

Tomorrow's Attraction



Razzak, our featured artiste of this month's fan mail, answers your questions tomorrow.

Kumar Biswajit on recent trends in music and more

MAHMUDA AFROZ

KUMAR Biswajit has been involved with the music industry for 26 years. Though his first audition was for Rabindra sangeet, Biswajit ended up becoming one of the most popular singers in the *aduhnik* (modern) song category. At the moment he has his hands full with his new production house 'Gangcheel', evaluating aspiring singers in the talent hunt *Closeup 1 Tomakei Khujchei Bangladesh*, and a new album *Smritir Iti* -- set to release this Eid.

Talking about his production house Biswajit says, "We have been held hostage for too long by commercial production houses. In the line of art and culture, thinking only in terms of money can ruin the originality of an art. I have started 'Gangcheel' with an intention of dedicating it to our culture." One of the main objectives of Biswajit's production house is to associate itself with the winners of *Closeup 1* and assist them in grooming, managing events, recording etc. "I hope they know how to take advantage of it," adds Biswajit.

There has been an overwhelming response this year for *Closeup 1*. The show received 55000 applications. In comparison to last year Biswajit feels the contestants are better trained this year. However the issue of lacking vocal techniques remain. Explains the seasoned singer, "Having a good voice is one thing but sounding good on the microphone is another issue. As most of the contestants do



not have adequate experience with the microphone, their skills are not properly showcased. There should have been a 6 month break for the contestants to train properly before the final rounds of the talent hunt."

Biswajit is bringing out an album this Eid titled *Smritir Iti*: "It's about the future and the present. It is saying goodbye to the past. I have composed most of the songs in the album. Among the songs, especially like *Jodi tomar akey ei prithibi chere choley jai, Tumi shada shari poro na, Rangene shajey tumi shajo protidin*. The last song is dedicated to his wife." Another treat for the fans is Biswajit's rendition of the popular Rabindra sangeet *Amar bela je jai*. Says Biswajit, "This is the first time I have rendered a Rabindra sangeet for an album. My objective is to try and get the new generation interested in the genre."

Biswajit feels that the media can play a major role in reviving nationalism among the disenchanted youth today. "The media should focus on more innovative programmes which would appeal to the youth as well be informative. We should create opportunities to bring back students who have gone abroad in search of a brighter future. Brain drain is a major problem in our country."

"As a nation, we have become too tolerant. We have forgotten how to fight back as we have become used to corruption and political drama. The educated middle class should play a more prominent role in developing the country," concludes Biswajit.

Excerpts from a conversation with Aruna:

"It's embarrassing to go begging for my own money from producers"

-- Aruna

Actress turned director Aruna Biswas has performed in movies, TV plays and *jatra*. Daughter of legendary *jatra* duo -- Amalendu Biswas and Joytsna Biswas -- Aruna began her acting career as a *jatra* artiste at a tender age. She eventually moved on to films and TV plays. Recently she has emerged as a director of TV plays.

Three things you do after you wake up...

Make sure my child is ready for school, plan the whole day and make a quick itinerary, look at my father's picture.

Three things you do before going to bed...

Make sure everything for my child is ready for the next day, lay out my own clothes for the next day, rewind the day gone by.

When are you embarrassed?

When I have to beg for my own money from producers.

How do you plan to celebrate Durga Puja?

As I'll be out of town shooting, I won't get to celebrate Durga Puja with my family. In my house we celebrate all the major religious festivals with equal fervour. Hence while there generally are special food and clothes for Puja, the same goes for Eid as well.

Your favourite singer...

Manna De

Favourite actor...

Julia Roberts

If you were not a human being, what would like to be?

I would love to be a cartoon character. They don't die, they don't get hurt and they always bounce back.

What cheers you up when you are down?

My son Shuddho and my nephew Pritibhi cheer me up all the time, not just when I am depressed.

Your sun sign...

Leo

Memorable moments...

When I returned to Bangladesh after almost six years many welcomed me back and said 'Bangladeshi movie industry has few actresses; after you left there was a huge void.'

Three things you absolutely hate...

Liers, buttering up others or others buttering me up for personal gains and hypocrisy

Three things you never leave home without...

Cell phone, sunglasses and purse.

Favorite hangout joint...

My home

Three things people don't know about you...

No matter how many times I come back from outside I take a bath, it's almost like an obsessive-compulsive disorder. I can cook Bengali as well as international dishes. I am a good homemaker and a family-oriented person.

Your favourite tourist spot? Bangkok, hands down.

CULTURAL FEAST

Theatre

Play: Unmochon
Troupe: Bongorongo Natyadal
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Auditorium
Date & Time: September 28, at 7:00 pm

Painting & Drawing Exhibition of Quamrul Hassan

Title: Quamrul Hassan in Line and Colour
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalay, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: September 20-October 4
Time: 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Painting Exhibition

Title: Conventional Abstract
Artist: Abdus Salam
Venue: Dots Contemporary Art Centre, 191/A, Haque Tower, Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road, Tejgaon
Date: September 16-30
Time: 11:00 am to 8:00 pm

Artisans Dilip and Amar Making icons for Puja

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

"On the occasion of Durga Puja, the biggest religious occasion of the Hindu community, we supply most of the idols in the district town. We also provide the idols on other religious occasions like Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja, Shawarshati Puja and others," said Dilip Pal, a well known artisan of Mymensingh region.



Dilip Pal (L) and Amar Pal

Famed for his artistic works, Dilip, now 57, abstains from making idols following an accident in 2002, which left him permanently paralysed. Now he guides junior artisans at his farm at Notun Bazar. Amar Pal, Dilip's disciple runs the business on his behalf.

