

## CHANNEL i EID SPECIAL

A scene from *Rupali Ratri*

Channel i is now preparing a six-day special programme for the upcoming Eid-Ul-Fitr. On the cards is a musical programme, a children's programme, special game show *Eid Anando*, film *Meher Nigar*, special plays by Humayun Ahmed titled *Rupali Ratri* (1st episode) which is shot in Switzerland. There's also the play *Lodging Master* scripted by Badruddin Alam and directed by Taher Shironi--the cast includes Afzal Hossain, Srabonti, Shamah, Chitrakalekha Guha and Mustafizur Rahman.

Litu Anam and Shantu in *Polash Phooler Nolok*Moushumi in a special programme *Abriti*

The third day also offers a feast for viewers: special telefilm *Dhatterika* shot in Nepal, Moushumi's special programme *Abriti*, drama *Nikhoi Sangbad* by Mustafa Sarwar Farooki. The cast of the telefilm includes Ishita, Tisha, Shoma, Marjuk, Rassel, Shahiduzzaman Salim and others. Single episode drama *Atopar Bhimroti* by Pronob Bhatta will be also aired on the same day.

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## Film Festival in South Korea

Chinese director scoops top award

A scene from the film *Grain in Ear*

Chinese filmmaker Zhang Lu recently won the only major jury prize awarded at the Busan International Film Festival. Zhang bagged the award for his film

*Grain in Ear*, which is the story of a poor Korean-Chinese single mother living in China. The film beat 10 other selected films to win Zhang the Best New

Asian Filmmaker of the Year prize worth US \$ 30,000.

"The film reveals the director's consistent strength. It has an uncompromising story and superb acting," said the jury, chaired by acclaimed Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami.

Two other filmmakers came in for special mentions: Chinese director Wanma Caidan for his documentary-style film about life in modern Tibet, titled *Silent Holy Stone* and an upcoming South Korean director Yoon Jong-Bin for *The Unforgiven*. Yoon's film, which looks at the psychological effect of the country's military service programme on Korean men, also won two other smaller jury awards and was highly appreciated by critics.

Unlike many major film festivals such as Berlin and Cannes, there is only one competitive section in Busan, widely regarded as Asia's biggest and most prestigious cinema gathering.

Festival programmer Kim Ji-seok said there were no plans to introduce more prizes in years to come. "The reason we are supporting a non-competitive festival is because we want to give a boost to new and upcoming director," he told AFP.

A plethora of minor prizes and cash grants are handed out to documentary makers' feature film projects during the festival.

Source: AFP

## Gandhis on celluloid

## Angelina Jolie: The new Bond girl?

Perizaad Zorabian and Pratap Sharma in *Bandung Sonata*

Apparently Perizaad Zorabian, thanks to her Parsi genes, has the nose to qualify as an 'Indira Gandhi dead ringer'. She was chosen to essay the role of the young Indira in the Chinese production *Bandung Sonata*. Pratap Sharma has donned the role of Jawaharlal Nehru. The film

was slated for an international release but that did not happen.

Now Jagmohan Mundhra has also offered Perizaad the same role in his upcoming project *Sonia*. The model-turned-actress was however angling for the lead role (Sonia Gandhi).

Courtesy: Weekly Outlook

## Aupee Karim

## A multi faceted talent

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

HERE stellar performances in TV and stage plays have catapulted the talented and elegant Aupee Karim to fame. She has acted in television plays, including *Choruibhati*, *Bhoy*, *Ongkar*, *Ekannobori*, *Shukno Phool Rangin Phool* and many more. At present she is busy with Eid-Ul-Fitr's special plays and telefilms for different television channels, including *Anur Biket*, *Aparachita*, *Brishtir Porey* and *Rimjhim*. She is acting in the major roles of the stage plays *Roktokorobi* and *Natyatroyee* by Nagarik Natyampradaya. She has also gained popularity for her outstanding appearance in television commercials. In addition, Aupee is passionate about Kathak.

Aupee launched into her career as a TV actress in 1998, acting in the play *Pechone Shobuj Gram* by Abu Sayeed. Her work received an impetus while she was doing her graduation from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). While still a student she entered the Lux Photogenic 1999 contest and won the crown. Aupee says, "There have been some really drastic changes since the time I won the crown of the Lux Photogenic 1999 contest. I have learnt a lot about acting as well as the technical front. Earlier, I wasn't all that busy and used to shoot five to six days a month. Now I am shooting from 10am to 8pm for nearly 20 days a month."

About her experience in the popular Bangla feature film *Bachelor*, she states, "It was a wonderful experience working in *Bachelor*. You could call it a journey in celluloid."

