

Tête-à-tête with Chandni

A multifaceted artiste

MAHMUDA AFROZ

A national award winning actress and dancer, Chandni was a student of Viharunessa Noon School and College and is currently completing her Masters in marketing. She strongly believes that education is needed even if one wants to pursue a career in mainstream entertainment.

"I have always had high regards for education. At the end of it all I believe unless you have a solid educational background you're never taken seriously."

Chandni started taking dance lessons even before she was enrolled in school. At the age of four when her mother caught her imitating dance steps from TV programmes, she signed her up in the Bulbul Lalitkala Academy. Though her father did have a theatrical background, he never wanted his daughter to take up acting as a profession. "My mother has always been supportive; I don't remember her buying jewellery and other luxury items as it would all be saved up for my tuition fees. My father has come around over the years and is proud of me today."

Chandni's first stint at modelling also came at a tender age when she was in class 4. She did the Bailey Keds commercial. It was hugely popular not only among children but adults as well. Since then she has modelled for brands like Merit and Jui hair care oil, among others. However, modelling has never been her priority. In her own words, "I am not a professional model, I am an

actress and hence get modelling offers, otherwise it would not have happened."

When she was in class 6, Chandni did the movie *Dukhai* that immediately shot her to fame. She won accolades from critics as well as from the people. However, there was a huge gap before she ventured into the world of acting full-fledged. Though she did a serial called *Ghrina* in between, it was Abul Hayat's *Obhigyan* during her college days that gave her the final push to take up acting seriously.

However, dancing is her weakness and addiction she admits. "Though people know me better as an actress, dancing will always remain my first passion. I believe that if someone knows how to dance, then acting and modelling becomes easier. There is a lot of facial expression and body language involved with dancing. For example, when one has to explain a whole product in a 15-second commercial it becomes vital for that person to express the maximum through his/her facial expressions. The same goes for acting. So I believe dancing is a basic form, which if learnt can help in other fields."

While Chandni has toured the world in her capacity as a dancer and won many prestigious awards, she has never been on a government tour. She believes there is a lot of favouritism that goes on in Bangladesh. She has plenty of ideas yet is sad at the plight of dancers and dancing academies in the country. She exclaims, "Interestingly when Bangladeshi culture is repre-



Though people know me better as an actress, dancing will always remain my first passion

sented abroad, dancing is highlighted. Yet in the country there is hardly any government initiative or support for dance academies. I believe the new generation of dancers has brought along a breath of fresh air. We are trying to make a positive change and should be given more opportunities."

Chandni has been directing dance steps for quite some time now. She likes fusion. "In BAFA we were taught everything and I was lucky to have Shibli sir and Hero sir as my teachers. I like fusing Kathak, Bharatnatyam and folk."

A national award winning actress (for *Lal Shalu*), Chandni is proud the way things have turned out for her. "Whatever I am today is totally my own doing. Neither did I have 'uncles' in the right places nor did I ask favours from anyone. It is my hard work, dedication and passion that have bought me here."

During this Eid she had a dance programme on TV and is currently awaiting her latest tele-film release, Mohon Khan's *Shopnobaj*.

Austro-Bangla book on lyrics

In conversation with Manfred and Anis

FAYZA HAQ

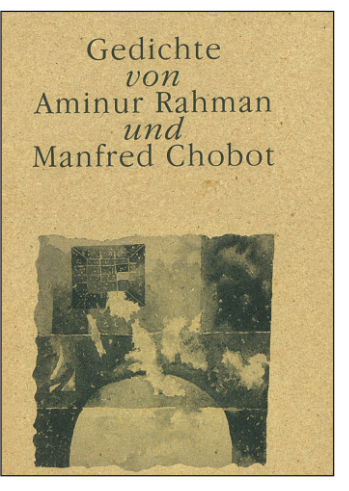
An interesting bilingual book-- a collaboration by the Austrian poet of renown, Manfred Chobot and Bangladeshi poet, Anisur Rahman --was recently launched at the BRAC Centre. Speaking to the authors, over tea at Chitrak, one gathers the richness of their experience and their prolific output over the years.

"Both of us have written a steady stream of love poems," says Manfred, co-author of *Poems by Manfred Chobot and Anisur Rahman*. The poets, one 60 and the other 40, met each other in an international poetry festival at Columbia, USA. They soon became friends and Anis invited him to try out a collaboration. Anis translated Manfred's work into Bangla, while Anis' poems were translated into German by Manfred. "This was possible through the e-mail and I thought the idea simply great," remarks Manfred. "Our common link was English," explains Anis.