Almost bedridden, Dilip recalled that he had learnt making idols in his childhood from his father

Radhaballab Pal. "We inherited the profession from our grandfather, Gouranga Pal but out of my four brothers, only I have followed the profession," Dilip said. He was awarded several times from puja celebration committees in and outside the district town for making outstanding idols. "You cannot hope to earn much from this profession but rather gain a sort of mental satisfaction," said a content Dilip.

Amar Pal has already proven his talents under the guidance of Dilip.

Now most of the puja *mandops* in the district town are decorated by Amar under Dilip's instructions.

For making idols three kinds of clay are used, which includes muddy (*ateh*), mixed (*doash*) and silted (*poli*). The first kind is used to make the basic form of the idols. *Doash* and silted clay are used to give the idols the final touch.

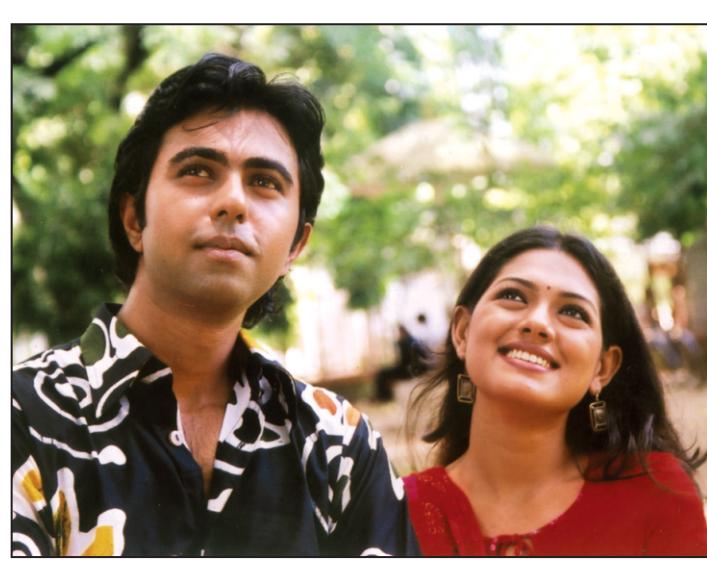
A medium-size idol of Durga is sold between Tk 8000 to 10000, a small-size between Tk 4000 to 5000 and a large size costs between Tk 12000 and 15000, said Amar. The entire process, from start to finish including colouring the idols, are carried out by hand.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV play *Shesh Prantey* revolves around two urban characters -- Ratul and Toma. Ratul plans a scam to win the love of Toma, a highly ambitious girl. Though Tisha lives a struggling life, she dreams of all the luxuries and modern comforts.

Ratul understands Toma's psychology and tries to persuade her with lies and deceptions, pretending to be an affluent man. But, eventually Toma discovers the truth.

Apurbo and Tisha don the lead roles in the play. The play is written by Mohan Khan and directed by Chayanika Chowdhury.



Apurbo and Tisha in a scene from the play

TV play *Shesh Prantey* to be aired on BTV

PICK OF THE DAY



Kuhak
On ntv at 10:00 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Bonna Mirza, Joy



Fastest, Tallest, Biggest
On Discovery Channel at 10:30 pm
Featuring "Expedition Everest" and its state-of-the-art computer driven machinery

Tv GUIDE

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

BTV

09:15 Satellite Broadcast
12:05 Sangbad Potre Pata
12:30 Maa O Shisur Kotha
01:00 Shukhi Poribhar
02:15 Children's Drama
03:30 Matri Bhasha
04:15 Mahe Ramjan
06:10 Aparupa Bangladesh
06:40 Jiboner Alo
07:00 Sangita
07:30 Shomoyer Shonglap
08:35 Protidin Bangladesh
08:45 Weekly Drama
10:25 Teknaf Thickey Tetulia
10:30 Apnar Shawsthyo (Live)

ntv

08:35 Ajker Shokal
09:00 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe
09:30 Ki Toka Tahaar
10:05 Chalo Chhito Kotha

ATN BANGLA

09:15 Drama Serial: Tushar Rohoshyo

ATN Rannagar

03:50 Islamic Programme

Mobarak Ho Mahe

04:45 Drama Serial: Ranjan Prapok

Drama Serial:

08:00 Horton Bibi
03:50 Mohilangan

Drama Serial: Ferari

04:25 Hridoye Ramjan

Drama Serial: Koto

05:20 Al Quran

Drama Serial: Mon Tui

06:20 Shubho Shondhya

Drama Serial: Badhain

06:50 Right Click

Drama Serial: Megh

08:25 Bolechhe Jabo Jabo

Drama Serial: Dindarpan

09:00 Glamour World

Drama Serial: Kuhak

11:25 Dindarpan

Rtv

09:05 Ajit Potrikai
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicell

Tarakothon

10:45 Rtv Exclusive

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh

CHANNEL 2

09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

BTV

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Triyo Matray Apni

03:05 Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak

04:05 Amader Gaan

06:00 Monohar Iftar

06:25 Sroshtor Shakhor

07:50 RC Travel on Concert

08:20 Drama Serial: Bishudho Onuprobesh

10:00 Drama Serial: Ebong Shomacher

12:00 Gramophone Ajker Shangbadpotro

01:30 Bishwa Jurey

12:05 Antorongyo Alap:

10:30 Jugolbandi

02:00 Ramjaner Swad

04:30 Islamic Programme

05:10 Drama Serial: Raja

05:10 Rohomoter Mash

04:20 Heart Beat

06:10 Saaj Bela

06:30 Top News

06:45 Jonotar Isthitar

07:00 Ramjaner Swad

08:00 Drama Serial: Bhola