

Heart to heart with Tahsan-Mithila

MAHMUDA AFROZ

How did you meet?
We met through a common friend. While he left for the States we continued with our friendship.

What was different about Mithila/Tahsan?

Tahsan: All my female friends or fans would only praise me. Mithila was the only one who used to criticise and I used to hate that. But later I realised her criticism helped me rectify many mistakes; so her honesty definitely was a plus point. She understands that music is my life and she is completely supportive of that. I also absolutely adore her sweet voice.

Mithila: I have always liked people with musical talent. Initially I was attracted to his singing, but later as I got to know him better it was his dependability and overall personality that attracted me. Plus he imbibed this confidence in me; he showed me how well I could do things—even when I had apprehensions about them. My trivial idiosyncrasies would catch his fancy; it really made me feel special.

How did it happen?

Tahsan: From the beginning we realised this was more than just friendship. Plus in today's techno era the mobile played a vital role. On rainy nights we used to compose poems for each other and SMS. It's simpler to express emotions.

Mithila: Rickshaw rides in Dhaka university campus was one of our favourite dating mechanisms. We spent hours in every *oli-goli* (lane) on rickshaws lost in time.

How did your parents react?

Tahsan: My parents were overjoyed. They wanted us to get married immediately.

Mithila: Initially my father was a bit sceptical. Marrying his daughter off to a singer didn't sound too promising to him. But then Tahsan took up teaching at a private university and things were good.

Common comment: As a matter of fact we had just wanted to let them know about our relationship



PHOTO: STAR

He was a serious IBA student, from a family with PhDs and no media link whatsoever, she was a political science student from Dhaka University with a family background in the media. They met in 2004 and love blossomed in the university campus via rickshaw rides and SMS. On August 3, 2006 Tahsan Rahman Khan and Rafiath Rashid Mithila tied the knot. Tahsan reached stardom initially through the band Black and went on to become a successful solo singer. Mithila is a well-known model and has appeared in ads for Meril, Bajaj, Close up and Aktel.

so that they didn't hear about it from others but they convinced us to get married.

Is this how you fantasised your dream girl/dream guy would be?

Tashan: No, Mithila is totally different from my dream girl. But frankly put, after meeting her I have forgotten what my dream girl was like.

Mithila: He is the antithesis of

my ideal mate. I am very outgoing and love hanging out with large circles of friends. I also have plenty of male friends. But Tahsan prefers staying indoors and neither does he have many female friends. But at

the end of the day opposites attract. Right?

What do you dislike about each other?

Tahsan: She is extremely short tempered.

Mithila: Yes I agree with him but what about the fact that he keeps irritating me? I definitely dislike that about him.

So that means you end up fighting a lot?

Combined comment (With a huge grin they agree). Oh yes we fight tooth and nail; we scream at each other. But interestingly within the next hour all our anger dissipates, we are back together, closer than before. Actually we both understand each other's point and make up.

What is the toughest part of being married?

Tahsan: Rules and regulations -- starting from my toothbrush to my closet, there are rules for everything. She never leaves me alone. But all in all I love the whole feeling of being married.

Mithila: How can I leave him alone when he keeps everything so messy?

Besides that I love being married. Before marriage I thought I might have to adjust and make change; maybe I won't be able to model. However, neither Tahsan nor his family have ever interfered. And his parents love me like their own daughter.

From the whole conversation it is so evident you are madly in love. What does love actually mean?

Tahsan: Is there a definition for love? In so many of my songs I have tried to define love, the day I will be able to define it, I will stop defining it in my songs.

Mithila: Love is a feeling you just can't describe.

Tahsan's third solo album *Ichchey* was released in the last week of December with Mithila as a lyricist and co-singer in many of them.

Small Screen Single episode drama 'Nolbaji' on ATN Bangla

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Entitled *Nolbaji*, a single episode drama, is scheduled to be aired tonight at 8:45 pm on ATN Bangla.

Famous writer Faruk is the central figure in the drama while the gun toting music lover Gani is the union council chairman of Nishchintapur. The latter, sometimes dubbed 'gun chairman', is vindictive and the village denizens live in fear of him. One day Faruk visits the village. He has authored a novel titled *Nolbaji* based on the lifestyle of the cruel chairman. While Faruk's wife Shaila wants to visit the village again, the writer believes that an irked chairman may cut short his life.

The twist and turns from this point make for a gripping viewing.

Popular model-turned-actor Shimul, Tazin Ahmed, Abul Hayat, Sharmili Ahmed and others form the cast.



Tazin and Shimul in Nolbaji

'Ferari' on Channel i tonight



Tauquir and Richi in the TV serial

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial *Ferari* will be aired tonight at 9:35pm on Channel i.

Synopsis: A victim of a conspiracy, Toni, a simple and easygoing professor, gets implicated in a false murder case and turns fugitive. Later, he takes on the job of a house tutor. As time goes by, Toni develops an intimate relationship with his female student. At one point the girl discovers that Toni is a fugitive. The rest is for the viewer to see.

