

CULTURAL FEAST

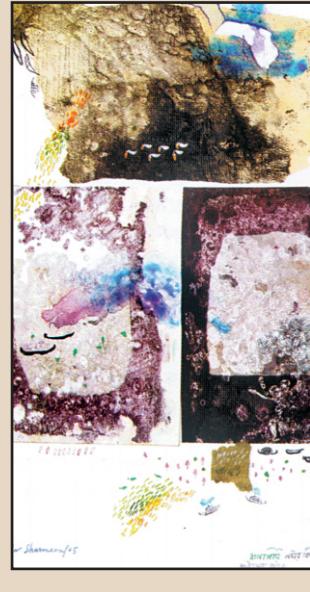
Film Festival

Title: International Short and Independent Film Festival 2005

Participating Countries: Germany, Netherlands, France, USA, England, Russia, India, Iran, Pakistan, Hungary, Australia, Canada, Argentina, Sri Lanka, Slovakia, Sweden, Estonia, Azerbaijan, Italy, Malaysia, Indonesia, Norway, Poland, Lithuania, Austria and Mexico.

Venue: National Museum Auditorium, Shishu Academy Auditorium and Goethe Institut Auditorium

Group Exhibition



Title: Winter Art Exhibit
Organiser: Shako
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road# 36, House 16, Gulshan Avenue
Time: December 16-26 from 11 am to 8 pm

Australian Painting Exhibition

Title: Desert Voices
Venue: Shilpangan Gallery
Time: December 17-26

Theatre

Play: Chayan
Troupe: Nagor Natty Shapradaya
Venue: Mohila Shamsi Auditorium
Date: December 28 at 6:30 pm

Play: Padmo Gokkhra
Troupe: Swapno Dal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage
Date: December 30 at 6:30 pm

Play: Behular Bhashan
Troupe: Theatre and Music Department, Dhaka University
Venue: Natmondal Auditorium, DU
Date: January 1-4, 2006 at 6:30 pm

Group Photography Exhibition

Title: Nature's Fury
Participating Country: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Iran, Pakistan
Venue: Drik Gallery
Time: December 26-January 8

Badal behind the camera

Selim Ashraf

A musical career of distinction

NOVERA DEEPIKA

SELIM Ashraf, a talented music composer has been involved with BTV since it was launched in 1964. Although he began as a singer, today he is well known as a music composer for different TV channels.

Going back to 1964, Selim was a common face on BTV as a singer in the children's shows along with other prominent artistes of the present time. Shahnaz Rahmatullah, Sabina Yasmeen and Nilufor Yasmeen were his co-child artistes at that time. Selim recalls, "Popular radio announcer Hena Kabir was the director of our programmes. It was so long ago that I don't remember the name of that programme any more."

Selim was a scriptwriter and planner for different musical programmes. However, it was only after 1976 that he began to work on music composition. Selim says, "The TV station was then shifted to Rampura from DIT Bhaban. I composed the music for the song 'Shimain shagorey bhashiey bheha', which was rendered by popular singer Abdul Jabbar. This was a big hit at that time."

Among the popular songs that he has composed so far are Samina Chowdhury's 'Ei jaduta jodi shottu hoye jeto', Syed Abdul Hadi's 'Tumi na



Selim Ashraf

thakley and Nargis Parveen's 'Mongol gorohey gorechhi prashad'. According to Selim, the last

one was one of the most popular songs of BTV.

Right at the beginning of his career Selim composed soundtracks for various Urdu films, including 'Samundar', 'Aarzu', 'Bandhan' and 'Love in Singapore'. However, as he points out, "When the blatant plagiarism from Indian film songs began after our Liberation War, I quit composing playback songs."

Selim has fond memories of the first magazine programme on TV, 'Jodi Kicchu Money Na Koren', which is one of the most successful programmes in the history of our television. He says, "I used to compose songs for the programme. Sometimes I used to play the popular and brilliant numbers of that time, which include 'Torey putuler moto korey shajey' and 'Mon shudhu mon chhoye chhoye'."

Selim has other fond memories of BTV, "When the then President Ziaur Rahman initiated colour broadcasting of BTV, the first programme to go on air in colour was produced by me, 'Desher Gaan'."

At present Selim Ashraf is busy planning programmes and composing music for different TV channels. He calls himself a freelance musician. Although, he has the freedom to work with any TV channel, he still prefers to work for BTV.

Film premiere

Kuli: A moving film on child labour

FAYZA HAQ

The premiere of *Kuli*, a 10 minutes 17 seconds-long documentary by Shahiduzzaman Badal, was held at Biswa Shahitya Kendra on December 24. It was organised by the Dhaka Photographic Institute (DPI), and attracted a large audience of film enthusiasts. The film brought out the beauty and simplicity in the everyday life of a young *minti* (children helping the bazaar-goers with their goods), Mamun, working in Karwan Bazar during Ramadan.

The protagonist had the face of an angel, with light eyes and freshly washed face. He appeared to be a natural actor and said his lines with remarkable spontaneity, as did the rest of the young cast and the extras. There was no zooming of lenses, or experimentation with lighting, or even unusual piping in music. It zeroed in to the child-workers in our society, whom we



A scene from Kuli

often take for granted. There was a freshness and fluency in the production. One of Badal's films features in the international children film festival in Hyderabad. The film has also been invited to the Tehran festival to be held in future.