Asking about her interpretation of acting, she says, "Acting to me is portraying the character with 100 percent conviction. Whether you can relate to your character or not, you should act so subtly that your audience won't even for a second feel that you are acting." She adds, "In a script I am always looking for the range of emotion to portray. I ponder over whether I will be able to portray the character in a convincing way. If the character that I have to emote is not

too deep then I can't portray a strong image. There are many things that go into making a successful character. I can only put life in it by skillful acting. But if the script is not good enough, I can't do much about it."

Asked about her acting technique, Aupee puts the topic in perspective. As she says, "I believe that pressure makes us more versatile. I improve on my acting by being observant and trying out different ways of portraying the same character. Sometimes my co-star and I try different approaches and it really helps. I have progressed a lot but still I have a long way to go. With experience, I developed spontaneity. Now I try and experiment on expressions. Of course, it requires a lot of background work. My characters are people belonging to different social strata."

On her acting experience, she says, "I have been strongly influenced by the director of the first play in which I worked. I have learnt different things from all my directors in terms of giving the right expressions, catching the light, pauses and other subtle nuances. In fact all my directors have made a tremendous contribution to my repertoire. Creative energy comes from passion and I am passionate about my work. I consider myself a very professional actress. I'm disciplined and hardworking. Nothing comes easily in life. As a newcomer in the media, the initial two-three months were quiet and after that my work spoke for me."

The conversation veers to her hopes and aspirations. Right now, she states, she wants to concentrate on the TV serials, which are in hand. Explaining her modus operandi, she says, "I always make it a point to look for different elements. The narration has to hold my attention and inspire me. I have also received some offers to act in Bangla feature films. I have rejected those which do not have good scripts. However, I definitely look forward to getting film offers. Film has a wider canvas as compared to television. After a certain point of time, television offers a limited scope despite reaching out to millions of people. One can do a lot of things within the time frame of a feature film."

Millions of viewers glued to *Fame Gurukul*

The three finalists (L-R) Qazi Touqeer, Rupreka Banerjee and Rex D'Souza performing at the show

What's new in Sony Entertainment Television after the huge success of *Indian Idol*? Another music-based contest named *Fame Gurukul*. The fierce competition that went on for months was finally narrowed down to a trio -- Qazi Touqeer of Srinagar, Rex D'Souza of Mumbai and Rupreka Banerjee of Kolkata.

*Fame Gurukul* is a reality show that unfolded the story of 14 singers fighting for the two top slots (also called *Fame Jodi*) in a music academy called Gurukul. The winners received

a Rs.10 million deal with Sony and a recording contract with a leading music company.

While lyricist Javed Akhtar, singer KK (Krishna Kumar) and musician Shankar Mahadevan were on the jury, folk singer Ila Arun was the "strict" headmistress of the music academy. The show on Sony was hosted by Mandira Bedi and Manav Gohil.

According to Ila Arun, "Our aim was to take only those who are good singers as well as combine a drive to showcase something new and have

the ability to work hard. They had to have a classical base with knowledge of the ragas and also had to be able to present themselves in popular songs."

"We found some talented singers through *Fame Gurukul*," said hard task master, lyricist Javed Akhtar.

*Fame Gurukul* premiered on June 27 this year. Based on a successful Spanish reality show called *Operation Truinfo*, Sony Entertainment Television's *Fame Gurukul* gave millions of Indians a taste of fierce competition, spectacular perfor-

mances and stardom success. *Operation Truinfo* has been adapted across 11 countries, gripping millions of viewers across three continents.

The auditions for the programme were held across Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Indore.

Now that the programme is over, viewers are likely to miss a glimpse of the life, struggle, hopes and aspirations of these young singers. Hopefully the *Fame Jodi* will keep entertaining the audience for years.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent

## Fazlul Haque Smriti Puroshkar '05 announced



Fazlul Haque will always be remembered as a pioneering cine-journalist of our country. He was the editor of the first film-based magazine, *Cinema* and also directed the first movie for children (*President*) in the country. As a homage to this talented cultural personality, Fazlul Haque Smriti Committee has introduced an award to honour cine-journalists and film directors who have demonstrated superior skills in their respective fields.

This year, the recipients of the

award are Ahmad Zaman Chowdhury for his contribution to Bangladeshi film journalism and film director Chashi Nazrul Islam for his movie *Megher Porey Megh*, says a press release. Both recipients will receive Tk 25,000, crests and certificates. Last year poet Fazl Shahabuddin and Film director Saidul Anam Tutul received the awards.

The awards will be handed to the recipients on Fazlul Haque's 16th Death Anniversary on October 26, at Hotel Sheraton.



Ahmad Zaman Chowdhury

Chashi Nazrul Islam