

Tête-à-tête with Tupa

New horizons beckon the model

KAVITA CHARANJI

It is goodbye to modelling for the successful Kawshiki Tupa Nasser, better known as just Tupa. After gracing the covers of magazine such as *Anyadin* and *ICE Today* during Eid time, she has decided to redirect her energies to her other interests--as freelance consultant for fashion magazines and choreographer. Latey a new English fashion magazine has offered her the post of consulting editor. She expects to take up the assignment this month.

That's quite a radical move for Tupa, who has been on the catwalk since 1987 when she was a young girl of 12. "My height went in my favour but I recall being scared and quite stiff initially. I did mostly fashion shows and some photo shoots for magazines like *Bichitra*.

"I did that on and off through my schooling till I was 17 and then it became a huge passion for me," reminisces Tupa.

So why did she give up modelling? One reason, she says, is that it had become boring and repetitive. On the lighter side, she adds, she was tired of watching her weight and shunning her favourite foods such as chocolate and ice-cream. On another front, she discovered that she had an aptitude for choreography and management which, as she points out, was more chal-



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lenging and gave her "a lot more creative space" than modelling, which she terms "one dimen-

sional". Hence the decision to make a break from the catwalk.

As a choreographer, she has had her share of success. Last September she groomed, trained and choreographed the contestants in *Lux-Channel-i Superstar*. This was a huge project and kept her tied up for three months. Another milestone was grooming the contestants in *Closeup I* recently.

Tupa has also choreographed two other fashion shows: one with Farzana Shakil, a beautician. The latter had launched her own book called *Looks* and Tupa choreographed the fashion show that went with the launching. Her photographs also appeared in that book.

Last year she did a show for the Fashion Institute of Design where she did the choreography and modelling. Another high point was modelling for four international shows organised by Bibi Russell-one in Karachi, two in Kolkata and one in Bangalore.

Tupa has also been active in the print media. Until recently she was associate editor of *Daily Amader Shomoy* with the brief to bring out *Style Watch* as magazine editor. Impressed by her work, she received an attractive offer to take over the post of consulting editor in an independent fashion magazine.

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Rahman Raheem : Bappa's latest venture

Folk songs for the urban ears

KARIM WAHEED

Over the last few years, folk songs have made a major comeback in the mainstream audio market in our country, thanks to the increasing interest in the tunes of our roots among a new generation of musicians. Obviously, not all remade, rearranged or remixed folk songs have attained a particular standard but certain musicians have experimented with rural tunes and the music lovers have been blessed with newer versions of some folk classics. Bappa Mazumder is one such musician, whose version of *Gari choley na...* became a mega hit a few ago. Bappa's most recent offering, *Rahman Raheem* is also an assortment of folk songs redone to satiate the urban taste.

The album includes eight songs and two instrumentals. Newcomer Kamal Chowdhury has lent his vocals to all the songs in the album. Bappa's quote regarding the singer: "His (Kamal's) raw, earthy vocal quality is immensely engaging -- almost like the fresh dew on Bangladeshi grass and soil and it had the power to drag my mind away from the 'civilisation' to the very roots of our identity."

The album starts off with a Radha Raman song, *Bolo go bolo go shokhi konba desh-e jai*. The song has all the qualities of an "opening track" should have -- catchy and melodious. It's remarkable that these age-old songs never seem to lose their appeal. One notices that the singer



Kamal Chowdhury lends his voice to the album

has a Sylheti twang. However, that "twang" works in his favour; it makes the traditional Sylheti folks songs sound more authentic.

Hason Raja's classic, *Agom lagaiya dilo bone* has also been featured in the album. Bappa's skills as a composer become apparent in the song. The harmonising voices create the perfect ambiance and Kamal's voice resonates the zeal that makes Hason Raja's songs out-

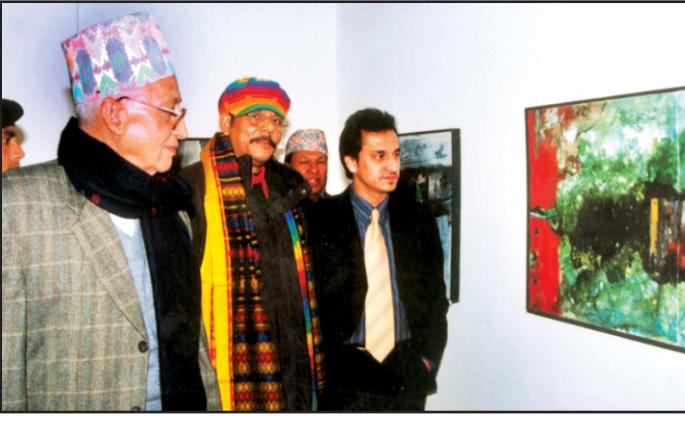
standing.

