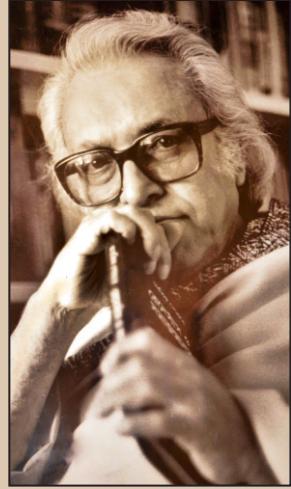


CULTURAL FEAST

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*, Nabodip 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 involved 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 *Mriti 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 on air."

Fazlur Raman Babu has also acted in four films — *Bihanga*, *Shankhonaad*, *Mad-ein 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), *Hashho* (laughter), *Karuna* (sadness), *Adbhut* (surprise), *Shanti* (peacefulness), *Bibhottsho* (disgust), *Bir* (courage) and *Bayankar* (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 Dibbya cultural group in Shantiniketan. Another feather in her cap is her role in a Bharatnatyam training programme for two years with Professor CV Chandrashekhar, under the aegis of the Indian High Commission. Now she is an instructor at the Jago Art Centre, Dynamic School and Niranjan 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 (Odiissi dancer who is conveor of Nritiyadhara, choreographer and teacher of Pallavi Indian Classical Dance School) and Shamim Ara Nipa (founder of Nritiyanchal 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 drama. "My wish is to dedicate myself wholly to dance," says the committed Munni.

Sundance opens with call to speak out against war

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 youngish 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 Morgen at the festival

TV Watch

'Amar Ami': Lively talk show on Banglavision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

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

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



Aupee Karim with Subir Nandi in the show

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 *adhnik* singers, he has also rendered several popular film songs. Among Subir's well-known songs are *Prithibitey prem boley kichhu nai*, *Ami brishtrir kachhi theke*, *Ekta chhilo shonar konya* and more.

Several noted personalities such as Humayun Faridee, Aly Zaker, Subarna Mustafa, Bari Siddiqui, Momotaj, Ferdaus, Poppy, Shafin Ahmed, Hamin Ahmed, Kumar Bishwajit, Mehrin and *Closeup 1'05* 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, *Volver* 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

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Hridoye Mati O Manush
On Channel i at 9:35pm
Agricultural Programme
Host: Shykh Seraj



Cinderella Man
On Star Movies at 7:00pm
Genre: Drama
Cast: Russell Crowe, Renée Zellweger, Paul Giamatti

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; 9:00 am, 2:00pm; 7:00pm; 9:00pm, 10:30pm; 12:15am.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am; 10:00am. 2:00pm; 7:00 pm; 10:00 pm; 11pm.

News (English) 8:00am, 7:00pm.

Late News (Bangla) at 9:00am; 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. 12:00pm; 2:30pm; 6:30pm.

News (Bangla) 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; 7:00pm; 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.

ATN BANGLA

10:30: Talk Show: *Annyodishiti*

11:05: Drama: *Shokal*

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*

06:20: *Gondhoraj*

07:00: *Samsung Cine A Ha*

08:00: *Mega Serial: The New Sabub Opera*

08:40: Drama Serial: *Laal*

09:20: *Neel Beguni*

09:20: *Serial: Ek Jonomey*

02:00: *Baganbilash*

03:30: Drama: *Two in One*

04:30: Drama Serial: *Godhuli Belay*

05:15: *Fusion for Baul*

09:30: *Shangbadpote Bangladesh*