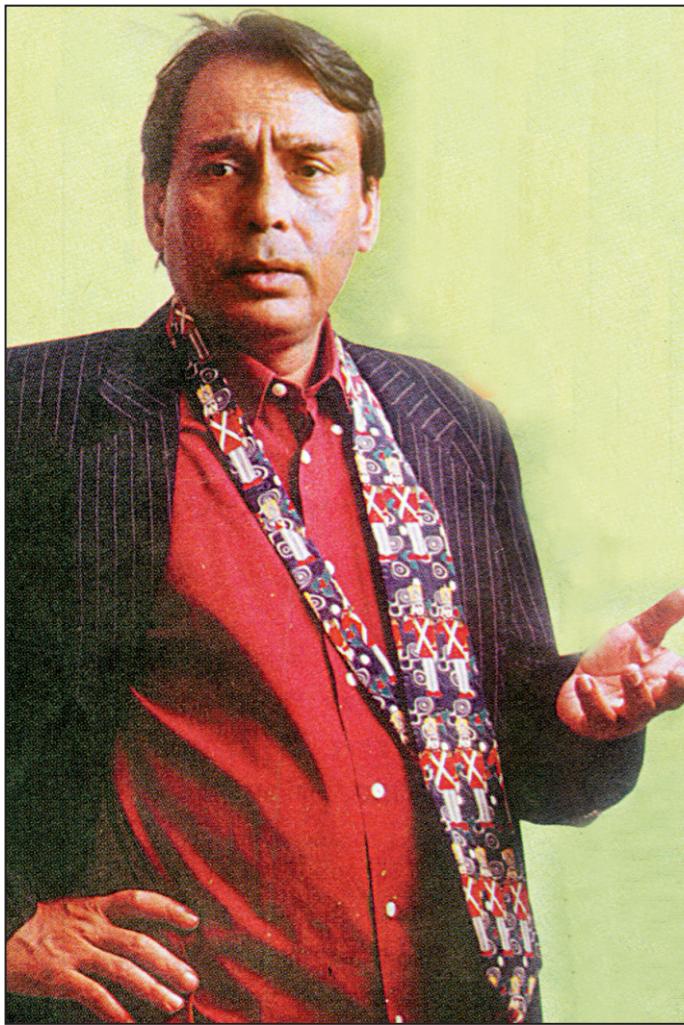


Humayun Faridee Image of an actor



ERSHAD KAMOL

AN ACCOMPLISHED ACTOR Humayun Faridee is a name to reckon with. He has contributed immensely to several media.

Currently he is performing in the movie *Momotaz*, which is slated for release around Eid. Faridee says, "I performed in the role of Baul Abdul Rashid Sarkar, the first husband of popular singer Momotaz, who made a great contribution to her career. Previously I performed in the role of a Baul in commercial movies. However, the character of Baul Abdul Rashid Sarkar is different from the other Baul characters that I had enacted earlier. This character is much more realistic than other Baul characters, as Abdul Rashid Sarkar is a real Baul not a fictional entity."

Faridee is, however, reluctant to continue performing in any mainstream movie. To quote him, "I had high hopes that our film industry would flourish. On the contrary, the scenario has deteriorated gradually. Nowadays the mainstream cinema is replete with vulgarity. Against this backdrop, it is not possible for me to carry on in such films."

Faridee also directs a quiz programme titled *Medhabi*, which is regularly being aired on ntv. Why is he directing a quiz show? Faridee has a ready answer, "I have a passion for quiz programmes. Moreover, in our country there is lack of non-fiction

entertainment on the TV channels. That is why I'm making *Medhabi*.

"It is the second slot of the quiz show. After the successful completion of 26 episodes of the first slot, we managed to draw 25,000 applicants to participate in the second slot of *Medhabi*. We selected 200 people on the basis of a written piece titled 'Bad impact of computer technology'. These interested persons had to sit for other tests. Finally 80 were selected to contest for the quiz show. The final round of the quiz show will be held next month. The winner of the quiz show will receive Taka 50,000 prize bond."

