

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

Title: Places, spaces
Artist: Kashed Mahboob Chowdhury
Venue: Goethe-Institute, Dharmondi
Date: June 29-14

Artist: 12 artists who participated in Watercolour Artist Camp held at Khagraghari
Venue: Shilpkala Academy, Shegun Bagicha
Date: July 12-21, from 11am to 7pm on weekdays and 3pm to 8pm on Fridays

Film Screening

Organiser: High Commission of India
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-1
Date: July 4-22

Schedule

July 11 Junoon
July 15 Nazar
July 18 Biyalish
July 22 Zeher

Title: German Feature Film
Venue: Goethe-Institute, Dharmondi
Date: July 17-25
Show-times: 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm

Play

Title: Brand
Group: Centre for Asia Theatre
Venue: Bonomali Theatre Auditorium, Pabna
Date: July 09-10, from 7pm

Title: Rokkorobi
Group: Nagorik Natty Shamprodhy
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpkala Academy
Date: July 12, from 7pm

Title: Mousetrap
Group: Padatik Natty Sangsad
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Baily Road
Date: July 11, from 7pm

Title: Prachya
Group: Dhaka Theatre
Venue: Mahila Samiti Auditorium, Baily Road
Date: July 16, from 7pm

Group Exhibition

Artist: Eleven artists from Chittagong
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dharmondi
Date: July 08-14

CD Release

Title: Trishna Amar Hariye Gechhey
Lyricist: KC Mustafa
Organiser: Panchashwar
Guests: Kalim Sharifi, Robin Ghosh, Subal Das, Mobarok Hossain Khan
Venue: Goethe-Institute, House 10, Road 09, Dharmondi
Date: July 15, at 6:30pm

Drama Festival

Occasion: Staging of plays directed by the students of Dramatics Department of Dhaka University
Organiser: Dramatics Department of Dhaka University
Venue: Nat Mandal Auditorium, Dhaka University
Date: July 10-17

Photography Exhibition

Title: Quest for Harmony
Artist: Noaresh Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dharmondi
Date: July 11-24, from 12pm to 8pm

Commemorative Meeting

Occasion: Death Anniversary of Dr. Muhammad Shahidul
Discussions: Murtaja Bashir, Jahangir Alam Zahid, AKM Aminul Islam
Venue: Seminar Hall of Bangla Academy
Date: July 13, at 4pm

Morshedul Islam on his latest venture and more

FAYZA HAQ

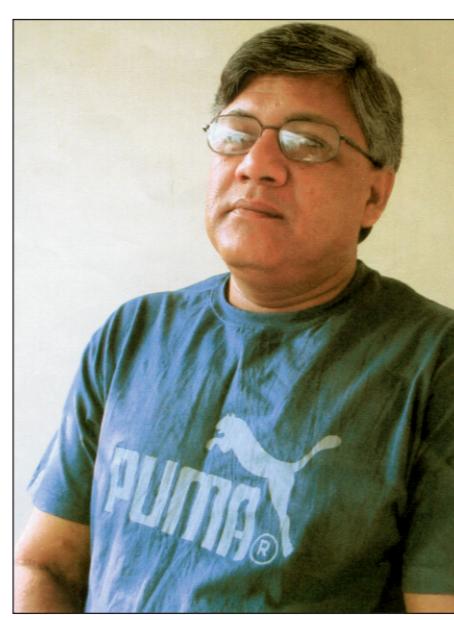
MORSHEFUL Islam's involvement with theatre goes back to his young days with Dhaka Little Theatre. He has gained experience in direction since '78 when he had just passed his SSC exam. He then felt that the film was a powerful media as it drew larger crowds and its visual language was very effective if the film was made well. When he was in the Pharmacy Department of Dhaka University he established a film society in '82, and through it he got to see many good foreign films. "I was specially fascinated by the Italian Neo-realistic films such as those by Vittorio De Sica and Michaelangelo Antonioni. They shot on location and did not use stars. They were drawn by social realism. Satyajit Ray's *Pather Panchali* followed this trend. I also admired Akira Kurosawa and Andrie Tarkovski. Films can greatly motivate people, and at the same time can influence them adversely -- the earning of money being the sole motive for making the films." Morshed produced his first film, *Aagami* while still a student. This 25-minute black and white film won an award in New Delhi. This was the beginning of his career.

