

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:** Biallish-42 (Bangla)

**Date:** January 28

**Title:** Legend of Bhagat Singh

**Date:** January 29

**Title:** Fanaa

# Homeward bound

Tête-à-tête with Mita Chowdhury

KAVITA CHARANJI

TV and stage actress Mita Chowdhury is back once more in Dhaka from her home in the Channel Islands of Guernsey in Western Europe. This time she is here for a one-year sojourn.

And she has her hands full with a number of projects. For one there is the upcoming mega serial *Shanto Kutir* for ntv. In this story of a household and idiosyncrasies of family members, she plays a supporting role. “*Shanto Kutir* is a light hearted drama and should be fun,” maintains Mita. The serial is directed by Gholam Sarwar Dodul and written by Manik Manobik. This work has a stellar cast: Wahida Mallick Jolly, Chitralekha Guha and other established actors.

Mita has also acted in the drama *Eider Shari* on BTV. This is written and directed by Al Mansur. As she points out, she used to act with him in plays such as *Oyonanta* and *Nondito Noroke*.

Mita wants to carry on acting on stage and television. While she is a firm believer in the challenges of stage acting, she is struck by changes in acting on TV. As she says, “What impresses me most is that the presentation has changed considerably today the emphasis is on a natural style.” Adds Mita, “Mega serials need a good



storyline, strong plot and developed characterisation.” She admires a TV serial based on story *Kacher Manush* as well as *Labanya Prabha*. The latter focuses on a group of women in a girl’s hostel.

Among the stage plays which have caught her attention are Dhaka Theatre’s production of *Binodini*. “This play featured Shimul Yousuff as Binodini in a solo performance. She was amazing and I envied her versatility and fleshed out character,” asserts Mita.

Likewise she is a fan of Tareque and Catherine’s feature film *Ontorjatra*.

Mita has also been busy on another front: extending counseling on behalf of a breast cancer support group, including patients and survivors, run by breast cancer surgeon Dr Hasina Azam. “Many frightened and apprehensive patients don’t have anyone to talk to. They also fail to realise that breast cancer can be cured. On the whole, society is not receptive to the concerns of this group. I am a good listener and we meet, chat and have fun, while providing support to each other,” she says. There are two other counselors who also pitch in to support the group.

Clearly Mita has her hands full in Dhaka. In her year long sabatical one is sure to see more of the talented actress.

## Theatre

# 'Bibhajon': Significance of humanism in society

ERSHAD KAMOL

What is more important to individuals -- religion or humanism? Should relationships between human beings be divided by the doctrines of religions? These eternal questions have been raised repeatedly in stories, plays, verses and songs. Ruma Modak’s drama *Bibhajon* also centres on these questions.

Set against the backdrop of a village between 1947-71, *Bibhajon* features how bonds between individuals, who have been living together in the region for hundreds of years, are torn because of communal conflicts between Hindus and Muslims.

Ruma Modak’s narratives deserve plaudits. Through quality craftsmanship, she has depicted

the unfortunate history of Bangladesh, which compelled many among the minority groups to migrate.

The presentation of the narrative is typical. Director Sudip Chakraborti has unfolded the communal conflict through a narrator. A few of the ‘scene makings’ such as the *Chaitra Sankranti* festival part are colourful and consistent, which demonstrate his hard labour. However, he needs to be more attentive to make the scene transformations smoother.

Usually the directors presenting a myth burn *dhp* in the opening scene to give a ‘ritual’ feel. However, justification of doing that in the play is not quite clear. Frequent use of the stools during narration interrupts the smoothness of the play,

breaking the attention span. And the repeated circular movements of the artistes holding a curtain are equally ineffective.

The teamwork of the young and energetic artistes deserve plaudits. However, the audience expected more from Mir Abdul Bareq as Maniruzzaman, during the character’s ‘self realisation’ scene, which also reveals the theme of the play: significance of humanism in a homogenous society.

Moulvibazar district based theatre troupe Jibon Sanket staged *Bibhajon* at the Experimental Theatre Stage on January 19. Such productions by a district level troupe give new hopes at a time when theatre activities outside Dhaka have been inadequate.



