

CULTURAL FEAST

Photography Exhibition on Shamsur Rahman



**Title:** Buk Taar Bangladesh-er Hridoy

**Venue:** Bengal Shilpalaya, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi

**Date:** January 16-22

Film Screening

**Organiser:** Indian Cultural Centre

**Venue:** House# 25, Road# 96, Gulshan 2

**Date:** January 27

**Title:** Bialish-42 (Bangla)

**Date:** January 28

**Title:** Legend of Bhagat Singh

**Date:** January 29

**Title:** Fanaa

# In conversation with Fazlur Rahman Babu

## A powerful character artiste

ERSHAD KAMOL

Fazlur Rahman Babu has achieved a unique position in the hearts of small screen viewers by enacting credible performances in versatile characters. The seasoned artiste has been consistent in his decades-long career in theatre and TV.

Babu started his career in Faridpur in late 1970s. In those days, he was involved with Boishakhi Theatre and later with Faridpur Town Theatre. "Taleb Masterer Halkhata, a Faridpur Town Theatre production, was the first play in which I performed in 1979", says Babu.

In 1983 he joined Aranyak Natya Dal. For the first time he performed at Mahila Samity Stage, as a substitute in a minor character in Abdullah Hel Mahmud's play *Shat Purusher Hrin*, an Aranyak Natya Dal production. Subsequently he has acted in about 30 stage plays as well as street plays produced by Aranyak Natya Dal and in three productions of Bangla Theatre. He had been regularly on stage since 2000. To quote him, "I always enjoy performing in challenging characters. Of these characters, I enjoyed playing characters such as Amulya in *Mayur Shinghashan*, Nabodwip Das in *Joyjayanti*, Garibullah in *Iblish* and others."

Currently because of his busy schedule in TV plays Babu has not been able to concentrate in theatre since 2000. The actor says, "I still perform in the old productions of my troupe Aranyak, however, I'm not involve in new productions as one needs to be regular in rehearsals for new productions."

A busy actor of small screen, Babu had to struggle at the initial



stage. He says, "As a BTV artiste I was enlisted in 1990. And my first TV play was Kazi Nazrul Islam's *Mityu Khudha* (1991), produced by Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui. It was a small role. Later I performed in

Mamunur Rashid's single episode TV play *Aadim*. I got recognition for my performance in the 13-episode play *Itikotha* by Mamunur Rashid. In those days most of the TV plays revolved around two or three major

characters. Actors in supporting roles had very little scope to prove their potential. And the BTV producers used to give priority to 'good appearance' when casting in the major roles. As a result many quality actors who were doing well in theatre, had to struggle in midst of good-looking actors. The inception of private TV channel Ekushey Television opened a new door for me and other experienced theatre actors. In fact, the channel totally changed the structure of TV plays.

"The package drama industry has suddenly become a big market, but the number of potential artistes is not enough. Quality actors can't give proper schedules for shooting as they are overbooked."

Isn't that harmful for the career? Babu's response: "Definitely. But, we are social beings after all and often you cannot refuse your friends and colleagues. There is a shortfall of quality actors. Moreover artistes' remunerations are not sufficient."

What about the standard of these TV plays? Babu says, "Some of the plays are really good, even better than those made during the golden era of BTV in the '80s. Because of so many local and international channels, the viewers' expectation is high these days. As a result, direction, scriptwriting and acting as careers have become more competitive. One needs to offer something outstanding to be recognised. At the same time I admit that many substandard plays are also on air."

Fazlur Raman Babu has also acted in four films – *Bihanga*, *Shankhonaad*, *Mad\_e in Bangladesh* and *Aha*, which have been appreciated by the audience. Babu wants to continue his career as an actor on stage, in TV plays and films.