Talking about the difference in today's films and those made 15-20 years ago, Morshed said that the film language is constantly changing as new experiments take place. Both technically and aesthetically films have changed. "Now, for instance, you can make digital films in 35 mm. Today there is a lot of camera, film and sound

equipment, which were not present earlier. The aesthetic elements also change with time. There are some films, however, which are classic films, and they appear new even today, as in the case of *Pather Panchali*, *Roshomon*, *Bicycle Thief* and *Eight and a Half*. In general, however, the language of film is always changing," he said.

Asked about the elements of a good film, Morshed said, "What goes into the making of a good film also goes into the making of a bad one. For every film you need a script developed from an idea, actors and actresses, camera, laboratory and sound equipment. A good film has creative ideas from its outset to the ending. Those who make bad films have little creativity and are there only to make money."

Talking about the films that he had made so far, Morshed said, "I have made nine films so far. *Khela Ghor*, that I'm presently making, will be my tenth film. All have different themes. My first film dealt with the task of reinstating of the Mukti Joddhas in society. My next film *Shuchona* was also about the freedom fighters. My third film *Chaka* is different from any other film in Bangladesh: it is about how a corpse is being carried from one place to another in a bullock cart. Next I made a film for children, *Dipu Number Two* and it had a simple narrative style. Later, in *Dukhai* I depicted the life of people who lived on the riverside and struggled against natural disasters as a matter of routine. The next film, *Duroto* was also for children. My present film *Khela Ghor* is a romantic story set against a backdrop that will



Morshedul Islam

interest everyone. I've tried to give every one of my films a different treatment."

Putting in a few words about *Khela Ghor*, Morshed said, "The shooting will take place at Sonargaon between August 20 and September 10. The cast includes Riaz, Saba and Ahmed Rubel. The story is based on a writing by Mahmudul Haque. I have written the script myself. The plot revolves around a young woman who is being courted. She appears moody, cold and distant at times, and wants to leave the young man. The hero finds that there is something strange about the woman and finally discovers from his friend, who initially introduced her to him, that she was assaulted on 25th March, during the Liberation War. Thus we see love in the background of the war."

Asked what ideals he kept in mind while making a film he said, "I make films for myself and not to please the viewer. I have something to say, and if the viewers like that, I like it too."

Morshed's *Aagami* won the Silver Peacock award in New Delhi in 1985. His *Chaka* won various prestigious awards in various international film festivals such as the Grand Prix in the Dunkerque Film Festival in 1994. His *Dukhai* received National Awards in nine categories.



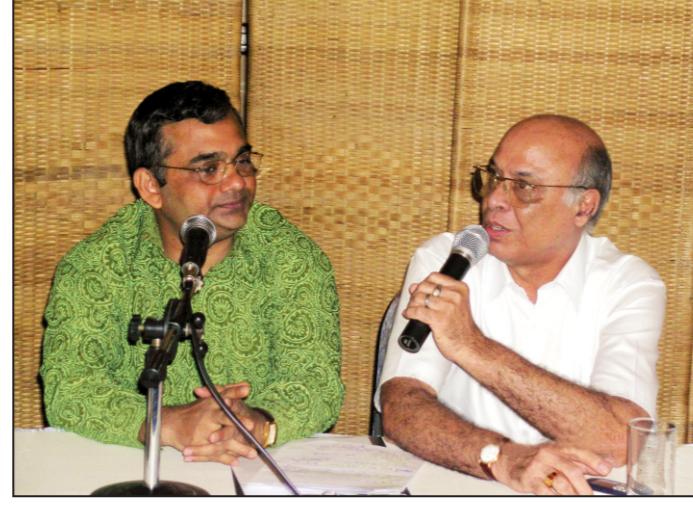
A scene from Dipu Number Two

Discussion on Spectra TV Show

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

After the telecast of four successful shows on important occasions: Independence Day, Bangla New Year, May Day and Historical Palashi Day, the crew members of the show organised a discussion session, *Spectra TV Show -- Context and Possibilities*. The session, with members of the press on July 9, featured constructive criticisms of the show.