The serial is written by Rezwana Khan and directed by Kaiser Ahmed. Tauquir Ahmed, Richi, Tonima Hamid, Toni Dayes, Romana, and Dolly Zahur form the main cast in the serial.

Exhibition More acclaims for Nazir from Krakow

FAYZA HAQ

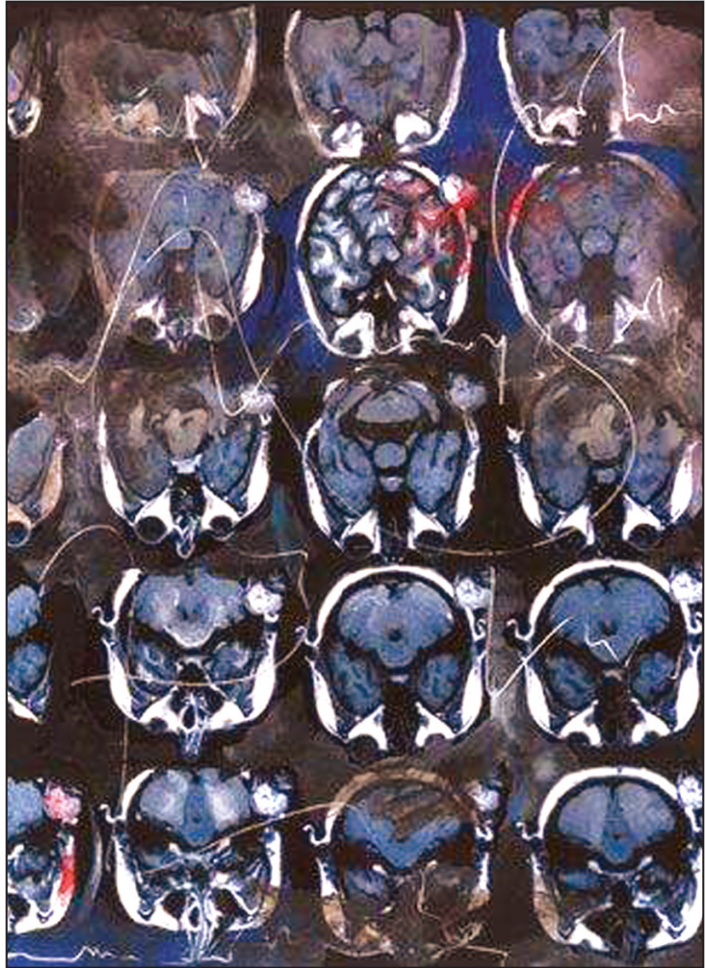
Ahmed Nazir's mind-whirling prints have won accolades galore at the Krakow Triennale '07 (Poland). A dedicated and driven print-maker, with his inherited genius from Safiuddin Ahmed, the oldest living Bangladeshi artist, he has always striven to be recognised for himself. And he has achieved this goal over the years-- both at home and abroad.

Superb both in painting and print-making, he has gone in more for prints of late, as they are easier to transport to the venues of foreign exhibitions. His contrasting colours and mind-boggling themes win ready approval. At present he is dealing with themes of conflict in his series *War files*.

In his *Moon* series (painting) earlier on he captured the mind of the viewers with his lyrical semi-abstract and abstract images with fine texture work in pastel and contrasting hues. In these poetic pieces he had reminiscences of rain-drops on the train window panes, which he witnessed to and from Chittagong, where his wife Sharmeen lived.

Orange, ultramarine and emerald had seen their way into these creations. Dots, lines and curves along with circles were predominant in these art works, reminiscent of his courtship days. These were done in mixed-media.

Today-- with the overwhelming socio-political and economic prob-



An artwork by Ahmed Nazir

lems gripping the entire world, seen in different scenarios -- Nazir recalls the days of fierce fighting too, in Bangladesh, during the Liberation War. The prints sent overseas are in black, white and sharp contrasting dark tints such as ultramarine and scarlet oscillating outlines -- which appear like some lightening sparks. The x-ray images that are seen today reflect the inner emptiness in mankind, says Nazir. The theme recalls TS Eliot's "hollow men".

"There is a struggle for power, which you may see as an innate lust to control through terrorism. One man rules but all are affected in one way or another, all over the world. I was five during the Liberation War. Today when havoc and misrule is the rule of the day, I can't help but recall the troubled times and genocide in Bangladesh too. When thousands die overseas, as an artist, I too am torn with torment. I can't solve the problems abroad; I remain careworn and concerned. My work, is based on the concept of a decisive drive against terrorism," asserts Nazir.

The work is concept based and semi-abstract. "When we think deeply about some subject in the modern times it is seen as abstract or semi-abstract. The images mirror the pain and anguish within -- which cannot be shown with conventional realism," he concludes.

'American Idol': Biggest show on TV returns

The biggest TV show in the world, *American Idol* returned with millions watching (over 37 million in US alone) with Randy, Simon and Paula rating the good, the bad and the unlistenable in Minneapolis (aired last Wednesday here).