# Best foot forward

## Tete a tete with promising dancer Munni

KAVITA CHARANJI

Salma Begum Munni's forte is Bharatnatyam. In her words, "I really enjoy the facial expressions of this genre. Moreover, it incorporates the nine *rasa*, *Sringar* (soft smile), *Rudra* (anger), *Hashsho* (laughter), *Karuna* (sadness), *Adbhut* (surprise), *Shanti* (peacefulness), *Bibhotsho* (disgust), *Bir* (courage) and *Bhayankar* (fright)."

Trained at Jago Art Centre in folk, Kathak, Manipuri and Bharatnatyam, Munni completed a five-year course under Ustad Belayet Hossain Khan. She is a regular dancer of BTV since 1994. She has participated in a cultural function with the Dibhya cultural group in Shantiniketan. Another feather in her cap is her role in a Bharatnatyam training programme for two years with Professor CV Chandrashekhara, under the aegis of the Indian High Commission. Now she is an instructor at the Jago Art Centre, Dynamic School and Niranjok Academy.



Munni's sources of inspiration are the above two gurus as well as Kanta Jamil (advisor of Jago Art Centre), Zeenat Barkatullah (director of the production department of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy), Minu Haque (Odissi dancer who is conve-nor of Nrityadhara, choreographer and teacher of Pallavi Indian Classical Dance School) and Shamim Ara Nipa (founder of Nrityanchal dance school).

She has also received whole-hearted appreciation and encouragement from her mother Monoara Alam. Embarking on her voyage to the cultural world of Bangladesh as a Class VII student of Kamrunessa government school, she received instruction in tabla, dance and singing at an early age.

Munni is now abuzz with plans for the future. As she asserts, she plans to choreograph a semi-classical dance piece as a dance drama. "My wish is to dedicate myself wholly to dance," says the committed Munni.

# TV Watch

## 'Amar Ami': Lively talk show on Banglavisision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Talk show *Amar Ami* will be aired tonight at 9:20 on Banglavisision.

Produced by Shamim Shahed and hosted by popular TV actress Aupee Karim, the show gives fans an opportunity to

better understand their favourite artists. Each episode features a (often more) celebrity, usually from the cultural arena. The show highlights achievements of the guest and gives an insight to his/her off screen life as well. Noted singer Subir Nandi is the guest of tonight's episode.

Subir Nandi is known for his versatility among the Bangladeshi singers. Besides being one of the leading *adhunika* singers, he has also rendered several popular film songs. Among Subir's well-known songs are *Prithibitey prem bole* *kichhu nai*, *Ami brishitir kachh theke*, *Ekta chhilo shonar konya* and more.

Several noted personalities such as Humayun Faridee, Aly Zaker, Subarna Mustafa, Bari Siddiqui, Momotaj, Ferdous, Poppy, Shafin Ahmed, Hamin Ahmed, Kumar Bishwajit, Mehrin and *Closeup* '05 finalists Beauty, Razib and Sonia have already appeared in the show.

# 79th Academy Awards

## Nine foreign-language films short-listed



A scene from Deepa Mehta's *Water*

As the Oscar nominations creep ever closer, the Academy has for the first time revealed a shortlist of contenders for the best foreign-language film award. The list includes big hitters like *Pan's Labyrinth*, representing Mexico, *Volter* for Spain and Paul Verhoeven's acclaimed new Dutch film *Black Book*. All are fairly safe bets to make it to the final nominations. Other nominees are *Days of*

*Glory* (Algeria), *Water* (Canada), *After The Wedding* (Denmark), *Avenue Montaigne* (France), *The Lives of Others* (Germany) and *Vitus* (Switzerland).

Over 60 films were narrowed down to potential nominations, but only 14 will make the ultimate cut. The remaining five will be announced during Oscar nominations, set to take place on January 23.

Source: Internet

The Sundance Film Festival opened last Thursday with an innovative movie harkening back to Vietnam anti-war protests and a call by actor/activist Robert Redford for an apology by US leaders.