One may question the quality

of the translation, Anis points out, as a lot of the nuances and cadences of poetry are difficult to capture in another language. However the two understood the essence of each other's poems," since both knew the language of poetry," as Anis puts it. The 24 lyrics are contained in a small hard-bound book. Anis' work has been translated into 10 different languages and Manfred in numerous European ones.

Manfred, who began writing poems in 1965, has published nine volumes of poems in German (which have been translated into Czech, Ukrainian, Polish, Slovakian, French, English, Spanish and Bulgarian, among others). Love is his theme -- with both tragic and optimistic overtures and endings. His favourite writers are the major US poets of the 50s and 60s like Allan Ginsberg and Charles Olson. Manfred's basic training is in engineering. He makes a living like writing radio plays for broadcasting, and has always been a freelancer for Viennese newspapers -- writing



Cover of the book

travelogues and editing *Lyrics from Austria* (from 1991 to 2004).

Anis has six books in Bangla (translated into 20 other languages including Japanese, Malay, Mongolian and more) and one done in collaboration with others. He has two books in the pipeline viz, *Bangladeshi Shilpacharcha* and *Abritti*.

Bollywood glitz in a Times Square debut



Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai at the American premier of Guru

The red-carpet event for the movie *Guru* was a rare American treatment for a feature from Bollywood, the Mumbai-based film industry.

Two of Bollywood's biggest stars, Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, did touch down in Times Square last Friday night, as their film opened

around the world. Director of the film Mani Ratnam and AR Rahman, who composed music for the film, were also present.

Guru is the story of Gurukant Desai, a villager who becomes a polyester mogul. At the vast AMC Empire 25 theatre on West 42nd Street, it got a high-profile American debut that many said was unusual for a movie without the apparent crossover credentials of a Bollywood film like *Bride and Prejudice*.

Things are changing for Indian cinema. Seven Hindi-language films each made more than \$2 million last year at the United States box office. One of them, *Water*, had an American distributor.

CULTURAL FEAST

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

Film Screening

Organiser: Indian Cultural Centre
Venue: House# 25, Road# 96, Gulshan 2
Date: January 15
Title: Naksha
Date: January 19
Title: Lage Rago Munnabhai
Date: January 27
Title: Bialish-42 (Bangla)
Date: January 28
Title: Legend of Bhagat Singh
Date: January 29
Title: Fanaa

Channel Click

'Bhalobasha Mondobasha' on ntv

'Kath Koylar Chhobi' on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Mega-serial *Bhalobasha Mondobasha* will be aired tonight at 9:50pm on ntv.

In *Bhalobasha Mondobasha*, every character is in search of love, peace and happiness in life. But sometimes obstacles crop up. One such obstacle is suspicion -- the focal point in the serial. The

serial highlights the impact of suspicion within a small family. Amirul Haq Chowdhury, Sharmilee Ahmed, Azizul Hakim, Ahmed Rubel, Diti, Sumaiya Shimu, Tonima Hamid, Sharmila Shila, Joy and Bonya Mirza are the main cast members of the serial. The play is written by Anisul Haque and directed by SA Haque Aliq.



A scene from Kath Koylar Chhobi

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Based on Selina Hossain's story, 17th episode of the drama serial, *Kath Koylar Chhobi* will be aired tonight at 8:00 pm. An expatriate Dulal returns to Bangladesh to find his mother. He learns from his foster-mother that his mother was a *Birangana* and now works in a tea estate in Sylhet. Dulal befriends

Ranjan, a fugitive charged with the murder of his wife. Dulal continues to scour the estates in search of his mother.

The main cast members of the play are Raisul Islam Asad, Dilara Zaman, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Tauquir Ahmed, Bipasha Hayat, Tushar Khan and Tomalika. The play is scripted by actor Azad Abul Kalam and directed by Kabir Babu.



Diti and Azizul Hakim in the serial

Germans learn to laugh at Hitler

Germany's first ever mainstream comedy about Adolf Hitler was launched recently.

The film, *Mein Fuehrer - the Truly Truest Truth about Adolf Hitler*, shows a dramatically different image of the Nazi leader from the one Germans are used to seeing at their cinemas.

In one scene, Hitler, played by a top German comedian, is splashing about in the bath with his toy battleship. When he is told there is a plot to kill him, he sinks under the suds.

This Hitler is a manic-depressive, who is impotent and wets his bed. He is reduced to a bumbling buffoon.

The film is written and directed by Swiss-born Jewish director Dani Levy.

"Making comedies about hateful people is weird! Usually you're making comedies about people you really love," he told the *BBC*.

