

## CULTURAL FEAST

## Theatre Festival

**Title:** Ethnic Diversity Council  
**Play:** Kanya  
**Troupe:** Sadori Theatre  
**Venue:** National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** January 9  
**Time:** 7:00pm

**Play:** Tuanya  
**Troupe:** Hor Gayan Dol  
**Venue:** National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** January 10  
**Time:** 6:30pm

**Play:** Sri Krishna Kirtan  
**Troupe:** Manipuri Theatre  
**Venue:** National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** January 11  
**Time:** 6:30pm

**Play:** Mangula  
**Troupe:** Palakar  
**Venue:** Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** January 12  
**Time:** 6:30pm

**Play:** Rarang  
**Troupe:** Aranyak Natyadol  
**Venue:** Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
**Date:** January 13  
**Time:** 6:30pm

## Art Work and Calligraphy Exhibition



**Organiser:** Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Embassy of The Islamic Republic of Iran  
**Venue:** National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka  
**Date:** January 8-17  
**Time:** 11:00pm-7:00pm

## Book Launch

**Authors:** Australian Poet Manfred Chobot and Bangladeshi Poet Aminur Rahman  
**Venue:** BRAC Centre INN, Mohakhali, Dhaka  
**Date:** January 13  
**Time:** 6:30pm  
**Film Screening**  
**Organiser:** Rainbow Film Society  
**January 8**  
4:00pm Stop Genocide  
4:20pm Joyjatra  
**January 9**  
4:00pm Dateline Bangladesh  
5:00pm War Crimes File  
**January 10**  
4:00pm Shei Rater Kotha Bolte Eshchhi  
4:45pm Arunudoyer Agnisakkhi  
**Venue:** Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum

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

## News Bulletin

**BTV**  
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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

**CHANNEL-i**  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.

**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00 pm.

**ntv**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.  
News (Bangla) 3:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

**CHANNEL 1**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am.

**BANGLAVISION**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.

**News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm**  
NewsHeadlines (English) at 9:05pm

**RTV**  
News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.

**News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am**

## In Conversation

## Badal Rahman: A clarion call for children's entertainment

ERSHAD KAMOL

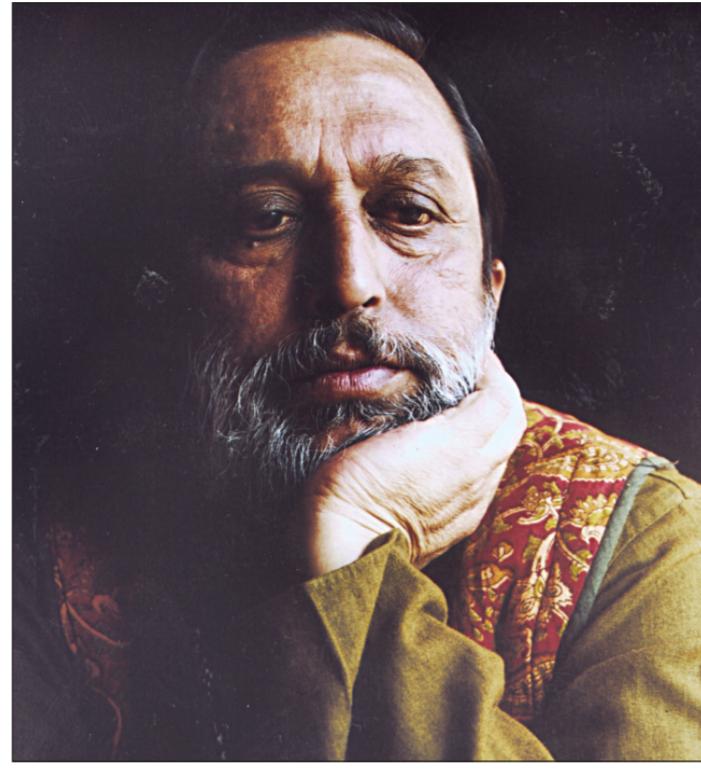
THE are few sources of entertainment for children in Bangladesh. Badal Rahman stands apart as the name behind the first Bangladeshi movie on children, titled *Emili-er Goyenda Bahini*.

Badal continues to make children's films and TV plays. Talking about his latest endeavour, Badal asserts that he is making a TV serial for Channel 1 named *Abak Pancher Kando*, which features the adventures of four children and a dog. The TV serial is an adaptation of British children's author Enid Mary Blyton's popular series *Famous Five*.

Badal says, "I'll present Blyton's adventure series in the Bangladeshi context. Four kids and a dog in *Abak Pancher Kando* will unveil several stories of corruption."

How does he feel working in tandem with child actors? "It's both entertaining and challenging," continues Badal, "Children have an intrinsic flair for acting. I enjoy working with them. But it's really difficult to control the kids during shooting."

Badal has been working with child actors since he was a BTV producer (1968-76). He says, "As a BTV producer I used to make programmes slanted to entertain children. Selim Al Deen and Al Mansur were my assistants who used to do the scripting."