"This is an opportune time to describe our ancient heritage and the heroic tales of our predecessors. With a civilisation of almost 4,000 years or more, our economical, intellectual and military superiority was on par with those of the then Greeks and Romans. We should be proud of those resplendent times, which may inspire our future generation as well as uphold our image abroad in a positive way. The aim of the programme, designed in English with Bangla subtitles, is to attract the young generation, particularly the expatri-



MH Khan (L) and Esrarul Huq at the discussion programme

ate Bangalee children who may not understand Bangla well," said Major MH Khan (Retired), the anchor of the show.

The show has a few significant

features. In every episode, the show contains comments from experts on various subjects that delineate the rich heritage of this Gangetic soil. The earlier shows described the son

of our soil MN Roy's influence on the people and leaders of Latin America such as Che Guevara, Pablo Neruda, who fought for their sovereignty and freedom, the heroic tale of Bijoy Singh, the prince of Bengal, and his conquest of Sri Lanka, and a magnificent dramatic depiction of the great poet Michael Madhusudan Dutt's *Meghnadbad Kabya*, the glimpses from the *Concert for Bangladesh*, the song of the Allen Ginsberg's famous poem *September on Jessore Road* with the flashes from the movie *Stop Genocide*, the tale revealing the fact that without the help of Satyen Bose, Einstein's famous Theory of Relativity might not have seen the light of day, the sage Khana who spoke out for women's liberation almost 4000 years back, the great architect FR Khan's triumph as the designer of the world's first tallest building and many more.

Esrarul Huq, Executive Director, Sales and Marketing of Channel i also participated in the discussion.

Dupurer Ekla Pakhi Fahmida's new album

KARIM WAHEED

Music has been an inseparable part of Fahmida Nabi's life. Devoted to the pure form of music, Fahmida has always made efforts to entertain the audience with meaningful *Adhunik* Bangla songs. Her latest album, *Dupurer Ekla Pakhi* was released on July 8 at Bengal Shilpalya.

The album was released by Bengal Foundation and this is the first ever album of *Adhunik* Bangla songs that the Foundation has produced.

At the event, Luva Nahid Chowdhury, Director of Bengal Foundation, said, "Among all the genres of Bangla songs, *Adhunik* songs are perhaps in the greatest jeopardy. We want to promote creative and life reflecting modern songs, which is what Fahmida's album offers."

The chief guest of the event, eminent poet Asad Chowdhury, unwrapped the album and said, "Fahmida is one of my favourite artists. I like the melody and range of her voice. She has a distinct style of presentation. Bengal Foundation has been very consistent in their efforts to uphold our art and music and I'm glad that it is releasing Fahmida's album." Smilingly he concluded his speech by quoting prominent literary personality late Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal: "When you have music at a certain event, try to speak as little as possible."

The lyricist Golam Morshed said, "In our country *Adhunik* songs have been neglected for quite some time. Substantial lyrics and 'close to the heart' emotions have been combined in the songs and I hope the audience will appreciate them."

Fahmida said, "I know there is a stereotype that our youngsters only like fast paced songs with heavy

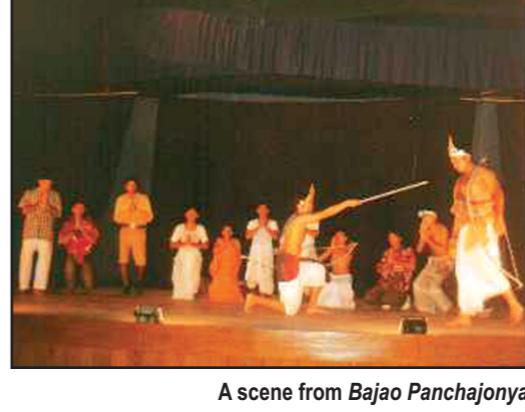


beats. The songs in my album are mostly romantic and soothing but I think the audience, regardless of their age, will enjoy the music."

Fahmida then performed songs from the album: *Jodi ekbar dako kacchey*, *Koshti amar akonho jano*, *Shara raat bhebechi tomakey shukhe bedonate*, *Jibanananda jodi ashtio abai ei pothei*, *Kanchey goda mon gelo pathorer kacchey*.