Artistes of Jibon Sanket stage *Bibhajon*

## Exhibition

# Tajul Islam's latest feat



A jute tapestry by Tajul Islam

FAYZA HAQ

Tajul Islam, the well-known tapestry artist, recently held a successful exhibition of 18 entries at the JDPC pavilion in the city. Many a viewer is fascinated by the flowers, leaves, trees, animals and landscapes that he has brought into his semi-abstract work. The recurrent themes are the magnificent trees, garlanded with foliage. The earthy colours of the trees are combined with more subdued tints of the sky beyond, and the earth in the foreground. Shades of blue and vermillion, along with jade hues, provide the contrast. Often the single, lonesome guitar is to be spotted too. Portraits of human faces and figures can also be detected in the compositions. Pure white and dramatic black make the stunning creations stand out.

Talking about his patrons, the jovial Tajul says, “After more than three decades, after the Liberation War, the viewers are attuned to semi-abstract work.” He is inspired by the Bangladeshi landscape and Bangladeshi folk art. Another source of inspiration is Rashid Chowdhury, his immediate teacher. Thus his lines and colours bear the influence of his guru. Although faced with many disappointments and tribulations in his personal life, Tajul is undeterred and ceaselessly carries on with his tapestry. Cubists like Picasso and Braque also mould his choice of style and hues. Having retired from an office routine, he devotes himself entirely to his designing for weaving. Experts in weaving of tapestry, whom he has trained himself, take his set patterns and wool. Thus, from their village homes, Mohammad Yasin and Syed Ahmed Yasin carry out his instructions.

Tajul has exhibited in UK at Leeds and Harrogate, in 1979. He has exhibited in Atlanta in 1987. His feat in the recent past was a solo display at Shilpangan in 2005. He has won two awards from the Bata Shoe Company and the Baghdad-Dhaka Carpet Factory.

## Telefilm 'Bonus' on ATN Bangla

Telefilm *Bonus*, a satire written by Brindaban Das and directed by Saidul Anam Tutul, will be aired on ATN Bangla today at 2:30pm.

Taro, an experienced and skilled thief of Barabila village, along with some friends, is brought to Dhaka to join a firm involved in organised crime. The organisation, run by highly skilled professionals, systematically carries out nefarious activities such as hijacking and theft. Taro is interviewed by Mohor Chowdhury, the owner of the organisation.

Taro is questioned about his experiences such as getting caught, experience of jail, mob beating and other common issues. After the interview he is asked to attend a basic training course for skill development. It is unflattering

for a thief of his calibre to attend the course. However, he has no other alternative as Dhaka has a different work environment from the village. Not only that he has to change his attire to fit in with the city dwellers. A special wing of the organisation, consisting of domestic helps, provides necessary information for smooth operations. However, Taro becomes obsessed with the city girls and dreams of marrying a beautiful girl. Mohor Chowdhury seeks to boost the organisation’s income so that he can give a handsome bonus to his employees. The telefilm grips the viewer’s attention as the plot unravels.

Humayun Faridee, Jenny, Chanchal Chowdhury, Shaju Khadem, Parvin Sultana and Kumkum star in the telefilm.



Humayun Faridee (R) and co-artistes in the play

## Movie Watch

# 'Venus': Peter O'Toole shines again

Seven-time Academy Award nominee Peter O’Toole proves genius is, if not eternal, lifelong. At 74, he’s being touted as a Best Actor Academy Award nominee again, for his performance in *Venus*.

O’Toole is Maurice, an aged, once-“beautiful” British leading man of stage and screen. A cancer survivor, Maurice is at the stage in life when various ailments are vying to kill him. His marriage fell apart ages ago, and he and his ex-wife (Vanessa Redgrave) behave more like siblings. His children are grown and gone. His life is a flat, dull routine between prostate exams. But he still has a keen eye for the ladies.

Maurice helps care for his old friend and colleague Ian (veteran actor Leslie Phillips), a fellow actor terrorised by a vulgar, voracious grandniece named Jessie (newcomer Jodie Whittaker), who has moved in with him.

Jessie is a cockney Lolita in pink sweat pants, and Maurice takes an interest in her, in large part because he is still attracted to those two absolutes of human existence: youth and beauty.

Maurice takes Jessie, whom he nicknames Venus in reference to the



Peter O’Toole (R) and Jodie Whittaker in *Venus*

goddess of love, out for drinks. Maurice’s medication may have made him impotent, but he’s game. He falls in love with her in spite of the gaping difference in their ages. “Love leads to foolishness and despair,” he observes. But it’s glorious, still.

