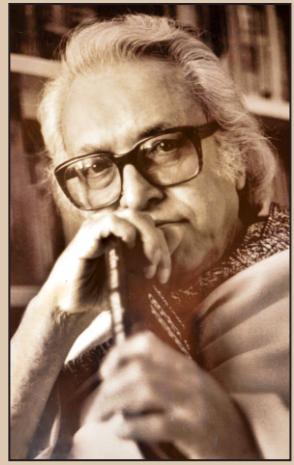


CULTURAL FEAST

Photography
Exhibition on
Shamsur Rahman



Title: Bok 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: Bishalish-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 Sharir* 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 Noreko*.

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 Youssuf 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 sabbatical 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.

Usually the directors presenting a myth burn *dhup* 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,

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.

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

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 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 vermilion, 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 Rasheed 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 Baghda-Dhaka Carpet Factory.

Telefilm 'Bonus' on ATN Bangla

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

Taro, an experienced and skilled thief of Barabala 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

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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 grandmother 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

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.

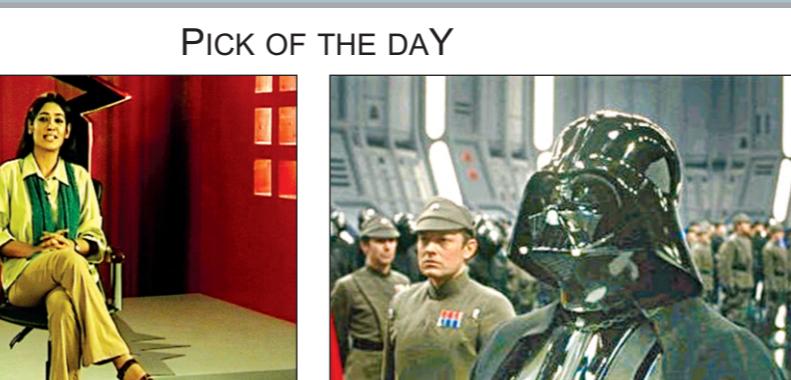
Written by Hanif Kureishi and directed by Roger Michell (*The Mother*), *Venus* is a marvellous

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.

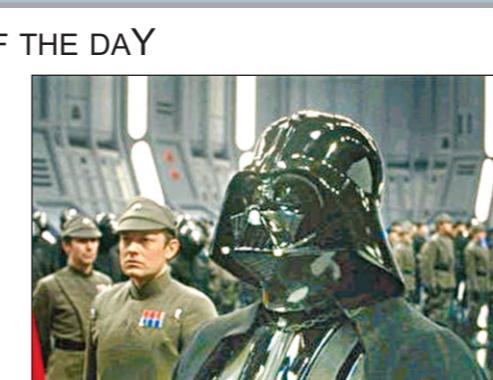
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Source: Internet

TV GUIDE



Apnar Agami
On BanglaVision 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	06:30	Commander In Chief	05:30	Big Bang
05:00	Be Cool	07:00	Star Wars: Ep. VI - Return Of The Jedi	06:00	Leopard Seals
07:00	Desire: Table For Three	08:00	The Kumars At No. 42	06:30	Ultimate Vegas Casino
09:15	Dungeons & Dragons: Wrath Of The	10:00	Eye Of The Leopard	07:30	Wild
11:00	Sweetest Thing, The	12:00	Rolling Stones In Rio	08:30	Interpol Investigates
08:00	Saans	09:00	Oprah Winfrey Show	09:30	Eye Of The Leopard
08:30	Yatra	10:00	Criminal Minds	10:30	Double Life
09:00	Krishna Kathaiyan	11:00	Law & Order: S.V.U.	11:30	Interpol Investigates
10:00	Inner World Of Shah	12:00	Honey We're Killing The Kids	01:30	Hitz (Cricket)
11:00	Outer World Of Shah	13:00	Man Made Marvels Asia	01:55	Spanish Football League (Soccer/
12:30	Rukh Khan	14:00	SereneLife Is Alive	02:00	Castle Test Series (Cricket)
16:25	Bolly V - Star Plus	15:00	Extreme Engineering	02:30	Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07
16:30	V Trailers - Star Plus	16:00	Wildest Week	03:00	Final Score (Soccer/Futbol)
16:55	Bolly V - Star Plus	17:00	Mickey Mouse And Friends	03:30	A1 Grand Prix (Auto Racing)
17:00	Shararat	18:00	The Legend Of Trazan	04:00	Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07
18:25	Bolly V - Star Plus	19:00	Bolly V - Star Plus	04:30	Meerak Manor
18:30	Shararat	20:00	SereneLife Is Alive	05:00	Building The Ultimate
19:00	Ek Se Badhkar Ek				