Redford, whose Sundance Institute for independent film backs the annual festival, said in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks he, like many others, showed a "spirit of unity" with President George W Bush and others who backed the war on terrorism and led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

"We put all our concerns on hold to let the leaders lead," Redford told a packed audience for the opening night documentary film, *Chicago 10*. "I think we're owed a big, massive apology," he added. Premiering at the 11-day festival in the ski resort town of Park City, Utah, *Chicago 10* is director Brett Morgen's stylistic retrospective of the turbulent 1968 Democratic National Convention and the trial of anti-war protesters that followed.

Instead of a dusty lesson that might be ancient history to young-ish Sundance crowds, Morgen weaves archival footage with original animation and a voice cast that includes Nick Nolte, Jeffrey Wright, Mark Ruffalo and Roy Scheider to put the courtroom

drama and its flamboyant players into perspective.

The festival's closing film is *Life Support*, starring Queen Latifah as a former drug addict who becomes an AIDS activist, a drama that director Nelson George based on his sister's life.

In between, Sundance will screen about 120 feature-length movies and dozens of short films from around the world to audiences of fellow and future filmmakers,

industry executives and general lovers of independent cinema.

Film distributors will scour the line-up for the next big independent hit such as last year's *Little Miss Sunshine*, which Fox Searchlight scooped up at Sundance and turned into a US \$60 million success, one of the top-grossing movies ever to come out of the festival.

Source: Internet



Sundance Institute founder Robert Redford (L) and *Chicago 10* director Brett Morgan at the festival

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

**BANGLAVISION**

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

**BTV**

08:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi Shomapti

09:05 Shei Shur Shei Gaan

11:15 Shukhi Poribar

11:40 Drama Serial: Shubamolota

12:05 Ma O Shishur Kotha

01:30 Mati O Manush

02:15 Sisimpur

02:40 Bangla Feature Film

05:05 Nobo Anondoy Jago

06:10 Ocean Girl

07:00 Laukik Bangla

09:00 Drama

10:20 Tekhnaf Theke Tetulia

**ATN BANGLA**

10:30 Talk Show: Annyodrishti

11:05 Drama: Shokal Shondha

12:15 Shurer Madhuri

12:45 Shathdin

01:30 Nari

02:30 Islamic Programme

03:45 Job Vacancy

04:20 Shesh Okhor

05:30 Grameenphone Nari O Rajniti

06:20 Gondhoraj

08:00 Samsung Cine A Ha

08:40 Mega Serial: The New Sabuj Opera

09:20 Drama Serial: Laal

09:35 Neel Beguni

09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey

**Channel i**

08:30 Shokaler Gaan

09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritiomatra

12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Magazine

Programme: Shath Rang

03:30 Banglalink Money Talk

04:05 F M Method

04:25 Nirbachoni Olympiad

04:30 Sholyer Shondhaney

05:30 Dumitir Birudhey Bangladesh

06:20 Drama Serial: Shath Goenda

07:50 Drama Serial: Bhober Haat

09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush

10:00 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi

12:00 GrameenPhone

Ajker Shanbad Potro

**CHANNEL 1**

08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh

09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi

10:00 Cartoon

10:30 Olpo Sholpo Golpo

11:00 Drama: Meyeti

12:05 Telefilm: Ochena Akash

02:00 Baganbilash

03:30 Drama: Two in One

04:30 Drama Serial: Godhuli Belay

05:15 Fusion for Baul

**Rtv**

09:05 Aj Potrikai

09:10 Children's Programme

09:35 Ami, Tumi, Ar.....