The club mix of *Tai bujhi aaj buk bheshay jai*, a ballad originally composed by Jalal, is another treat. The lyrics are unpretentious, yet heartening. One listens to the analogy between a 'melancholy lover deprived of love' and *Shukna brikhita kasitha jamon, pataa nat dal-e* and gets mesmerised.

Kon mestori nao banailo, written and originally composed by noted folk musician Shah Abdul Karim (of *Maya lagaiye* fame) may sound like it emphasises on the philosophy of *Dehotatwa* to some, while some may feel it speaks of other aspects. And that's what makes this song special. However, the artiste sounded like he did not have absolute control over his vocals in places.

Kamal does justice to the title song, *Rahman Raheem*. Written and composed by Ameer Uddin, the devotional song speaks of eternal redemption and the bond between the 'Creator' and his 'creation'. An apt example: *Koruna shaban-er gola rahmat-eri dariya-e, dhuiley jonjal hoy porishkar paaponkoi jai mitiya...*

Some songs in the album may not be instant hits. These songs gradually grow on the listener, as one listens to them (the same can be said of some AR Rahman compositions). The album is a commendable effort by Bappa Mazumder to reintroduce some gems of Bangla folk songs.



38th solo painting exhibition of internationally renowned painter Mohammad Eunus was held in Kathmandu recently. Vice chairman of His majesty's Government of Nepal, Kirtinidhi Bista inaugurated the show as chief guest.

Ontoraler Kotha: Parul's plight

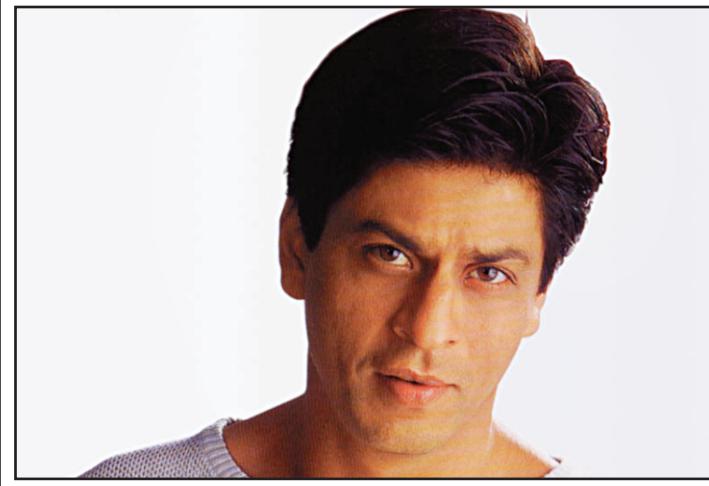
The new episode of *Ontoraler Kotha*, will be aired tonight on Channel-i at 6:20pm. The forthcoming episode is titled *Parul*. Salab Uddin Sanwar directs the play. Today's episode depicts the harsh lives of lower middle class families in our society.

The story line of the case study- Parul lives with her family beside Tejgaon railway quarter. Zahir and his family also live beside their room. Zahir and Kamal are two close friends, while the families of Zahir and Parul are well acquainted with each other. One day Zahir's mother goes out on an errand, while Parul's parents go to work. Meanwhile Parul, laid low by fever, is alone in the house. The lascivious Zahir takes advantage and makes a pass at her. Subsequently Parul's life becomes miserable.



A scene from the hard-hitting serial

Shahrukh Khan spends time with cancer patients



Shahrukh Khan was in Kolkata recently. The actor spent time with the patients in the cancer ward of AMRU hospital.

One of the patients was a little girl named Meghna Ghosh who was diagnosed with cancer when she was two. Her family was visibly moved by the actor's kind presence. The actor is all the

Child star Macaulay turns author



Actor Macaulay Culkin has penned his first book, a semi-autobiographical novel about a troubled father-son relationship. *Junior* is written in journal form, with the narrator telling of childhood abuses and his anger -- as well as remaining affection -- toward his father, *People* magazine reported.

