and regal blind mother of a zamindar in another widely familiar play *Oyomoy* was remarkable. She is a recipient of many prestigious awards such as the Ekushey Padak, Bachasas and many more. On TV, she's the quintessential mother who won't hesitate to give you a piece of her mind. Let's get to know the real Dilara Zaman.

*Do you have a nickname?*

My near and dear ones call me Lily. I was born in the early hours of June 19 in the district of Bardhaman, West Bengal. While taking a stroll beside a lake laden with white lilies, my father received the news of my arrival into this world. When he saw me for the first time, he was reminded of the lilies by my delicate features and fair skin and he named me, Lily.

*In TV plays, you often portray characters of shrews. Do you really relate to the characters?*

As a matter of fact, I am just the opposite. Although I do the roles with finesse, I am basically very peace loving and selfless. I try not to be involved in any kind of confrontation.

*What keeps you going in a crisis?*

I face it with courage and usually depend on the Almighty.

*Ironies that you have faced in your career...*

Interestingly enough, in my first play, renowned actor Enam Ahmed played my husband. I used to call him

chacha (uncle), since he was an acquaintance of my father. Then there's Bulbul Ahmed who initially played the role of my husband and later played my son.

*How did you make your move towards acting?*  
I grew up in Noakhali. As my family was super conservative, we were not allowed to listen to the radio plays or watch movies. As much as I loved to listen to the romantic dialogues in the plays, this had to be done secretly. I remember watching a play *Rokter Daag*, enacted by Lily Chowdhury and Johorat Ara at the Mehubb Ali Institute. This had a lasting impression on me. Out of sheer zest I took part in the competition held during the Education Week and I stood first in acting.

From then on nothing could stop me from entering the media world.

*How different are the TV plays today from yesteryear?*

So far I have acted in about 300 TV plays. What I feel is that the early TV plays dealt with family crises, now they are driven towards individualism. The plays, which once focused on our traditional Bangalee lifestyle, now seem to imitate the soaps of our neighbouring country.

*What's the worst part of being a celebrity?*

I have to be extra cautious, so that I'm not recognised in public. During my shopping sprees, I usually wear a burka. The worst part is when the shopkeepers identify me, making it very difficult for me to bargain.

They often want to charge twice as much. It's hard to convince them that we actors work hard to make a living like everyone else; there are times when for just one single shot we have to go through the same ordeal over and over again.

## Musical Soiree

## The young ones blaze a trail

## AFSAR AHMED

The radiance from spotlights, a few *pradeep* (traditional lamps), floating candles on an earthen bowl with rose petals and a casual sitting arrangement on the carpeted floor. Isn't this the perfect and cozy ambience to appreciate music?

The music aficionados enjoyed just such a treat at the Bengal Shilpalaya on June 19. Titled *Praneyano gaan*, a delightful musical soiree was organised by Bengal Foundation.

The soiree featured renditions of classical

music by two students of Parampara and sitar and tabla recitals by three Bengal Foundation scholars.

Luba Nahid Chowdhury, Managing Director of Bengal Foundation, introduced the artists and said, "For the last few years the Foundation has sought to promote authentic Indian classical music, as for instance among the students of Parampara. On the other hand from 1991 onwards, the Foundation has begun giving scholarships to the talented students so that they can further learn music from established gurus.

Our first scholar was Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya and at this moment 13 talented music students are availing this scholarship under different gurus."

The programme started with the rendition of evening raga *Imron* by Sushmita Debnath Suchi, a Parampara student and a disciple of Tapan Bhattacharya. Her charming rendition of the raga even impressed personalities such as Wahidul Haq and Ustad Mashkur Ali Khan, who were present there to enjoy the renditions of classical music by the young musical talents.

Next came Subir Chandra Ghosh, a Bengal Foundation Scholar who is currently taking lessons from Anup Chatterjee of (Kolkata). Subir played the *surwati*, *kaida*, and *tukra* in *teen taal* on tabla.

Anika Mobin Ahmed, another Parampara student and disciple of Abdul Mannan, rendered raga *Bageshri*—to the delight of the audience.

A tabla player from Rajshahi, Swaroop Hossain, who is recently training under Pandit Sudhir Kumar Saxena at Baroda, is another Bengal Foundation scholar. His graceful style of playing the tabla and the recital of *teen taal*, sometimes with *peshkar*, *chakradar*, *tukra* and *kaida*, was highly appreciated.

The last attraction was the melodious tunes of sitar by Ebadul Haque Shaikat, who got a scholarship to train under Pandit Deepak Chowdhury of Kolkata. His recital of raga *Behag*, beginning with *alap*, then going on to *jor alap* and ending with *jhala*, was the perfect conclusion to a fascinating musical soiree.



Ebadul Haque Shaikat playing sitar at the programme

*Rezwana Chowdhury Bonnya*

*Parampara students*



Dancer Samina Hossain Prema in a graceful Manipuri stance at the 3-day long Dance Festival held at the National Exhibition Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy the festival was held from June 18 to 20.

## Half-Blood Harry spells sales

After two years without Hogwarts, Hagrid and He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named, the world's Harry Potter fans are pre-ordering millions of copies of JK Rowling's novel number 6.

Advance orders for Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, are about to hit the 600,000 mark at amazon.com, while the novel's US publisher Scholastic announced a record first print-run of 10.8 million.

Australian publishers Allen and Unwin won't disclose its print run, but conceded it will be the biggest in its 29-year history.

The 608-page tome goes on sale at 9.01am on July 16 and bookstores from Brisbane to Bahrain are vying for copies. Combined global pre-orders are estimated to exceed two million.

The response has been overwhelming, says Allen and Unwin's Andrew Hawkins: "We believe it's going to be as big, if not bigger than Order of the Phoenix."

Despite its \$45 recommended price, The Half-Blood Prince is expected to break world sales records.

Source: Internet

*JK Rowling*

*Half-Blood Prince*

*Half-Blood Prince*