10:00 Aakash Ki Chhoya Jay

06:00 Saaj Bela

06:30 Top News

06:45 Itihasher Path

07:00 Dhorey

07:00 Bishwa Jurey Shath Din

08:15 Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash

09:00 Shondhi Khoney

09:30 Drama Serial: Godhuli Belay

**BANGLAVISIO N**

10:10 Talkshow: Apnar Kichhu Bolar Achhey

11:10 Drama Serial: Dokhinayon

12:10 Drama Serial: Kachhey Durey

02:30 Drama

03:45 Desher Pathay

04:20 Shomoy Ashomoy

05:00 Ebong Classer Bairey

05:30 Diner Sheshey

06:30 Khola Money

08:10 Drama Serial: Krishno Pokho

09:15 Amar Ami

09:50 Drama Serial: Shukher Kanta

**HBO**

08:45 When Angels Come to Town

10:30 Against the Ropes

12:45 Body Snatchers

02:30 Lethal Weapon 4

05:00 The Corruptor

07:15 Sky Captain and the

09:30 World of Tomorrow

12:00 Constantine

**STAR MOVIES**

11:00 Gladiator

01:35 Hostage

03:30 Spymate

04:55 Star Wars: Ep. IV - A New Hope

07:00 Cinderella Man

09:30 Hide And Seek

11:15 Bloodsuckers

**STAR PLUS**

10:30 Shararat

11:00 Akkad Bakkad

Bambey Bo

11:30 Sonpari

12:00 Golu Ke Goggles

01:00 Musafir Hoon Yaaron

01:30 Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Dhoom

02:30 Kalash

03:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen

06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends

07:00 The Legend Of Trazan

07:30 Golu Ke Goggles

08:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan

08:30 Lucky

09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan

10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby

10:30 Aek Chabhi Hai Padoss Mein

**STAR WORD**

10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

12:30 The Kumars At No. 42

01:00 Travel Asia

01:30 My Wife And Kids

02:00 The King Of Queen

02:30 The Office

03:00 Two And A Half Men

03:30 Malcolm In The Middle

04:00 Hope & Faith

04:30 Criminal Minds

05:30 Desire: Table For Three

06:30 Ghost Whisperer

07:30 The Simple Life

08:00 The Simple Life

08:30 Tna Xplosion

09:30 World's Most Amazing Videos

10:30 Enterprise

11:30 Desire: Table For Three

**DISCOVERY**

**CHANNEL**

11:30 Animal Camera

12:00 Amazing Baby Videos

12:30 African Adventures

01:00 Meerkat Manor

01:30 Nigel Specials

02:30 Massive Engines With Chris Barrie

03:00 Mean Machines

03:30 How do they do it?

04:30 Wildest Week

05:30 Beyond Tomorrow

06:30 Serengeti is Alive

07:30 Wild Discovery

08:30 Discover India

09:30 Sacred India

10:30 How do they do it?

11:30 Serengeti is Alive

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

10:30 Space Launch

11:30 Hong Kong's Big Bang

12:30 North India

01:00 Games People Play

01:30 Pakistan

02:00 Iran

02:30 Monkey Business

03:00 Grey Whales

03:30 Birth Of The Universe

04:30 Going To School In India

05:30 Ana, Bill, Banjo

05:30 Big Bang

06:30 Sable Island

06:30 Pentagon 9-11

07:30 Hunting for Ngotto

08:30 When Nature Strike Back

09:30 Show/Real Asia S3

10:30 Hollywood Science

11:30 Zero Hour

**STAR SPORTS**

12:30 Australian Open 2007

Presented B

03:30 Asian Tour Weekly

2007 (Golf)

04:00 2007 Euromilhoes

Dakar

04:30 Nike Football Locker Room

05:00 Australian Open 2007

06:00 For Men Only

07:00 Football Asia

07:30 Australian Open 2007

08:30 Club Epl

08:55 English Premier

Football League

11:00 Club Epl

11:10 English Premier

Football League

**ESPN**

01:00 Here We Go

02:00 English Premier

League Preview

02:30 Sportscenter India

03:00 First Edition

03:30 English Premier

League Preview

04:00 Sportscenter Asia

04:30 Master Stroke - Vvs Laxman

05:00 Here We Go

06:00 First Edition

06:30 Sportscenter India

07:00 A1 Grand Prix

Qualifying

09:00 Nba Action

09:30 Nba Basketball

12:00 Hitz

12:30 Sportscenter Week In Review

01:00 Castle Test Series

04:30 Great Finishes

05:00 Castle Test Series

09:30 English Premier