The tunes by Nipo, Mamun and Tomal are mostly melancholy and strike a chord with one's innermost feelings and nostalgia. However, the mood of the songs could have been more diverse. The song *Ein Ganglkey bhalobeshey amitho hoyechee ma*, dedicated to artist Ferdousi Priyobhashini, stands out for its striking lyrics.

JU drama festival: Mirroring contemporary reality



A scene from Bajao Panchajanya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, JU

Jahangirnagar Theatre (TSC) held a two-day drama festival titled *Nabin Baran Natya Utsab-2005* on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus recently. The festival aimed at welcoming the newcomers admitted at JU in the 2004-2005 academic session.

"Drama is a powerful tool in making people aware of contemporary reality. We must express ourselves through drama as it is the most communicative and effective way," said Professor Selim Al Deen while inaugurating the festival at proposed Zahir Raihan

auditorium. Professor AKM Shahnawaz, president of Jahangirnagar Theatre, was also present in the session.

The troupe staged a play titled *Bajao Panchajanya* on the first day. Written by Sajal Bhattacharya and directed by Sajed Fatemi the play depicts the neglected farmers who struggle for survival. Failing to get a piece of land to cultivate, some landless farmers form a Jatra (a local theatre form) party to earn a living. However, they are halted in their tracks by members of the upper class. Undaunted, they decide to start afresh. Shahtab Siddique, Moyeen, Shahid, Rubel and Rajib performed well.

Aranyak Natyadal, a theatre group from Dhaka, presented their play titled *Monga Kahini* the following day. This social drama is written and directed by Mannan Hira. The play focuses on the condition of farmers struggling in the northern region of our country during *Monga* (famine). It also reveals the darker side of the polity.

Apart from these, certificates were also given to those who took part in the workshops titled *Theatre related workshop 2004* and *Mime workshop 2005* during the inaugural session.

Meanwhile, Jahangirnagar Students' Film Society (JSFS) also held a film screening at the central auditorium to welcome the freshers. A total of six films were screened including *Hotel Rwanda*, *Children of Heaven* directed by Majid Majidi, and *Matir Moina*, a film by prominent director Tareque Masud.

Oprah and Rusesabagina to receive Freedom Awards



1968, said Winfrey and Rusesabagina will receive its 2005 Freedom Awards.

Winfrey, who runs a media company that includes her television show, is being recognised for working to improve the lives of poor children in Africa and helping create a US database of convicted child abusers.

She will receive the museum's National Freedom Award in November. Past recipients include King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and former US Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

Rusesabagina will receive the International Freedom Award, which has also been given to Nelson Mandela and Bono. He was managing a Belgian hotel in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, when a civil war

broke out in 1994 between the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups. An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people were killed, most of them Tutsis. He hid more than 1,200 people in the hotel for over three months to prevent their slaughter by Hutu militias.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

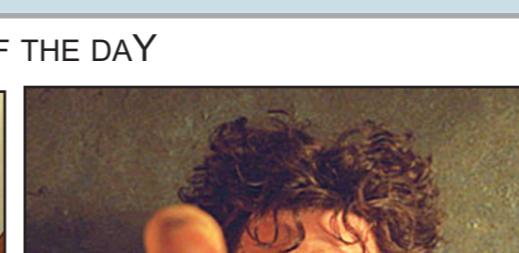


Jhut Jhamela

On ntv at 8:15pm

Drama Serial

Cast: Afzal Sharif, Intekhab Dinar, Chitalekha Guha



The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring

On HBO at 8:30pm

Genre: Fantasy / Adventure / Action

Cast: Cate Blanchett, Orlando Bloom, Liv Tyler, Elijah Wood

STAR SPORTS		11:30	Cricket Classics Super Doubles (R)
7:00	Icc Cricket World (R)	12:00	Hall of Fame Tennis C'ships 2005 Newport Riusa Men's Final(L)
7:30	The Golf Club (T)	8:00	Formula One Qualifying 2005 Silverstone Great Britain Foster's British Grand Prix Qualifying (R)
8:30	Pet Star	9:00	Temple of the Tigers Wild Horses Return to China
9:30	Starfish Planet		