In 1973 Badal was awarded a scholarship on filmmaking (1973-76) in Pune, India. Before going there Badal decided to make *Emili-er Goyenda Bahini*. He said, "Al Mansur gave a translation of German children's author Erich Kästner's (1899-1974) novel *Emil and the Detectives* (1929) titled *Emili-er Goyenda Bahini*. During my stay

in Pune I got chance to watch children's film classics from around the world. In those days I began scripting of *Emili-er Goyenda Bahini*. Returning to Bangladesh I submitted the script for a government grant in 1978."

After the release of the movie in 1981, it got many national awards including best movie of

the year. Badal got two awards--best director and editor. Golam Mostafa and child actor Tiptip got the best actor awards. Alam Khan won an award for the best music composer of the year."

After the huge success of the movie, Badal made two more children's movies-- *Kanthal Burir Bagan* and *Chhana O Muktiuddha*. Both of the movies were funded by Bangladesh Shishu Academy. However, *Chhana O Muktiuddha* is yet to be released.

The question is why not more films? Badal says, " *Emili-er Goyenda Bahini* is considered one of the best movies in Bangladesh. But, it's not a box office hit amongst so many commercial movies. It ran only in a few theatres simultaneously. That's why I believe the producers did not approach me. Moreover, the quality of the movie industry has declined from the 1980s. As a result I shifted to making documentaries."

So far Badal has made over 50 documentaries for government and non-government organisations. Of these *Self Portrait: Bangladesh* and *It's for Your Asking*, basically are promotional films on Bangladesh and its export commodities, which were screened abroad.

Badal thinks that the need of the hour is a greater output of children's movies. Towards this end he seeks greater government patronage.

## 'If...': Book with an anti-war message

FAYZA HAQ

A book with a moving message, *If* written by Syed Mohsin, was recently launched at the Dhaka Club. Although a thin book of less than a 100 pages it conveyed the message of the destruction, pain and confusion of wars and the suffering that comes with the infliction of AIDS. Culture activists like Rabul Husain, Rafiq Azad, Faiz Ahmed and Hyder Husyn were full of praise for the literary work.

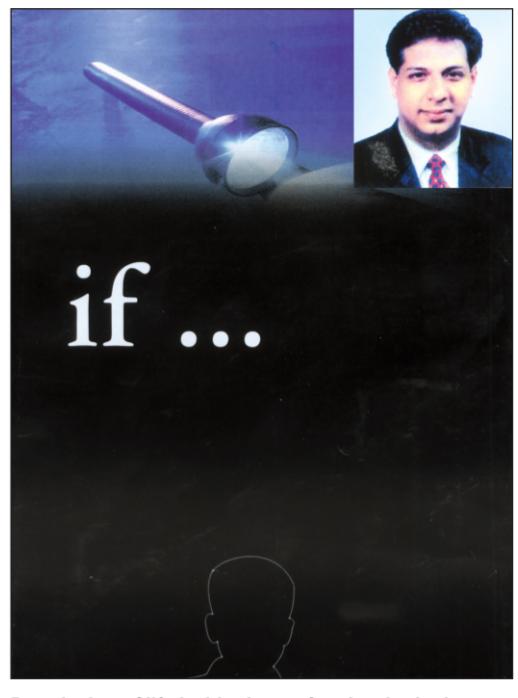
Written by an expatriate, *If* covers a wide span of area ranging from "Sylhet to Ontario", as Faiz Ahmed puts it. The plot is poignant and to the point. One has empathy for the central figure, James, who is a war child and ends up dying with AIDS, longing for his actual mother in Bangladesh. The author hopes to ultimately make a film from the book, given the chance, with visual images elaborating on emotions and scenes.

The book is in Bangla, interspersed with names of people and places in English and is printed in Banglatabazar, with the dust-jacket done by the author himself. The picaresque novel is based on actuality and elaborated with fiction. The plot veers backwards and forwards in time, and makes for interesting reading. If revised, said the cultural experts, this commercial novel could gain more depth. However, the author says, he wants the message to be brief but to the point.

With passion for the stage and a love for movies, Mohsin has written as a youth but this is his first attempt in serious writing as an adult. A Vancouver-based garment manufacturer by profession, the author -- who was disillusioned by his earlier political role in Bangladesh as an MP -- wishes to donate the sale proceeds of the book for AIDS victims in Bangladesh.

Mohsin says, "I met the protagonist, James Watson, 32, in Vancouver in 2003. A war victim of 1971, he was found on the streets of Bangladesh, and adopted by someone in Canada. For some reason he became alienated from society and his foster family. He ultimately died with AIDS, pining for his Bangladeshi mother."

Returning home, he mulled over writing on this poignant anti-war subject, taking six months to



Dust-jacket of 'If...' with photo of author in the inset

complete the book. He didn't touch the war scene in 64 pages, but was lucky to get Genius in Banglatabazar to print in record time, before he moved off to Vancouver once again. He hopes to be back by *Ekushey Mela* in February this year to make a record sale of his book.