Shahiduzzaman Badal has won acclaim at home and abroad, with his 12 documentary films, including 'Minute camera', 'Iti Batar Sromikra' and 'Sonargaon Loko Utshob', 'Chrono Charir Manob' and 'Kagoj Kurani'. He won the Meena Award last year for his 'Kagoj Kurani'. He received his training in film making in DPI, Kolkata Chitrabani and Nandan (Kolkata). Speaking on his films, Badal says he has been inspired by Zakiul Huq, Director, DPI and Iftekhar Ali Dawn, video editor of Timeline Institute.

Dwelling on the story line of his film *Kuli*, Badal said that it reflected a day in the life of *minti* Mamun, who earns Taka 40 per day. The film also features his play with other street

urchins and his education at a charitable school. The cast of *co-players* included nine young actors, Manu Sikdar, Mamun, Jasim, Tutul, Islam, Rashid and Al-Amin, and others in side roles. The film was made on a shoestring budget of Tk 15,000, which was provided by five students of Nirman Kormoshala, a TV Institute, and DPI.

Zakiul Haq, Course Director of DPI, and Director Bangla Academy, said, "Badal brings out something unusual and beautiful in day to day life. He is impervious to the penchant for making tele-films, which rake in quick bucks. The film portrays the innocent life of a child, who shares his dreams with his colleagues, playmates and his mother. Here is a slice of pristine life, seen against the backdrop of the overwhelming grime of Dhaka."

Haq said that the film's protagonist does not consider himself helpless; he accepts life, and goes about life, in his optimistic manner --

working through rain and sunshine. We, the viewers, meanwhile, decay the fact that a child should labour in his youth, he said. Asked what was unusual about the film, he added that there were no special effects, or any manipulation or gimmicks to attract viewers, and yet the film had a remarkable effect of technical perfection. The autobiographic narration, he concluded, were seen against visuals.

Rafiquzzaman, President, Bangladesh Film Journalists' Association, commented, "The film is not mind-whirling, but give Badal some more years and one will surely get some memorable works on screen from a film-maker who has not been exposed to western sophisticated know-how."

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Rtv

A new TV channel starts transmission today



Afsana Mimi (L) in Jibon Charcha, one of the programmes to be aired on Rtv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Rtv, a private satellite TV channel,

lic of Bangladesh, will inaugurate the TV channel as the chief guest at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre.

Chairperson of the channel, Mosidek Ali, MP, will be present at the opening ceremony along with the invited guests.

After the opening, a cultural programme presented by the renowned cultural activists of the country will be telecast live on the TV channel.

Earlier at a press conference Ali asserted that while Rtv will give priority to news broadcasts, the channel would air a variety of entertaining programmes.

After the live telecast of the opening session, the TV channel will start telecasting their regular programmes from 8pm.

Theatre festival in Chittagong

Gantobya: A political satire

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Today Kathak Theatre will stage *Gantobya* in the theatre festival arranged by Group Theatre Forum at Shilpkala Academy, Chittagong.

The play is a satire on political leaders who take up cudgels against injustice and seek to establish an ideal society at an early age. However, at a certain stage these leaders compromise with the wrong doers and step on to the bandwagon of evil. *Gantobya* depicts that at the end of the day, these corrupt leaders go through internal conflict and face tragedy.

Shovonmoy Bhattacharya directs *Gantobya*, which will be staged at 7pm.



Actors in a scene from the play

New episode of Ontoraler Kotha



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV serial *Ontoraler Kotha*'s latest episode, *Neetu*, like its predeces-

sors is based on a true story. The story line: a girl with a flair for painting had the ambition to become a famous painter someday. Living

happily with her parents, she used to teach at a local art school and tried to augment her creative skills by participating in local festivals.

However, fate was not on her side. On her way to college, the bawdy boys from the streets used to bully her. The neighbours did not appreciate her coming home late every night either. Sometimes the boys would go so far as to pull her hair and make offensive remarks.

Once, they even met up with a police officer and sent him to Neetu's house. The police officer threatened her parents with dire consequences unless they sorted out the issue with the boys. Their neighbours came over to their house and questioned Neetu's character. In an act of desperation, Neetu committed suicide.

The special *Ontoraler Kotha* will be aired on Channel 1 on Tuesday at 6:20pm.

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTW
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, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm. News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 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 8:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

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.

CHANNEL 1

09:45 Tritiyo Matra
10:45 Ucchhya Shikkhaye Desh Bidesh (live)

12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon

01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:25 Public Reaction

01:30 Shangbadporey Bangladesh

03:00 Chena Mukh Ochena Chobi

03:40 Amar Channel-i Darsok Forum

04:00 Bashundhara Amader Gaan

04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma Banijo O Orthinity

06:00 Music Plus

06:20 Star Get SG-1

07:50 Drama: Hatya

08:20 Drama Serial: Shimana

09:35 Drama Serial: Shampura Rangin

10:00 Drama Serial: Aarshee

Rtv

09:30 Apon Aloy Grammen Phone Shironam

10:05 Mukto Chalochitra Dhakar Cinema

12:05 Dhakar Cinema

02:35 Drama Serial: Ramizer Aaina

03:15 Christmas Special

04:25 Bhinna Swader

06:15 Garib Jiggyasha

06:20 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 Crime Watch

08:25 Drama serial: Labanya Prohba

09:10 Bari Ghar Thik Thak

11:25 Dindiran

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Annodrishi

CHANNEL 2

11:05 Drama Serial: Ek Janamey

11:40 Jesus