Culkin, 25, became internationally famous when he starred in the 1990 hit film, *Home Alone*.

He has not spoken to his father, Kit Culkin, since a custody dispute in 1997, *People* said.

Source: Internet

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre

Play: Khudhito Pashan
Troupe: Shubochan Natya Sangsod
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage
Date: January 21 at 6:30 pm

Inauguration of 9th International Film Festival

Organiser: Rainbow Film Society
Venue: National Museum Auditorium
Date: January 17 at 4 pm

Album Launch

Title: Chira Harith Manush
Artist: Kaiser Mohammed Islam
Venue: Gallery of Alliance Française, Dhannondi
Date: January 19 at 7:15 pm

Jazz Concert

Artist: Eric Löhrer
Venue: Gallery of Alliance Française, Dhannondi
Date: January 24 at 6:30 pm

Photography Exhibition

Title: A look through the crow's eyes
Venue: Gallery of Word's n Pages, Café Insonnia, 125, Gulshan 2
Date: December 25, 2005- January 27, 2006

Title: Photographs of Zainul Abedin
Organiser: Zainul Gallery
Date: December 29, 2005- January 18, 2006
Time: 12:06pm

Mini Screen

Jol Porey Pata Norey: A family drama



Azizul Hakim and Mridula Ahmed in a romantic scene from the serial

Here's a look at the storyline of the serial *Jol Porey Pata Norey*, directed by Azizul Hakim. Two ambitious sisters, Papia and Munia, belong to a lower middle class family. Their brother Ayon doesn't approve of his sisters uninhibited behavior. Sometimes Papia would realise that Munia is provoking her into unrestrained activities. One day Munia elopes

with a young man and marries him. Papia begins to work and falls for her boss Shihab, a married man. Centering on these three individuals, chaos is unleashed in Shihab's family.

Meanwhile, Ayon falls in love with Neera, a neighbour's niece. Ayon and Neera gets married but his poverty proves a stumbling block. The bottom line is that

while people relentlessly pursue happiness, something inevitably goes wrong.

The playwright is Zeenat Hakim. The cast: Azizul Hakim, Taru Mostafa, Dilara Zaman, Abdul Kader, Apon Ahsan, Srabonti, Sweety, Deepa, Mona, and Khursheduzzaman. Upitol. The serial is aired on ATN every Saturday and Sunday at 8pm.

TV GUIDE

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

CHANNEL-i

09:30 *Shongbad Potrey*
09:45 *Bangladesh Trito Matra*
10:45 *Grameen Phone Cricket On Line*

09:20 *Nupur*
09:50 *Drama Serial: Amar Anando Bari*11:25 *Dindarpan*

ATN BANGLA

10:30 *Talk Show: Amar Chobi*11:30 *Aaj Dupurey*01:00 *Ebong Cinemar*01:25 *Gaan*01:30 *Public Reaction*01:30 *Shongbadpotrey*02:40 *Bangladesh Special Programme*04:00 *Bashudhara*04:15 *Amader Gaan*04:15 *Cambrian Hey*04:45 *Saa Re Gaa Maa*05:30 *i-Sports*06:00 *Music Plus*06:20 *Antoraler Katha*07:50 *Shera Radhuni-1412*08:20 *Drama Serial: Ek Akasher Tara*09:35 *Drama Serial: Chalchhe Chalbe*10:00 *Drama Serial: Shei Tumi El Tumi*

Rtv

06:30 *Deshor Gaan*07:30 *Hridoye Shur Ashey*07:45 *Shukhey Thakun*09:00 *Deho Money*09:00 *Baul Gaan*11:30 *Islam O Bigyan*05:00 *Making History*11:30 *Gaanbhera*12:02 *Single Episode Drama*02:30 *Drama Serial: Ramizer Ayna*03:15 *Tifiner Fakhey*03:50 *Akash Chhonya*04:25 *Gallery*05:20 *Aparn Jiggashtha*06:20 *Shubho Shondhya*06:50 *Gaener Shomoy*08:25 *Drama Serial: Labonna Prova*09:20 *Nupur*09:50 *Drama Serial: Amar Anando Bari*11:25 *Dindarpan*

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