"You will see some of the most aggressive contestants," says series host Ryan Seacrest of the new season, who returns with judges Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson. "You will certainly see an individual sport when you see the contestants auditioning for *American Idol*. The contestants that came out to audition came out to win, and they will let nothing stand in their way."

Of course, to get to the good contestants, you have to wade through the bad ones -- and there were many of the latter in Minneapolis, including one hopeful who was dressed like Apollo Creed from *Rocky* (complete with a cape decorated in the stars and stripes). The freak show continued with an "urban Amish", a contestant who rushed out of the room halfway through a song for a sip of water and another growl-singing like the lion in *The Wizard of Oz*.

The show continues with a recap of the best and worst from Seattle. Other audition cities coming up in the next few weeks include: Memphis, New York, Birmingham, San Antonio, Los Angeles and a special "Rest of the Best" show.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



Judges of the show (L-R): Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell

Upcoming Bollywood treats for 2007



Aishwarya Rai in Guru

There's Bollywood films galore for cine buffs in the new year. For starters there is Mani Ratnam's *Guru*, the first major release of the year. Loosely based on the late Indian corporate giant Dhirubhai Ambani, amidst the hype on Aishwarya-Abhishhek on and off screen, the media has failed to highlight that this is a first in the sense that the director has dared to profile a businessman.

Next in the running is Vidhu Vinod Chopra's return to direction

after *Mission Kashmir*. Now he comes up with *Eklavya*, a film about a royal guard played by Amitabh Bachchan. The film, to be released in February, stars the duo Sanjay Dutt and Vidya Balan along with mother and son Sharmila Tagore and Saif Ali Khan. The other attraction is the locale of Rajasthan where the film is shot.

Later in the year Ashutosh Gowariker will give a historical perspective with his film *Jodha Akbar*. Starring Aishwarya and

Hiritik, the period saga is a love story between the Moghul emperor and his Rajput wife.

As for Ram Gopal Verma, the viewer will discover whether Amitabh Bachchan is a convincing Gabbar Singh in the remake of *Sholay*. With six films between them, the Bachchans are like to be in the spotlight in 2007.

Arthouse filmmakers Gautam Ghosh, Mira Nair and Rituparno Ghosh will attempt to give the box office a try with *Yaatra*, *Namesake*

and *Sunglasses* respectively. Also in line are Madhur Bhandarkar's (of *Chandni Bar*, *Page 3* and *Corporate* fame) *Traffic Signal*, Anurag Basu's *Metro*, Farhan Akhtar's *Honeymoon Travels Pvt Ltd* and Jagmohan Mundra's *Provoked*, starring Aishwarya Rai. Other attractions of this year include Bollywood diva Madhuri Dixit's return with Anil Mehta's yet to be named film.

Source:Internet



Vidya Balan (L) and Raima Sen in Eklavya

Buzz UK, India drawn into TV Racism row

The uproar over the serial mocking of Indian film star Shilpa Shetty in the British reality TV show *Celebrity Big Brother* threatened to become an international incident last Wednesday as officials of both nations expressed concern over allegations of racism.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's likely successor, Treasury chief Gordon

Brown, condemned the conduct of some of the show's contestants. "I understand that in the UK there have already been 10,000 complaints from viewers about these remarks, which people see, rightly, as offensive," Brown told reporters Wednesday as he began a tour of India. "I want Britain to be seen as a country of fairness and tolerance."

Anything detracting from this I condemn."

In New Delhi, Anand Sharma, India's junior minister for external affairs, said the government is preparing a report on the show. "The government will take appropriate measures once it gets to know the full details," Sharma told journalists. "Racism has no place in civilised society."

Indian television news repeatedly showed clips from the show of the weeping actress. People marched down a street in the city of Patna in eastern India on Wednesday chanting, "Down with *Big Brother*."

As the controversy grew, so did the show's ratings. It pulled 4.5 million viewers last Tuesday, up from 3.5 million on Monday.

The newspapers in UK have been filled with images of the distressed Shetty aghast at the attacks against her and then sobbing the words: "Why does everyone hate me?"

The headline-grabbing clash has been between Shetty and three British women: Jade Goody, a former runner-up in an earlier *Big Brother*; Danielle Lloyd, a former beauty-pageant contestant; and Jo

O'Meara, a former girl-band singer. The frequency of the word "former" offers a clue to the motives of some of the contestants.

Of course, there is a commercial undertone to all this. "Until this week the show was dying on its backside but now, thanks to a bit of Asian-baiting, it is back in the news," the columnist Carol Midgley wrote in *The Times of London*.

But beyond that is an issue of class. "One of nature's aristocrats, she has poise, intelligence, a moral code and occasionally diva-like ways," wrote a columnist for *The Daily Mail*. "That can make her deeply irritating to a group of brainless girls who think that class is drinking champagne from a glass instead of a bottle."

The Times labelled the show "pit bull versus pedigree" and referred to the Goody family as "real, live Untermensch." That remark in itself revealed the unspoken sense of hierarchy that permeates society from the articulate and chattering classes to those of less social and educational polish: for Untermensch, read: trailer trash.

Source: Internet



Angry protesters in Patna