On the future plan of *Medhabi*, Faridee says, "In February 2006, we hope to arrange the third slot of the programme, which we will continue as long as the viewers respond positively. Currently, Faridee is performing in the popular drama serial *Kachher Manush*, directed by Afzana Mimi. Moreover Faridee is the cast member of two tele films, which will be aired over the Eid holidays.

Comparing the quality of present TV plays with that of the '80s, Faridee says, "Technologically present day TV plays are far more developed than those of yesteryears. We have got a few quality directors and camera crews. However, with a few exceptions, the script of the plays is mediocre. I believe that the current package drama has a huge potential. But a

huge number of new talented actors, makers and playwrights are needed to produce quality plays in the proliferating TV channels.

"The shortfall of artistes can be solved by talent hunting and encouraging young actors. I believe that better training is needed for upcoming technical hands and directors. However, the paucity of playwrights cannot be solved through this process. A panel of writers is needed for quality mega-serials. Until this trend is established, mega-serials should be based on quality novels."

Faridee embarked on his acting career as a Jatra artiste at an early age. He joined Dhaka Theatre when he was a student of economics at Jahangirnagar University. On stage, his debut performance was in *Dhaka Theatre's Shakti*.

After this, he walked on the path of success. In 1980 he began his career on TV in the play *Nikhoj Sangbad*, produced by Atiqul Haque Chaudhury. From this point onwards, his spontaneous and variegated performances established him as one of the few versatile artistes of Bangladesh. *Santrash*, produced in 1990, was his first mainstream film. Faridee still strides boldly in various media.

Faridee is the acting instructor of Department of Theatre and Music of Dhaka University.

ATN BANGLA EID SPECIAL

The TV channel ATN Bangla has ambitious plans to entertain viewers with a feast of programmes:

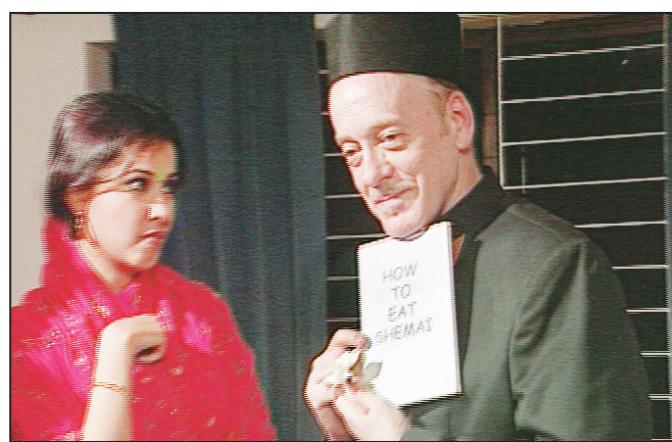


Chand Raat

The eve of Eid

Gopal Bharer Bati Chalan: This one episode TV play will be telecast at 7:50pm. Directed by Moin Khan Rupi and based on a comedy, the play features Tushar Khan, Shams Shumon, Sharmin Shila, Dr Ezaz, Chitralekha Guha and others. The central character is a miser (Gopal), anxious about guests who have overstayed their welcome. He formulates a plan to throw them out from his home.

Tona Tuni: ATN Bangla will telecast a special play 10:30pm. Written and directed by Falguni Hamid, the drama features artistes such as Tanima Hamid, Mahmud Shahjad, Joy, Shirin Bakul, Afzal Sharif, Tuklia Chowdhury and Binoy Bhadro. In the play, a boy and a girl from wealthy families flee from their homes. Three days later, they decide



Ek Chamoch Eider Shemai

foreigner and a middle class traditional housewife. It's a situational comedy without any

dialogue. *Ek Chamoch Eider Shemai* will be telecast on ATN Bangla on Eid day at 5:45pm.