Mohsin's central message is that if the war didn't take place, the protagonist wouldn't perhaps have been so confused and alienated, nor an AIDS victim. "There is always a logic behind a war, but a war shouldn't have such adverse effect on a normal person's life e.g. the hero didn't have to die in the flower of his manhood. I made up characters with fictitious names, as my imagination took wing. The elements of tears are blended with bits and pieces of joy." The author feels that people in this day and age can discuss and work out their problems -- without resorting to violent and gruesome wars.

## 'Golapjan' goes to National School for Drama Theatre Festival



A scene from the play

## 'Fatema': a case study of 'Ontoraler Kotha'

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TV documentary serial *Ontoraler Kotha*, based on real life stories, is currently running on Channel i. The forthcoming episode of the serial is titled *Fatema* and scheduled to be aired today at 6:20 pm. Researched by Kaniz Fatema, the episode is directed by Fud Chowdhury.

The story line of the case study--Fatema is a talented and religious college girl. After her father retires, she takes to sewing as a profession to run the family. In the meantime, Fatema and her mother invest money in a pisciculture business with

their distant relative. Later on, it transpires that Fatema and her mother won't get their financial due from the relative. Fatema seeks justice by petitioning the commissioner and other influential people. But it is all in vain. The so-called relative hires a miscreant called Nazrul and kidnaps Fatema. Fatema is assaulted by the hoodlum and burn to death. This sensational case is taken on by Mahila Parishad and three criminals are hanged. Based on Nazrul's confessional statement, a warrant is issued against other people involved in the crime.



## Oprah, the victim of US\$1.5 million blackmail scheme



Oprah Winfrey was the target of an extortion plot by an Atlanta man who claimed to have damaging audio tapes he would release if he wasn't paid off, federal court charges allege.

The man, Keifer Bonvillain, is accused of illegally recording phone conversations he had with a Winfrey employee about her and her business. According to the charges, he then asked for US \$1.5 million from a second person, described as a Winfrey "business associate," to destroy the tapes and his notes.

The charges go on to say that Bonvillain threatened to sell the

information to the tabloids or write a book about them.

Winfrey is not identified in the complaint, but instead the documents refer to an "Individual A," who is "a public figure and the owner of a Chicago-based company." The *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Chicago Tribune* on Saturday identified "Individual A" as Winfrey, whose Harpo Studios is based in Chicago.

Bonvillain's attorney, Kent Carlson, told the *Tribune* and *Sun-Times* he could neither confirm nor deny details in the complaint.

Source: Internet

## TV GUIDE

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## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Theatre Art Unit's popular production *Golapjan*, by SM Solaiman is set to participate in the ninth New Delhi-based National School for Drama theatre festival titled *Nabam Bharat Rang Mahatov*, which

begins from January 10. Theatre troupes from 12 countries will stage 65 theatre performances in the festival.

In this connection Theatre Art Unit will stage two shows of *Golapjan*: On January 14 at Sri Ram Centre, Delhi and on January 14 at

## PICK OF THE DAY



**Shimana**  
On Channel i at 9:35pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Tauquir Ahmed, Richi Solaiman



**Bhalobasha Mondobasha**  
On ntv at 9:50pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Shormili Ahmed, Diti

## ATN BANGLA

## ntv

09:20 Drama Serial: <i>The New Sabuj Opera</i>	08:35 Ajker Shokol	04:00 Kahiin To Hoga	10:00 Frasier
10:30 Talk Show: <i>Aktel Annyodhshi</i>	09:05 Ramizer Aaina	04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa	10:30 Desire: Table For Three
11:15 Drama Serial: <i>Ek Jonomey</i>	09:30 Probashay Bangladeshi	05:00 Aek Chabhi Hai Padoss Mein	11:30 Seven Wonders of the Industrial World
12:10 Motamot	10:05 Zoo Adventure	05:55 V First Day First Show- Starplus	STAR SPORTS
01:25 Colochitron Golpo	10:30 Dhakar Cinema	06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus	08:30 Pro Bull Riders
02:30 Nirob Kosto	01:05 Muktagon	06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus	09:30 Association Bull
03:10 O Amar Chokhu Nai	01:35 Shomoshomoy	06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends	10:30 Spanish Football
03:45 Chotoder Prithibi	03:50 Bhinno Swader	07:00 The Legend Of Trazan	11:30 League (Soccer/
04:20 ATN Music	04:25 Khobor	07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus	Guinness Premiership
05:10 Ashey Pasher	05:10 Din Dorpon/Itihasher	07:30 Prithviraj Chauhan	2006/07 (Ru)
05:45 Business Week	05:20 Apnar Jigyasha	07:55 Bolly V - Star Plus	02:30 Fa Cup 2006/07 (Soccer/Futbol)
06:20 Aktel Protidin	06		