"As a Jewish person who's been living in Berlin more than 25 years, I felt I needed a new approach, and created a comedy to deconstruct the Nazi figures, to have a better understanding of what made German people follow Adolf Hitler."

More than 60 years after his death, Adolf Hitler's murderous rule still feeds a sense of collective guilt, and collective responsibility in Germany.

But Germans are learning to laugh out loud about some aspects of the Nazi regime. Last year Rudolph Herzog published a collection of Hitler jokes.

"In the 1960s, the younger generation -- the sons and

daughters of the perpetrators -- were asking hard questions," Rudolph says, "and making jokes about the subject would have been totally inappropriate in their eyes."

"Now there's a new generation and I guess we have a more distant view. Without neglecting the horrors of what happened we can also see the ridiculousness of the top brass in this regime".

Source: Internet



A scene from Mein Fuehrer

TV GUIDE

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, 12:15 am.

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 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 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
BANGLAVISIOAN
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm
News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

RTV
News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

ATN BANGLA

09:20 Mega Serial: *Lal Neel Beguni*
10:30 Talk Show: *Aktel Annydrishti*
11:15 Mega Serial: *Ek Jonamey*
12:10 *Motamot*
01:25 *Colochitr Golpo*
02:30 *Nirob Kosto*
03:10 *O Amar Chokhu Nai*
03:45 *Chhotore Prithibi*
04:20 ATN Music
05:10 *Ashey Pasher Manush*
05:45 Business Week
06:20 *Aktel Protidin*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Kath Koylar Chhobi*
08:45 Meet the Press

Channel i

08:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 *Shangbadpotre Bangladesh*
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Trinitomatra
12:30 Citycell Taroka
Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
04:05 *Amader Gaan*
04:25 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
05:30 *Montumar Obhijan*
06:00 Stargate SG One
06:20 *Ontorale Kotha*
06:40 Business Show
08:00 BBC Bangladesh Shantlap
09:35 Drama Serial: *Shimana*
10:00 *Shadha Ranger Swapno*
12:00 *GramreenPhone Aiker Shangbad Potro*

ntv

08:35 *Aajker Shokal*
09:05 *Ramizer Aaina*

09:30 *Probashey Bangladesh*
10:05 Zoo Adventure
01:05 *Muktangon*
02:35 Drama Serial: *Ramizer Aaina*
03:15 *Prothom Voter*
03:50 *Shomoshomoy*
04:25 *Bhinno Swader Khobor*
05:10 *Din Dorpon/Litashar Ei Diney*
05:20 *Apnar Jigyasha*
06:20 *Shubho Shondha*
06:45 *Khoborer Shondhaney*
08:15 Drama Serial: *Labonya Probha*
09:00 Music Express
09:50 Drama Serial: *Bhalobasha Mondobasha*
Din Dorpon

11:25

CHANNEL 1

08:40 *Shuprobhat Bangladesh*
09:30 *Chokh Mele Dekhi*
10:00 Cinetune
10:30 General Feature Film
02:00 *Padmorag*
03:30 Drama Serial: *Shunney Boshobash*
04:00 *Hiyar Majhey*
05:15 *Shomoyer Shanglap*
06:00 *Saaj Bela*
06:30 Top News
06:45 *Itihasar Path Dhorey*
07:00 *Shuklara*
08:15 Drama Serial: *Daar Kaak*
09:00 *Gaaner Khata*
09:30 Bioscope
11:00 Stop n Rock

Rtv

09:05 *Aj Potrikai*
09:10 Talk Show: *Prio Mukh*
09:35 Cinema Ar Cinema
10:00 *Jugol Bondi*
12:00 *Bishwa Jurey*

On Channel i at 6:20 pm
Docu-drama
Directed by Arefin Rupom

01:00 Human Nature
02:00 *Aj Potrikay*
03:40 Drama Serial: *Black and White*
04:20 *Praner Manush*
05:30 *Achhey Praney*
05:10 *Khola Chokhey*
06:00 *Chaitoney Shish*
06:30 *Apnar Agami*
06:00 *Ajker Bangladesh*
08:00 Rtv Exclusive
06:35 *Cinema Ar Cinema*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Black and White*
08:50 Magazine
10:45 Rtv Exclusive