Baap Beta Shameside: Playwright and director Abdullah-Al-Mamun brings an Eid special TV play *Baap Beta Shameside* to the small screen. The play depicts the love affair of Rahul and Sonia. In this play Zahid Hasan, Ishita, Abdul Kader, Abdullah-Al-Mamun and others portray different characters. This one episode TV play will be telecast at 7:50pm.

Day 2

Boomerang: On the second day of Eid, ATN Bangla presents a star-studded telefilm, *Boomerang*. Humayun Faridee, Zahid Hasan, Monalisa, Shagota, Rupak Talukdar and others act in this film. Directed by popular

actor Zahid Hasan, telefilm *Boomerang* will be telecast at 1:10pm.

Hefaz Bhai: Written by Masum Reza and directed by Syed Awlad, TV play *Hefaz Bhai* will be telecast on ATN Bangla at 7:50pm. It's a story of a village boy with a pleasant personality who aspires to become an actor. Taqir Ahmed, Tarin, Abul Hayat, Mosharaf, Ayon and others enact the diverse characters of the play.

Dokanir Bou: TV play *Dokanir Bou* will be aired at 9:00 pm. Written and directed by Giasuddin Salim, the play stars Mahfuz Ahmed, Sweety and Chanchal Chowdhury.

Urchey Achol Drupody: ATN Bangla brings viewers a TV play written and directed by Mohon Khan on the second day at 10:30pm. Jitu Hasan, Ria, Mir Sabbir, Chumki, Elora Gahor and Rashed, among others act in the TV play.



Dokanir Bou

to return home and obey their parents. Once back home, they try to get in touch with each other, however neither of them has the other's contact address.

Chand Raat: Ferdousi Majumder, Joy, Farah Ruma, Shirin Bakul, Mohammed Bari, Labonno, Shumu and others will be seen in this ATN Bangla drama at 5:00pm. The story is about a happy family from outside Dhaka.

Eid Day

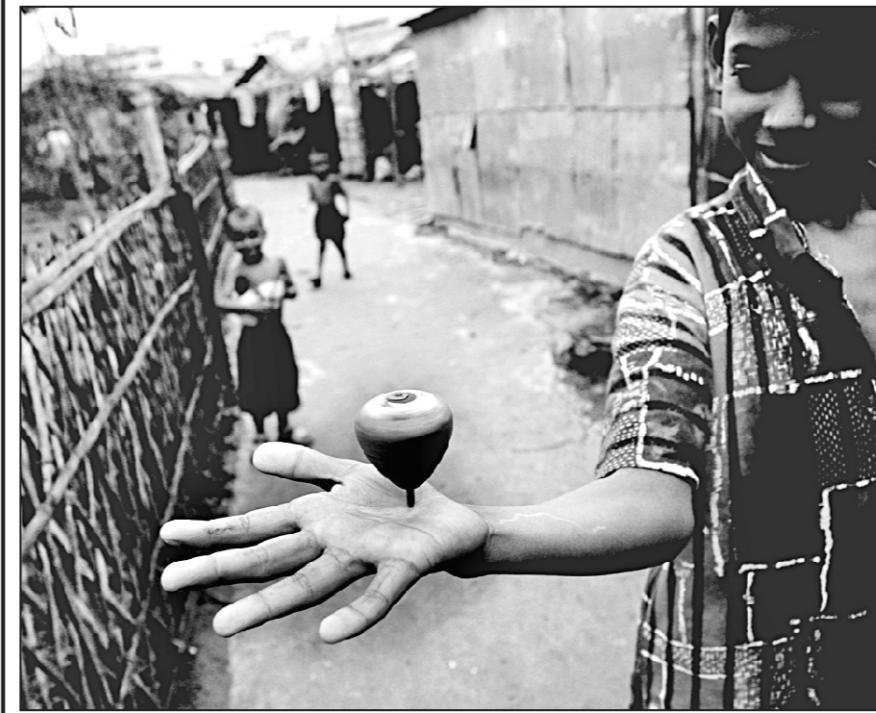
Ek Chamoch Eider Shemai: Written and directed by Shaer Khan, the drama features Barry Ison, Tanima Hamid, Shaju Khadem and others. The drama revolves around a