Written by Hanif Kureishi and directed by Roger Michell (*The Mother*), *Venus* is a marvellous

showcase for O’Toole. Movie buffs who enjoy films in which great actors play actors -- like Laurence Olivier in *The Entertainer*, Ronald Colman in *A Double Life* or Albert Finney in *The Dresser* -- cannot resist *Venus* or O’Toole. He is glorious, still.

Source: Internet

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 Bishwa Protidin

09:05 Shomapti

11:15 Drama: Vikhu Pagla

12:30 Swapno Shonar Gaon

01:00 Maa O Shishur Kotha

01:30 Mati O Manush

02:15 Nokhotrer Alo

02:40 Cartoon

03:30 Children's Drama

04:00 Protidin Computer

04:30 Khela Dhula

05:05 Debate

06:10 Prescription

06:40 Gitanjali

07:30 Nritter Taley

08:30 Protidin Bangladesh

08:35 Drama Serial

09:00 Alo Chhaya

09:30 Shubarno Otit

10:30 Protithom

10:30 Ontora

**ATN BANGLA**

10:30 Talk Show: Anyodrishti

11:15 Drama: Nalbaji

12:15 Smritir Monikothay

01:30 Shornali Shadakalo

02:30 Telefilm: Bonus

05:10 Documentary

05:45 Programme: Prapok

06:25 Three Stooges

06:25 Talkshow: Aktel Protidin

08:40 Drama Serial: Nirey Tar Neel Dheu

09:20 Drama Serial: Pichhutan

**CHANNEL-i**

09:30 Shanbad Potrey

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritiomatra

11:05 Apolo Tele Prescrip-

tion

Hridoye Mati O Manush

12:30 Citycell Taroka Kothon

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Shanbad Potrey Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Selected Drama of Humayun Ahmed

03:05 Amar Health

03:30 BBC Bangladesh

Shanglap

04:05 Amader Gaan

04:25 Niorbachoni Olympiad

05:30 FCT Business Talk

06:00 Anondodhara Chaer

Ashor

06:20 Mirror

07:50 Drama Serial: Bhober Haat

09:35 Special Programme

10:00 Mega Serial: Jog Beyog

12:00 Grameenphone Aikjer Shanbadpotro

**ntv**

08:35 Aikjer Shokal

09:30 Shomoshomoy

09:30 Ramizer Aaina

10:05 Animal Kingdom

10:30 Natoker Gaan

11:00 Mon Amar Shondhan Kori

11:30 Ki Kotha Tahar Shatey

01:05 Muktdangan

02:30 Drama Serial: Megh Bolechhey Jabo Jabo

03:15 Drama: Onno Jibon

04:25 Apon Aloy

05:10 Din Dorpon/ Itihasher Ei Diney

05:20 Apnar Jigyasha

06:50 Probashhey Bangla-desh

08:15 Shada Moner Manush

08:20 Drama Serial:

09:00 Ramizer Aaina

09:45 Shomoshomoy

09:45 Drama Serial: Bhalo Basha Mondo Basha

Din Darpan

11:25

**Rtv**

08:00 Ei Shokal

09:05 Aj Potrikay

09:10 Citycell R Music

10:00 Prithibir Pathhey

10:30 English Debate

12:00 Talkshow: Prashongik

01:35 Islamic Programme

03:45 Drama Serial: Modhyoborti

04:20 Aktel Gopshod

05:10 Bishwa Jurey

05:30 Gaan Ar Gaan

06:00 Aikjer Bangladesh

06:35 Antorango Alap

08:00 Drama Serial: Black and White

10:45 Rtv Ekslusive

**CHANNEL 1**

08:35 Shubho Shokal

09:05 Dasher Pathhey

09:30 Bangla Feature Film

10:00 Bishwa Jurey

02:00 Shathdin

03:30 Drama Serial: Shuney Boshobash

04:00 Shodhikhoney

04:30 Drama Serial: Godhuli Belay

05:15 Concert

06:10 Saaj Bela

06:45 Itihasher Path Dhoey

07:00 Padmo Raag

08:15 Drama Serial: Shunney Boshobash

09:00 Shomoyor Swad

11:00 Golden Moments

**BANGLAVISION**

08:35 Shubho Shokal

09:05 Dasher Pathhey

09:30 Bangla Feature Film

10:00 Bishwa Jurey

02:30 Shathdin

03:05 Amar Ami

03:45 Drama Serial: Shukher Kanta

04:20 Shamol Bangla

05:00 Cartoon

05:30 Din Er Sheshey

06:30 Cinebit

08:10 Apnar Agami

09:15 Kholo Money

**HBO**

09:45 Little Shop of Horrors

11:45 Lethal Weapon 2

12:00 New On the Big Screen in January

02:30 Batman

05:00 Beethoven's 2nd

06:45 Distrubing Behavior

08:30 Exorcist II The Heretic

10:45 Coach Carter

01:30 Tales From the Crypt

24: As Ye Sow


**STAR MOVIES**

08:45 Cinderella Man

11:15 Star Wars: Ep. Iv - A New Hope

01:30 The Devil's Own

**PICK OF THE DAY**




**Apnar Agami**

On Banglavisian at 8:10pm

Talk Show

Cast: Sharmin Lucky



**Star Wars: Episode VI-Return of the Jedi**

On Star Movies at 7:00pm

Genre: Action / Sci-Fi

Cast: Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher

03:30 Happy Gilmore

05:00 Be Cool

07:00 Star Wars: Ep. Vi - Return Of The Jedi

09:15 Dungeons & Dragons: Wrath Of The Firebreathin

11:00 Sweetest Thing, The

**STAR PLUS**

08:00 Saans

08:30 Yatra

09:00 Krishna Kathaiyen

10:00 Inner World Of Shah Rukh Khan

11:00 Outer World Of Shah Rukh Khan

12:30 Main Hoon Na

16:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

16:30 V Trailers - Star Plus

16:55 Bolly V - Star Plus

17:00 Mickey Mouse And Friends

17:30 The Legend Of Trazan

17:55 Bolly V - Star Plus

18:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

18:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

18:30 Shararat

19:00 Ek Se Badkhar Ek Saibaba

21:00 Prithviraj Chauhan

21:30 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby

22:00 Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Sa Aasma

23:00 Kaboom

17:30 The Legend Of Trazan

17:55 Bolly V - Star Plus

18:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

18:25 Bolly V - Star Plus

18:30 Shararat

19:00 Ek Se Badkhar Ek Saibaba

21:00 Prithviraj Chauhan

21:30 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby

22:00 Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Sa Aasma

23:00 Kaboom

06:30 Commander In Chief

07:30 Malcolm In The Middle

08:00 The Kumars At No. 42

08:30 Desire: Table For Three

09:30 Oprah Winfrey Show

10:30 Criminal Minds

11:30 Law & Order: S.V.U.

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**

08:30 Wildest Week

09:30 Discover India

10:30 Sacred India

11:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids

12:30 Man Made Marvels Asia

01:30 Wild Discovery

02:30 Serengeti Is Alive

03:30 Extreme Engineering

04:30 Wildest Week

05:30 Mean Machines

06:00 Building The Ultimate

06:30 Meerkat Manor

07:00 Animal Camera

07:30 Wild Discovery

08:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows

10:30 Night Safari

11:30 Seven Wonders Of The Industrial World

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

08:30 The Living Edens

09:30 Battle Of Arctic Giants

10:30 When Nature Strike Back

11:30 ShowReal Asia S3

12:30 Ball Of Life

01:00 Blood Festival

01:30 Turkey: Young Turks

02:00 Smoking Saddle

02:30 Namib

03:30 Wounded Bird

04:30 Nat Geo Junior Hunt 2006

05:00 Pay, Fergus, Blossom

05:30 Big Bang

06:00 Leopard Seals

06:30 Ultimate Vegas Casino

07:30 Wild

08:30 Eye Of The Leopard

10:30 Rolling Stones In Rio

11:30 Interpol Investigates

**ESPN**

01:30 Hitz (Cricket)

01:55 Spanish Football

06:30 League (Soccer/ Football)

04:00 Castle Test Series (Cricket)

05:30 Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07

06:30 Final Score (Soccer/Futbol)

07:00 A1 Grand Prix (Auto Racing)

09:23 Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07

01:00 Great Finishes (Cricket)

01:30 Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07

05:00 Castle Test Series (Cricket)

09:30 Super Sunday (Soccer/Futbol)

09:55 English Premier Football League

12:00 Final Score (Soccer/Futbol)

**STAR SPORTS**

01:30 Australian Open 2007 Presented B

04:30 The Ubs Golf Club (Golf)

05:00 Australian Open 2007 Presented B

06:00 Malaysia Airlines

07:00 Hitz (Cricket)

07:30 Australian Open 2007 Presented B

11:30 Gillette World Sport 2006 (Inter)