BANGLAVISIO N

09:05 *Shurer Bhuban*
09:30 Media Bhuban

PICK OF THE DAY

Ontorale Kotha
On Channel i at 6:20 pm
Docu-drama
Directed by Arefin Rupom

01:00 *Human Nature*
02:00 *Aj Potrikay*
03:40 Drama Serial: *Black and White*
04:20 *Praner Manush*
05:30 *Achhey Praney*
05:10 *Khola Chokhey*
06:00 *Chaitoney Shish*
06:30 *Apnar Agami*
06:00 *Ajker Bangladesh*
08:00 Rtv Exclusive
06:35 *Cinema Ar Cinema*
08:00 Drama Serial: *Black and White*
08:50 Magazine
10:45 Rtv Exclusive

BANGLAVISIO N

09:05 *Shurer Bhuban*
09:30 Media Bhuban

Shukher Kanta
On Banglavisioan at 10:45pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Zahid Hassan, Humayun Faridee

10:00 *Bandhan*
10:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
11:30 *Shaka Laka Boom Boom*
12:00 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*
12:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
12:30 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*
01:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
01:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa*
02:00 *Bandhan*
02:30 *Bhabhi*
03:00 *Kesar*
03:30 *Saarthi*
01:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*
04:00 *Kahiin To Hoga Aek Chabhi Hai*
05:00 *Pados Mein*
06:00 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
06:30 *Mickey Mouse And Friends*

07:00 *The Legend Of Trazan*
07:30 *Prithviraj Chauhan*
08:00 *Baa Bahoor Aur Baby Antarksh*
08:30 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
09:00 *Viraasat*
09:30 *Karam Apnaa Apnaa*
10:00 *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii*
10:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*
11:00 *Kahiin To Hoga Paraya Dhan*
11:30 *Tales From The Crypt*
12:00 *27: People Who Live In Brass Hearses*
12:30 *Distributing Behaviour*
12:00 *Pride and Prejudice*
12:30 *The Rookie*
05:00 *The Making of Hitch*

STAR MOVIES

10:15 *Avp: Allen Vs. Predator*
11:55 *Halflight*
01:45 *Barbershop 2: Back In Business*
03:30 *Librarian 2, The: Return To King*
05:15 *Meltdown: Days Of Destruction*
07:00 *Hostage*
09:00 *Bloodsuckers*
10:45 *Mr. 3000*

STAR WORLD

09:30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*
10:30 *The Apprentice*
11:30 *Two And A Half Men*
12:30 *Law & Order: S.V.U.*
01:30 *Criminal Minds*
02:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*
03:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*
04:00 *General Hospital*
05:00 *Desire: Table For Three*
06:00 *Arrested Development*
06:30 *The Simpsons*
07:00 *Cheers*
07:30 *Friends*
08:00 *Seinfeld*
08:30 *My Wife And Kids*
09:00 *Everybody Loves Raymond*
09:30 *The King Of Queen*
10:00 *Desire: Table For Three*
11:30 *Desire: Table For Three*

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

09:30 *Discovery's Biggest Shows*
10:30 *Discovery's Biggest Shows*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 *Sumo School*
10:30 *Telemat: Sauna Belt*
11:00 *Telemat*
11:30 *Space Launch*
12:30 *Hong Kong's Big Bang*
01:30 *Naked Science*
02:30 *Monkey Business*
03:00 *Wild Safari*
03:30 *Sumo School*
04:00 *Nat Geo Junior*
05:00 *Nat Geo Genius*
05:30 *Big Bang - S 7*
06:00 *From meerkats To Mambas*
06:30 *Sumo School*
07:30 *Deep Jungle*
08:30 *Nat Geo Encores*
10:30 *Is It Real?*
11:30 *Snakes*

STAR SPORTS

01:25 *2007 Euromilhoes*
02:00 *Dakar (Auto Rac*
02:30 *Spanish Football League (Soccer)*
01:55 *English Premier Football League (Soccer)*
04:00 *Australian Open 2007 Presented B*
06:00 *Australian Open 2007 Presented B*
06:00 *Pro Bull Riders*

ESPN

12:30 *Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07*
02:00 *Planet Speed 2006/2007 (Auto Rac*
02:30 *English Premier Football League (Basketball)*
05:00 *Nba Basketball (Basketball)*
07:30 *2007 Hula Bowl (Football)*
10:30 *Castle Test Series (Cricket)*
12:00 *Final Score (Soccer/Futbol)*
12:30 *Planet Speed 2006/2007 (Auto Rac*
01:00 *Castle Test Series (Cricket)*
05:00 *Castle Test Series (Cricket)*
09:30 *Sports center India (Sport News)*
10:00 *Close Encounters (Cricket)*
10:30 *Sports center India (Sport News)*
11:30 *Great Indian Partnerships (Crick*
12:00 *Castle Test Series (Cricket)*