Urchey Achol Drupody

Shehzad Noorani

Grooming shooting stars



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A workshop on documentary photography is on at Drik Gallery. This is a part of the ongoing documentary photography exhibition, titled Tales from a Globalising World, at the same venue. Starting on October 22, this five-day workshop is conducted by Shehzad Noorani, one of the 10 photographers showcasing their work in the exhibition.

Supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), this workshop provided food for thought and a common ground for young and upcoming photographers most of them third year students from Pathshala-- and photographers working with daily newspapers.

The objective of the workshop was to create a stronger base for documentary photography and also to discuss how to make a photo story. Altogether 16 photographers split up in four groups to portray four issues water, slums, local trains and Eid shopping. The workshop also featured lectures and slide shows of photographs by three internationally renowned photographers from Bangladesh Abir Abdullah, Shahidul Alam and Shehzad Noorani himself.

During the shooting session, four members of each group documented the given topic with a view to integrated story telling in the final photo project. Each group was allotted only one day to shoot the entire project the seemingly inadequate time slot was designed to help

photographers learn how to choose important aspects and finish a job efficiently under severe time constraint. Concrete planning before shooting and good team effort ultimately paid off, as the final photo projects revealed a closer look at contemporary urban issues.

Speaking about the workshop, Kakoli, a participant commented that lack of state-of-the-art equipment often discourages young photographers here, especially because their peers in developed countries can easily afford them. Having Shehzad as the instructor turned them into optimists as Shehzad has been able to carve his own niche in the international arena even though he is a Bangladeshi and comes from a humble background.



Some images taken from the projects that formed the workshop

Film

Roman Polanski's new oeuvre

And now comes an all new cinematic version of Charles Dickens' classic tale *Oliver Twist*. The director is none other than the formidable Poland-born Roman Polanski, known for films such as *Rosemary's Baby*, *Chinatown*, *The Tenant*, *The Holocaust Drama* and *The Pianist*. Explaining his empathy with the young orphan of Dickens' work, Polanski pointed out that while he fled Krakow during the Nazi liquidation of the ghetto in 1943, his parents were incarcerated at concentration camps and his mother died at Auschwitz.

In an interview with the French monthly *Premiere*, he asserts that the film's first half hour "had echoes of my own childhood. I remember that when I ran away from Krakow during the Nazi invasion it was not hunger nor life's hardships that made me suffer the most, but my parents' absence."

Polanski's *Oliver Twist*, based on Dickens' timeless story, tells the tale of a penniless orphan who wanders from a workhouse into a gang, searching for a niche in the world. The film was aired at the opening of the Third World Film Festival, mid-October in Bangkok. Speaking on the occasion, Polanski said, "It's a real pleasure to see a room full of children watching this film because it is so different from what children are offered on the cinema screen today."

Polanski said that he intends for the movie to air at schools. He pointed out that in France, film screenings were held for teachers who now want to include it in their curriculum. He describes *Oliver Twist* as "the kind of film that makes children think a little bit after they have left the cinema."

Source: Internet



Silver Screen

Social comedy *Tak Jhaal Mishti* ready for release

Debashish's dream project comes true

A lighter scene from *Tak Jhaal Mishti*

Suffice it to say that the movie has a happy ending.

"The film *Tak Jhaal Mishti* is designed to elicit laughter from the audience. It has very good acting and a compelling story. The glamorous and vivacious Purnima adds spark and glitter to the film. Emon Shah's music is quite appealing. The produc-

ers are making all out efforts to ensure that the film lives up to its hype. I wanted to make a film that will reach out to people, not something that's profound and not understood by anyone. Let's hope that this movie lives up to people's expectations," says Debashish.